DECISION RECORD

EA LOG No. OR-010-2003-04

Project Name: Adel TV, Inc. Translator Site Removal & Relinquishment of Right-of-Way OR 44848.

Applicant: Lakeview BLM

Address: 1301 South G Street
Lakeview, OR 97630

County: Lake

BLM Office: Lakeview Resource Area

Phone: 541/947-2177

Decision Record

Decision: The following is the decision of the Bureau:

Proceed with the removal of the Adel TV Translator site and the relinquishment/closure of Adel TV, Inc.'s right-of-way OR 44848.

Rationale:

Adel TV, Inc. through involuntary dissolution relinquished its standing as a non-profit corporation with the State of Oregon April 24, 1997. The translator site, which is currently under BLM right-of-way OR 44848, has not been operational since corporation dissolution and is no longer necessary. Removal of the site is in compliance with the Wilderness Interim Management Policy and consistent with the Warner Lakes Management Framework Plan and 43 CFR 2803.4(c) regarding site non-use/abandonment. Site removal will enhance wilderness values within the Fish Creek Rim WSA and restore the area to a more natural condition.

No public or outside agency objections to the proposed removal action were identified through the environmental assessment, thirty (30) day review process.

Environmental Considerations:

I have considered the environmental consequences of this decision as documented in the accompanying environmental assessment referenced above. Except as maybe noted in the rationale, all environmental considerations have been adequately addressed in the accompanying document.

Thomas E. Rasmussen, Manager
Lakeview Resource Area

6/18/03
Date

The Bureau of Land Management's, Lakeview Resource Area, has analyzed a proposal and its alternatives to remove the Adel TV, Inc. Translator Site from the Fish Creek Rim WSA. Adel TV through involuntary dissolution relinquished its standing as a non-profit corporation with the State of Oregon April 24, 1997. The site, which is currently under BLM right-of-way OR 44848, has not been operational since corporation dissolution and is no longer necessary. The objective of this proposal is to relinquish/terminate the right-of-way and remove all associated improvements in order to enhance wilderness values within the WSA. This project is in conformance with the Warner Lakes Management Framework Plan and the Wilderness Interim Management Policy.

There are no wetlands, floodplains, wild and scenic rivers, known hazardous waste areas, areas of religious concern, wild horses, or prime or unique farmlands in the immediate project area. No adverse or beneficial impact is anticipated to water quality, air quality, fisheries, lands, or minerals. Surveys found no threatened or endangered plants or animals or cultural or paleontological resources in the area. No low income or minority populations would be impacted.

On the basis of the analysis contained in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) and all other available information, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitute a major federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

Thomas E. Rasmussen 5/12/03

EA Number: OR-010-2003-04

PROJECT TITLE/TYPE: Proposed Removal of the Adel TV Inc. Translator Site (Fish Creek Rim Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

PROJECT LOCATION: T.39S., R.24E., W.M., Section 17: S½NE¼, N½NW¼, SE¼NW¼, NE¼SE¼. (see location map attached and described as Exhibit "A")

BLM OFFICE: Lakeview Resource Area, Lakeview District, and 1301 South G Street, Lakeview, OR 97630

LEASE/SERIAL/CASE FILE #: Right-of-Way OR 44848

APPLICANT (if any): Adel TV Inc. (Involuntary Dissolution 4/24/1997)

CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN: This proposed action is subject to one or more of the following land use plans.

Name of Plans: Warner Lakes Management Framework Plans (MFPs), as amended (1982, 1983, 1989, and 1995), Oregon Wilderness FEIS and ROD (1989 and 1991) and the Wilderness Interim Management Policy (1995).

Remarks: The proposed action is in conformance with the above stated plans.

PURPOSE and NEED FOR ACTION: The Wilderness Interim Management Policy (IMP) requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to maintain wilderness values, which include roadlessness, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation and supplemental values.

