

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District Office
Three Rivers Resource Area
Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Radar Hill Off-Highway Vehicle Staging Area Site Improvements
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-OR-B050-2011-0032-EA**

INTRODUCTION

Three Rivers Resource Area, Burns District, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze improvements to the Radar Hill Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Staging Area. Partners for the project include Harney County, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Grant Program), and Harney County High Desert Wheelers. The location of Radar Hill OHV Area is approximately 3.5 miles west of Hines, Oregon (T. 23 S., R. 30 E., Section 21). Facility improvements being proposed are installation of a concrete vault toilet and installation of an ATV unloading/loading dock. Updated facilities are proposed to accommodate current and future public use and provide for public safety and resource protection.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action is to install a concrete type single stall vault toilet and unloading/loading dock located at the staging area.

The toilet would be delivered to the site then unloaded with a crane that is attached to the delivery truck. A backhoe would be used to excavate a hole where a 1,000-gallon septic vault would be placed and the toilet would then be set on top of the vault. A concrete apron approximately 6 feet by 5 feet by 5 inches thick would be poured in front of the toilet entrance which would provide for easier access and meet Americans with Disability Act requirements. The concrete apron would require approximately 0.5 yards of concrete which would be mixed onsite in wheelbarrows by Bureau of Land Management personnel and volunteers and then poured in place.

The unloading/loading dock would be approximately 12 feet wide by 28 inches high and extend back approximately 8 feet to undisturbed ground allowing for maneuvering room. The dock would be large enough to accommodate one vehicle/trailer at a time. Two 6 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet concrete blocks would be delivered to the site and a boom truck would place the concrete blocks end to end for the front of the dock. A rubber bumper would be attached to the front of the concrete blocks. Recovered soil from the excavation of the toilet vault hole would be placed behind the concrete blocks where it would be compacted and surfaced with gravel.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to context and intensity of impacts, is described below:

Context

The Proposed Action would occur at the Radar Hill OHV Staging Area and would have local impacts on affected interests, lands, and resources similar to and within the scope of those described and considered in the Three Rivers Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS). There would be no substantial broad societal or regional impacts not previously considered in the PRMP/FEIS. The actions described represent anticipated program adjustments complying with the Three Rivers RMP/Record of Decision (ROD), and implementing recreation management program within the scope and context of this document.

Intensity

The CEQ's ten considerations for evaluating intensity (severity of effect):

1. *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.* The EA considered potential beneficial and adverse effects. Project Design Features were incorporated to reduce impacts. None of the effects are beyond the range of effects analyzed in the Three Rivers PRMP/FEIS, to which the EA is tiered.

Migratory Birds: Installation/construction of the toilet and ramp may displace birds from the immediate area. However, construction activities would take less than a week, and most disturbances would be limited to the immediate project site. The disturbance affects from installation/construction would decrease as the distance from the project site increases.

Noxious Weeds: The Proposed Action would involve elevated disturbance levels in the short term during installation. However, following the recommendations listed in the Project Design Features section would reduce risk of weed infestations. The developments may attract increased numbers of OHV recreators to the area which would increase opportunities for new weed introductions. However, the area would be treated in accordance with the Burns District Weed Program Management EA/Decision Record OR-020-98-05 to reduce risk of weed infestations and spread.

Soils, Biological Soil Crusts, and Vegetation: Project elements would be confined to an existing disturbed and soil compacted area, therefore, the project elements would have no measurable effects on soils or vegetation. Only bacterial and algal components of biological soil crusts are present in the project area due to the graveled surface. These components would still be present during and after project is complete.

Recreation/Visual Resources: Effects to recreation as a whole during construction are expected to be minimal given the project's short term and localized nature. Overall, after the project is completed, recreational opportunities would likely be enhanced by improvements to facilities at the staging area.

Wildlife: Due to the low quality of habitat at the project site, frequency of recreational use in the area, small size of the project area (<1-acre), and short period required for the installation/construction, the effects of the project to wildlife populations would be limited to temporary displacement from the immediate area during construction or decreased wildlife activity at the site during construction activity (daylight hours).

Cultural: No cultural resources have been formally recorded in the proposed project area. Cultural resources by their nature are site-specific and localized. With the construction of a designated loading and unloading ramp, the ground disturbance would be localized, sparing other level locations. If cultural resources were discovered during project implementation, then the project would be stopped and the District archaeologist contacted.

All other resources were determined not to be affected.

