

# Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Salem District, Oregon  
Marys Peak Resource Area

Day-use site and campsite #14 conversion at the Alsea Falls Recreation Site  
DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2015-0007-DNA

Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0001-EA

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## ***A. Background and Description of the Proposed Action***

The BLM analyzed several projects in the Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0001) in 2012; one of those projects was to transform five underutilized sites within the Alsea Falls day-use area into walk-in overnight camping sites (Figure 1). These five sites will be converted into overnight camping sites as described in the EA. Parking for these sites will be located within the day-use parking area and native vegetation (primarily swordfern, which is abundant in the area) will be relocated from other project areas for privacy screening of the new campsites.

The BLM identified six underutilized picnic sites, located adjacent to the river in a riparian area, in the EA for monitoring and closure if their use was leading to riparian damage (Figure 1). The BLM staff identified on September 22, 2015 that two sites will need to be decommissioned and restored. At this time, these two sites will be decommissioned based on their proximity to the Alsea River, river bank erosion, and waste. Monitoring will be ongoing and additional sites may be decommissioned in the future.

The EA analyzed the conversion of campsite #14 into a group use site (Figure 2). Campsite #14 is a very large single campsite and the conversion process will be simple. Two trees will be cut to allow for adequate parking (Figure 3). Cut trees will be retained within the recreation area in accordance with consultation requirements. Small amounts of vegetation will be removed and transplanted to other locations, and additional tent pads, fire rings, grills, and picnic tables will be added. Gravel will be added to the new parking location and will eventually be paved to maintain consistency with the rest of the campground.

Work will be primarily done from October 1 through May 1, outside of the park's open season.

**Location:** Alsea Falls Recreation Site, T. 14 S., R. 7 W., Section 25, Willamette Meridian, Benton County, Oregon.

## ***B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans***

The analysis documented in the EA is site-specific and supplements analyses found in the *Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement*,

September 1994 (RMP/FEIS). This project is authorized under the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, May 1995 (1995 RMP) and related documents which direct and provide the legal framework for management of BLM lands within the Salem District. All of these documents may be reviewed at the Salem District office.

The Alsea Falls day-use conversion project meets the 2011 exemption from pre-disturbance surveys. The project meets the provisions of the exemption because it entails improving an existing recreation site (EA p. 7). As stated in the Settlement Agreement, the “Exemptions for Recreation Projects” are as follows: “Projects covering less than five acres that improve an existing recreation site. Some examples of recreation site improvement include adding campsites to existing campgrounds, adding recreational structures or facilities in existing recreation sites, and expanding recreation sites.”

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

- Provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected recreation demand within the planning area. (RMP p. 41).
- Continue to operate and maintain developed recreation sites and trails (RMP p. 43).

***C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.***

Applicable NEPA Documents:

- Alsea Fall Recreation Area Management Plan EA (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0001-EA) – October 9, 2012.
- Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan Decision Record – January 15, 2013.

Other NEPA documents and other related documents relevant to the proposed action:

- Salem District RMP/EIS – November 1994 and Record of Decision – May 1995
- Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan project file

***D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria***

**1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?**

Yes. The action will be completed as described and analyzed in the EA (pp. 14-19). The EA specifically addressed day-use site conversion into overnight camping, conversion of campsite #14 into a group site, and the monitoring and potential decommissioning of the six identified day-use sites.

**Theme 1: Campground (EA p. 15)**

*In this phase of development, existing campsite #14 would be converted to a group site. Conversion would require the removal of approximately two trees to provide adequate parking for site 14 and additional tent sites to be constructed.*

## Theme 2: Day-Use Area

*Six underutilized picnic sites, located adjacent to the river in a riparian area, would be monitored and potentially closed.*

*Five underutilized sites within the Alsea Falls day-use area will be converted to accommodate overnight tent camping (see Figure 5). Parking for these sites will be located within the day-use parking area. Vegetation will be planted to provide privacy screening between these sites and tent pads constructed. These sites will be used primarily for bicycle travelers and as overflow to the campground when necessary.*

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?**

The EAs analyzed the No Action and the Proposed Action alternatives. No other reasonable alternatives to achieving the purpose and need were identified by the interdisciplinary team or the public. No new environmental concerns, interests, resource values, or circumstances have arisen since the EAs were published that would require the development of additional alternatives. A full description of the alternatives can be found in Chapter 2 of the EA (pp. 13-32).

**3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?**

Yes. The existing analysis and conclusions are adequate. There is no new significant information or circumstances relative to the analysis in the EA or the current action. The analysis and conclusions in the EA are appropriate and adequate.

