

Upper Klamath River Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement Briefing Notes

Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register on May 16, 2003.
(90 day Comment Period – May 16 thru August 13)

Purposes

Existing plans are not sufficient

- Old “Recreation” Plan (1983)
- Resource Management Plans (Redding 1993, Klamath Falls 1995) don’t address designations

Existing designations that will be included in the Upper Klamath River Plan

- Oregon Scenic Waterway (1988) from J.C. Boyle Powerhouse to Oregon/California state line.
- Wild and Scenic River (designated in 1994) under the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* from J.C. Boyle Powerhouse to Oregon/California state line (a management plan is required per Act).
- Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) full width of river canyon from J.C. Boyle Powerhouse to Oregon/California state line per the Klamath Resource Area RMP (1995). BLM regulations require an ACEC Plan be developed.

Linkage to FERC Relicensing Process of PacifiCorp facilities

- The final River Plan will be sent to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to serve as the baseline for BLM management within the upper Klamath River Canyon. PacifiCorp has also asked BLM to consider their lands within the planning area.

Alternatives

Alternative 1 - Existing Management

- “No action” alternative
- No change in Resource Management Plans
- Management to follow direction in existing plans
- Maintain wild and scenic river outstandingly remarkable values and ACEC values.

Alternative 2 - Improvement of Resources / Opportunities

- Maintain and enhance river values per *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*
- Resolve resource management conflicts that exist
- Do not create additional resource conflicts

Alternative 3 - Natural Resource Enhancement / Restoration

- Maintain all outstandingly remarkable values
- Enhancement of the values related to natural resources
- Emphasis on restoration

Alternative 4 - Expand Human Use Opportunities

- Maintain and enhance all outstandingly remarkable values
- Enhance human use of the river corridor (greatest recreation emphasis)
- Emphasize resource interpretation (wildlife & cultural resources)
- Do not create significant conflicts with other values

Key Actions Considered in each of the Alternatives

- Vegetation treatments to protect scenic quality
- Recreation site and campground development, improvement or closure
- Road improvements, decommissioning and closures of redundant roads
- Cultural site protection
- Reduction of risk of catastrophic wildfires through vegetation treatments/fuel reduction
- Wildlife and Fish habitat improvement
- Erosion reduction and water quality improvement
- Livestock and Wild Horse management

General Consequences of the Preferred Alternative

- Greatest scenic quality maintenance
- Recreation camping and fishing use at or near current levels
- Lowest number of roads open for motorized vehicle use due to road closures to protect or improve other resources, with resulting reduction in off-highway vehicle use opportunities
- Whitewater boating opportunities reduced but actual use to remain at or near current levels
- Largest amount of vegetation treatments particularly to reduce fuel loading and maintain scenery
- Riparian-dependent species benefited the most
- Recommended River base flows increased in Segment 1 for fish habitat improvement
- J.C. Boyle Powerhouse releases to favor aquatic resources rather than whitewater rafting
- Grazing eliminated over time (adaptive use of grazing to manage noxious weeds on irrigated fields)
- Largest amount of PacifiCorp land considered for exchange, acquisition or cooperative management

Rational for Preferred Alternative

- Importance of Fisheries in Klamath River System
- Need for restoration of Klamath Basin fish habitat and water resources
- Need for vegetation treatments to reduce fuel loads, protect scenic quality and improve wildlife habitat
- Maintains or enhances wild and scenic river outstandingly remarkable values
- (Note: Preferred Alternative can change or be modified based on public input)

Potential Decisions Related to this Analysis

- Decisions on Land Use actions including:
 - Decision on Extension of ACEC in Oregon
 - Changes in Land Tenure Direction in California from disposal to retain and acquire (for alternatives 2 through 4)
- Determination of Implementation level actions (vegetative treatments, road treatments, recreation site development, etc.)

Decisions BLM Cannot Make Based on This Analysis

- Actions directly affecting PacifiCorp facilities or their operation
- Actions applicable to PacifiCorp land recommended in this plan; any decisions would be made independently by PacifiCorp
- Actions affecting Operation of the Klamath Reclamation Project including flows into and out of the planning area

Proposed Schedule

- 90 Day Public Comment Period May 16 – August 13, 2003
- Prepare FEIS – Fall/Winter 2003
- FEIS Released – Winter 2004
- Record of Decision – Spring/Summer 2004

Send Written Comments To:

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