2. *Degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health and safety.* With the installation of a vault toilet at the staging area human waste and associated litter would be eliminated or at least greatly reduced. Having a permanent onsite unloading/loading dock would facilitate the safe unloading and loading of ATV vehicles. The dock would be designed to accommodate most vehicles and trailers hauling ATVs allowing for a relatively level and straight approach. Unloading and loading an ATV using a permanent dock is safer as you can turn off the ATV and push it into the truck bed or onto the trailer. This is much safer than driving an ATV up the incline of a portable ramp. However, there would be no broad-scale affects to public health and safety.
3. *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.* There are no unique characteristics within the project area. If cultural resources were discovered during project implementation, then the project would be stopped and the District archaeologist contacted.
4. *The degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.* Controversy in this context means disagreement about the nature of the effects, not expressions of opposition to the Proposed Action or preference among the alternatives. No unique or appreciable scientific controversy has been identified regarding the effects of the Proposed Action or alternatives.
5. *Degree to which possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.* The analysis has not shown there would be any unique or unknown risks to the human environment nor were any identified in the Three Rivers PRMP/FEIS to which this proposal is tiered.

6. *Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.* This project neither establishes a precedent nor represents a decision in principle about future actions. The facility already exists and the Proposed Action would only improve the existing facilities. No long-term commitment of resources causing significant impacts was noted in the EA or RMP.
7. *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.* The environmental analysis did not reveal any cumulative effects beyond those already analyzed in the Three Rivers PRMP/FEIS which encompasses the Radar Hill OHV Staging Area Site.
8. *Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.* There are no features within the project area listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
9. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat.* There are no known threatened or endangered species or their habitat affected by the Proposed Action or alternatives.
10. *Whether an action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.* The Proposed Action and alternatives do not threaten to violate any law. The Proposed Action is in compliance with the Three Rivers RMP, which provides direction for the protection of the environment on public lands.

On the basis of the information contained in the EA and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: 1) The implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the Three Rivers PRMP/FEIS (1991); 2) The Proposed Action and alternatives are in conformance with the Three Rivers RMP/ROD (1992); 3) There would be no adverse societal or regional impacts and no adverse impacts to affected interests; and 4) The environmental effects, together with the proposed Project Design Features, against the tests of significance found at 40 CFR 1508.27 do not constitute a major Federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an EIS is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Richard Roy
Three Rivers Resource Area Field Manager

Date

Radar Hill Off-Highway Vehicle Staging Area Site Improvements

Environmental Assessment
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Bureau of Land Management
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RADAR HILL OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE AREA SITE IMPROVEMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOI-BLM-OR-B050-2011-0032-EA

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

A. Introduction

The Three Rivers Resource Area (RA), Burns District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to implement improvements to the existing Staging Area at Radar Hill Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area. Partners for the project include Harney County, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Grant Program), and Harney County High Desert Wheelers. The location of Radar Hill OHV Area is approximately 3.5 miles west of Hines, Oregon (T. 23 S., R. 30 E., Section 21) (see map). Facility improvements being proposed are installation of a concrete vault toilet and installation of an ATV unloading/loading dock. Updated facilities are proposed to accommodate current and future public use and provide for public safety and resource protection.

Radar Hill OHV Area permits use by all three OHV classes: Class I, ATVs 50 inches wide and less than 800 pounds; Class II, 4 x 4 vehicles weighing more than 800 pounds (typically jeeps); Class III, motorcycles weighing less than 600 pounds. This facility currently is the only designated OHV area in Harney County.

B. Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the action is to provide facilities at Radar Hill OHV Area to accommodate current and future public use, improve safety and resource protection, improve sanitation conditions, and comply with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) enacted by Congress in 1990.

The need is based on the fact that currently there are no toilet facilities or an unloading/loading dock available at Radar Hill OHV Area. Due to human waste and associated litter in and around the OHV area, unsanitary conditions are present providing a less enjoyable recreation experience and potential health concerns. The proposed new toilet would meet ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Recreational Facilities. Currently recreationists unload and load their ATV equipment wherever they can, mostly using a portable ramp they bring and attach to a truck bed or trailer. Having a permanent onsite unloading/loading dock would facilitate the safe unloading and loading of ATV vehicles. The dock would be designed to accommodate most vehicles and trailers hauling ATVs allowing for a relatively level and straight approach. Unloading and loading an ATV using a permanent dock is safer as you can turn off the ATV and push it into the truck bed or onto the trailer versus driving an ATV up the incline of a portable ramp.

1. Goals and Objectives

It is the BLM policy that, as expressed through Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan, "The BLM will ensure the continued availability of public land for a diversity of resource-dependent outdoor recreation opportunities..." Such diverse opportunities in the Three Rivers RA include fishing, rock hounding, hiking and trails, driving for pleasure, etc.

The Three Rivers Resource Management Plan (RMP), September 1992, R 1.4, Page 2-110. Allocate approximately 240 acres near Radar Hill, in the foothills above Burns and Hines, as an OHV area to accommodate the needs of the local population (T. 23 S., R. 30 E., Sections 20, 21, and 28).

