

## **Environmental Assessment**

**Title:** Crook County Road Department Realignment of Alfalfa Road

**Environmental Assessment (EA) Number:** OR-056-01-004

**Serial Number:** OR 46940

**Applicant:** Crook County Road Department (CCRD)

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Office:** Prineville District Office  
P.O. Box 550 (3050 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> St.)  
Prineville, OR 97754

**Resource Area:** Deschutes

**Location:** Approximately 9 miles south of Powell Butte at the following location (see maps A and B):

Willamette Meridian, Oregon,

T. 16 S., R. 14 E.,  
Sec. 28, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
Containing 1.29 acres.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED**

Crook County Road Department (CCRD) is applying for an amendment to right-of-way (ROW) grant OR 46940 to straighten a segment of Alfalfa Road which is located .75 mile north of Shumway Lake on Alfalfa County Road. The primary purpose for this project is to realign an existing corner that is a safety issue for current traffic due to poor visibility and icy conditions during winter months. A secondary purpose for this project is to provide access for Central Electric Co-op's placement of a new transmission line. The total segment of road to be realigned would be approximately 2,187 feet long by 60 feet wide (30 feet on each side of the centerline), containing 3.01 acres, more or less. However, that portion of the realigned segment on public land is approximately 937 feet long by 60 feet wide, containing 1.29 acres.

### **CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN**

The proposed action is subject to and in conformance with the following land use plan: Brothers/La Pine Resource Management Plan(RMP), July 1989.

On page 29 under Rights-of Way and Utility and Transportation Corridors, the following guidance regarding rights-of-way is provided: Public lands would continue to be available for rights-of-way, including multiple use and single use utility/transportation corridors following existing routes, communication sites, and roads.

43 CFR 2800.0-2 states “It is the objective of the Secretary of the Interior to grant rights-of-way and temporary use permits, covered by the regulations in this part, to any qualified individual, business entity, or governmental entity and to regulate, control and direct the use of said rights-of-way on public land so as to: (d) Coordinate, to the fullest extent possible, all actions taken pursuant to this part with State and local governments, interested individuals and appropriate quasi-public entities.

A copy of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and the RMP are available for public review at 3050 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Prineville, Oregon.

## **PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

**No Action:** In a No Action Alternative, BLM would deny the CCRD request to realign this segment of Alfalfa Road.

**Proposed Action:** Crook County Road Department (CCRD) is applying for an amendment to right-of-way (ROW) grant OR 46940 to straighten a segment of Alfalfa Road which is located .75 mile north of Shumway Lake on Alfalfa County Road. After completion the new aligned road would be approximately 2,187 feet long by 60 feet wide containing 3.01 acres. That portion of the realigned segment on public land is approximately 937 feet long by 60 feet wide, containing 1.29 acres. The road bed itself would be 32 feet wide (16 feet on each side of the centerline) with 4 foot shoulders on each side of the road. This is consistent with the proposed use and with all CCRD roads under the existing grant. The ROW would be used year round, primarily for local residents and farm traffic. The road would be constructed and maintained to county standards.

Equipment used for road construction would include bulldozers, road graders, loaders, rollers, and trucks that would carry rock and asphalt. Repairs and maintenance would occur on a predetermined schedule of CCRD projects.

CCRD would relinquish any portion of the existing road on public lands that is outside of the proposed realignment area and those portions would be rehabilitated. The road surface would be lifted and removed for use on other county projects, the soil layer would be ripped to break up compaction, and native grasses would be planted. CCRD has staked and flagged the proposed road ROW for inspection.

Straightening the road would improve driving safety by removing opposing curves, which would

increase line-of-sight for drivers and widen oncoming traffic clearance distances.

**Other Alternatives:**

No other alternatives were developed. The request is site specific and no other locations would suit CCRD needs or address the public safety concerns.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT**

The general area is a mixture of public and private lands located in Crook County, in the Powell Butte area at the following: Sections 28, Township 16 South, Range 14 East, W.M.

The entirety of the new construction would occur on lands disturbed due to their proximity to the existing road ROW or on lands currently being used for agriculture. There is also an agricultural trespass situation on public lands at this location.

The BLM completed its Section 106 survey responsibilities. No cultural resources were found due to the proximity of the existing road and disturbed surrounding agricultural lands at this location.

The topography is flat and open. The field has been planted with various grain crops for several decades. There are no aquatic resources found on the site. The field has been irrigated, but not for the last two (2) years.

The area is not within a grazing allotment.

Land uses include a power line for Central Electric Cooperative and a small canal for Central Oregon Irrigation District that is used intermittently.

