

**Environmental Assessment**  
for  
**The Rand Equipment Storage Area Project**

EA # OR-117-04-17

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT

February 2005

Dear Reader:

We appreciate your interest in the BLM's public land management activities. We also appreciate your taking the time to review this environmental assessment (EA). If you would like to provide us with written comments regarding this project or EA, please send them to Abbie Jossie, Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504 or email them to [or110mb@or.blm.gov](mailto:or110mb@or.blm.gov).

If you would like to comment confidentially, please be aware that comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review or may be held in a file available for public inspection and review unless you request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this clearly at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

I look forward to your continued interest in the management of our public lands.

Abbie Jossie  
Field Manager  
Grants Pass Resource Area

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT

EA COVER SHEET

RESOURCE AREA: Grants Pass

EA Number OR-117-04-17

ACTION/TITLE: Rand Equipment Storage Area

LOCATION: Rand Administrative Site

T34S, R8W, SE ¼, Sec. 24, WM

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## 1.0 Introduction

This environmental assessment (EA) will assist in the decision-making process by assessing the environmental and human effects resulting from implementing the proposed project or alternatives. The EA will also assist in determining if an environmental impact statement (EIS) needs to be prepared or if a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

This EA tiers to or is consistent with the following documents:

1. *Final EIS and ROD for the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP)* (June 1995)
2. *Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (February 1994)
3. *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and its attachment A *Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (NFP)*(April 1994).
4. *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (March 2000), and the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (January 2001)
5. *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to remove or Modify the survey and Manage Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (January 2004) and the *Record of Decision to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Document within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.* (March 2004)
6. *Record of Decision and Resource Plan Amendment for Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in southwest Oregon, Coos Bay, Medford, and Roseburg Districts* (May 2004) and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (January 2004)
7. *Rogue national Wild and Scenic River: Hellgate Recreation Area. Proposed Area Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement* (March 2003) and the *Record of Decision and Management Plan* (July 2004)

### 1.1 Purpose of and Need for Action

The purpose is to install a fenced area at the Rand administrative site to provide adequate, secure storage for equipment that is used to manage the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River. The current storage area is not secure, space is limited and the area is visible from the river.

### 1.2 Project location and land use allocation

Rand Administrative Site lies within the congressionally designated boundary of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River.

### **1.3 Scoping Issues**

**Visual Resources** - Need for a design that is consistent with the VRM class 1 objectives.

**Cultural Resources** – The proposed storage area is located within the boundaries of a recorded cultural site, however it is not within the boundary of the Rand National Historic Register site.

## **2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives**

### **2.1 Alternative 1: No Action**

The No Action alternative would retain the existing storage area within the core historic area of the Rand Administrative Site.

### **2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

The proposal is to install a fence encompassing approximately 0.35 acre of the administrative site at its south end. The enclosure would be approximately 120' by 120' located on a nearly level site that has been heavily impacted in the past. It would include locking gates and a 6' high cyclone fence with three additional strands of barbed wire stacked at an angle on top of the cyclone fence (7' tall total). No privacy slats would be used, and the color of the fence would be either silver or black. Ground disturbance would be limited to the use of a power auger to dig fence post holes. No blading or leveling of the site would be necessary. Within two years the area would be surfaced with gravel. Potted Incense-cedar trees (4-5' tall) would be planted along the southeast side of the storage area fence to insure that it is screened to meet VRM objectives.

#### **2.2.1 Project Design Features**

*Cultural Resources:* An archaeologist or cultural resource specialist will be present during any ground disturbing activity including post hole digging.

## **3.0 Environmental Effects**

### **3.1 Soils and Hydrology**

#### **3.1.1 Affected Environment**

The site is located on a terrace above the 50-year flood level. Soil is the alluvial Foehlin gravelly loam.

#### **3.1.2 Alternative 1: No Action**

Soil conditions at the site would remain the same and no hydrologic changes would occur.

### **3.1.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

There would be little overall effects to soils and hydrology. Effects would be limited to loss of soil productivity and reduction in infiltration within the enclosure due to further compaction and surface gravel. This would be very small scale (0.35 acre) and would amount to no measurable effect at any watershed level. No addition of concentrated runoff is anticipated. This determination includes short and long-term direct and indirect and cumulative effects.

## **3.2 Botany and Weeds**

### **3.2.1 Affected Environment**

The proposed storage area is highly impacted and existing vegetation consists of sparse grasses.

### **3.2.2 Alternative 1: No Action**

No activity would occur and there would be no change in the botanical resources.

### **3.2.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

The proposed action would not affect threatened, endangered or special status plants species because the area is already highly disturbed and is not considered potential habitat.

The potential to spread noxious weeds is negligible because the work does not propose major ground disturbing activities within high priority noxious weed sites. Species such as Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) and St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*) always pose a threat of encroachment in this type of disturbed area. This project would not change that risk.

## **3.3 Wildlife**

### **3.3.1 Affected Environment**

There are no known listed threatened or endangered (T&E) wildlife species within or adjacent to the project area. The area is within Critical Habitat Unit (CHU) #65. No bald eagle nesting sites are near the proposed project area. There is spotted owl dispersal habitat immediately adjacent to the project area. There are historically active osprey and great blue heron nest sites in the vicinity of the Rand site, but there are no active nests within the project area. There are no known special status species locations within or adjacent to the project area, and there are no seasonal noise constraints required. The project site is an open grassy area surrounded by conifers, and could provide forage for a variety of wildlife species, such as deer. The project is not within a Medford RMP designated deer winter range.

### **3.3.2 Alternative 1: No Action**

Vegetation conditions at the proposed equipment storage site would remain the same and no habitat modifications would occur. There would be no effects to T&E, or special status wildlife species.

