

Missouri Bend Land Acquisition

Finding of No Significant Impact

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducted an environmental analysis (Environmental Assessment Number DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0003-EA) for a proposal to accept a donation of 0.75 acres of land from a private individual.

The project area is adjacent to the BLM-managed Missouri Bend Recreation Site, in Township 14 South, Range 9 West, Section 13, Willamette Meridian (**EA Map 1**) and within Lower Alsea River Watershed.

The analysis in this EA is site-specific and supplements analyses found in the *Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement*, September 1994 (RMP/FEIS). The project conforms to the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, May 1995 (RMP) as amended and related documents which direct and provide the legal framework for management of BLM lands within the Salem District (*EA Section 1.2*).

The EA and draft FONSI were available for public review February 6, 2013 to March 7, 2013. The notice for public comment was published in a legal notice by the *Gazette-Times* newspaper. The BLM has not received any comments on the project.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon review of the Missouri Bend Land Acquisition EA and supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action 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 areas. No site-specific environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, supplemental or additional information to the analysis done in the RMP/FEIS through a new environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the following information:

Context: Potential effects resulting from the implementation of the project have been analyzed within the context of the Lower Alsea River fifth field watershed. The project transfers approximately 0.75 acres of land from private to BLM management. This encompasses less than one-tenth of one percent of the forest cover within watershed [40 CFR 1508.27(a)].

Intensity:

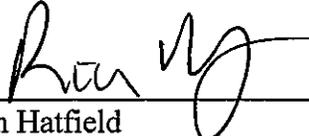
1. [40 CFR 1508.27(b) (1)] – **Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse:** The BLM interdisciplinary team of specialists reviewed the acquisition of 0.75 acres and determined that minimal to no impacts, beneficial or adverse, would occur. The resources considered

include air quality, fire risk, and fuels management, fisheries and aquatic habitat, invasive, non-native plant species, special status species and habitat, wildlife, soils, water quality, cultural resources, and recreation. The project is unlikely to have significant adverse impacts on these resources for the following reasons:

2. [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)] – **The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety:** The proposed action is administrative in nature and would have no effect on public health and safety.
3. [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)] – **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 project would not affect historical or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas, because none are located within the project area.
4. [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)] – **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial:** The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without highly controversial, highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks.
5. [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)] – **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment area highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks:** The effects associated with the project do not have uncertain, unique, or unknown risks, because the BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without these risks.
6. [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(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 project would not establish a precedent for future actions, nor would it represent a decision in principle about a further consideration for the following reasons: 1/ The project is within the scope of proposed activities documented in the Salem District RMP. 2/ The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without setting a precedent for future actions or representing a decision about a further consideration.
7. [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)] – **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts:** The small scope of the project, acquisition of 0.75 acres of land, will not contribute to any significant impacts.
8. [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)] – **The degree to which the action may adversely affect 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:** The project would not affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor would the project cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(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 (ESA) of 1973: The project would not have any effect on any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, botanical species or their habitat. As such, consultation is not required for this action.

10. [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)] – **Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment:** The project has been designed to follow Federal, State, and local laws (EA section 1.2).

Approved by: 
Rich Hatfield
Marys Peak Field Manager

3-11-13
Date