2. Decision Framework

The Three Rivers RA Field Manager is the responsible official who will decide which alternative analyzed in this Environmental Assessment (EA) best meets the purpose and need for action based on the interdisciplinary analysis presented here. The decision will specify all terms and conditions intended to mitigate any regulatory or environmental effects of the selected action.

3. Decision Factors

Decision factors are additional questions or statements used by the decision maker to choose between alternatives that best meet project goals and resource objectives. These factors generally do not include satisfying legal mandates including requirement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which must occur under all alternatives. Rather, decision factors assess, for example, the comparative cost, applicability, or adaptability of the alternatives considered. The following decision factors will be relied upon by the authorized officer in selecting a course of action from the range of alternatives fully analyzed that best achieves the goals and objectives of the project:

- a. Would the alternative balance the proposed project's purpose and need with the BLM's other responsibilities to manage lands it administers?
- b. Would the alternative promote cost effectiveness?

4. Decision to be Made

The BLM will determine which, if any, improvements will be made at Radar Hill OHV Area.

5. Conformance with Land Use Plans

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Three Rivers RMP, September 1992, even though it is not specifically provided for because it is clearly consistent with the following Land Use Plan (LUP) decision(s): p. 2-107 and as outlined above under B.1. Goals and Objectives.

6. Consistency with Laws, Regulations and Policies

The following documents provide the framework and guidance for management of BLM lands within the Burns District relevant to the Proposed Action:

- a. NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347 (1970)
- b. Federal Land Policy and Management Act, (43 U.S.C. 1701), 1976
- c. Burns District BLM's Noxious Weed Management Program EA, 1998
- d. Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan
- e. Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality. Onsite Wastewater Treatment System permits
- f. State, local, and Tribal LUPs and regulations

C. Scoping/Issues

1. Issues Considered but Not Analyzed Further

The BLM's 1979 wilderness inventory decision found wilderness character not present on BLM-administered lands within the project area. The project area is not within any citizen proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as it was designed at an OHV area in the Three Rivers RMP/Record of Decision, 1992. Therefore, this issue will not be analyzed further.

CHAPTER II: ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. No Action Alternative

A No Action Alternative was considered. Under the No Action Alternative, BLM would not pursue installation of a new toilet and unloading/loading dock.

B. Project Design Elements Common to All Action Alternatives

- If any new populations of noxious weeds are found during the site-specific clearances for the project, they will be treated using the best available methods prior to instigating the project in conformance with the Burns District Weed Program Management EA/Decision Record OR-020-98-05.

- A cultural resources clearance of the proposed improvements would be completed prior to project implementation. If National Register eligible cultural resources are encountered, mitigation measures could include site avoidance through project redesign, artifact collection and mapping of the affected portion of the site or limited subsurface excavation of the affected portion of the site. If cultural resources were discovered during project implementation then the project would be stopped and the District archaeologist would be contacted.
- Proposed project improvement sites would be surveyed for Special Status plant species prior to implementation. Special Status plant sites would be avoided/protected throughout the life of the project. Special Status plant populations would be avoided within mechanical treatment units if necessary.
- Industrial Fire Precautions as prescribed by the Burns Interagency Fire Zone may need to be followed depending on timing and the current fire situation. Equipment operation, blasting, and power tool use may be regulated to hours of use, or require a waiver be granted by the RA.

C. Alternative 1: Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to install a concrete type single stall vault toilet and unloading/loading dock located at the staging area.

The toilet would be delivered to the site then unloaded with a crane that is attached to the delivery truck. A backhoe would be used to excavate a hole where a 1,000-gallon septic vault would be placed and the toilet would then be set on top of the vault. A concrete apron approximately 6 feet by 5 feet by 5 inches thick would be poured in front of the toilet entrance which would provide for easier access and meet ADA requirements. The concrete apron would require approximately 0.5 yards of concrete which would be mixed onsite in wheelbarrows by BLM personnel and volunteers and then poured in place.

The unloading/loading dock would be approximately 12 feet wide by 28 inches high and extend back approximately 8 feet to undisturbed ground allowing for maneuvering room. The dock would be large enough to accommodate one vehicle/trailer at a time. Two 6 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet concrete blocks would be delivered to the site and a boom truck would place the concrete blocks end to end for the front of the dock. A rubber bumper would be attached to the front of the concrete blocks. Recovered soil from the excavation of the toilet vault hole would be placed behind the concrete blocks where it would be compacted and surfaced with gravel.

D. Alternative 2: Install Toilet Only

This alternative is the same as the Proposed Action with the following exceptions: No unloading/loading dock would be constructed at the staging area. ATV users of the site would continue to make their own arrangements on how to unload and load their ATVs.

