

**COW CREEK DAY USE AND WATCHABLE WILDLIFE SITES
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SOUTH RIVER FIELD OFFICE
EA# OR - 105 - 98 - 14**

Date Prepared: June 30, 1999

Decision Record

Decision: It is my decision to authorize the installation of facilities and development of the Island Creek Day Use Site and three Watchable Wildlife Sites (WWS), located on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Sections 1 and 4 of T. 31 S., R. 7 W.; Section 32 of T. 30 S., R. 6 W.; and Section 35 of T. 31 S., R. 8 W., W.M.

The Island Creek site in Section 1 of T. 31 S., R. 7 W.; the Salmonid WWS in Section 4 of T. 31 S., R. 7 W.; and the Osprey WWS in Section 35 of T. 31 S., R. 8 W. are located within lands allocated as Late-Successional Reserves. The WWS are located within the right-of-way of the Cow Creek Access Road.

The objective of the project is to provide recreational opportunities for local and visiting members of the public along the Cow Creek Back Country Byway. This Byway is designated as an Oregon State Tour Route.

Rationale for the Decision: The decision to allow the construction of these four sites does not result in any undue environmental degradation. The project is consistent with the objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy contained in the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (ROD) and meets the standards and guidelines of the Roseburg District Record of Decision/ Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP), approved June 2, 1995.

The proposed developments are consistent with the findings and recommendations for "Non-silvicultural Activities" contained in the South Coast-North Klamath Late-Successional Reserve Assessment which states that "The existing or planned facilities as described in the individual RMPs or LRMP within the LSR boundaries occupy such a small area, when looking at the whole LSR, that the function of the overall LSR will be maintained." (p. 92).

No issues were identified by other agencies or tribal governments. The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact were made available for public review and comment for a period of thirty (30) days from May 25, 1999, to June 23, 1999. No comments were received from members of the public.

Compliance and Monitoring: Compliance with project design features and Best Management Practices (ROD/RMP, Appendix D, pp. 129 - 143) identified in the Environmental Assessment will be accomplished through BLM service contract administration procedures.

Protest Procedures: As outlined in 43 CFR § 5003 Administrative Remedies, protests may be filed with the authorized officer within fifteen (15) days of the publication date of the Decision Notice in the News Review.

E. Dwight Fielder, Field Manager
South River Field Office

Date