

Document No. EA OR 128 - 0315

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: OR 128 - 0315

BLM Coos Bay District Office

Lease/Serial/Case file No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Hardened Parking Pads at Edson Creek Recreation Site

Location of Proposed Action: Edson Creek Recreation Site, approximately 4 miles east on Sixes River County Road from Sixes, OR (T. 32 S., R. 14 W., Sec. 6, Will. Mer., Curry County).

Applicant (if any): N/A

Conformance With Applicable Land Use Plan: This proposed action is subject to the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* and its Record of Decision (BLM, 1995); which is in conformance with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and its Record of Decision (Interagency, 1994). This plan has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan's terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1601.5.

Remarks: The Proposed Action is in compliance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* and its Record of Decision (BLM, 1995) (RMP); hereby incorporated by reference. The RMP has been determined to be consistent with the standards and guidelines for healthy lands at the land use plan scale and associated timelines. The direction to prepare a Project Plan/EA to install hardened parking pads at Edson Creek Recreation Site comes directly from the *Sixes River Special Recreation Management Area, Recreation Area Management Plan* and Decision Record (BLM, 2001) analyzed in *EA # OR128-99-13* (BLM, 2000); both hereby incorporated by reference.

Need for Proposed Action: The Proposed Action was conceptually approved in Actions 6-5 and 6-7 in the *Sixes River Special Recreation Management Area, Recreation Area Management Plan* (BLM, 2001) as follows:

Action 2-2: Develop a project plan to manage vehicle access by designing and providing hardened parking pads using grate or matted material (concrete and cable) for 6-15 sites. Manage open expanses in the campground and use a set date seasonal closure for unhardened sites.

Rationale: Soft ground during the wet season has been identified by both the public and BLM staff as a problem. Vehicles get stuck and tear up and create ruts in the main campground at Edson Creek. This usually happens in early spring and late fall when people want to camp, but also during the winter when people drive over the open expanse – sometimes accidentally and often intentionally. Over time, this could cause negative impacts. The resultant ruts create a significant maintenance workload. Vehicles that use and access the open expanse need to be managed.

Description of Proposed Action: The Proposed Action consists of installation of five hardened parking pads and 45 feet of post and cable fence.

Parking pads will be constructed of ¾ inch minus crushed aggregate at sites 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 (see attached sketch map and photos). Pads will be 12 feet wide and vary in length from 38 to 52 feet. In order to install the pads, two non-native Maple trees need to be removed, one 10 inch dbh and one (double-stem) 5 inch dbh (see attached sketch map and photos). Sites will be excavated 4 to 6 inches, geotextile fabric placed on the ground, then covered with crushed aggregate flush with the surrounding ground to provide barrier free access to the camping area. All soil removed from the sites will be transported to designated waste areas identified by the District Soil Scientist.

A post and cable fence will be installed at the end of the graveled surface perpendicular to the parking pad at site 20 (see attached sketch map and photos). A 36 inch opening will be left to allow visitor access to the camping area. The purpose of the fence is to eliminate vehicular traffic on the grassy camping area at site 20. Because of its proximity to the creek, past erosion of the bank and subsequent restoration at site 20, eliminating vehicular traffic is important to minimize potential impacts to the site and creek.

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OR120-1792-5
(July 1998)

Environmental Impacts to Critical Elements of the Human Environment:

<u>Critical Elements</u>	<u>Affected</u>		<u>Critical Elements</u>	<u>Affected</u>	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality	—	<u>X</u>	T & E Species	—	<u>X</u>
ACECs	—	<u>X</u>	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid	—	<u>X</u>
Cultural Resources	—	<u>X</u>	Water Quality	—	<u>X</u>
Farmlands, Prime/Unique	—	<u>X</u>	Wetlands/Riparian Zones/ACS	—	<u>X</u>
Floodplains	—	<u>X</u>	Wild & Scenic Rivers	—	<u>X</u>
Unresolved conflicts	—	<u>X</u>	Wilderness	—	<u>X</u>
Noxious Weed Management	—	<u>X</u>	Port Orford Cedar Management	—	<u>X</u>
Environmental Justice Concerns	—	<u>X</u>	Energy production, transmission	—	<u>X</u>
Native American religious concerns and/or Indian trust resources	—	<u>X</u>			

Description of Impacts to Specific Elements of the Human Environment: None

Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts:

The following design features and mitigation measures were adopted for projects approved in the Decision Record for the *Sixes River Special Recreation Management Area, Recreation Area Management Plan* (BLM, 2001):

- If any potential cultural resources are encountered during the course of project or other actions, all work in the vicinity should stop and the District Archeologist must be notified at once.
- Seed and mulch all bare and disturbed soil from construction activities.
- Surface layer of rock is recommended on exposed bare soil where seed and mulch is not a viable option. Limit surface rock to areas above the high water mark.
- All proposed actions at the Edson Creek Recreation Site are subject to rare periods of flooding and should be designed appropriately.
- Waterbar or grade any steep trail, slope, or roadway which may erode or transport sediment to a stream channel.
- When stream channels may be influenced, limit soil and plant disturbance in site preparation and construction to minimize sediment production, protect bank stability, and maintain riparian species composition.
- Revegetate unutilized or disturbed locations with native species when possible, to protect soil, water, or plant and wildlife communities.
- Design road and parking areas for adequate drainage to minimize delivery of water and sediment to Edson Creek and Sixes River.
- Evaluate, based on future trends, whether other conservation practices need to be applied for the protection of soil and water resources. Examples include: A) heavy use of trail during the winter season, B) if user-defined access routes continue to be used or developed, or C) if increased runoff of water and sediment from road and parking improvements are adversely affecting the water quality of Edson Creek and Sixes River.
- Pre-work meetings shall include the submission and review of required plans where applicable. Contract administration shall include compliance check for spill kits, and monitoring for releases.
- Storage and use of chemicals and petroleum products on site shall be in accordance with applicable federal and state standards and codes, in approved containers, and subject to spill plans.

Preparer(s): Tom Sill, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: June 23, 2003

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD.

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the project as described in the Description of the Proposed Action section with the mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation Measures and Design Features: In addition to the mitigation measures listed above, the following measures will also be implemented:

- Rock sources should be free of noxious weed (i.e., Gorse, Scotch Broom) seed. Some rock sources in Curry County are contaminated (T. Wilczek, District Engineer).
- A minimum slope of 2% on crushed rock surfaces should be maintained to provide adequate drainage (T. Wilczek, District Engineer).
- All contracts should include noxious weed prevention (R. Raper, Natural Resource Specialist/Noxious Weed Coordinator).

Decision recommended by: NRSA: _____ Date: _____

NRSA: _____ Date: _____

NRSA: _____ Date: _____

Decision Approved by: FM: _____ Date: _____