### **3.3.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

No effects are anticipated to T&E species since there are no known T&E species in or adjacent to the project area and no T&E species habitat would be removed as a result of this project. Minimal ground disturbance would occur as a result of this project. The Rand Administrative Site is an extensively managed facility and wildlife in the area is well adapted to the disturbance related to this activity. The site is not managed for wildlife habitat. There may be short term disturbance to nesting neotropical birds in the area, but would not likely effect nesting or breeding success. This project would have negligible effects to deer and other wildlife species that may use the habitat within the proposed fence location. Only 0.5 acres would be enclosed as a result of this project. Approximately two-thirds of the total grassy area at this location would be unfenced and would still be available for deer and other wildlife use. Additionally, the fence would be high enough to deter deer from attempting to jump over the fence, which would reduce the risk of deer getting entangled or entrapped by the fence. While the possibility exists, the probability of deer being injured from the fencing is low since this area is not known as a travel corridor for deer and the area does not currently support a large deer population. The grassy area within the storage facility will be surfaced with rock sometime in the future. This would eliminate the forage and the need for deer to attempt to enter the enclosed area. The storage facility would not restrict wildlife movement in the Rand vicinity since additional areas would be unfenced and allow for movement around the enclosure. The proposed action would not affect long term population viability of any species known to be in the area or lead to the need to list sensitive wildlife species due to the negligible habitat modification that would occur.

## **3.4 Fisheries**

### **3.4.1 Affected Environment**

There are no fish bearing streams located within or directly adjacent to the project area.

### **3.4.2 Alternative 1: No Action**

No changes would occur to fisheries or aquatic resources.

### **3.4.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

The proposed action would involve minimal ground disturbance (limited to digging post holes) resulting in no anticipated sediment transport to streams. No effects to fisheries or aquatic resources are anticipated from the Proposed Action. This determination includes short- and long-term direct and indirect and cumulative effects. Impacts have been considered temporarily on the short- and long-term scales, and spatially at the project and watershed scales.

There is no effect on coho salmon or coho critical habitat from the Proposed Action.

With no effects to fisheries due to the limited ground disturbance and distance from the river, the proposed actions will not have any impact on the Fisheries Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) in the Rogue River,

## **3.5 Cultural Resources**

### **3.5.1 Affected Environment**

The proposed equipment storage location is within the boundaries of a recorded historic site. The site is the former location of the Rand Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp, an important federal response to the Depression, and an organization that helped shape this isolated area. The structures at Camp Rand were dismantled after 1941, when World War II loomed on the horizon. The remaining features are concrete slabs and walkways, kitchen septic, rock lined walkways, stone steps, and a raised earthen path located in front of where the Mess Hall used to be located. None of these features are located within the equipment storage area.

In July 2003, an historic research and archaeological excavation was completed by Dennis Gray of Cascade Research as part of an evaluation of the scientific significance of the Camp Rand site in accordance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Based on the results from this study it was determined that the proposed equipment storage area located within the present-day meadow, where the east and west barracks once stood, and further south within the footprint of the recreation hall, no longer possess historic significance and future use of this area by the BLM will not adversely affect the site (Cascade Research, LLC 2004:66).

### **3.5.2 Alternative 1: No Action**

No ground disturbing activity would occur and there would be no affect to cultural resources.

### **3.5.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

The proposed action involves sub-surface digging to install a fence and surfacing the equipment storage area with gravel. The remaining features associated with the Rand CCC are located outside of the storage area. Construction of the storage enclosure will not adversely affect the site. The completion of the proposed action would result in removing non contributing structures (e.g. boat trailers, jet boat, construction materials, culverts) from the Historic site.

## **3.6 Recreation and Visual Resource Management (VRM)**

### **3.6.1 Affected Environment**

The Rand Administrative Site extends along the southwest side of the river and is a Visual Resource Management (VRM) class 1. The proposed project area is a previously disturbed site; the terrain is a relatively flat grassland area that is surrounded by Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine and blackberries.

The proposed project area is within the Rand Administrative Site boundary, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The administrative site is comprised of 12 buildings, nine of which were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1933 and 1937.

### **3.6.2 Alternative 1: No Action**

The existing storage area would not change.

### **3.6.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

Construction of the storage site will result in moving stored equipment (e.g., boat trailers, jet boats, metal boat storage shed, construction materials) from its current site which is visible from the river to a site that is not visible from the river. The perceived natural scenery at the Rand site will be improved.

The new area would not be visible from the river or road due to topography and vegetative screening. Signs of excavation would be visible for a short time from the Rand recreation site access road, but the site would revegetate in one or two seasons.

The proposal is consistent with the objectives for the “Roaded Natural” class (structures are visually subordinate, generally scattered) of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Inventory for the recreation section of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River (BLM, MDO April 1992).

## **4.0 Agencies and Persons Consulted**

### **4.1 Public Involvement**

A scoping letter was mailed July 14, 2004 to 64 interested individuals, groups, and agencies. One comment was received in support of the proposal, however the writer hoped the fence would not contain slats that could deteriorate and require maintenance

### **4.2 Availability of Document and Comment Procedures**

Copies of the EA will be available for public review in the BLM Medford District Office, the Greenfield Office in Grants Pass and online at [www.or.blm.gov/Medford/planning](http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/planning). A formal 15-day public comment period will be held following an announcement in the Grants Pass Daily Courier. Written comments should be addressed to Abbie Jossie, Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area, at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504. E-mailed comments may be sent to [or110mb@or.blm.gov](mailto:or110mb@or.blm.gov).

## **Appendix A. Maps**

To I-5  
17.6 miles

# Rand Day Use Area



1/05

	Outhouse
	Picnic Table
	Trash Can
	Picnic Shelter

120'

**Proposed Equip  
Storage Area**

120'

Parking

Parking

Gravel Bar