E. Alternatives Considered but Not Analyzed in Detail

Closure and removal/reclamation of Radar Hill OHV Area was considered; however, this action would require an LUP amendment as it would not comply with the direction of the Three Rivers RMP, September 1992, R 1.4, Page 2-110. "Allocate approximately 240 acres near Radar Hill, in the foothills above Burns and Hines, as an OHV area to accommodate the needs of the local population (T. 23 S., R. 30 E., Sections 20, 21, and 28). See map R-1 for location of the proposed area. Therefore, this alternative would be outside the scope of this analysis and would not meet the purpose and need.

Table 1. Comparison of the Alternatives

	Proposed Action	Alternative 1
New concrete type single stall toilet	X	X
Unloading/loading dock	X	

CHAPTER III: AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Identification of Affected Resources/Issues

An Interdisciplinary Team has reviewed and identified issues and resources affected by the alternatives. The following table summarizes the results of that review. Affected resources are in bold.

Table 2. Summary Review of Affected Resources/Issues

Resources/Issues	Status	If Not Affected, why? If Affected, Reference Applicable EA Section.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	Not Present	No Research Natural Areas or ACECs are within the project area.
Air Quality (Clean Air Act)	Not Affected	Actions creating dust would be limited to the immediate project area and would not be measurable. Visibility should improve soon after operations stop for the day.
American Indian Traditional Practices	Not Present	No American Indian Traditional Practices are known to occur within the proposed project area.
Biological Soil Crusts (BSCs)	Not Affected	Only bacterial and algal components of BSCs are present in the project area due to the graveled surface. These components will still be present during and after project is complete.
Cultural Heritage	Present	See Chapter III
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)	Not Affected	The Proposed Action would not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations as such populations do not exist within the project area.
Farmlands (prime or unique)	Not Affected	No concerns have been disclosed.
Flood Plains (Executive Order 13112)	Not Present	No modification of flood plains. No risk of flood loss.

Resources/Issues		Status	If Not Affected, why? If Affected, Reference Applicable EA Section.
Hazardous Materials or Solid Waste		Not Affected	No concerns have been disclosed.
Migratory Birds (Executive Order 13186)		Affected	See Chapter III
Noxious Weeds (Executive Order 13112)		Affected	See Chapter III
Paleontological Resources		Not Present	Not expected to occur within the project area.
Special Status Species (SSS) Fauna, Wildlife, Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Species or Habitat	Fish	Not Affected	Not expected to occur or be affected by actions.
	Sage-grouse and Pygmy rabbit	Not Affected	The immediate project site is a highly disturbed area with no suitable sage-grouse or pygmy rabbit habitat. Disturbance due to installation/construction would be brief (<week) and not affect habitat surrounding the project site. Any sage-grouse potentially present in the vicinity at the time of installation/construction would avoid the area until completion of the project. Pygmy rabbits are most active at night (Lee 2008) or in the morning and evening (Larrucea and Brussard 2009), and would not be measurably affected by short-term construction/installation activities during the day.
	Bats	Not Affected	Roosting and foraging habitat would not be affected.
	Columbia spotted frog	Not Present	Not expected to occur within the project area.
SSS Flora, Plants, T/E Species or Habitat		Not Affected	There are no SSS or T&E plant species or habitat within the project area.
Water Quality (Drinking and Ground)		Not Affected	Not expected to occur or be affected by actions.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones (Executive Order 11990)		Not Affected	Not expected to occur or be affected by actions.
Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs)		Not Present	There are no WSRs within the project area.
Wilderness/WSA		Not Present	There are no WSAs or wilderness within the project area.
Soils		Not Affected	Project elements would be confined to an existing disturbed and soil compacted area therefore the project elements will have no measurable effects on soils.
Vegetation		Not Affected	All project work would take place on existing disturbed and graveled area.
Fisheries		Not Affected	Not expected to occur or be affected by actions.

Resources/Issues	Status	If Not Affected, why? If Affected, Reference Applicable EA Section.
Grazing Management	Not Affected	No changes to grazing management would occur as grazing would continue as authorized.
Lands/Realty and Transportation	Not Affected	There are no access issues across private land.
Recreation/Visual Resources	Affected	See Chapter III
Social and Economic Values	Not Affected	There would be no measurable changes to social values. There would be some local spending of monies for supplies; however, the economic benefits would not be measurable.
Wild Horses and Burros	Not Present	The Herd Management Area is outside the area.
Wildlife	Affected	See Chapter III

B. Description of the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

1. Migratory Birds

Affected Environment:

The immediate project site consists primarily of bare ground due to frequent vehicle traffic, including OHV loading and unloading. The project site provides lower quality habitat for migratory birds due to the lack of vegetation at the immediate project site and the frequent anthropogenic use of the area, especially in the spring through fall. The region surrounding the project site also contains several disturbed areas, including a paved road, communication facility, shooting range, and is a few miles from permanent residences. Dominant vegetation surrounding the project site consists of sagebrush-grassland communities transected by numerous trails. Repeat disturbance in the area decreases the habitat quality and limits migratory bird use, although several species are still represented in the area.

