

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Klamath Falls Resource Area

Finding of No Significant Impact

WOOD RIVER CHANNEL RESTORATION AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS
#OR-014-08-10

Background:

The Interdisciplinary Team for the Klamath Falls Resource Area, Lakeview District, Bureau of Land Management has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and analyzed a proposal to conduct river and wetland restoration and recreation improvements in the Wood River wetland, adjacent to Agency Lake in the Upper Klamath Lake watershed. The project will contribute to meeting the goals and objectives of the Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) (1995) and is being carried out under the direction provided by that Plan. The proposed project area is located in the Wood River and Wood River Delta where the Wood River enters Agency Lake.

The purpose of this project is to implement a combination of related projects which help achieve goals and objectives outlined in the Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland RMP/EIS (1995) and its Record of Decision (ROD, February 1996). This project is a continuation of stream channel restoration activities that were implemented between 1997 and 2002. Primary among these objectives is to restore fish habitat by restoring the hydrologic connection to one of several distributary (or secondary) river channels in the Wood River Delta near the confluence with Agency Lake. The two alternatives analyzed in detail include the Proposed Action Alternative, and the No Action Alternative.

Proposed Action Alternative - Treatments included in the Proposed Action Alternative, described in detail in the EA, are summarized as follows:

- Restore Secondary Channel Outlet - Excavate a historic secondary channel in the vicinity of the current mouth to provide for a deeper channel and improved boater access.
- Narrow and deepen channel and restore floodplain - Channel narrowing and deepening and floodplain restoration immediately upstream of the Wood River Dike Road Bridge.
- Install a transitional boat dock - Installation of a transitional boat dock on the Wood River in the vicinity of the Wood River Wetland bridge day use area to improve boater access to recreational facilities.
- Cover Exposed Boulders - Fill and re-vegetate over rock boulders left exposed after previous restoration activities.

The issues addressed in the EA concern potential impacts to fish habitat, water quality, and other resources as they affect aquatic life and humans in the proposed project area. The design features of the

Proposed Action and alternatives are described in the attached Wood River Wetland Restoration and Recreation Improvements EA.

Analysis of Potential Effects:

The proposed action, and no action alternatives were analyzed for significant effects as per the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27. The following criteria listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b) were considered and found to be not applicable to this action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; anticipated cumulatively significant impacts; highly uncertain or unknown risks; and precedents for future actions with significant effects.

The following unique characteristics (Critical Elements of the Human Environment), listed in 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(3), are not present and will not be affected: prime or unique farmlands; wilderness; solid or hazardous waste; and Wild and Scenic Rivers. The following unique characteristics are present but will not have significant direct or cumulative impacts: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs); floodplains

In regard to 40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(8), no adverse impacts are expected to cultural, scientific, or historical resources. The proposed area has been surveyed for cultural resources using BLM Class III survey methods. Surveys for cultural resources were conducted and known sites will be avoided. There are no sites, structures or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

There will be no significant impacts to any special status species or habitat that has been proposed or designated critical under the Endangered Species Act [40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(9)]. Direct and indirect affects to Threatened and Endangered species and special status species were analyzed and determined to meet Project Design Criteria for coverage under the Biological Opinion for Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management aquatic habitat restoration activities. Refer to the analysis on pages 17 through 19 of the EA for a discussion of impacts analysis, Appendix A of the EA for project design features designed to minimize impacts, and Appendix B– USFWS Aquatic Programmatic Biological Opinion Consultation PDCs, CMs and Applicable Project Activity Categories.

As per 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10), this action conforms with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

The action is consistent with Executive Order 12898 which addresses Environmental Justice. No potential impacts to low-income or minority populations have been identified internally by the BLM or externally through public notification and involvement. Consultation with local tribal governments has not identified any unique or special resources providing religious, employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities. Employment would involve local contractors who engage in similar types of work throughout Klamath County and the state of Oregon.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider effects of this decision on National Energy Policy. There will be no known adverse effect on National Energy Policy. Within the project area there are no known energy resources with commercial potential and energy producing or processing facilities.

Plan Conformance:

On December 30, 2008 the Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (2008 ROD) was signed for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management (October, 2008) including the Klamath Falls Resource Area. The analysis in the FEIS incorporated the Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River RMP/EIS (1995) which is tiered to the FEIS. Since no changes in management direction were made for the Wood River Wetland RMP/EIS, this project is in conformance with management direction under the 2008 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (2008 ROD).

The EA is also consistent with the following Plans:

- Vegetation Treatment on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lands in Thirteen Western States FEIS and ROD (1991)
- Integrated Noxious Weed Control Program EA #OR-013-93-03 (1994)
- Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, 1996

Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement, or a supplement to the existing RMP or Environmental Impact Statement, is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Determination:

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the environmental assessment, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitutes a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the following:

- Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management (October, 2008) including the Klamath Falls Resource Area.
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Integrated Weed Control Plan Environmental Assessment, July 21, 1993

I have determined that this action will not have any significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and an environmental impact statement is not required. I have further determined that the proposed action conforms to management direction from the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement, or a supplement to the existing RMP or Environmental Impact Statement, is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Donald J. Holmstrom
Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

Date