

# Decision Record

EA Number: OR-054-04-002

Title of Action: Dry Creek Riparian Fence and Spring Development

Project Number: Fence 735207, Spring 735213

BLM Office: Prineville District

**Decision:** It is my decision to proceed with construction of the Dry Creek Riparian Fence and Spring Development. The main fence and two gap-fences will be located on portions of T. 8 S., R. 19 E., Sections 20 and 21 as indicated by the attached map for a total distance of 0.8 miles. The fences will consist of four wires with the top three having barbs and the bottom one without barbs. The bottom wire will be 16 inches from the ground, the next wire 6 inches above the first, the third wire 6 inches above the second, and the fourth wire 12 inches above the third. The fence posts will be five-and-a-half foot metal posts with one rod spacing except for the two gap-fences where the post may be spaced on an as-needed basis. Metal twist stays will be installed equal-distance between posts. Construction will be done by the private land owner and materials will be provided by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The spring development will be constructed by the BLM. The collection method will be perforated pipe sandwiched between gravel and filter cloth. Water will be piped through two inch diameter PVC pipe, underground for approximately 500 feet to a 300 gallon metal trough. The trough will be supported on treated eight-by-eight inch timbers. The water will flow continually unless it is determined that it will benefit the integrity of the spring to have the flow terminated during periods of nonuse. A bird ramp will be installed to provide an exit for small birds and mammals that may fall into the trough. A buried overflow pipe will be installed at the trough to return excess water to the channel.

A four wire fence will enclose the water collection portion of the spring and will be constructed to the same specifications as the fence described above. It will be approximately 300 feet in length and 75 feet in width across the drainage. Some of the junipers in the channel will be felled in such a way as to discourage livestock use of the spring area above and below the fenced portion.

**Alternatives Considered:** A no action alternative was considered. Regardless of the alternative, the fences will be constructed on private land to exclude livestock from Dry Creek. This would result in a situation where livestock would be funneled onto the public land along 0.8 miles of stream which would result in unwanted bank damage and heavy use on riparian vegetation. Also, without the spring development, additional numbers of livestock would further concentrate on the stream to obtain water.

**Rationale for Decision:** This is an opportunity to partnership with the NRCS and the private land owners to restore a small tributary of the John Day River. These two small projects on public land are part of a bigger effort on private land to restore riparian vegetation and the water flow on Dry Creek. This decision is consistent with the following land use plans, the Two Rivers RMP, June 1986, and the John Day River Management Plan, February 2001. No public comments were received on the EA.

**Compliance and Monitoring:** The location and construction specifications of the fences will be coordinated with a private land owner's representative and the fence contractor. Inspections during construction and upon completion will be done by qualified BLM personnel. The spring will be constructed and monitored by BLM personnel. The BLM will monitor changes to the riparian zone on the public land portions of Dry Creek by establishing photo-points.

**Terms / Conditions / Stipulations:** All necessary terms, conditions and stipulations have been presented in the decision portion of this document.

**/s/ Christina M. Welch**

**12/15/03**

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Christina M. Welch  
Field Manager, Central Oregon Resource Area

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Date

**Attachment:** Map

