

**Prineville District**  
**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**BLM Beach Project: DOI-BLM-OR-P060-2010-0026-EA**

**Introduction**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA), No. DOI-BLM-OR-P060-2010-0026-EA, for a proposed action to improve the existing informal dispersed use recreation area known as BLM Beach to create a developed primitive use campground; place rock along 1,200 feet of the shoreline to control erosion adjacent to the proposed campground; and manage fuels to reduce the risk of wildfire. The primary purpose and need for the project is to provide designated boat-in campsites, while preventing additional, or mitigating ongoing, impacts to environmental resources. The proposed action is needed because dispersed camping in this area is adversely affecting soil and vegetation resources and poses a risk of fire in the wildland urban interface.

The EA is attached to and incorporated by reference in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination. The EA analyzed a no action alternative, as well as two action alternatives.

**Plan Conformance**

The proposed project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the following BLM plans and associated Record of Decision(s):

1. Two Rivers Resource Management Plan (TRMP) and Record of Decision, June, 1986.

**Finding of No Significant Impact Determination:**

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect 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 in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described below.

**Context:** The project is a site-specific action directly involving the 87-acre area known as BLM Beach, located on the south shore of the Metolius Arm of Lake Billy Chinook. This area is within the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan planning area.

**Intensity:** The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and the additional criteria as required by the following Instruction Memorandum, Acts and Executive Orders: Instruction Memorandum No. 99-

178, the Lacey Act, as amended; the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974; the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species; Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice; Clean Water Act of 1987; Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments to the Clean Water Act of 1996; Executive Order 12088 on federal compliance with pollution control standards, as amended; Executive Order 12589 on Superfund compliance; and Executive Order dated July 14, 1982 on intergovernmental review of federal programs.

1. **Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.** The proposed action would impact resources as described in the EA. Mitigations to reduce impacts are incorporated in the design of the proposed action. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan and ROD (1986).
2. **The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.** The proposed action provides benefits to public health and safety by reducing fuel loads and wildland fire risk in the planning area.
3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** The historic and cultural resources of the area have been reviewed by an archeologist, and potential impacts mitigated in the design of the proposed action. There are no effects on park lands, prime farm lands, caves designated under 43 CFR 37, designated wilderness or wilderness study areas, wetlands or federally designated wild and scenic rivers. The proposed action would not affect any Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** The proposed action is not anticipated to be controversial, because it addresses all issues identified during scoping. The proposed action is not intended to increase recreational use of the BLM Beach site, and includes measures that will reduce trespass and fire hazard on adjacent private lands in the Three Rivers Community. The proposed action will assist Pacific General Electric (PGE) in meeting the terms of the Pelton Round Butte Settlement Agreement, to which BLM is signatory, because it provides for erosion control along the shoreline of Lake Billy Chinook, as well as recreational improvements that are included in PGE's Recreation Resource Management Plan.
5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has implemented similar actions with regards to recreational facility improvements and vegetation treatments in many areas, and erosion control measures that would be implemented along the shoreline are similar to those that have proven effective at Indian Park on Lake Simtustus. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects

on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

**6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The actions considered in the proposed action were considered by the interdisciplinary team within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. An analysis of the effects of the proposed action is described in the EA.

**7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.** The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. There may be small contributions to cumulative benefits of other fuels management actions in the planning area, but significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the project is contained in the EA.

**8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.** The project would not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will it cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

**9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.** Mitigations to reduce impacts to wildlife have been incorporated into the design of the proposed action. The project is designed to control erosion along 1,200 feet of the Lake Billy Chinook shoreline, which would improve water quality for the federally listed bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) residing in the lake. Work would be scheduled during a maintenance drawdown of Lake Billy Chinook. No other threatened or endangered species occupy the project area.

**10. Whether the action threatens a violation of a Federal, State or local law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.** The project does not violate any known Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. State, local, and tribal interests were given the opportunity to participate in the environmental analysis process. Furthermore, the project is consistent with applicable land management plans, policies, and programs.

Approved By:           to be signed prior to Decision          

Molly M. Brown  
Field Manager, Deschutes Resource Area

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