**IMPACTS**

**Soil and Vegetation**

**No-Action:** No impacts to public lands would occur as a result of this alternative.

**Proposed Action:** The soil in the road prism would be compacted then covered with asphalt. Soil within the remaining ROW would be compacted. Road construction would completely destroy all vegetation within the road prism and disturb the remaining vegetation within the ROW. Approximately 1.29 acres of public land would be converted from irrigated field to asphalt, and approximately 1.34 acres of public land would be converted from asphalt to native

grass.

The replaced road segment would be rehabilitated, the soils would be treated to reduce compaction, native vegetation would be reintroduced to all disturbed areas using an agreed upon method suitable for the location. The overall length of the road on public lands would reduce by 36 feet.

### **Wildlife**

**No-Action:** No impacts to public lands would occur as a result of this alternative.

**Proposed Action:** Due to the current road location and disturbance associated with it, the proposed project area currently doesn't function as habitat for any special status species.

The project area has very low potential for use as foraging habitat for the Northern Bald Eagle. Shumway Lake and the Central Oregon Canal are located within one mile of the project area and have potential to be used for foraging. (See attached Biological Evaluation, dated October 25, 2000 by Monte Kuk, Wildlife Biologist)

### **Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals**

**No-Action:** No impacts would occur as a result of this alternative.

**Proposed Action:** The project area contains no habitat designated "critical" or "essential" for Federally listed species. Additional information about TE&S species habitats and types of uses are contained in the Biological Evaluation. (See attached Biological Evaluation, dated October 25, 2000 by Monte Kuk, Wildlife Biologist)

Due to the developed/disturbed nature of the lands involved, no special status plants would be suspected. (See attached Special Status Plant Survey Waiver, dated October 27, 2000, by Ron Halvorson, District Botanist)

### **Cultural**

**No-Action/Proposed Action:** The BLM completed its Section 106 responsibilities under the 1997 National Programmatic Agreement and the 1998 Oregon Protocol. No impact would occur to the cultural resource as a result of these actions.

### **Cumulative**

**No-Action:** No impacts would occur as a result of this alternative.

**Proposed Action:** Regardless of this proposal, uses in this general area are increasing, including

more uses on or adjacent to public lands. The population is increasing in the communities of Alfalfa and Powell Butte. If road use increases, the increase would occur regardless of the road improvements. CCRD is not upgrading this segment of Alfalfa Road, just moving it over and removing the curves to meet the demands of increasing populations and continued public safety.

The small canal for Central Oregon Irrigation District, that is used intermittently, would not be impacted by this proposal. Access to the canal by Central Oregon Irrigation District is secured by a ROW across public land.

**Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts:**

Fences would be installed on both sides of the road and within the ROW to protect OHV recreational users, cattle, and wildlife.

Any facility damaged as a result of construction, maintenance, or use of this ROW would be repaired or replaced.

All disturbed areas would be seeded using an agreed upon method and mixture suitable for the location. Seeding would be repeated if a satisfactory stand is not obtained as determined by the authorizing officer upon evaluation after the first growing season.

Those stipulations previously attached to OR 46940 would remain in force.

**NO IMPACT ITEMS**

The following critical elements were considered, but will not be addressed because they would either not be affected or do not exist in the project area:

1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
2. Air Quality
3. Drinking Water Quality
4. Environmental Justice
5. Flood plains
6. Hazardous Wastes
7. Native American Religious concerns
8. Paleontological Resources
9. Prime or Unique Agricultural Lands
10. Riparian Areas/Wetlands
11. Wilderness
12. Fisheries
13. Wild and Scenic Rivers
14. Recreation

## CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

### Persons and Agencies Consulted:

1. Norm Thompson, Crook County Road Department
2. Bruce Ricks, Crook County Landfill
3. Pete Schannauer, Crook County Planning Department

