

Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan

Finding of No Significant Impact

Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2014-0003-EA

May 2015

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Salem District
Cascades Resource Area

Township 9 South, Range 2 East, sections 25 and 26
Willamette Meridian
Marion County, Oregon

Responsible Agency: USDI – Bureau of Land Management

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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering economic use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

BLM/OR/WA/PL-15/030+1972

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared an environmental analysis to present a range of potential management strategies for the Fishermen's Bend Special Recreation Management Area. This strategy analyzed the potential effects on recreation use and the area's natural resources. Each alternative contains direction for Overnight, Day-Use, Environmental Education and Interpretation, 17-Acre Addition, and River Access and Bank Stabilization management for the next 10 to 15 years. The project area is located on BLM-administered lands in Marion County, Oregon.

The Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2014-0003) documents the environmental analysis of the proposed recreation management actions and action alternatives. The EA is available at the Salem District Office, online (<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/plans/plans-details.php?id=2755>), and incorporated by reference in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination. The EA and unsigned FONSI were made available for public review from January 20, 2015 through February 20, 2015.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon review of the Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan EA and supporting documents, I have determined that neither the proposed action nor any action alternatives analyzed in this document are major federal actions that would 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. Therefore, supplemental or additional information to the analysis in the 1995 Salem District Resource Management Plan (RMP) in the form of a new environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the following discussion.

Context [40 CFR 1508.27(a)]: Potential effects resulting from the implementation of the proposed recreation management actions have been analyzed within the context of the project area boundary and the North Santiam River 4th field watershed. Management actions identified under the Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan would directly affect less than four acres of this watershed.

Intensity refers to severity of impact [40 CFR 1508.27(b)]: The following text shows how the proposed recreation management actions would not have significant impacts with regard to ten considerations for evaluating intensity, as described in 40 CFR 1508.27 (b).

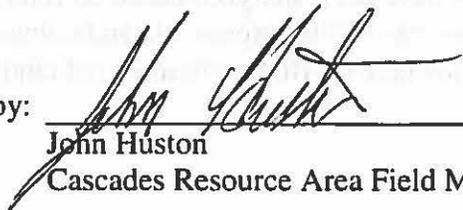
1. [40 CFR 1508.27(b) (1)] – *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse*: The effects of the proposed recreation management actions are unlikely to have significant (beneficial and adverse) impacts (EA Section 3) for the following reasons:

- Project design features described in EA Section 7.1 would reduce the risk of effects to affected resources to be within RMP standards and guidelines and to be within the effects described in the RMP.
- *Socioeconomic (EA Section 3.1)*: The proposed recreation management actions are compatible with existing land uses and comply with existing local and regional civic and economic initiatives. The overall effect of these actions on economic activity is likely to be beneficial in nature.
- *Recreation (EA Section 3.2)*: Recreation activities and facilities provided under the proposed recreation management actions are similar to those offered elsewhere in the region, including those on BLM-administered land. These actions are unlikely to result in a large-scale displacement of visitors across a variety of recreational activities. Beneficial impacts to the recreation setting and visitor experience are likely to occur.
- *Vegetation and Botany (EA Section 3.3)*: No overall stand conditions or types would be altered as a result of the proposed recreation management actions. Few trees are likely to be removed as a result of proposed recreation management actions. Impacts to native botanical species would be limited and overall beneficial in nature as sites are rehabilitated and native vegetation is re-established. This project complies with the Threatened or Endangered Species (Endangered Species Act of 1983, as amended: 16 USC 1531) because there would be no adverse effects on Threatened or Endangered Species based on the results of the analysis of the project area.
- *Invasive-Non-Native Plants (EA section 3.4)*: No substantial additional spread or introduction of non-native invasive species is expected. With mitigation measures in place, it is not anticipated that the proposed recreation management actions would contribute measurably to the cumulative effects of invasive/non-native species in Oregon (EA Section 3.4.2).
- *Wildlife (EA Section 3.5)*: Little to no habitat modification would occur as a result of the proposed recreation management actions. Impacts to wildlife would be reduced as sensitive areas are closed to public access. Design features such as implementing seasonal work restrictions and conducting site specific pre-disturbance surveys to identify BLM sensitive or Threatened and Endangered species prior to project development would further reduce impacts to wildlife within the project area.
- *Fisheries and Aquatic Systems (EA Section 3.6)*: The proposed recreation management actions would have little to no impact on spawning and rearing habitat for fisheries within the project area. Decreased sediment delivery and mitigation of riverbank impacts would result through enhancements to river access points.
- *Hydrology and Water Quality (EA Section 3.7)*: Proposed recreation management actions are unlikely to have a measurable impact on overall water quality including bacteria levels, temperature, and turbidity. The actions are likely to have overall beneficial impact on water quality by minimizing riverbank erosion.
- *Soils (EA Section 3.8)*: The proposed recreation management actions would create less than four acres of additional soil compaction from the creation of additional campsites, roads, or trails that could adversely affect soil quality or site productivity. Due to the project area being somewhat flat and already having concentrated development areas, project design features such as minimal vegetation removal, re-

