



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
ASHLAND RESOURCE AREA
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

FOR THE

CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

(DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2013-001-EA)

INTRODUCTION

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) was reserved by presidential proclamation (Presidential Proclamation 7318, June 2000) in recognition of its remarkable ecology and to protect a diverse range of biological, geological, aquatic, archeological, and historic objects. The *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (CSNM ROD/RMP) was approved in August 2008. It provides guidance and direction for a strategy aimed at protecting and enhancing the public lands and associated resources within the CSNM. The *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan Amendment and Associated Environmental Assessment* (DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2013-001-EA) documented the environmental analysis conducted to estimate the site-specific effects on the human environment that may result from the implementation of the proposal to modify the land tenure adjustment decisions in the CSNM ROD/RMP (2008) to allow for the acquisition of private property through land exchanges where the public land involved in the exchange is located outside the CSNM or where the public land involved is located within the boundaries of the CSNM, as long as in either case the exchange would further protect the ecological values for which the monument was designated.

CONTEXT AND INTENSITY

Based on the context and intensity of the impacts analyzed in the *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan Amendment and Associated Environmental Assessment* (EA) (pages 9-10), I have determined that my decision to implement the proposal, as described in Decision Record for the CSNM Resource Management Plan Amendment, is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. I considered the following criteria, suggested by CEQ (40 CFR 1508.27), for evaluating intensity or severity of the impact of altering the land tenure adjustment decisions in the CSNM ROD/RMP.

The CSNM Resource Management Plan Amendment will:

1. Not result in significant beneficial or adverse effects.

The EA has considered both beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed action for the CSNM RMP Amendment. The proposed action alters the land tenure decisions in the CSNM ROD/RMP to allow land exchanges where the public land involved is located within the monument, provided that the exchange “furthers the protective purposes of the monument.” This alternative would provide an additional option for BLM to acquire private property located within the CSNM boundary that would protect or enhance monument purposes from willing participants.

The proposed action also allows the BLM to use both trespass resolution options (removal of the trespass and land “exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument”) permitted in the Presidential Proclamation and in withdrawal decision VER-3 in the CSNM RMP within the CSNM. This alternative would provide the BLM with the ability to resolve trespass situations in the monument, through land exchanges under Section 206 of FLPMA if such a land exchange would further the protective purposes of the CSNM.

The proposed action would not authorize any specific land exchanges. Specific land exchanges would be considered on a case-by-case basis and addressed through project-level decisions with further NEPA analysis and evaluation as to whether the specific land exchange “furthers the protective purposes of the monument.” The proposed action would allow the BLM to consider, in subsequent NEPA analysis, land exchanges where the federal land to be exchanged is located within the CSNM, including the two exchanges authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

Any adverse effects of implementing future land exchanges would be evaluated in the site-specific environmental analysis associated with the proposed land exchange.

2. Not result in significant impacts on public health and safety.

No aspects of the CSNM RMP Amendment have been identified as having the potential to significantly and adversely impact public health and safety.

3. Have no significant, adverse effects on 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.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument was reserved by presidential proclamation as a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System (National Conservation Lands). The CSNM RMP Amendment will provide for the potential enhancement of the area by allowing for land exchanges that further “the protective purposes of the monument” where the public land to be exchanged is located within the boundaries of the CSNM. The Soda Mountain Wilderness (24,704 acres) is located within the CSNM. There are no prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, or parks within the CSNM. There are two existing Research Natural Areas (RNAs) within the CSNM.

4. Not have highly controversial environmental effects.

The anticipated effects of implementing the CSNM RMP Amendment, documented in the EA, are well known, consistent with the Presidential Proclamation 7318, and no highly controversial effects have been identified.

Public input regarding the CSNM RMP amendment was solicited with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a plan amendment/environmental assessment in the *Federal Register* on October 31, 2011. No public comments were received for the proposed CSNM RMP amendment.

Based on the lack of the comments received from the public, the effects on the quality of the human environment are not considered highly controversial.

5. Not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.

The analysis does not show that this action will involve any unique or unknown risks.

6. Not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

The CSNM RMP amendment neither establishes a precedent for future BLM actions with significant effects nor represents a decision in principle about a future consideration. Future land exchange proposals within the CSNM will be considered in subsequent NEPA analysis which will determine if the proposal furthers the protective purposes of the monument.

7. Not result in significant cumulative environmental effects.

Cumulative environmental effects are “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions” (See definition of “cumulative impact” in 40 CFR § 1508.7).

Analysis was performed at multiple scales, and included the consideration of past actions, as reflected in current conditions, current actions, and foreseeable future actions on both private and federal lands (EA, Environmental Consequences: Effects of Implementation, pages 9-10). The proposed CSNM RMP amendment does not authorize any specific land exchange, but would allow the BLM to consider land exchanges where the public land involved in the exchange is located within the CSNM provided the exchange “furthers the protective purposes of the monument.” This RMP amendment would allow the BLM to consider, in subsequent NEPA analysis, the two exchanges authorized in by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The proposed action does not contribute significantly to the effect of any of the past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions within the geographic area. No significant cumulative impacts were identified.

8. Have no significant effects on scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The proposed action will not cause the loss or destruction of any significant scientific, cultural or historic resources. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties; those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Any parcels of land involved in future land exchanges, including the two authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, would be reviewed by a BLM archeologist prior to the exchange as part of the environmental analysis. No negative impacts to cultural resources are expected from this RMP amendment.

9. Have no adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed as Federally Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species.

No ground-disturbing activities are associated with this RMP amendment. Future land exchange proposals would be evaluated under subsequent NEPA analysis to determine potential effects to any of these species or their habitat.

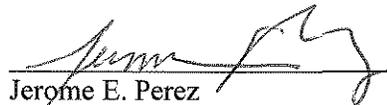
10. Not Violate a Federal, State, Local, or Tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment.

Through analysis documented in the EA, the BLM has determined that the proposed CSNM RMP amendment would not threaten a violation of any federal, state, or local environmental protection

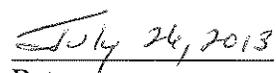
laws.

FINDING

Based on a review of the EA, I have determined that the proposed Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan amendment does not constitute a major federal action and will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity, as defined at 40 CFR 1508.27 and the analysis of effects documented in the EA has been completed within the context of multiple spatial and temporal scales and within the context of the Presidential Proclamation 7318 establishing the CSNM, the 2008 *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* and associated *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Proposed Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (2005). The anticipated effects are within the scope, type, and magnitude of effects anticipated and analyzed in those plans.



Jerome E. Perez
State Director
Oregon/Washington
Bureau of Land Management



Date