

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

JONES RIGHT-OF-WAY (R/W)
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) OR-116-03-05

The Bureau of Land Management's Medford District has analyzed, through the attached Jones Right-of-Way Environmental Assessment, a proposal to modify an existing right-of-way grant to provide improved access to property owned by Vaughn and Rona Jones in the SW¼ of Section 30, T. 38 S., R. 4 W., Willamette Meridian.

The Proposed Action and Project Design Features are further described in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposed activities are in conformance with and tiered to the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP)* (USDI 1995b) as amended by the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (Amended Northwest Forest Plan) (USDI, USDA 2001). The 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 (NWFP)* (USDA and USDI 1994). These documents are available at the Medford BLM office.

Through the EA process, the interdisciplinary (ID) 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. Project Design Features are included to reduce the potential for the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and to reduce the potential for sediment delivery from the Proposed Action. No substantive site-specific environmental changes would result from implementing the Proposed Action or alternative as discussed in the associated EA. No threatened or endangered species are known to be present in the proposed project area. Should threatened or endangered species, cultural, or paleontological resources be discovered, they would be protected.

The estimation of impacts was based on research, professional judgment and experience of the ID 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 Project Design Features identified in the attached EA would assure that no significant site specific or cumulative impacts would occur to the human environment.

The Jones Right-of-Way EA was advertised for a public review period beginning on April 8, 2004 and ending May 10, 2004. 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, and that an environmental impact statement is not necessary. No public comments were received.

FONSI DETERMINATION

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment OR-116-03-05, and I have determined that the action described above will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.


Richard J. Drehobl
Ashland Field Manager

05-21-04
Date

DECISION RECORD

JONES RIGHT-OF-WAY (R/W) EA OR-116-03-05

Decision Record & Rationale

It is my decision to implement the proposal submitted by Vaughn Jones to modify an existing right-of-way grant. My decision authorizes the amendment of the current authorization, in order to provide an alternate route to access land owned by Vaughn and Rona Jones land located in the SW¹/₄ of Section 30, T. 38 S., R. 4 W, Willamette Meridian. Vaughn Jones currently has legal access to his parcel through BLM authorization OR 54585 FD using existing roads. Authorization OR 54585 FD will be transferred from the old route to the proposed new route. Existing road segments currently providing access to the private land will be decommissioned once the new road segment is constructed.

Project Design Features are included to minimize environmental effects:

- Construction of the new road and the decommissioning of the old segment of road will occur in the dry season (May 15 – October 15). This restriction may be waived under dry conditions. The new road segment will be designed and surfaced for all season use (adequate culverts for 100 year flood and a minimum of 8 inches of rock).
- Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) use is limited to existing roads and designated trails in the Ferris Gulch Area (RMP p. 66-67). The decommissioned road segments will include permanent blockades and will no longer be open to OHV use.
- The section of existing road across Ferris Gulch will be naturally decommissioned (no ground disturbance – use brush/log placement only). The remainder of the road decommissioning will be accomplished mechanically and will include water bars.
- The plugged culvert on the intermittent stream, will be left as-is (not be unplugged) to allow the stream to continue to flow over road.
- All disturbed soil areas would be seeded and mulched with an erosion control seed mixture prior to the onset of the rainy season.
- Heavy equipment will be washed prior moving equipment into the project area.

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and have determined that the action will not have any significant impacts on the human environment as defined by 40 CFR § 1508.27. An EIS is not required. I have also determined that the proposed project is in conformance with approved land use plans.


Richard J. Drehobl
Ashland Area Manager

05-21-04
Date