

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record for
Coal Creek Management Plan and Environmental Assessment #OR135-02-01**

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Based on the interdisciplinary review done by various resource specialists as documented in EA#OR135-02-01 and other available information, the BLM has determined that the analysis for Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) providing management direction for public lands in the Coal Creek area in Lincoln County considered all applicable resource values. The BLM concludes that the Proposed Action (Alternative 1) would have no significant environmental effects, and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Decision

It is my decision to implement Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) as described in EA#OR135-02-01. This alternative provides guidance for managing the 710-acre Coal Creek ACEC in the Lamona area, as well as 460 acres in the Mohler area, including seeking ACEC status for this area in the future either through an RMP amendment or revision process. This management plan fulfills a provision in a Conservation Agreement between the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1995) to develop a management plan for the Coal Creek properties. A primary goal of the management plan in this area is to protect special status plant species. Multiple use of the 1,170 acres in the Coal Creek area will be allowed, subject to the guidance in the management plan and given appropriate protection for the identified special status plants.

Rationale for FONSI and Decision

The environmental assessment was made available for public comment through news releases and local libraries, and no comments were received. There was also coordination with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as consultation with potentially affected Tribes and the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation regarding cultural resources. The selected alternative provides management direction that will protect sensitive resource values. The provision for conducting site-specific and project-specific environmental analysis for site-disturbing activities is expected to minimize impacts to an acceptable level considering the Coal Creek Management Plan.

/s/ K. R. Devitt
Kevin R. Devitt
Field Manager, Border Resource Area

4/8/02
Date