

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

EA Number: OR-056-01-007

Title of Action: Trout Creek O.H.V. Fence and Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment (EA)

Project File No.: 73208

BLM Office: Prineville District, Deschutes Resource Area

Finding of No Significant Impact:

Unauthorized off highway vehicle (OHV) use on public lands along the main access road to Trout Creek Recreation area (T.9S.; R.14E.; Section 5 NW and NE quarters) has increased dramatically in the last five years. As a result, deterioration of various resources has occurred. The OHV use is not consistent with The Lower Deschutes River Resource Management Plan (RMP), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD), May 1991 (LDRMP). The LDRMP considered a wide range of alternatives, none of which recognized OHV use as acceptable in the Wild and Scenic river corridor. The proposed action is to build a fence to eliminate OHV use, rehabilitate the area by seeding with native vegetation and sign adjacent areas to prevent further use in areas not previously impacted .

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts to the human environment are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

My reasons for this determination are:

- There would be no significant irreversible or irretrievable commitments of the resources.
- There would be no significant, adverse impacts to water quality or stream channel morphology.
- There were no identified impacts or issues related to public health or safety.
- Cultural resources would be protected during project implementation.
- There would be no significant impact on Special Status plants or animals within the affected area.
- The residual impacts to wildlife and visual resources which were identified in EA would be mitigated through special design of the fence and improved vegetative condition from re-establishing native vegetation.
- Cumulative impacts to soil and vegetation in the EA would be positive because the deterioration of resources due to OHV use would be reversed and native vegetation would be established.

- Impacts to grazing would be minimal due to the small size of the project area and the

lack of forage species presently on site. Over the long term, re-establishment of forage grasses would improve potential for future grazing use.

An Environmental Impact Statement is therefore unnecessary and will not be prepared. The proposed action is consistent with the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision and Rangeland Program Summary, 1986; and the Lower Deschutes River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, 1993.

Robert Towne
Field Manager
Deschutes Resource Area

Date