



United States Department of the Interior

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

DECISION RECORD/RATIONALE/FONSI *Galice Creek Restoration Project* (EA# OR117-04-08)

I. DECISION

The decision is to implement the proposed action to modify a series of log weirs to improve fish passage and for boulder placement as described in the environmental assessment (EA) except as follows:

- The boulders to be placed in the creek will come from the Peavine Quarry rather than the Galice slide,
- Work may be conducted outside of the July 1 – September 15 ODFW instream work window if weather conditions are such that there would be no impacts to anadromous fish. The BLM's fisheries biologist would make appropriate assessments, determinations and coordinations if an exception is made.

II. DECISION RATIONALE

This action implements, in part, the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP p. 23) which directs restoring watershed processes and channel complexity to improve degraded habitats. Adding in-stream structure (boulders) at the identified sites on Galice Creek will improve channel processes altered by past mining activity by providing stream roughness. This in turn will slow water velocity allowing spawning gravel to deposit and to provide backwater areas for rearing juvenile salmonids. Notching the log weirs on the North Fork of Galice Creek will improve salmonid access to upstream spawning and rearing habitat. Galice Creek is a key anadromous fish stream.

A POC assessment conducted for the project indicates that no project specific POC management measures are needed other than vehicle / equipment washing prior to and after project work.

The EA (p. 5) summarizes the single public issue raised during scoping: the poor fish passage at the confluence of Galice Creek and the Rogue River. Addressing it was outside the scope of the present project. No comments were received during the formal 15 day public EA comment period.

III. PLAN CONSISTENCY

Based on information in the EA and the project record, I conclude that my decisions as documented this Decision Record are consistent with the *Medford District Resource Management Plan (1995)*, *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 (1994)*, *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage*,

Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (2001), *Record of Decision Amending Resource Management Plans for Seven Bureau of Land Management Districts and Land and Resource Management Plans for Nineteen National Forests Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl: Decision to Clarify Provisions Relating to the Aquatic Conservation Strategy* (2004); *Record of Decision to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Document within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*. (2004), and the *Record of Decision (ROD) and Resource Management Plan Amendment for Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon, Coos Bay, Medford, and Roseburg Districts* (May 2004). They are also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations and Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice). This decision will not have any adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution (per Executive Order 13212).

This project is also consistent with the Bureau of Land Management's Strategic Plan for FY2000-2005, specifically mission goal 2.2: Restore at-risk resources and maintain functioning systems.

IV. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on information contained in the EA and the project's record, it is my determination that the proposed action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. This project does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This conclusion is also based on a consideration of the context and the intensity of the impacts of the selected action(s) (40 CFR 1508.27). **Context** refers to analysis of environmental consequences at various social or geographic scales. For this project, impacts were assessed at both the site-specific and 5th field watershed scales. **Intensity** refers to the severity of impacts. Conclusions regarding intensity are supported by the following findings:

- 1) *Impacts can be both beneficial and adverse and a significant effect may exist regardless of the perceived balance of effects.* Both adverse and beneficial impacts will result from the project. Some short localized adverse impacts (stream bed disturbance) have been identified but are judged to be negligible. The beneficial impacts include improved fish habitat and improved hydrologic conditions.
- 2) *The degree of the impact on public health or safety.* No adverse effects to public health or safety have been identified.
- 3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area.* None have been identified.
- 4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.* There is no indication of any highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment.

5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are likely to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.* There is no indication that the effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.* There is no indication that the action will establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects.

7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.* There is no indication that the actions will appreciably contribute to any cumulative impacts that would be judged significant at the site-specific or watershed scale.

8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect National Historic Register listed or eligible to be listed sites or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historical resources.* There is no indication that the action will cause loss or destruction of any scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

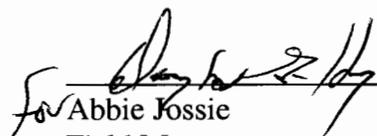
9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect ESA listed species or critical habitat.* There is no indication that the action will significantly and adversely affect ESA listed species (coho salmon) or ESA identified critical habitat. Potential adverse impacts are identified as highly localized, short term and negligible. This project is within the scope of NOAA's Programmatic BO.

10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of environmental protection law or requirements.* 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 those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Administrative recourse is available in accordance with BLM regulation and must follow the procedures and requirements described in 43 CFR 5003, Administrative Remedies.

In accordance with BLM Forest Management Regulation 43 CFR 5003.2 (a&c), the effective date of the decision will be the date of publication of the Notice of Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact (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. Any contest of this decision should state specifically what portion or element of the decision is being protested and cite the applicable CFR regulations.



For Abbie Jossie
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

August 31, 2004
Date