- vegetating disturbed areas, and seasonal restrictions would likely not result in measurable effects on soil quality or adverse soil erosion rates.
- *Cultural Resources (EA Section 3.9)*: Nearly all impacts to cultural resources would be reduced or eliminated through the practice of pre-disturbance surveys and use of avoidance and protection measures.
 - *Fire Quality, Fire Risk, and Fuels Management (EA Section 3.10)*: Effects to this resource would not have significant impacts because the proposed recreation management actions would comply with the Clean Air Act and State of Oregon Air Quality Standards by adhering to Oregon Smoke Management guidelines. Fine fuels generated by project implementation would decay in the project area within three to five years, reducing the risk of a surface fire to near current levels. The potential for a human caused wildfire would be reduced by treating the fuels most likely to be ignited by human activities within the project area.
2. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (2)] – The degree to which the proposed recreation management actions affect public health or safety*: The proposed recreation management actions would not adversely affect public health or safety because these actions are expected to reduce illegal activity and reduce the occurrence of theft, vandalism, and vehicular accidents. Site development, access restrictions, and provision of facilities would likely improve overall public safety. Levels of law enforcement and administrative personnel would remain unchanged (EA Section 3.2).
 3. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (3)] – Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas*: The proposed recreation management actions would not affect historical or cultural resources because project design features require pre-disturbance surveys to be completed prior to project implementation (EA Section 7.1). The proposed recreation management actions would not affect parklands, prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers or ecologically critical areas because these resources are not located within the project area (EA Section 3).
 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 proposed recreation management actions include strategies that are similar to actions BLM implements in similar areas without highly controversial effects. These actions are unlikely to be highly controversial based on extensive public scoping, outreach, and stakeholder involvement in the planning process.
 5. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (5)] – The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks*: Possible effects of the proposed recreation management actions have been analyzed based on reliable data and professional judgment. These effects are reasonably foreseeable and comparable to effects of recreation management actions elsewhere on BLM-administered land (EA Section 3).

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 proposed recreation management actions 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 in the scope of activities documented in the 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 Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) evaluated the project area in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions on each affected resource and determined that the cumulative impact of these actions does not reach the threshold for significance (EA Section 3).
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 these resources because no sites listed within the National Register of Historic Places are present within the project area and projects near sites eligible for the National Register would require a pre-disturbance survey and appropriate mitigation or protection measures (EA Section 3.9).
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 proposed recreation management actions are not expected to adversely affect ESA listed species or critical habitat for the following reasons:
 - *ESA Wildlife – (EA Section 3.5 and 5.1):* Effects to the species are not significant because the proposed recreation management actions do not have a measurable impact on habitat conditions or wildlife behavior patterns.
 - *ESA Fish – (EA Section 3.6 and 5.2):* Effects to ESA fish are not significant because the proposed recreation management actions would have little to no impact on spawning and rearing habitat within the project area.
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 proposed recreation management actions have been designed to follow Federal, State, and local laws (EA Section 1.7).

Approved by:



 John Huston

Cascades Resource Area Field Manager

6/2/2015

 Date