

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GLENDALE FIELD OFFICE**

**Decision Record and
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
for the
Burma Pond Project
EA # OR-118-02-009**

I. Decision / FONSI: I have decided to implement the repair of the existing dam structure and improvements for the recreational area proposed as Alternative 1 in the Burma Pond Project environmental assessment (EA) # OR-118-02-009, dated June 2002. I find that this action, with its project design features, will not result in significant impacts on the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This decision is consistent with the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (RMP, 1995), and amendments.

The Burma Pond Project provides manual drainage of the pond for emergency purposes as well as accommodating camping, safe traffic flow, easier access, and day use recreational activities. Project Design Features have been included to minimize or completely avoid impacts to related resources. The specific actions are identified below.

Actions:

- Partially drain existing reservoir.
- Excavate and replace outlet works.
- Install new diversion structure.
- Raise height of dam by 1.0 to 1.5 feet.
- Place rip-rap on slope of dam facing the pond, and in spillway.
- Clear and grub entire dam embankment of woody vegetation.
- Construct three developed campsites to replace existing dispersed camping areas.
- Install a double vault, handicap accessible, toilet.
- Construct barriers to eliminate OHV access across dam and throughout the recreation areas immediately surrounding the reservoir.
- Clean out and grub diversion ditch of all large woody material.
- Upgrade existing trail system and related foot bridge.
- Plant emergent vegetation to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.
- Create wildlife snags to promote cavity dependent species.
- Upgrade the entrance road by lowering the grade, and surfacing the roadbed.
- Create an interpretive brochure which will provide the public with a “self-guided” tour of the cultural resources in the area of Burma Pond.

II. Rationale: Repair to the dam structure is a mandatory requirement by the State of Oregon Water Resources Department for the purpose of emergency dewatering. This repair work would allow the existing water use permit to continue.

Burma Pond has been a popular recreation site for many years. There are no restroom facilities, developed campsites, fire rings, or posted regulations concerning use of motorized craft on the pond. The area is littered with toilet paper and trash, is experiencing erosion problems due to off-road vehicle use, and poses potential forest-fire risk due to random campfire placement. Vehicles travel off-road over the dam itself, throughout the adjacent forested areas, and along the banks of the pond causing erosion problems and damage to wildlife habitat. The access road to the pond is difficult to maneuver for most vehicles. The proposed recreational upgrades would alleviate most of these current use issues and provide a more enjoyable and safe recreation experience for the visiting public. This action meets its stated objectives of providing for public safety, permit compliance with Oregon State Water Resources Department's regulations, improved recreational use, habitat diversity for wildlife, and protection to natural and cultural resources.

The following critical elements of the human environment have been analyzed in the EA and will not be significantly affected by this project: air quality, areas of critical environmental concern, historical or cultural resources, Native American religious sites, prime or unique farmlands, flood plains, threatened or endangered species, known hazardous waste areas, water quality, wetlands, riparian zones, invasive species, wild and scenic rivers, environmental justice, wilderness and energy development, production or distribution.

Notice of this decision will appear in the Grants Pass Daily Courier and Umpqua Free Press newspapers. The decision will also be posted on the Medford District web site <http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/>.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4. If an appeal is taken, a written notice of appeal must be filed in the Glendale Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon, 97504 within 30 days from publication of this decision in the newspaper. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. If the appellant wishes to file a petition pursuant to 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time the appeal is being reviewed by the IBLA, it must accompany the notice of appeal. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the IBLA and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If a stay is requested, the appellant has the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Lynda L. Boody

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**Field Manager, Glendale Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management**

7/10/02

Date