The habitat surrounding the project site is dominated by sagebrush communities with increasing juniper encroachment. Common migratory bird species found in sagebrush communities include sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), and horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). Raptors observed in the vicinity include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*). Other migratory species that may breed or pass through the area on a seasonal basis include American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), and western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*). Brewer's sparrow, sage sparrow, and loggerhead shrike are listed as Birds of Conservation Concern for this region by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list.

Environmental Consequences:

Affects Common to All:

There are no Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions (RFFAs) within several miles of the project area, other than livestock grazing. Livestock grazing management in adjacent allotments is either currently achieving Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for wildlife (including migratory birds) or would be changed through another NEPA process. No cumulative effects to migratory birds are expected from implementation of any of the Action Alternatives since the duration of project construction would be short and restricted to an area that has been previously disturbed.

No Action Alternative:

There would be no change in effects to migratory birds under this alternative. No construction/installation would occur, and there would be no new potential disturbance to migratory birds. Recreationists would continue to use the site for a staging area to park and off-load OHVs, which would continue to temporarily displace birds from the immediate area.

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

Installation/construction of the toilet and ramp may displace birds from the immediate area. However, construction activities would take less than a week, and most disturbances would be limited to the immediate project site. The disturbance effects from installation/construction would decrease as the distance from the project site increases. Migratory birds may alter foraging patterns or other activity when disturbed, but effects would likely be temporary (Burger and Gochfeld 1998). Due to the poor quality of habitat at the project site, frequent recreational disturbance, small size of the project area (<1-acre), and temporary disturbance required for the installation/construction, the effects of the project to migratory bird populations would be limited to displacement from the immediate area during construction.

Alternative 2: Install Toilet Only

Effects to migratory birds would be virtually the same as discussed in the Proposed Action. The period of disturbance due to construction activities would be a day or two shorter because the ramp would not be installed. Visitors to the site currently provide their own methods of off-loading OHV vehicles, and would continue to do so; therefore, the level of recreational use in the area would not be affected.

2. Noxious Weeds

Affected Environment:

There are two noxious weed species totaling approximately 2.7 acres of noxious weeds in the immediate OHV area. The two species are Dalmatian toadflax and Scotch thistle. Other weeds found in close proximity include diffuse knapweed, Russian knapweed, Canada thistle, and medusahead rye.

The weeds in this area are treated every year. The thistles and knapweeds are treated with herbicides. The Dalmatian toadflax is being treated with the biocontrol agent *Mecinus janthinus*, which is very effective.

Environmental Consequences:

Effects Common to All Action Alternatives:

Any disturbance would create opportunities for noxious weed introduction and spread. The disturbance related to the actual installation of facilities can be moderated by ensuring that all equipment used during the project is cleaned prior to arriving at the work sites. Regardless of the proposed developments, this area is constantly disturbed by the operation of OHVs and opportunities for new weed introductions are inevitable. Annual monitoring for new weed introductions and treating them as soon as possible using the most appropriate methods would help reduce the potential for weed spread.

No Action Alternative:

The No Action Alternative involves no additional disturbance at the OHV Recreation site. There would be less opportunity for short-term weed infestations due to installation of improvements. This area is constantly disturbed by the operation of OHVs and opportunities for new weed introductions are inevitable with or without the new developments.

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would involve elevated disturbance levels in the short term during installation. Following the recommendations listed above in the Project Design Features section would help reduce risk of weed infestations. The developments may attract increased numbers of OHV recreators to the area which would increase opportunities for new weed introductions. Ensuring adequate annual monitoring would be critical for managing weeds in this area.

Alternative 2: Install Toilet Only

Effects would be essentially the same as the Proposed Action with the exception of less initial disturbance due to installing fewer developments.

3. Recreation/Visual Resources

Affected Environment:

Primary recreational opportunities within the proposed project area include OHV riding and horseback riding. Radar Hill is in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III. Management objectives for this class require partial retention of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.

Environmental Consequences:

Affects Common to All Alternatives:

For the purpose of this document, the cumulative effects analysis area for recreation/visual resources encompasses the area directly adjacent to the Hines Logging Road referred to as the Staging Area. All alternatives and other ongoing and reasonable foreseeable future projects would not lead to cumulative effects to recreation/visual resources because impacts of proposed improvements would be localized.

