

DECISION RECORD

EA Log No. OR-010-2001-04
Project Name: Diablo WSA Dump Removal
Applicant: BLM
HC 10 Box 337
Lakeview, OR 97630
Phone: (541)947-2177
County: Lake
BLM Office: Lakeview Resource Area

DECISION RECORD

Decision: The following is the decision of the Bureau:

To remove a dump in the Diablo Wilderness Study Area (T30S, R17E, S15NW), as described in Alternative 2 of EA # OR-010-2001-04. All of the debris would be picked up and removed from the site. The vehicle bodies would be pulled onto a flatbed truck and hauled out. The remaining trash would be gathered up by hand and placed in pickup trucks or a dump truck, and hauled to a county disposal site and/or recycling operation.

Access to the dump site would be via pickup trucks or a dump truck on an existing "way" within the WSA. Some limited cross-country use of a vehicle may be necessary to tow or winch some of the larger pieces onto the "way" for placement in the trucks. Rakes or vegetation would be used to sweep over any vehicle tracks off of the established "way". Access to the area by volunteers or BLM employees would be with a minimal number of vehicles. It is anticipated to take one day to remove the dump.

Rationale:

There were no comments made on the EA or the FONSI by the public within the 30 days of the review. The dump area within the Diablo WSA impacts the naturalness of the immediate area, and its removal would enhance wilderness values. Removal of the dump would also discourage further dumping of household items and trash.

Scott R. Florence
Scott R. Florence, Manager
Lakeview Resource Area

7/23/01
Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Diablo WSA Dump Removal

EA# OR-010-2001-04

The Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area, has analyzed a proposal and its alternatives to remove a small dump from within the Diablo WSA. The objective of this proposal is to remove an unnatural, manmade feature from the WSA in order to enhance wilderness values. This project is in conformance with the High Desert Management Framework Plan, Integrated Noxious Weed Control Program EA, and the Wilderness Interim Management Policy.

There are no wetlands, floodplains, wild and scenic rivers, known hazardous waste areas, areas of religious concern, or prime or unique farmlands in the immediate project area. No adverse or beneficial significant impact is anticipated to fisheries, lands, and minerals. Surveys found no threatened or endangered plants or animals, or cultural or paleontological resources in the area.

On the basis of the analysis contained in the attached EA and all other available information, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitute a major federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

Scott R. Florence

Scott R. Florence, Manager
Lakeview Resource Area

4/2/01

Date

PROJECT TITLE/TYPE: Diablo WSA Dump Removal

PROJECT LOCATION: T30S, R17E, Section 15 NW 1/4 (see attached map).

BLM OFFICE: Lakeview Resource Area, Lakeview District

LEASE/SERIAL/CASE FILE #: N/A

APPLICANT (if any): N/A

CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN: This proposed action is subject to one or more of the following land use plans

Name of Plans: High Desert and/or Warner Lakes Management Framework Plans (MFPs), as amended (1982, 1983, 1989, and 1995), Lakeview Grazing Management FEIS and ROD (1982), Oregon Wilderness FEIS and ROD (1989 and 1991), Wilderness Interim Management Policy (1995), Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States FEIS and ROD (1991), Supplement to the Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program FEIS and ROD (1987), Integrated Noxious Weed Control Program EA #OR-013-93-03 (1994), Lakeview District Fire Management Plan - Phase 1 (1998), Rangeland Reform '94 FEIS and ROD (1995), and Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington (1997).

Remarks: The proposed action is in conformance with the above plans, in particular, the Wilderness Interim Management Policy.

PURPOSE and NEED FOR ACTION: The Wilderness IMP requires BLM to maintain wilderness values, which include roadlessness, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental values. A dump area within a WSA impacts the naturalness of the area, and its removal would enhance wilderness values.

