

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

DRAFT Finding of No Significant Impact

New Cingular-AT&T Cell Tower ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

(#DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2009-0021-EA)

Background:

The Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) of the Lakeview District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) analyzed the potential impacts from construction of an unstaffed telecommunications facility consisting of a 150-foot self-supporting lattice tower, a three-sector antenna array with four antennas per sector, and a 12-foot-by-26 foot equipment shelter within the 60-foot-by-60-foot project site. In addition to the cell tower, the actions would include access road improvements, and a 4,776 foot power and telco trench that would extend along the one-half mile natural surface and chip sealed access road leading to the project site, and an extension of the power trench an additional 1,835 feet along north Poe Valley Road. The analysis is documented in the “*New Cingular-AT&T Cell Tower Environmental Assessment (EA) #DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2009-0021-EA*”.

Analysis of Potential Effects:

Alternatives including “no action” were analyzed for significant effects 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 not be 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; floodplains; wilderness; solid or hazardous waste; Wild and Scenic Rivers; and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). 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 no sites were discovered. Therefore, no sites, structures or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places would be affected. There will be no significant impacts to any special status species or habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act [40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(9)]. A search of survey data for the proposed treatment area was conducted for Threatened and Endangered species and special status species and none are known to occur there. Implementation of best management practices and project design features (Appendix A of the EA) as part of the proposed action would be sufficient to avoid significant impacts to potential habitat for wildlife species.

As per 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10), this action conforms to 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. Implementation of the actions would provide some employment opportunities that 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. Within the project area there are no known energy resources with commercial potential and energy producing or processing facilities thus no known adverse effects on the National Energy Policy exist.

Determination:

The anticipated environmental effects contained in this EA are based on the most current science, professional judgment and experience of the interdisciplinary team (both ICF International and BLM Klamath Falls Resource Area specialists). Based on the information within the Environmental Assessment, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitute a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the following documents:

- Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management (2008 FEIS).
- Oregon Wilderness FEIS and ROD (1989 and 1991)
- Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States (1991)
- Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program FEIS and ROD (1985) and Supplement (1987)
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Integrated Weed Control Plan EA (July 21, 1993)

Based on the conformance with the resource management plan and the lack of significant environmental effects, an Environmental Impact Statement, or a supplement to the existing RMP and Environmental Impact Statement, is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Donald J. Holmstrom
Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

Date