No Action Alternative:

There would be no effects to recreation and visual resources under the No Action Alternative. Existing facilities would be maintained and remain visible. Under this alternative, there would be no improvements or construction; therefore, there would be no effects to other recreation opportunities under this alternative.

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

The Staging Area Site improvements proposed under this alternative are allowed under VRM Class III. Improvements to the Staging Area at Radar Hill OHV Area would enhance recreation opportunities such as OHV use and horseback riding. The new rest room facility and unloading/loading dock would be user friendly. Not having a toilet contributes to unsanitary conditions in and around the OHV area and a less enjoyable recreation experience. The proposed new toilet would meet ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Recreational Facilities.

Having an unloading/loading dock facilitates the safe unloading and loading of ATV vehicles. If any encounters with visitors occur during construction of the proposed developments, there would be some temporary and short-term (days) disturbance to recreational activities in the immediate area surrounding project locations. Effects to recreation as a whole are expected to be minimal given their short-term and localized nature. Overall after the project is completed, recreational opportunities would be enhanced by improvements to facilities.

Alternative 2: Install Toilet Only

Effects to recreation and visual resources would be similar to the Proposed Action the difference being no unloading/loading dock would be constructed.

4. Wildlife

Affected Environment:

Several wildlife species use habitat near the project site on a year-round or seasonal basis. Rocky Mountain elk (*Cervus elaphus*), pronghorn (*Antilocapra Americana*), and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) have been observed occasionally in the surrounding area, depending on the season. The project site and surrounding area contains critical winter habitat for mule deer. Other wildlife species that use the area surrounding the project site are bobcat (*Felis rufus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), and a myriad of small mammals and a few species of reptiles and amphibians.

The immediate project site consists primarily of bare ground. Many wildlife species may travel through the area, although only a few, such as chipmunks and mice, are potentially resident in the habitat directly adjacent to the project site. The repeat disturbance from recreational use at the site and other disturbances in the area, such as the shooting range, decrease the habitat quality for wildlife, especially for larger animals like pronghorn.

Environmental Consequences:

Affects Common to All:

There are no RFFAs within several miles of the project area, other than livestock grazing. Livestock grazing management in adjacent allotments is either currently achieving Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for wildlife (including migratory birds) or would be changed through another NEPA process. No cumulative effects to wildlife are expected from implementation of any of the Action Alternatives since the duration of project construction would be short and restricted to an area that has been previously disturbed.

No Action Alternative:

There would be no change in effects to wildlife under this alternative. No construction/installation would occur, and there would be no new potential disturbance to animals. Recreationists would continue to use the site as a staging area to park vehicles and off-load OHVs, which would continue to temporarily displace animals from the immediate area or cause them to seek shelter in protected areas.

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

Installation/construction of the toilet and ramp may cause larger animals, such as mule deer, to leave the immediate area or smaller animals such as chipmunks to seek refuge in burrows. However, construction activities would take less than a week, occur during daylight hours when many animals are not active, and disturbance would be limited to the immediate project site. The disturbance effects from installation/construction would decrease as the distance from the project site increases, becoming undetectable beyond about one-half mile. Due to the low quality of habitat at the project site, frequency of recreational use in the area, small size of the project area (<1-acre), and short period required for the installation/construction, the effects of the project to wildlife populations would be limited to temporary displacement from the immediate area during construction or decreased wildlife activity at the site during construction activity (daylight hours).

Alternative 2: Install Toilet Only

Effects to wildlife would be virtually the same as discussed in the Proposed Action. The period of disturbance due to construction activities would be a day or two shorter because the ramp would not be installed. Visitors to the site currently provide their own methods of off-loading OHV vehicles, and would continue to do so; therefore, the level of recreational use in the area is unlikely to be affected.

5. Cultural Resources

Affected Environment:

No cultural resources have been formally recorded in the proposed project area. However, the Radar Hill OHV Area is located within a natural source of obsidian tool stone used by prehistoric American Indians for the last 12,000 years.

Archaeological tool stone use and procurement are generally expressed by a surface scatter of obsidian flakes, broken cobbles, and, occasionally, broken knife-shaped tools called bifaces that are made to act as lightweight sources of tool stone that can be later used to make more specific tools such as arrowheads, scraper, knives, etc. Most of these surface scatters are not buried in the ground, and because of their surface nature, have been disturbed over the millennia by erosion, movement, and breakage by livestock and big game trampling and more recently by OHV and other vehicle use in the subject area. It is very low probability (less than 10 percent) that National Register eligible sites are located within such an obsidian procurement area because they are disturbed by previous uses and the sites themselves are not rich in information important to the study of prehistoric archaeology in this region.

