

Decision Record
for the
Juniper Chip Roads Pilot Project
(Applies to EA No. OR 014-02-02)

DECISION

My decision is to implement the Proposed Action Alternative, described in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Juniper Chip Roads Pilot Project, August 2002. This alternative proposes to improve existing road surfaces, and construct new temporary access routes, with a layer of juniper chips. This project will be implemented as described in the “Description of Proposed Action” (EA, page 3).

MITIGATION

Mitigation as described in the “Description of Mitigation Measures” (EA, page 17) will be implemented in order to protect those resources affected by the Proposed Action.

DECISION RATIONALE

The proposed alternative has the best combination of features to meet project objectives of exploring the feasibility, both economic and environmental, of utilizing juniper chips as a road surface improvement and construction material. Juniper chip road application may prove to be a productive use of biomass resulting from mechanical fuels reduction operations within dense Western Juniper stands. Juniper chip surfacing is anticipated to provide improved access to fuel treatment zone (FTZ) units for BLM administrative and contractual needs. The improved surfacing will also benefit the public by providing access to FTZs for approved small quantity woodcutting purposes. Reducing or possibly eliminating the potential erosion impacts associated with standard road maintenance and construction is anticipated. No soil excavation will occur as a part of this project’s operational design. Project design features adequately protect environmental resources and minimize the risk of adverse effects that might result from implementing the project. No impacts to threatened and endangered wildlife, plant species or cultural resources are anticipated due to implementation of the Proposed Action.

No comments were received during the Environmental Assessment’s 30-day comment period. No modification to the Proposed Action is considered necessary.

Alternative 1 (surface existing roads only) was not selected because the feasibility and effects of utilizing juniper chips as construction material for temporary access needs would not be explored under this alternative.

The No-Action alternative was not selected because it would not explore the feasibility and effects of utilizing juniper chips as a road surface improvement and construction material for temporary access needs, and would not meet the purpose and intent of the proposed study.

The decision is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (June 1995).

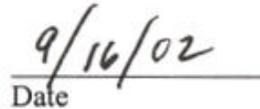
ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Any party adversely affected by this decision may appeal within 30 days after receipt of the decision in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR Parts 4.4. The notice of appeal must include a statement of reasons or file a separate statement of reasons within 30 days of filing the notice of appeal. The notice of appeal must state if a stay of the decision is being requested and must be filed with the Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resources Area, Bureau of Land Management, 2795 Anderson Ave., Building 25, Klamath Falls, OR 97603. A copy of the notice of appeal, statement of reasons, and other documents should be sent to the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 607, 500 N.E. Multnomah Street, Portland, OR 97232. If the statement of reasons is filed separately it must be sent to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203. It is suggested that any notice of appeal be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

Before deciding to file an appeal, I encourage you to contact me to determine if your concerns might be met in some way other than via an appeal. Thank you for your continued interest in the multiple use management of your public lands. This notice constitutes the decision notification for purpose of protests under 43 CFR subpart 5003 – Administrative Remedies.



Teresa A. Raml
Field Manager


Date