The Adel TV Translator site was constructed on Fish Creek Rim around 1958 without authorization. During the development of the Warner Lakes Management Framework Plan, the site was identified for authorization and subsequently recognized and considered non-impairing in the Oregon Wilderness EIS, which designated Fish Creek Rim a WSA in December 1989. The translator site was officially authorized through the issuance of right-of-way OR 44848 to Adel TV, Inc. April 19, 1989. During a field examination conducted in August 2002, it was noticed that the coaxial cables from the receiving antenna to the transmit site had been severed, indicating non-use. Communications with a past president of the corporation indicated that Adel TV, Inc. no longer exists and the site has not been used for many years. The past president also indicated that since the coming of satellite TV he saw little future need for the site and would be willing to relinquish the site right-of-way barring any local objection. The BLM, Lakeview Resource Area proposes removal of the site upon receipt of voluntary relinquishment of the right-of-way or, if necessary, termination pursuant 43 CFR 2803.4(c) for non-use/site abandonment. Removal is tentatively scheduled for June 2003 and will enhance wilderness values of the area.

DESCRIPTION of PROPOSED ACTION: The translator site will be removed by hand with

or without aerial, helicopter assistance, loaded in trucks and hauled to the nearest licensed disposal facility. The facilities to be removed consist of an antenna-receiving site; transmitter equipment shed and related antennas, old coaxial cable and approximately one (1) mile of power feeder line.

Access to the site area will be by vehicle on existing roads and ways (trails). A dump truck and/or several pick-up trucks will be used to haul the material away and may involve some limited cross-country travel. A helicopter, if available at the time of removal, will be used to remove materials from the face of the rim, where the translator transmit site and power feeder line is located, to either the top of the rim or the base of the rim near Adel. Utilizing the helicopter will minimize the trailing effect during the removal process. Equipment use will be the minimum necessary to complete the proposed action. All cross-country travel will be restricted to periods of dry conditions. Trails of significance either created through the removal process or existing will be raked and reseeded, as appropriate. All reseeding shall be conducted utilizing pure live, certified weed free native seed.

ALTERNATIVES:

1) NO ACTION – Do not remove the translator site.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT: The translator site is located in the southeast corner of the Fish Creek Rim WSA, approximately 1½ miles northwest of Adel, Oregon and ¼ mile north of three (3) other existing, authorized, communication sites. These other sites are occupied and operated by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), City of Los Angeles, RCC Holdings, Inc. and the Oregon Department of Transportation. The area is in a High Desert, low-sagebrush/juniper type vegetative community that receives low-moderate visitor use. Visitor use is associated primarily with communication site access, hunting and other forms of recreation. The way (trail) accessing the translator site is lightly used and originates from a well-maintained road, which also accesses the developed communication sites to the south. Although the presence of the site is considered non-impairing, removal of site improvements will benefit the character of the WSA. Removal of the site will also eliminate an unnecessary right-of-way and associated improvements from the public land.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives relative to the following critical resource values were evaluated. The following is a summary of the results:

Critical Element/ Resource Value	**Affected** Yes	No	**Critical Element/ Resource Value**	**Affected** Yes	No
Air Quality		X	T & E Species		X
ACEC/RNAs		X	Wilderness	X	
Cultural Resources		X	Wild & Scenic Rivers		X

Farmlands, Prime/Unique		X	Hazardous Wastes		X
Floodplains		X	Water Quality		X
Native American Cultural/ Religious Concerns		X	Wetlands/Riparian Zones		X
Low Income/ Minority Populations		X	Noxious Weeds		X

DESCRIPTION of OTHER IMPACTS:

Proposed Action

Implementing the proposed action will enhance wilderness values by removing an unnatural, manmade feature from the Fish Creek Rim WSA. Removal the translator site will also eliminate an unnecessary right-of-way and associated improvements from the public land. Although some off-road vehicle use maybe necessary in order to access and remove the site, any vehicle tracks resulting from the proposed action will be rehabilitated, as appropriate.

No Action

Implementing the no action alternative will perpetuate an unnatural and unnecessary feature within the Fish Creek Rim WSA. Allowing the existence of a right-of-way which is no longer necessary or in use is inconsistent with 43 CFR 2803.4(c).

DESCRIPTION of MITIGATION MEASURES and RESIDUAL IMPACTS:

Removal of the translator site, as proposed, is in compliance with the non-impairment criteria of the Wilderness IMP and is consistent with 43 CFR 2803.4(c) regarding site non-use/abandonment. The proposed action will enhance wilderness values within the Fish Creek Rim WSA, as well as restore the area to a natural condition.

