

DECISION RECORD

EA LOG #: DOI-BLM-OR-L050-2009-0063-EA
Project Name: Sand Dunes Road Maintenance and Realignment
County: Lake
BLM Office: Lakeview District **Phone No.** 541-947-2177
Address: 1301 South G Street
Lakeview, OR 97630

Decision: My decision is to implement the road maintenance and realignment activities as outlined in Alternative 2 of the EA. This involves upgrading and widening about 4.2 miles of existing gravel road between County Road 5-14E and the western edge of the Lost Forest. Included within this is about 0.4 miles of road realignment on sharp curved sections to improve sight distances and traveler safety.

An archaeological survey revealed that the preferred alternative would cross one small site that will be mitigated by placing fill over the site instead of excavating through the site to maintain grade. A BLM archaeological monitor will be on-site during all construction activities in this area.

Project Schedule: Construction, as outlined in Alternative 2 in the EA, is scheduled to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2010, in order to utilize Economic Stimulus money that is available for this project.

Rationale: These maintenance and realignment actions would reduce or eliminate existing public safety concerns identified in the Sand Dunes Road Corridor Safety Analysis and continue to provide access to the recreation sites in the area. The project would also reduce future road maintenance costs.

Two other alternatives were analyzed in detail within the EA. Under the No Action Alternative 1, BLM Road 6151-00 would continue to be maintained as needed. However, this alternative would not address the public safety concerns identified in the Corridor Safety Analysis and was not selected for this reason. The Alternative 3 realignment would have crossed through a wetland area identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory. This alternative was not chosen because there would be additional environmental effects, permits would be required, and there would be additional costs associated with wetland mitigation requirements. Several other alternative realignments were considered, but eliminated from detailed study due concerns related to archaeological resources, wetlands, private lands, and Wilderness Study Area.

Public Involvement Opportunities:

The EA and FONSI were made available for a 30-day comment period. During that time one comment letter was received. In summary, these comments included a recommendation to consider alternate road alignments across private lands, a need to

address potential impacts to adjacent private lands caused by trespass, and a concern that the proposed road improvements would bring in more people to the area, resulting in additional recreation related impacts. These issues were determined to be either outside of the scope of the project analysis (realignments on private lands), have already been addressed adequately within the EA (recreation and cumulative effects), or are outside of the BLM's authority to regulate (trespass on private lands). These comments were determined not to be substantive in nature and do not require additional analysis. A separate response letter was provided to the commenting party.



Thomas E. Rasmussen, Manager
Lakeview Resource Area



Date