

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**for**  
**Jobs In The Woods Restoration Project EA No. OR-116-04-02**

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

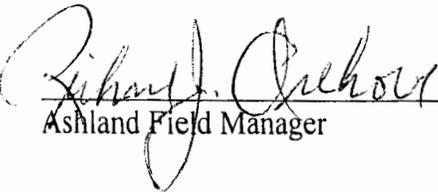
The Ashland Resource Area of the Medford District BLM proposes to decommission an estimated 0.25 miles of road located on BLM administered lands, which involves the removal of a culvert and restoration of the stream channel. Medford District's Resource Management Plan provides Management Actions/Direction for closing stabilizing or obliterating roads based on their ongoing potential effects to Aquatic Conservation Strategy and Riparian Reserve Objectives while considering short and long-term transportation needs. Based on anticipated resource management and public access needs anticipated at this time, the road segment identified for decommissioning is no longer needed. The road was used historically to access a mining claim that has since been terminated. The road segment is located within a Riparian Reserve. There is a need to decommission the road to reduce road related impacts to the affected Riparian Reserves and to eliminate the cost of maintaining roads that are no longer needed. Over the long-term, road decommissioning would contribute towards improving watershed conditions consistent with Medford District BLM Resource Management Plan and the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives.

The proposed action and project design features are further described in the attached EA. This FONSI and attached EA are tiered to and in conformance with the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP) (USDI 1995b)* as amended by the March 22, 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 Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and by the *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 to Clarify Provisions Relating to the Aquatic Conservation Strategy*. The 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan incorporated the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan) (USDA and USDI 1994)*. These documents are available at the Medford BLM office and the Medford BLM web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/>.

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 (ACEC), 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 result from implementing the proposed action or alternative as discussed in the associated EA. Should threatened or endangered plants or cultural or paleontological resources be discovered, they would be protected.

The Jobs in the Woods-Restoration Project EA was advertised in Medford's *Mail Tribune* for a 15-day public review period beginning on July 27, 2004. The EA was also mailed to interested individuals and organizations. This review provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the BLM's determination that there are no significant impacts associated with the proposed action. No comments were received.

On the basis of the information contained in the attached EA and all other information available to me as summarized above, it is my determination that the proposed action alternative does not constitute a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment as defined by 40 CFR § 1508.27. For this reason, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

  
Ashland Field Manager

08-20-04  
Date

**Decision Record  
for the  
Jobs In The Woods Restoration EA No. OR-116-04-02**

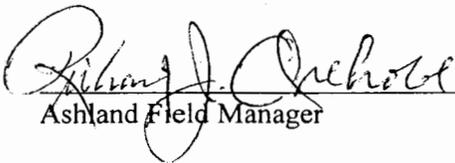
Decision Record & Rationale

The proposed action is to decommission approximately 0.25 mile of road that is no longer needed to meet current or long-term access needs. The road segment (about 0.25 mile in length) is located in the Thompson Creek Watershed; the legal description is T. 39 S., R. 4 W., in sections 29 and 30, W.M., Jackson County Oregon.

The road bed will be allowed to decommission naturally. A culvert that provides for the stream crossing will be pulled. The stream crossing will be reestablished to the natural stream gradient and valley form. Streamside slopes will be reestablished to natural contours. Excavated fill material will be removed from the stream crossing area and placed in a stable location. A barrier will be installed to prevent vehicle access to the decommissioned road. Project Design Features are an important component of this project and are to be implemented as described in the EA.

The road was used historically to access a mining claim that has since been terminated. The road segment is located within a Riparian Reserve. Decommissioning the road will reduce road related impacts to the affected Riparian Reserve and will eliminate the cost of maintaining roads that are no longer needed. Over the long-term, road decommissioning will contribute towards improving watershed conditions consistent with Medford District BLM Resource Management Plan and the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives.

Upon careful review of all the information available to me, it is my decision to implement the Jobs In The Woods Restoration project.

  
Ashland Field Manager

08-20-04  
Date