**4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the current proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?**

The EA analyzed direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action on affected resources (fisheries/aquatic habitat, water quality, vegetation, soils, fuels, and wildlife). The project will adhere to best management practices and project design features in the EA to minimize effects to the aforementioned resources. There are no substantial changes from those addressed in the analyses to the present.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?**

Public involvement for the EA has been adequate. The BLM sent scoping letters in 2010 to 86 federal, state, and municipal government agencies, nearby landowners, tribal authorities, and interested parties. The BLM received 30 comments during this period.

The EA and FONSI were made available for a 30 day public review on October 9, 2012. The BLM received 13 comment letters on the EA. Comments were generally favorable for the plan and the proposed activities.

### **Consultation**

As described in the 2013 DR, consultation was completed for this project for both fish and wildlife. This DNA does not introduce any factors that would trigger a re-consultation. This project will comply with current consultation requirements.

### ***E. Interdisciplinary Analysis***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Specialty</b>
Jeff McCusker	Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner
Douglass Fitting	Hydrology and Soils
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Coordinator
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### **Prepared and Reviewed By**

/s/ Dan Davis  
Dan Davis  
Recreation Technician

9/29/15  
Date

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/ Andy Frazier  
Andy Frazier  
Acting Marys Peak Field Manager

9/29/15  
Date

**Figure 1. Approximate location of day-use to campsite conversion locations and approximate location of sites that are to be decommissioned (EA map, p. 26).**