A small dump area located along a "way" in the Diablo WSA contains several old car bodies and various metal debris: car parts, wire, cans, fencing, and miscellaneous trash. The debris is mostly concentrated in a 1/4 acre area, with scattered trash encompassing up to 1/2 acre. The majority of the debris is old, probably over 40 years old, although the 1979 wilderness inventory did not mention it, nor did the subsequent draft and final Wilderness EIS. Some newer trash is present, such as aluminum cans and baling twine. Removing the dump would return the area to a more natural condition, as well as deter additional dumping. Although the dump is not visible until one is practically on top of it, its presence invites exploration by visitors once they see it, both on foot and by vehicle off of the existing "way". A private individual is interested in hauling the car bodies away, and the remainder of the dump could be cleaned up with the help of a volunteers or BLM staff.

DESCRIPTION of PROPOSED ACTION: All of the debris would be picked up and removed from the site. The vehicle bodies would be pulled onto a flatbed truck and hauled out. The remaining trash would be gathered up by hand and placed in pickup

trucks or a dump truck, and hauled to a county disposal site. Rakes would be used to collect the finer material.

Access to the dump site, which is located approximately 1/2 mile within the WSA, would be by vehicle on the existing "way". A dump truck or several pickup trucks would be used to haul the material away. Some limited cross-country use of another vehicle may be necessary to tow or winch some of the larger pieces onto the "way" for placement in the dump truck or pickup trucks. This would be limited to an area of approximately 1/2 acre. Rakes or natural vegetation would be used to rake over any vehicle tracks off of the established "way". Access to the area by volunteers or BLM employees would be with a minimal number of vehicles. It is anticipated that the area could be cleaned up in one day. The area would be monitored to see if "closed to vehicles" signs would be needed in the future.

ALTERNATIVES:

#1) NO ACTION - Leave the dump as is.

#2) ALTERNATIVE 2 (PREFERRED PLAN) - Remove the dump using a minimal number of vehicles

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT: The dump site is located in the northwest corner of the Diablo WSA, approximately 1/2 mile south of the boundary road, and one mile east of the Summer Lake State Game Management Area. The area is in the Summer Lake Basin, in typical salt-desert shrub communities of mainly black greasewood with spiny hopsage, shadscale, budsage, spiny horsebrush, big sagebrush and gray rabbitbrush. Visitor use in the area is low, and primarily connected with hunting activities. The "way" going past the dump area is lightly used, mostly in the fall months during hunting season, and can be hard to find when it hasn't been driven on recently. The sandy, alkaline soils in the area recover quickly from any disturbance, and are barely noticeable with sufficient weathering. Although the dump has obviously been there for several decades, as evidenced by the age of the vehicles, it was not noted during the wilderness inventory.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives relative to the following critical resource values were evaluated. The following is a summary of the results:

Critical Element/ Resource Value	Affected		Critical Element/ Resource Value	Affected	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality		X	T & E Species		X
ACEC/RNAs		X	Wilderness	X	
Cultural Resources		X	Wild & Scenic Rivers		X

Farmlands, Prime/Unique		X	Hazardous Wastes		X
Floodplains		X	Water Quality		X
Native American Cultural/ Religious Concerns		X	Wetlands/Riparian Zones		X
Low Income/ Minority Populations		X	Noxious Weeds		X

DESCRIPTION of OTHER IMPACTS:

#1) NO ACTION

This would continue the existence of an unnatural feature within the WSA. Although the dump is substantially unnoticeable in the WSA as a whole, its existence invites further dumping of new trash, as well as exploration of the immediate area by vehicle.

#2) ALTERNATIVE 1 (PROPOSED PLAN)

This would remove an unnatural, manmade feature from the WSA. Removal of the dump would enhance wilderness values within the WSA. Although vehicles would be used to access the site and remove the dump, any vehicle tracks off of the established "way" would be rehabilitated.

DESCRIPTION of MITIGATION MEASURES and RESIDUAL IMPACTS:

Removing the dump, as proposed, is in compliance with the nonimpairment criteria of the IMP. The proposed action will enhance wilderness values within the WSA, as well as restore the area to a natural condition. Removal of the dump will also take away an "attractive nuisance", thus protecting visitor health and safety.