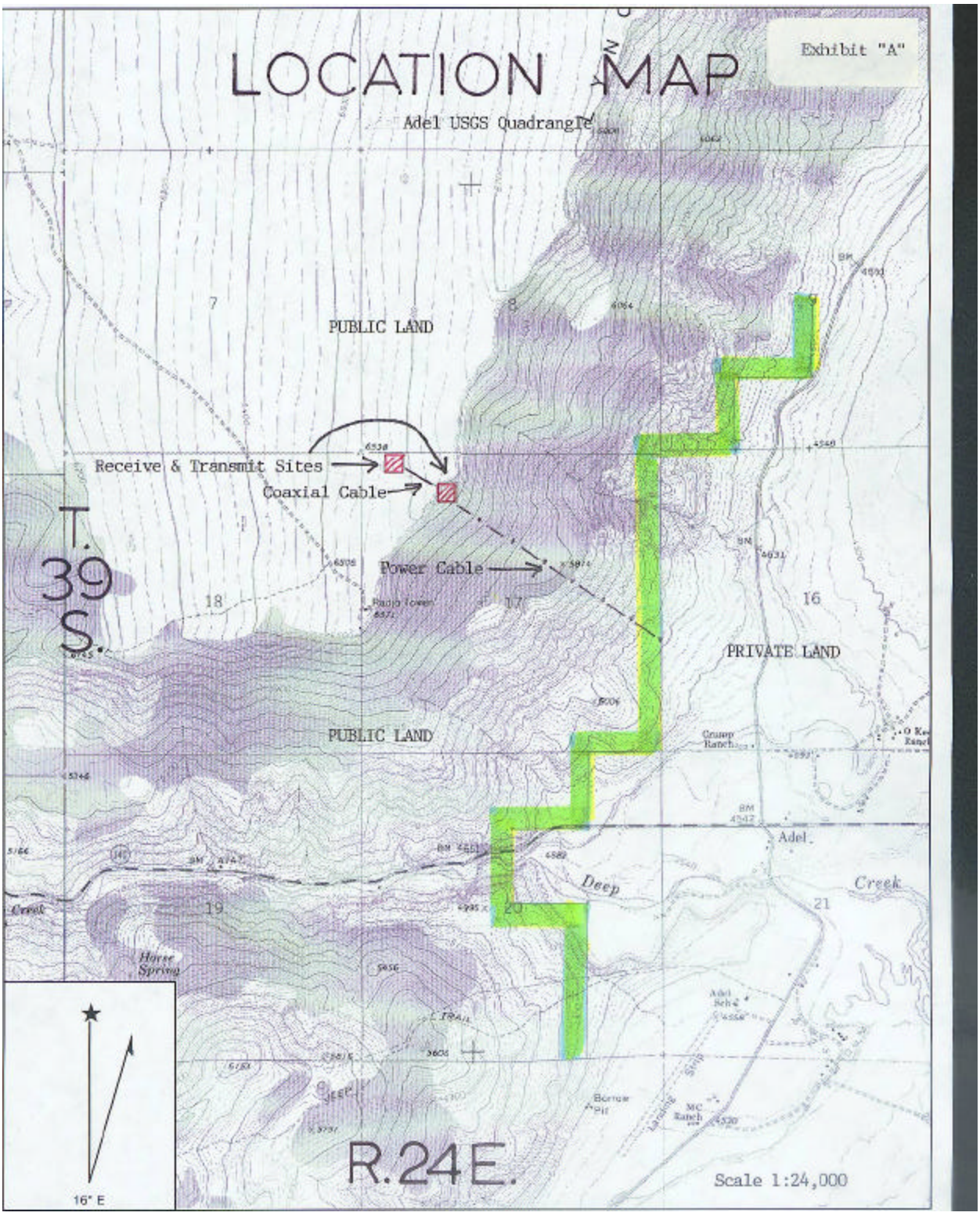
No future monitoring of the area is considered necessary once the translator site has been removed.

NOXIOUS WEED CONSIDERATIONS:

No noxious weeds are known to be present at/or adjacent to the translator site location. However, if weeds become a consideration, and to prevent spreading all vehicles shall be thoroughly washed as deemed appropriate.

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:

PREPARER (S): Dan Stewardson, Realty Specialist


LOCATION MAP
Exhibit "A"
Adel USGS Quadrangle
PUBLIC LAND
Receive & Transmit Sites
Coaxial Cable
Power Cable
T. 39 S.
PRIVATE LAND
PUBLIC LAND
Deep
Creek
Adel
Horse Spring
R.24E.
16° E
Scale 1:24,000