

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

Date Prepared: May 20, 1999

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

The South River Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, has completed the environmental analysis on the Cow Creek Day Use and Watchable Wildlife Site (WWS) proposal. The sites are located in Section 32 of T. 30 S., R. 6 W., Sections 1 and 4 of T. 31 S., R. 7 W., and Section 35 of T. 31 S., R. 8 W., W.M. The actions consist of the installation of three Watchable Wildlife Sites (WWS), and a Day Use picnic site.

The sites are not located in proximity to parks, or Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Wetland WWS and Island Cr. Day Use sites contained areas identified as prime farm land by the USDA, but field exams determined the area did not meet Prime Farmland qualities. There were no cultural resources identified in the project areas, no Native American religious concerns were identified during issue identification. Field surveys did not identify the presence of any Special Status plant populations. Suitable habitat for Special Status Species and Special Attention Species was evaluated.

Suitable habitat was identified at Island Cr. Day Use Site for certain Survey and Manage (S&M) mollusk species. Prior to ground disturbing activities, a survey of this site will determine the presence or absence of occupancy. The identification of any S&M mollusk populations will be addressed in accordance with management recommendations.

The installation of these recreation sites is considered a "no affect" action on the northern spotted owl, bald eagle and peregrine falcon. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not required. The project area is located outside of Columbian white-tailed deer habitat on the Roseburg District. Surveys were be done at the Salmonid and Osprey WWS for suitable marbled murrelet habitat, because of their location within the marbled murrelet habitat management zone. Suitable habitat was found within one quarter mile of each site. Hourly restrictions on equipment operation will be imposed during construction activities to avoid potential disturbance of any murrelets that may be present in the vicinity.

Entries into the Riparian Reserve for the purpose of site development would have minimal impact to wetlands/riparian zones. The impacts would be localized and of short duration. There would be the potential for increased sediment associated with the project, but the affected area would be localized and site specific. The duration of impacts would be limited to the period of activity and the following winter. The effects on Special Status fish species is "may affect, not likely to adversely affect". This action conforms to the National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinion for the Umpqua River cutthroat trout dated September

26, 1996, and the conference opinion for the Oregon Coast coho salmon dated March 19, 1997. Mitigation will include seasonal restrictions and the application of Best Management Practices to construction activities.

Of the ten points under Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, section 1508.27(b), the following will not be discussed further in this document, because there are no significant effects on the public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; no highly uncertain or unknown risks; no precedents for future actions; no cumulatively significant impacts; no impacts to elements eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; and no violations of Federal, State, or local laws.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the EA, I have determined that the project will not have significant impact on the human environment with the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. The project is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy will not be compromised. The Best Management Practices (BMP) listed in Appendix D of the ROD/RMP (pp. 141-142) will be applied to mitigate impacts.

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Date