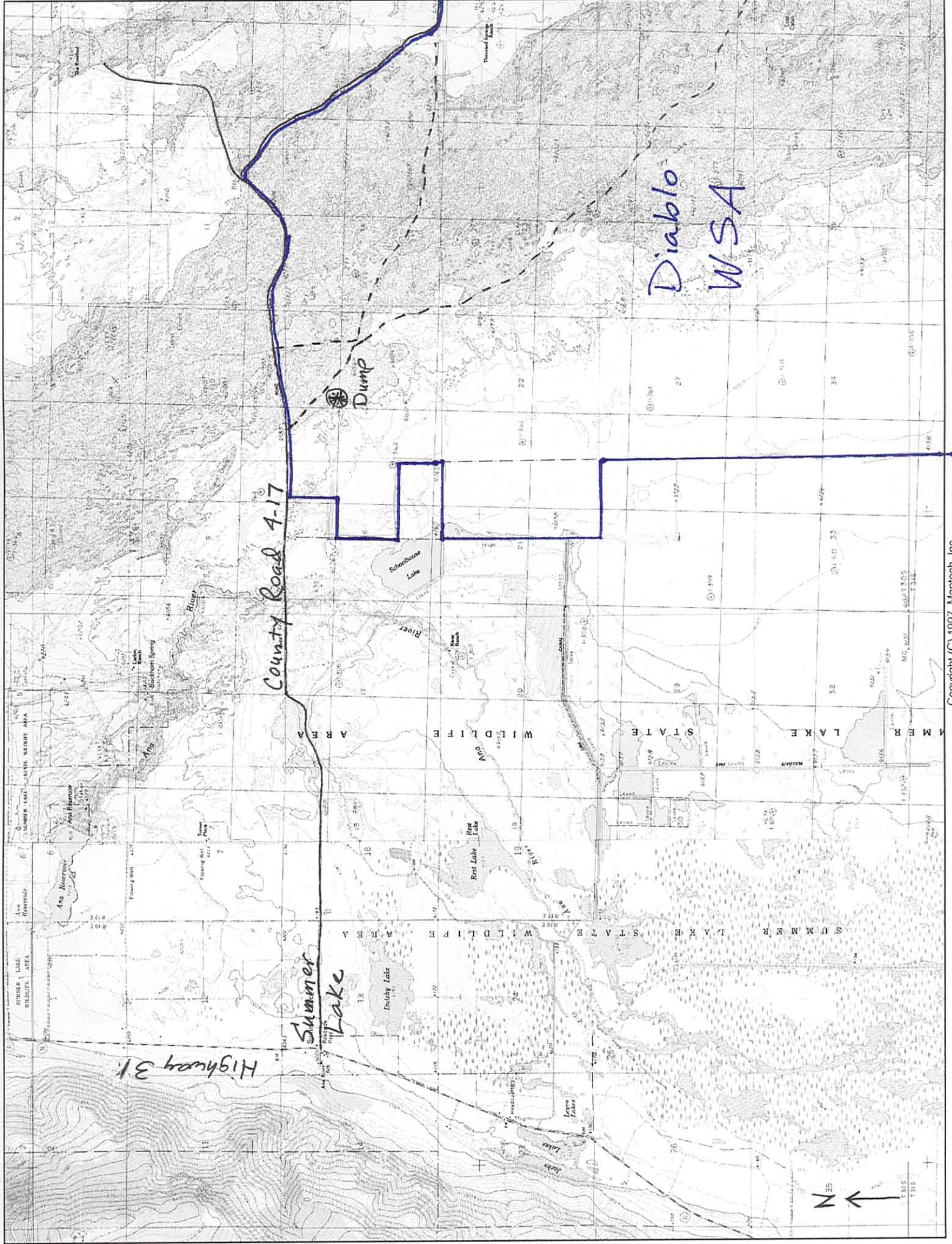
If monitoring of the site shows continued vehicle use and dumping, the site will be posted "closed" to vehicles, and the additional trash hauled out.

NOXIOUS WEED CONSIDERATIONS:

No noxious weeds are known to be present in the surrounding area. Leaving participants' vehicles on the main access boundary road and making them walk into the area will reduce the chances of weeds entering the area. The rehabilitation area will be monitored, and any new noxious weeds will be removed or treated.

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:

PREPARER(S): Trish Lindaman, Recreation Technician



Diablo WSA

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Diablo dump site cleanup area

