



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504
email address: orll0mb@or.blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO

1792(117)

**Rogue River Ranch Water Treatment
System Upgrade Project
(EA#OR110-02-20)
G6222(JK:bhk)**

MAY 2 2002

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed is a copy of the Decision Record/Rationale/FONSI for the Rogue River Ranch Water Treatment System Upgrade project. We previously sent a copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project and I thought you might be interested in my decision.

As the decision indicates, we plan to upgrade the Rogue River Ranch Water Treatment System. This will ensure drinking water at the ranch meets safe and legally-mandated water quality standards, and this decision also ensures the project will retain the historical integrity of the ranch, in a manner that will result in the least overall environmental impacts. We greatly appreciated hearing from those of you who commented this spring on our EA.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the resource management activities of the Bureau of Land Management and the Grants Pass Resource Area.

Sincerely,



For Abbie Jossie
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

Enclosure (as stated)



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MEDFORD, OREGON 97504

ROGUE RIVER RANCH WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT (EA #OR110-02-20)

DECISION RECORD / RATIONALE / FONSI

I. DECISION

The decision is to implement Alternative 2, the proposed action, for the Rogue River Ranch water treatment system upgrade project. The project design features described in the EA are an integral part of the proposed action and are to be implemented.

II. DECISION RATIONALE

Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative, is rejected because it will not meet the purpose and need identified in the EA which is to insure that drinking water at the Ranch meets safe and legally mandated water quality standards.

Alternative 2 is selected because it will meet the identified purpose and need; it will insure that drinking water meets water quality standards. It also insures that the project will retain the historical integrity of the Ranch.

Implementation of Alternative 2 will promote Goal 1.4 of the BLM's Strategic Plan for FY2000 to FY2005: *Reduce threats to public health, safety and property*. This includes complying with federal, state and local environmental regulations and protecting the health and safety of the public as well as employees. Insure the safety of drinking water is an element of this.

IV. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

During the design and preparation of the project plan and EA, the State of Oregon Department of Human Services Drinking water program was consulted with. The State Historic Preservation Office was also consulted with during the design to ensure that the historic property values were not adversely impacted.

V. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public notification and involvement for this project was with a scoping effort in February 2002 and an EA public comment period in April 2002. A single letter was received during scoping indicating general support of the upgrade. No comments were received from the public in response to the EA public comment period.

VI. CONCLUSION AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

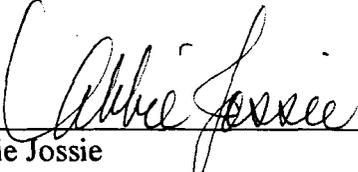
Based on the information and analysis of potential environmental impacts in the project's environmental assessment (EA) and the response from the public and state agencies during design and assessment of the project, I conclude that the decision noted above is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan, the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and, the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001). It is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, The Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations.

It is also my determination that, based on the information and analysis in the EA, the decision is not expected to result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted and will not be prepared.

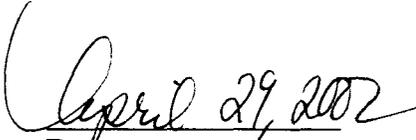
VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

This decision is a forest management decision. Administrative remedies are available to persons who believe that they will be adversely affected by this Decision. Administrative recourse is available in accordance with BLM regulations and must follow the procedures and requirements described in 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies.

In accordance with the BLM Forest Management Regulation 43 CFR 5003.2 (a&c), the effective date of this decision will be the date of publication of the Notice of Decision and FONSI in The Grants Pass Daily Courier. Publication of this notice establishes the date initiating the protest period provided for in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.3. Any contest of this decision should state specifically which portion or element of the decision is being protested and cite the applicable CFR regulations.



Abbie Jossie
Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management



Date