Environmental Consequences:

Affects Common to All:

Cultural resources by their nature are site-specific and localized. Effects analysis of other projects or proposed projects in the vicinity would not be relevant to a site-specific resource unless the use occurred precisely at the same location.

No Action Alternative:

The No Action Alternative would result in greater affects to cultural resources primarily because OHV users would continue to unload and load OHVs everywhere they could find a level spot in the OHV area. With the construction of a designated loading and unloading ramp, the ground disturbance would be localized, sparing other level locations.

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would have less effect on cultural resources than the No Action Alternative because it provides a place for loading and unloading OHVs and concentrates the use there instead of throughout the OHV area.

Alternative 2: Install Toilet Only

Affects would be the same as the No Action Alternative.

C. Discussion on Cumulative Effects

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) stated in this guidance that "[g]enerally, agencies can conduct an adequate cumulative effects analysis by focusing on the current aggregate effects of past actions without delving into the historical details of individual past actions." This is because a description of the current state of the environment inherently includes the effects of past actions. The CEQ guidance specifies that the "CEQ regulations do not require the consideration of the individual effects of all past actions to determine the present effects of past actions." Our information on the current environmental condition is more comprehensive and more accurate for establishing a useful starting point for a cumulative effects analysis, than attempting to establish such a starting point by adding up the described effects of individual past actions to some environmental baseline condition in the past that, unlike current conditions, can no longer be verified by direct examination.

The second area in which the CEQ guidance states that information on past actions may be useful is in "illuminating or predicting the direct and indirect effects of a Proposed Action." The usefulness of such information is limited by the fact that it is anecdotal only, and extrapolation of data from such singular experiences is not generally accepted as a reliable predictor of effects.

However, "experience with and information about past direct and indirect effects of individual past actions" have been found useful in "illuminating or predicting the direct and indirect effects" of the Proposed Action in the following instances: the basis for predicting the effects of the Proposed Action and its alternatives is based on the general accumulated experience of the resource professionals in the agency with similar actions.

The environmental consequences discussion described all expected effects including direct, indirect and cumulative on resources from enacting the proposed alternatives. Direct and indirect effects plus past actions become part of the cumulative effects analysis; therefore, use of these words may not appear. The EA described the current state of the environment (Affected Environment by resource, Chapter III) which included the effects of past actions. In addition, the Introduction Section of this EA, specifically the Purpose of and Need for Action, identifies past actions creating the current situation.

RFFA, also relevant to cumulative effects, include those Federal and non-Federal activities not yet undertaken, but sufficiently likely to occur, that a Responsible Official of ordinary prudence would take such activities into account in reaching a decision. These Federal and non-Federal activities that must be taken into account in the analysis of cumulative impact include, but are not limited to, activities for which there are existing decisions, funding, or proposals identified by the bureau. These RFFAs must fall within the geographic scope and timeframe of the analysis being prepared. Continued livestock grazing and recreation are the only known RFFAs. The cumulative effects of these actions were thoroughly addressed throughout Chapter III by resource where applicable.

