

DECISION RECORD
Bobby Creek Research Natural Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment
EA# OR-118-03-008

Decision

It is my decision to implement Alternative 1 and the Project Design Features proposed in the Bobby Creek Research Natural Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA # OR118-03-008). The approved action will result in the implementation of the Bobby Creek RNA Management Plan. The main goal of this plan is to preserve the natural features in as nearly an undisturbed state as possible for scientific and educational purposes. Construction of 1.5 miles of a 1-2 ft wide trail will also occur to facilitate access for researchers in very steep terrain in a way that limits impacts to the RNA.

Project actions are contained within the West Fork Cow Creek watershed. The RNA encompasses approximately 1,916 acres located 30 miles west of Glendale. The legal description is T32S, R09W, sections 2, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15.

Trees less than 7 inches diameter at breast height in direct path of the trail would be cut during trail construction. No downed trees would be removed from the site during trail construction or maintenance.

The proposed ridgeline fuels reduction treatments along the RNA boundary (RNA Management Plan, p. 17) will not occur at this time but the BLM may be reconsider this treatment at a later time.

Rationale

The decision to implement this proposal meets the need to manage the RNA and furthers the intent established in the Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) to develop site-specific management plans for designated areas that have none. The BLM's role is guided primarily by the mission described in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), which states that public lands be managed in a manner that will protect scientific and environmental values, and to "preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition" (102(a)(8)).

The Bobby Creek RNA was established in June 1995 (Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, 1995) to fill terrestrial element needs as listed in the Oregon Natural Heritage Plan (ORNHP). ORNHP Ecosystem Cells are selected to "represent the full range of Oregon's natural heritage resources" (ORNHP, 1998). Additionally, the RNA was established due to the area's uniqueness and size. Bobby Creek RNA affords an opportunity to better understand an ecologically functional old-growth system with minimal human-caused disturbance.

One letter was received from the public regarding the Bobby Creek RNA Management Plan Environmental Assessment. Corrections were made to the management plan to

reflect current conditions in Bobby Creek regarding timber and transportation. The management plan was originally developed over the course of a decade. Management practices and planned activities have changed over the course of this time.

It should be noted that the intent of this environmental assessment (under the National Environmental policy Act CEQ regulation 1508.28) is to determine if there are significant impacts and whether these impacts have already been analyzed in the Medford Resource Management Plan and Northwest Forest Plan. The Bobby Creek Research Natural Area Management Plan EA tiers to these higher level plans. I carefully reviewed the public comments we received before coming to this decision.

I am confident that the EA represents a thorough analysis of the site-specific impacts to affected habitats and species, in light of the more comprehensive analysis done in the Medford RMP and Northwest Forest Plan to which the EA is tiered. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) calls for concise and focused descriptions of the proposals and their effects; not all background information is required to be part of the NEPA document.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4. If an appeal is taken, a written notice of appeal must be filed in the Glendale Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon, 97504 within 30 days from publication of this decision in the newspaper. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. If the appellant wishes to file a petition pursuant to 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time the appeal is being reviewed by the IBLA, it must accompany the notice of appeal. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the IBLA and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If a stay is requested, the appellant has the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Joan R Resnick

Joan R. Resnick
Field Manager, Glendale Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

8/26/05

Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
Bobby Creek Research Natural Area Management Plan
Environmental Assessment
EA# OR-118-03-008

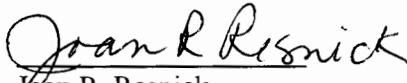
The proposed actions for the Bobby Creek Research Natural Area Management Plan are described in the environmental assessment (EA) and can be obtained at the Medford District or on the Medford BLM internet site: <http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford>.

The proposed action is located in: T32S, R09W, sections 2, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15.

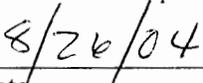
The following critical elements identified in the BLM handbook will not be adversely affected by this project and have been analyzed in the EA: air quality, areas of critical environmental concern, historical or cultural resources, floodplains, Native American religious sites, invasive species, energy, threatened or endangered species, known hazardous waste areas, water quality, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness and environmental justice. Botany surveys for Special Status species and cultural surveys have been completed and appropriate protocol buffer measures will be applied. Impacts to wildlife species would be minimal with a 1-2 foot wide trail.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

This action tiers to and conforms with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (FSEIS, 1994 and ROD, 1994); the *Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* and the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (EIS, 1994 and RMP, 1995); the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (FSEIS, 2004 and ROD, 2004); the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement To Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (FSEIS, 2004 and ROD, 2004) and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Clarification of Language in the 1994 Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Districts Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, Proposal to Amend Wording About the Aquatic Conservation Strategy* (FSEIS, 2003 and ROD, 2004). The term "tiering" refers to the coverage of general matters in broader environmental impact statements, as those listed above. I have reviewed the environmental assessment, including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts not previously identified, and I have also reviewed the comments received from the public concerning this proposal. I have determined that the Bobby Creek Research Natural Area Management Plan will not have any significant impacts on the human environment. Therefore a supplemental EIS is not required.


Joan R. Resnick

Glendale Resource Area Field Manager
Medford District, BLM


Date