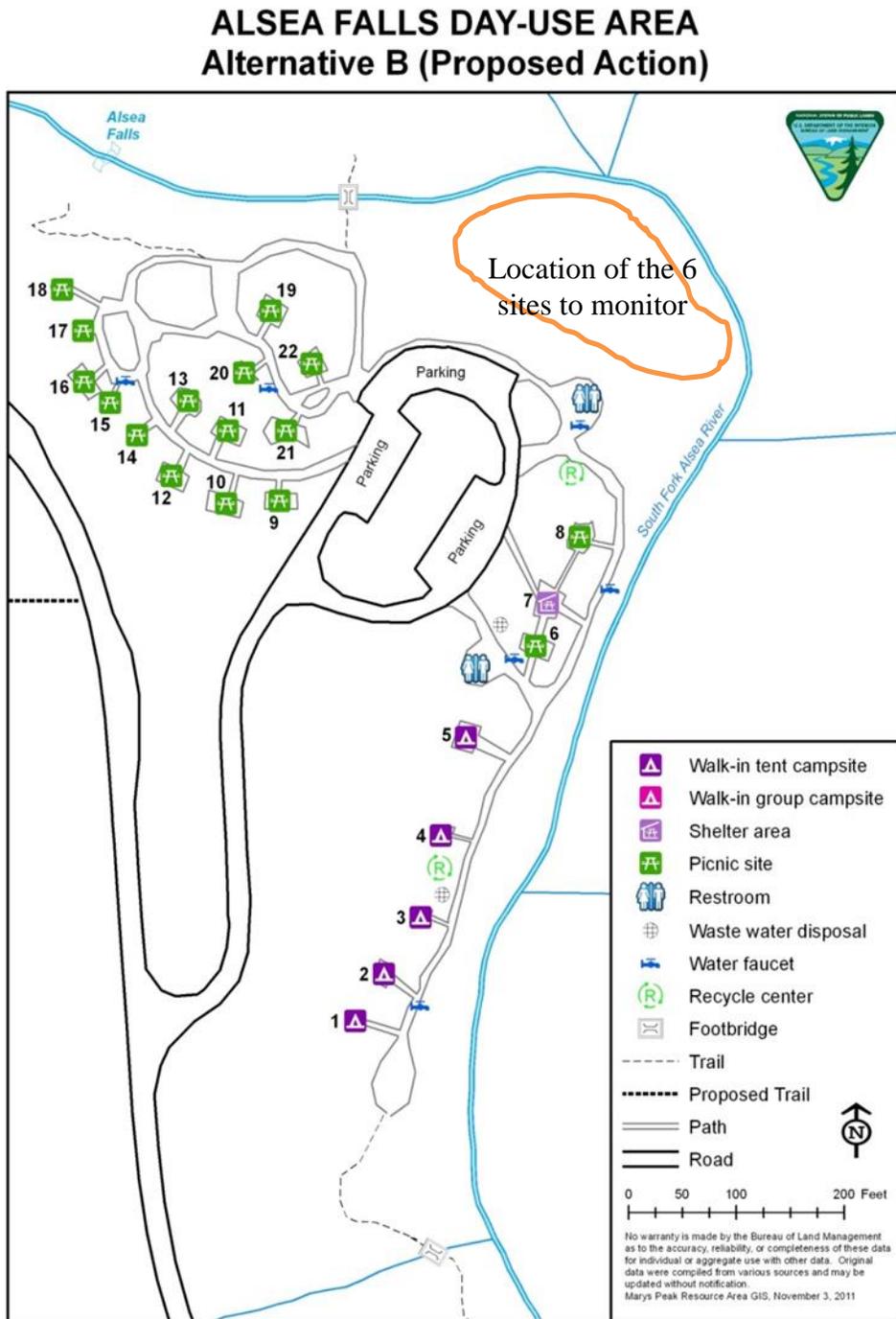
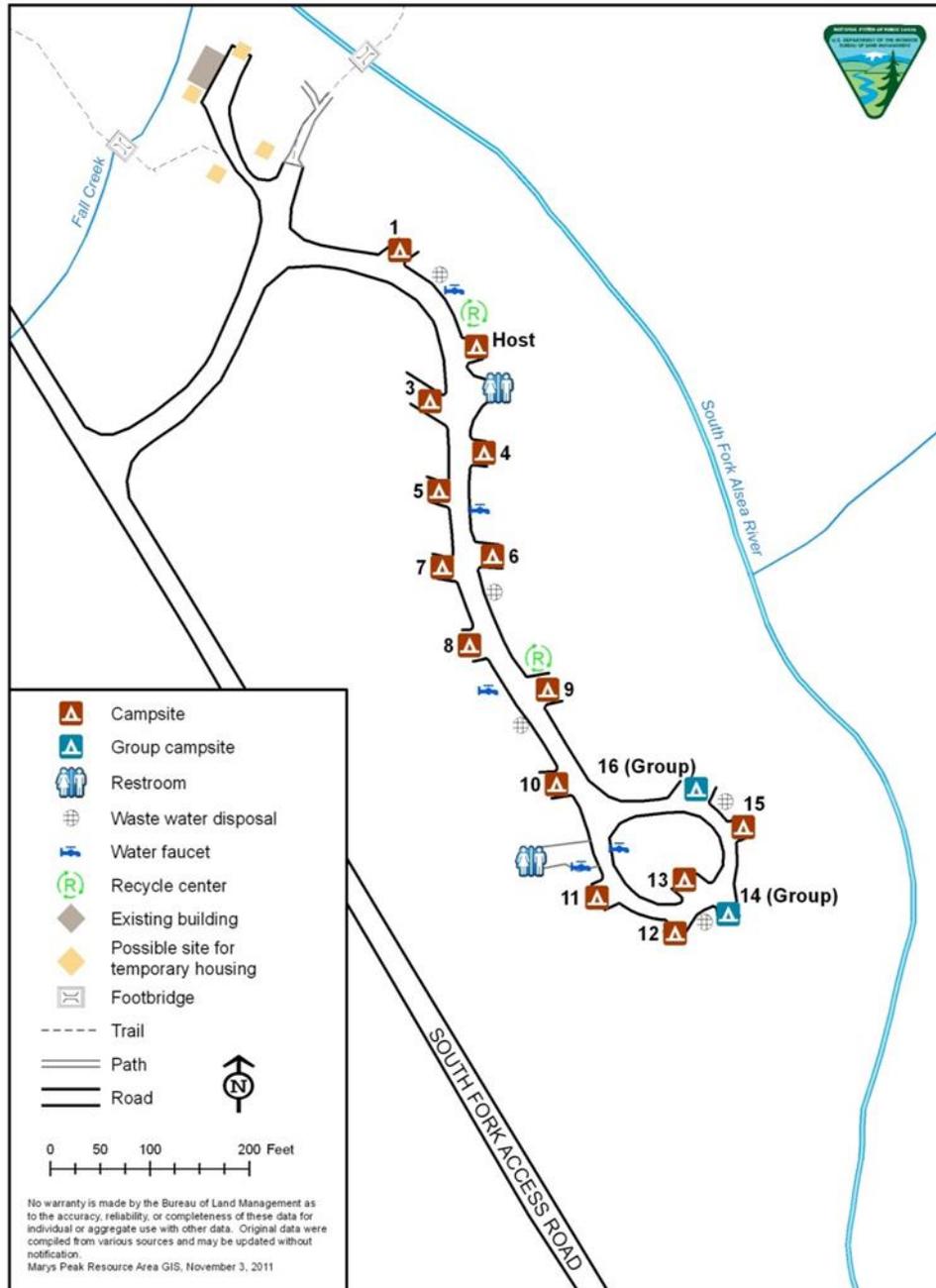


Figure 2. Approximate location of campsite #14 (EA map, p. 22)

### ALSEA FALLS CAMPGROUND Alternative B (Proposed Action) - Phase 1



**Figure 3. Trees to be removed at campsite # 14 (indicated by the red “x”)**

