



## **United States Department of the Interior**

### **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

1300 AIRPORT LANE

NORTH BEND, OR 97459

Home page: [www.or.blm.gov/coosbay](http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay) E-mail: [coos\\_bay@or.blm.gov](mailto:coos_bay@or.blm.gov)

Telephone: (541) 756-0100 Toll Free: (888) 809-0839 Fax: (541) 751-4303

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### **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Catching Slough County Road Repair Environmental Assessment EA#OR-125-03-08**

#### **I. Introduction**

The United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District (BLM), has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzed potential impacts of funding a road maintenance and fisheries enhancement project as proposed by the Coos County Road Department and the Coos Watershed Association.

The purpose of the proposed action is to improve county infrastructure by repairing portions of the Catching Slough road network through repairing road fill failures and replacing culverts. Three of the culvert replacements will also improve access to off-channel habitat for fish species.

The EA evaluates the environmental elements impacted by the repairs and culvert replacements the benefits expected to be derived from implementing any of the action alternatives. The EA also describes the project design features that will be incorporated in order to minimize the potential for adverse environmental harm to occur during or after implementation of the project.

#### **II. Background**

All Federal agencies are charged with managing programs to enhance the recovery of Federally listed endangered and threatened species and their habitats (Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act). Implementing any of the action alternatives is expected to benefit numerous Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate fisheries species.

#### **III. Finding of No Significant Impact**

A careful review of the EA, which I herein adopt, indicates that there will not be a significant impact on the quality of the human environment from the implementation of

any of the Action Alternatives. I agree with this conclusion and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This determination is based on consideration of the following factors:

1. The proposed activities will occur in localized areas within the Catching Slough watershed located within Coos County. The proposed activities are not national or regional in scope.
2. The proposed activities will not significantly affect public health and safety. Best Management Practices incorporating spill kits and containment plans as described in the EA will minimize the risk. In addition, notifications in the event of a release threatening waterways are to be made in accordance with the BLM Coos Bay District Riparian Spill Plan, and Oregon DEQ Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-108, *Oil and Hazardous Materials Spills and Releases*. Repairing slumping sub-grades and replacing failing culverts will reduce driving hazards to the population using this road system.
3. The proposed activities will not have an impact on unique characteristics of the geographic area such as historical or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, Port-Orford Cedar, wild and scenic rivers, ecological critical areas, or energy development.
4. The effects on the quality of the human environment of the proposed activities are not highly controversial.
5. The possible effects of the proposed activities on the quality of the human environment are not highly uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risk.
6. The proposed project does not establish a precedent for actions with future significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.
7. There are no significant cumulative effects identified by this assessment.
8. The proposed activities will not affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Nor will they cause a loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. The proposed project will fully comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended.

On October 18, 2002, the Coos Bay District, BLM received a Programmatic Biological Opinion from NOAA Fisheries authorizing certain “Likely to Adversely Affect” and “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” activities (2002/00879) affecting Southern Oregon/Northern California Coho Salmon, Oregon Coast Coho Salmon, and Oregon Coast Steelhead. Culvert replacements and road maintenance repairs fall into these respective categories.

No direct or indirect impacts to listed wildlife species are likely to occur, resulting in a “No Affect” determination. This does not require consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

10. There are no irreversible or irretrievable resource commitments identified by this assessment, except for a minor consumption of fossil fuels for routine operations.

11. The proposed activities will not violate Federal, State, or local laws imposed for the protection of the environment.

*/s/ M. Elaine Raper*  
M. Elaine Raper  
Umpqua Field Manager

Date: June 2, 2003