

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for the
LITTLE HYATT DAM PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA No. OR-110-01-002

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

The Bureau of Land Management's Medford District has analyzed the Little Hyatt Dam Project, documented in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA). The Little Hyatt Dam is located on Keene Creek between the Keene Creek Reservoir and Hyatt Reservoir. Inspections conducted in 1996 and 1997 document the poor condition of the dam (EA p. 1). The Little Hyatt Dam Project EA involves a proposal to repair the Little Hyatt Dam in order to maintain the Little Hyatt Reservoir and its associated recreational values, to provide for public safety, and to protect down stream facilities (roads, bridges, etc.) and property (EA p. 2). The required permits and water rights will be obtained prior to implementation of the Little Hyatt Dam Project. The Bureau of Land Management will also obtain an easement for adjacent private land prior to project implementation. Project specifications for repair of the dam would meet State and Federal requirements. The proposed action and associated project design features are described in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA).

This FONSI and attached EA are in conformance with and tiered to the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP)* as amended by the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines. The Medford District Resource Management Plan incorporates the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and the *Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*. These documents are available at the Medford BLM office and the Medford BLM web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/>.

Through the EA process, the interdisciplinary team reviewed the following critical elements of the human environment as they relate to this project: air quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), cultural resources, environmental justice, farmlands, floodplains, Native American religious concerns, invasive nonnative species, threatened and endangered species, hazardous/solid wastes, water quality, wetlands/riparian zones, Wild and Scenic Rivers, wilderness, and energy. No substantive site-specific environmental changes would result from implementing the proposed action or alternative as discussed in the associated EA (EA p. 14-25). Should cultural or paleontological resources be discovered during project layout or implementation, they would be protected.

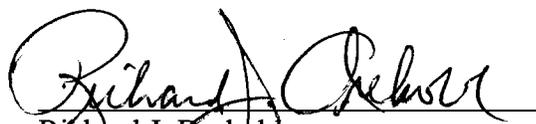
The estimation of impacts was based on research, professional judgment, and the experience of the interdisciplinary team. This method of estimating effects on the environment reduces the uncertainties to a level involving no highly unknown or unique risks.

A legal notice was published in Medford's *Mail Tribune*, initiating a 30-day public review period for the Little Hyatt Dam Project EA. This review provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the BLM's determination that there are no significant impacts associated with the proposed action beyond those impacts identified in the tiered Environmental Impact Statements, and that a project-specific environmental impact statement is not necessary.

One comment letter was received from the Oregon Water Resources Department and reviewed by the Field Manager and the project engineer. From comment review, no information was presented that changes BLM's determination that there are no significant impacts associated with the proposed action beyond those impacts identified in the tiered Environmental Impact Statements.

FONSI Determination

On the basis of the information contained in the attached EA and all other information available to me as summarized above, it is my determination that the proposed action alternative does not constitute a significant impact as defined by 40 CFR § 1508.27, beyond those previously identified in the tiered 1995 Medford District RMP and associated Environmental Impact Statements.


Richard J. Brehobl
Ashland Field Manager

01-29-03
Date

DECISION RECORD
for the
LITTLE HYATT EA

EA No. OR-110-01-002

Decision Record & Rationale

It is my decision to implement the proposed action as described in this decision and the attached Little Hyatt Dam Project EA No. OR-110-01-002. Implementation of this decision will result in the repair of the existing Little Hyatt Dam, which forms Little Hyatt Reservoir. The project is located on Keene Creek, in Section 20 of T. 39 S., R. 3 E. The required permits and water rights will be obtained prior to implementation of the Little Hyatt Dam Project; an easement for adjacent private land will also be obtained. Specifications for the repair of the dam will meet State and Federal requirements. Repair of the Little Hyatt Dam will result in maintaining the Little Hyatt Reservoir and its associated recreational values, providing for public safety, and protecting down stream facilities (roads, bridges, etc.) and property.

The 1995 Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan directs the agency to provide a wide range of dispersed and recreational opportunities to contribute to the recreational demand on public lands in the Medford District. The Little Hyatt Dam and Reservoir are designated as part of the Hyatt Lake-Howard Prairie Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The RMP directs the agency to manage Special Recreation Management Areas to realize their potential to provide appropriate recreational experience opportunities while protecting sensitive resources, increasing public awareness, reducing conflicts, and diversifying the regional economy (EA p. 2). My decision to implement this project proposal will result in repairing the Little Hyatt Dam and maintaining the recreational opportunities and values associated with this site.

Based on the analysis documented in the EA, I have determined this action is in conformance with the Medford District Resource Management Plan.


Richard J. Drehobl
Ashland Field Manager

01-29-03
Date