



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, Oregon 97504  
email address: or110mb@or.blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1792 (116)  
MRA Events EA  
A6202(LL:jl)

OCT 26 2000

Dear Concerned Citizen,

Thank you for your comments on the Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA) Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA analyzed the potential impacts of a proposal by the MRA to hold organized riding events on existing roads and trails in the Timber Mountain/John's Peak Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area. We received close to 500 comments on the EA during the public comment period. Based on new information raised during the public comment period, I have decided to implement the No Action Alternative as described in the EA. As a consequence of this decision, BLM will not issue a Special Use Permit for the events described in the EA.

Within the next five years, the Ashland Resource Area intends to prepare a Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV area. You are now on our mailing list and will receive information on this planning process as well as the preparation of any other EAs concerning OHV use on BLM lands in this area.

Thank you again for your comments. We have them on file and will continue to take them into consideration as we plan for the use of this area. If you have questions, would like additional information, or would like to be taken off this mailing list, please contact Fred Tomlins (Recreation Planner) at (541) 618-2311.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Drehobl  
Field Manager  
Ashland Resource Area

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
for  
Motorcycle Riders Association EA No. OR-110-00-028

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

The Bureau of Land Management's Medford District has analyzed a proposal for events sponsored by the Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA) in the Ashland Resource Area. Based on new information raised during the public comment period, I have decided to implement the No Action Alternative for this proposal.

The No Action Alternative is further described in the Environmental Assessment (EA) which is available for review at the Medford District Office.

Through the EA process the interdisciplinary team reviewed the following critical elements of the human environment as they relate to this project: air quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural resources, environmental justice, farmlands, floodplains, Native American religious concerns, invasive, nonnative species, threatened and endangered species, hazardous/solid wastes, water quality, wetlands/riparian zones, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and wilderness. No substantive site specific environmental changes would occur on federal land from implementing the no action alternative as discussed in the associated EA.

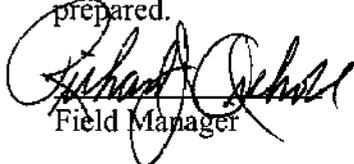
Under the No Action Alternative, the EA assumed that the MRA would continue to hold events similar to the proposed action, but on non-federal land. Under this alternative, the MRA is not subject to any of the Project Design Features described for the Proposed Action Alternative. Under these circumstances, the direct and indirect effects to *Fritillaria gentneri*, a species listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), may be higher under the No Action Alternative as the course routes are not known and have not been surveyed for this species. The cumulative effects of the No Action Alternative would also be similar to those analyzed under the proposed action alternative.

The estimation of impacts was based on research, professional judgement, and the experience of the interdisciplinary team. This method of estimating effects on the environment reduces the uncertainties to a level which does not involve highly unknown or unique risks. The design features identified in the attached EA would assure that no significant site specific nor cumulative impacts would occur to the human environment other than those already addressed in the Medford District Resource Management Plan /EIS.

FONSI Determination

The no action alternative does not allow the proposed action to take place on BLM land, and therefore does not constitute a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the Medford District Resource Management Plan /EIS.

Therefore, a new EIS or a supplement to the existing EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

  
Field Manager

10-26-00  
Date

Decision Record  
for  
Motorcycle Riders Association Events 2000 - 2005  
Environmental Assessment No. OR 110-00-28

Decision Record & Rationale

This decision defers to the No Action alternative as described in the associated Environmental Assessment (EA).

The BLM received new information about the proposed action during the public comment period. The addition of this information meant that the proposed action lacked the analysis needed to determine whether or not the action alternative would cause a significant impact to the human environment as described by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Environmental Assessment/FONSI

This decision involves no significant impact beyond that already analyzed and discussed in the preceding Environmental Assessment and FONSI.

  
Field Manager

10-26-00  
Date