

DRAFT Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)

Tioga Bridge and Susan Creek Day-Use Area Improvements

Swiftwater Field Office
Roseburg District
Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-OR-R040-0006-EA

Date Prepared: July 21, 2009

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Swiftwater Field Office proposes to construct a pedestrian bridge across the North Umpqua River to connect to the Tioga segment of the North Umpqua Trail. Additionally, the BLM proposes to expand the Susan Creek Day-Use Area parking lot, construct gazebos in the day-use area and to construct a trail connecting the proposed bridge to the day-use area (Tioga EA, pg. 7-17).

The proposed action is located in the North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River Corridor and the Susan Creek Recreation Area in T. 26 S., R. 2 W., Willamette Meridian. The land use allocation is National Landscape Conservation System.

Test for Significant Impacts.

1. Has significant impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (1))?

Yes No

Remarks: The proposed action would positively impact recreation resources by providing additional facilities and opportunities within the North Umpqua River corridor. Effects to other resources would be localized and mitigated through use of the appropriate project design features (Tioga EA, pp. 14-17). Furthermore, the proposed action would achieve the management objectives stated in the 1992 North Umpqua River Management Plan (NURMP).

2. Has significant adverse impacts on public health or safety (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (2))?

Yes No

Remarks: The proposed action would provide for public safety by constructing a new access point to a recreation trail for emergency ingress and egress and by providing a safe turnaround for large vehicles in the Susan Creek Day-Use Area parking lot.

3. Adversely effects such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (3))?

Yes No

Remarks: The project area contains at least two archaeological sites, 35DO100 and 35DO458. Both sites have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Consultation with the State Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and interested tribes is ongoing. A mitigation and data recovery plan, developed in consultation with the SHPO, would be implemented prior to the beginning of

construction and therefore impacts to cultural resources would be negligible (Tioga EA, pp. 16, 29-30).

The proposed action would occur in the congressionally designated North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The entire action conforms to the management direction of the NURMP and would enhance recreation opportunities in the corridor (Tioga EA, pp. 19-25). The North Umpqua is classified as a recreational Wild and Scenic River and recreation is one of the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated.

4. Has highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (4))?

Yes No

Remarks: Effects are expected to be consistent with those documented in the literature cited in the EA and are not expected to be highly controversial.

5. Has highly uncertain or involves unique or unknown risks to the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (5))?

Yes No

Remarks: The risks to the human environment from the project were analyzed in the Tioga Bridge Susan Creek Day-Use Area Improvements EA and found not to be highly uncertain or unique.

6. Establishes a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (6))?

Yes No

Remarks: The proposed action is consistent with the management direction provided in the Roseburg District 2008 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) and the NURMP and therefore does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

7. Is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (7))?

Yes No

Remarks: The impacts to recreation (pp. 19-25), scenery (pp. 25-29), cultural resources (p. 29-30), water quality and quantity (pp. 30-33), fisheries (pp. 33-38) and wildlife (pp. 38-44) were analyzed in the *Tioga Bridge and Susan Creek Day-Use Area Improvements EA*. After review of the document and the analysis therein, these impacts are found not to be significant.

8. Has adverse effects on districts, sites, highways, structures, or 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 (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (8))?

Yes No

Remarks: The BLM is undergoing consultation to complete Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols. A mitigation plan will be implemented in order to prevent the loss or destruction of significant cultural or historical resources (Tioga EA, pp. 16, 29-30). Results of the consultation will be disclosed in the final FONSI and the project specific decision record.

9. 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 (40 CFR §1508.27(b)(9))?

Botanical Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Fish Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Wildlife Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Remarks: Surveys did not identify the presence of any federally threatened or endangered botanical species; therefore the proposed action would have no effect on listed botanical species (Tioga EA, pg. 43-44).

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is in process for the northern spotted owl. Results of that consultation will be disclosed in the FONSI issued with the Decision Record. The project area is within Critical Habitat Unit OR-27 for the northern spotted owl, as designated in the 1992 final rule. The proposed action is not expected to modify the suitability of the habitat (Tioga EA, pg. 40).

The District fisheries staff has determined that the only component of this project that would have a mechanism for an effect on Oregon Coast coho salmon is construction of the Tioga Bridge. All other components of the proposed action alternative would have no direct effects on Oregon Coast coho salmon and would not adversely modify its designated critical habitat. In addition, the project design features would ensure that no indirect effects to Oregon Coast coho salmon or their habitat would occur. Therefore, those actions would not have an effect on Oregon Coast coho salmon or its habitat and further consultation with the NOAA Fisheries Service is not required.

Construction of the Tioga Bridge will require a U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Section 404 in-water work permit; therefore, consultation requirements for this component have been met under the *Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES IV Restoration)* (USDC NMFS 2008). The action *may affect, not likely to adversely affect* the Oregon Coast coho salmon.

10. Threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b)(10))?

Yes No

Remarks: The proposed action was designed in conformance with the management direction from the ROD/RMP and the North Umpqua River Management Plan which are themselves in compliance with applicable laws. Conformance to these plans ensures compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local laws.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that Tioga Bridge and Susan Creek Day-Use Area Improvements would not have a significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action would be in conformance with the *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP)* for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995.

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Swiftwater Field Office

Date

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