

DECISION RECORD

Kerwin Ranch Meadow Restoration Environmental Assessment # OR-014-03-01

DECISION

Based on site-specific analysis, the supporting project record, and management direction contained in the Klamath Falls Resource Area RMP/EIS, I have decided to implement the Kerwin Ranch Meadow Restoration as described in the proposed action, Alternative 1.

Description of the selected alternative:

The BLM would attempt to restore the wet meadow primarily by implementing only passive restoration measures. These include realigning approximately 120 meters of road, raising the road grade and improving road drainage along approximately 700 meters of Topsy Road (including portions of road on US Timberlands property), decommissioning approximately 250 meters of dirt road within the meadow, constructing approximately 400 meters of fence or other vehicle barriers (logs, boulders, etc.) along the southern margin of the meadow and the BLM property line, placing large woody debris within the meadow, planting native vegetation in disturbed areas and along the meadow edge, and installing signs to explain the restoration project and mark areas that are closed to vehicle traffic. Appropriate project design features will be applied to protect resources within the meadow during project implementation.

DECISION RATIONALE

The selected alternative addresses the identified purpose and need for action in that it would restore the wet meadow areas that have been degraded. The selected alternative is consistent with applicable land use plans, policies, and programs (see pages 2 and 3 of the EA). Through the interdisciplinary team process, it was determined that the selected alternative will best meet the objectives of the project. The selected alternative provides for the lowest maintenance costs and the best protection for Kerwin Meadow. The selected alternative will improve meadow habitat and vehicle travel along Topsy Road.

Alternative 2 (use a more active restoration strategy in the meadow) was not selected because the potential impacts of soil disturbance outweighed the potential benefits of slightly faster recovery of the meadow.

The “no action” alternative was not selected because it does not address the purpose and need for action to restore the meadow. The no action alternative would have resulted in continued degradation of the wet meadow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Two public comments were received, both via electronic mail. Both comments supported implementing Alternative 1.

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 a protest, I encourage you to contact me to determine if your concerns might be met in some way other than via a protest, or to assist you in the protest process if it is appropriate. 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 B Administrative Remedies.


Field Manager

Date 6/2/03