



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE  
3040 BIDDLE ROAD  
MEDFORD, OREGON 97504

## DECISION RECORD/RATIONALE/FONSI

### *2002 Culvert Replacement Project*

(EA # OR110-02-31)

#### **I. DECISION:**

The decision is to adopt Alternative 2 as presented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project and to replace the four road culverts in the manner described in the EA. All of the project design features described in the EA are to be implemented.

#### **II. RATIONALE:**

Replacing these culverts will reduce the risk to the riparian conditions by increasing culvert sizes to reduce the potential for major washout during extreme water flows. Replacing these culverts will also eliminate the fish passage impediments they currently create thereby opening access to additional spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish. Replacing and improving, rather than eliminating the stream crossings, will maintain road access to public lands for forest management purposes, maintain road access for private landowners, and, in the case of the Bear Creek road, maintain it for its frequent commuter usage.

The proposal and EA was made available for a formal 15 day public review period in July 2002. No comments regarding the project proposal or the EA were received nor was any new information about potential environmental impacts received.

This decision is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan and the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and, the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001). This decision is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, The Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations.

This decision is consistent with, and furthers, the BLM's Strategic Planning Goal 2.2 which is to restore at-risk resources and maintain functioning systems. It also will contribute towards Goal 1.4 by reducing threats to public health, safety and property.

This decision will not have any adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution (per Executive Order 13212).

**III. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:** On the basis of the information contained in the environmental assessment and other information available to me, it is my determination that the decision stated above does not constitute a significant effect to the quality of the human environment. There is not indication that the impacts will exceed the range of effects discussed in the EIS documents to which the project EA is tiered. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This conclusion is also based on a consideration of both the context and the intensity of the impacts of the selected actions (40 CFR §1508.27):

(a) Context - The environmental consequences of the actions have been assessed at the site specific level as well as being considered at the watershed level.

(b) Intensity (severity) of impacts - The conclusion regarding the significance of the impacts is supported by the following elements, among other considerations:

1. Both adverse and beneficial impacts will result from the project. Both have been considered in concluding that there will not be significant impacts.
2. No adverse effects to public health or safety have been identified. Public safety will be improved by the stream crossing upgrades.
3. No unique characteristics of the culvert replacement sites have been identified.
4. There is no indication of any highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment. This is supported by the absence of public comments on the project.
5. There is no indication that the effects on the human environment are highly uncertain and or involve unique or unknown risks.
6. The action is not precedence setting. Replacing road culverts and improving stream crossings is a common and frequent road management / maintenance activity.
7. There is no indication that the actions will appreciably contribute to any cumulative impacts that would be judged significant.
8. There is no indication that the action will cause loss or destruction of any scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. There is no indication that the action will significantly adversely affect ESA listed species or ESA identified critical habitat. Any adverse impacts will be localized, short term and negligible. Culvert replacements will beneficially improve habitat by improving access to habitat for listed fish species.
10. There are no indications that the action will violate any environmental protection law or requirement.

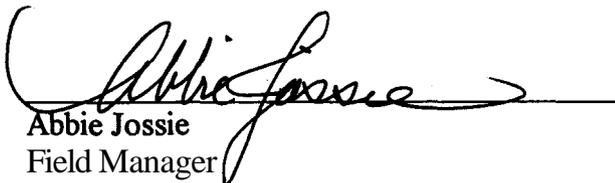
#### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

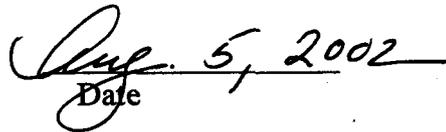
This decision is a forest management decision. Administrative remedies are available to persons

who believe that they will be adversely affected by this Decision. Administrative recourse is available in accordance with BLM regulations and must follow the procedures and requirements described in 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies.

In accordance with the BLM Forest Management Regulation 43 CFR 5003.2 (a&c), the effective date of this decision will be the date of publication of a Notice of Decision and FONSI in The Grants Pass Daily Courier. Publication of this notice will establish the date initiating the protest period provided for in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.3. While similar notices may be published in other newspapers, the date of publication in the Grants Pass Daily Courier will prevail as the effective date of this decision.

Any contest of this decision should state specifically which portion or element of the decision is being protested and cite the applicable CFR regulations

  
Abbie Jossie  
Field Manager  
Grants Pass Resource Area

  
Date