### Preparers (BLM):

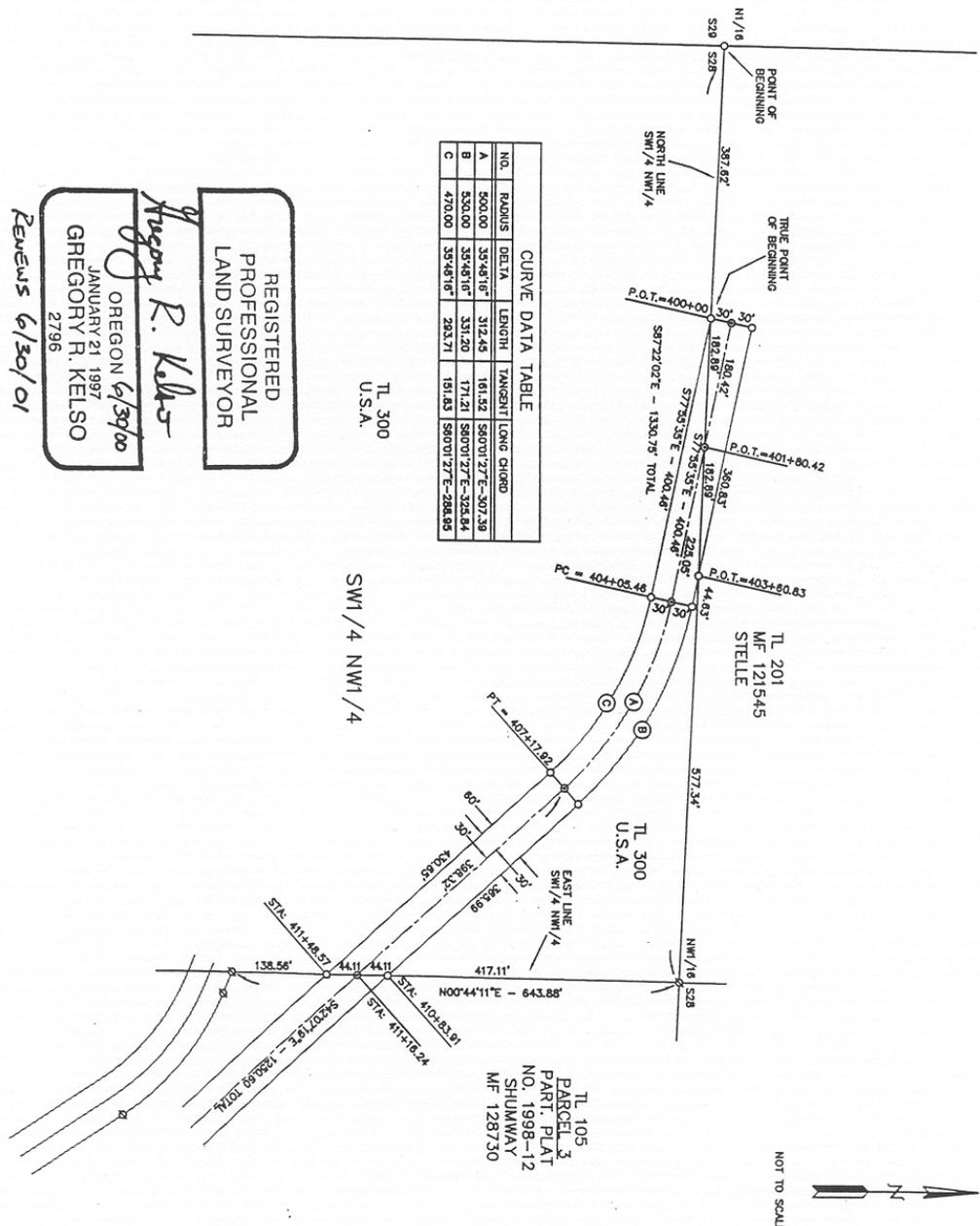
1. Robert B. Towne, Area Manger
2. Teal Purrington, Range Land Management Specialist
3. Greg Currie, Visual Resource Management Specialist
4. Ron Gregory, Area Archeologist
5. Ron Halvorson, Botanist
6. Michelle McSwain, Hydrologist
7. Monte Kuk, Biologist
8. Ron Wortman, Realty Specialist
9. Phyllis Gregory, Realty Specialist

### NEPA requirements met:

/s/ Marci Todd  
Marci Todd

05/25/01  
Date





CURVE DATA TABLE					
NO.	RADIUS	DELTA	LENGTH	TANGENT	LONG CHORD
A	500.00	35°48'16"	312.45	161.52	590'01.27"E - 307.39
B	500.00	35°48'16"	331.20	171.21	590'01.27"E - 325.84
C	470.00	35°48'16"	283.71	151.83	590'01.27"E - 288.95

REGISTERED  
PROFESSIONAL  
LAND SURVEYOR

*Gregory R. Kelso*

OREGON 6139700  
JANUARY 21 1997  
GREGORY R. KELSO  
2796

RENEWS 6/30/01

TL 300  
U.S.A.

SW1/4 NW1/4

TL 201  
MF 121545  
STELLE

TL 300  
U.S.A.

TL 105  
PARCEL 3  
PART. PLAT  
NO. 1998-12  
SHUMWAY  
MF 128730