CHAPTER IV: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

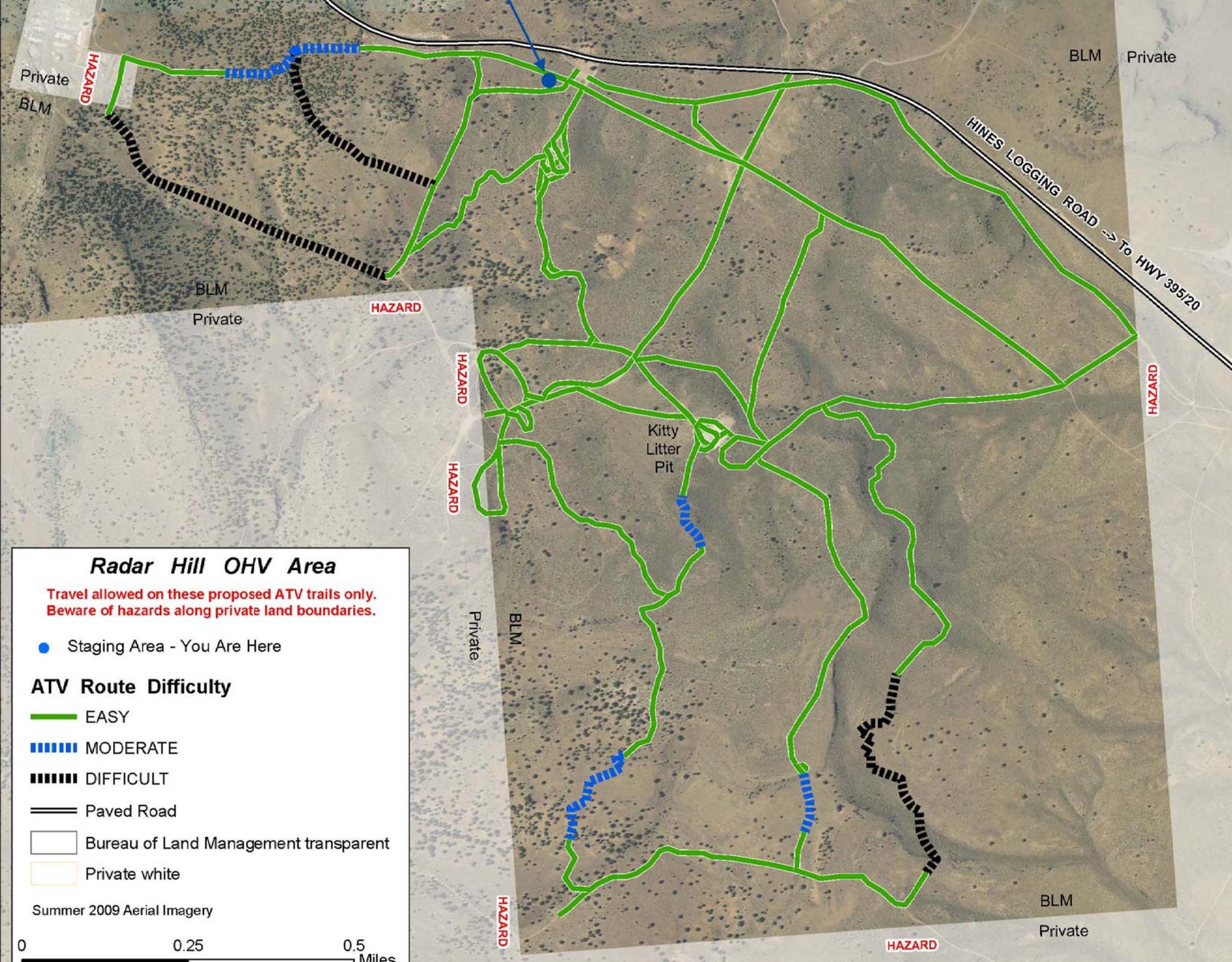
A. Participating Staff

John Bethea - Outdoor Recreation Planner (Recreation)
Jason Brewer - Wildlife Biologist (Wildlife, Migratory Birds, and Special Status Species – Fauna: Terrestrial)
Ken Brinkley - Recreation Maintenance/Facilities Lead
Bill Dragt - Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
Aaron Eklund - District Engineer
Lisa Grant - Fisheries/Riparian Specialist, (Fisheries, Water Quality, Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Special Status Species – Fauna: Aquatic)
Eric Haakenson - Outdoor Recreation Planner (Wilderness and WSAs)
Rhonda Karges - District Planning and Environmental Coordinator (Social and Economic Values)
Mike Kelly – Outdoor Recreation Planner (Visual Resources)
Gary McFadden - Wild Horse and Burro Program Manager
Caryn Meinicke, - Botanist (Special Status Species – Flora, Soils/Biological Crusts)
Travis Miller - Rangeland Management Specialist (Livestock Grazing Management)
Skip Renschler - Realty Specialist
Marsha Reponen - Hazmat Specialist
Lesley Richman - District Weed Coordinator (Noxious Weeds and Invasive Nonnative Plant Species)
Dan Ridenour - Fire Management
Richard Roy - Three Rivers Resource Area Field Manager
Scott Thomas - District Archaeologist (American Indian Traditional Practices and Cultural Heritage)

B. Persons, Groups, or Agencies Consulted

Judge Steven Grasty, Harney County Court
Dan Haak, Harney County High Desert Wheelers
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (ATV Program)

APPENDIX A



Radar Hill OHV Area

Travel allowed on these proposed ATV trails only.
 Beware of hazards along private land boundaries.

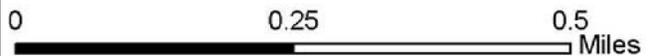
● Staging Area - You Are Here

ATV Route Difficulty

- EASY
- ▄▄▄▄ MODERATE
- ▄▄▄▄ DIFFICULT

- Paved Road
- Bureau of Land Management transparent
- Private white

Summer 2009 Aerial Imagery



BLM Private

Private
BLM

BLM
Private

HAZARD

HAZARD

HAZARD

Private

BLM

Kitty Litter Pit

HINES LOGGING ROAD → To HWY 395/20

HAZARD

HAZARD

HAZARD

BLM
Private



Vicinity Map
Radar Hill Off Highway Vehicle Area
Burns District - BLM

