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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT and  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

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Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site Sewer and Electrical Upgrade

Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-04-01  
December 2003

USDI Bureau of Land Management  
Oregon State Office  
Salem District  
Cascades Resource Area  
Marion County, Oregon

Responsible Agency:                   USDI Bureau of Land Management

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**Abstract:** The Bureau of Land Management proposes to upgrade the sewer and electrical infrastructure at Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site. Fishermen's Bend is located approximately 30 miles east of Salem, Oregon in Township 9 South, Range 2 East, Section 25, Willamette Meridian.

This environmental assessment discloses the predicted environmental effects of two alternatives: Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) and Alternative 2 (No Action). The proposed action involves converting six individual restroom septic systems to a more centralized sewer system with two larger drain fields. All existing sewer tanks would be decommissioned and new tanks would be installed. Existing campsite sumps would be replaced with a gray water disposal and trailer/RV sewer connection that would be hooked into the centralized sewer system. Electrical 100 amp hook-ups would be installed in the campsites utilizing the same trenches. Four 100 amp hook-ups would also be installed in each of the three group camps. Sewer tanks and drain fields at the park's administrative headquarters would also be upgraded.

# FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

## Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (Environmental Assessment Number OR080-04-01) for a proposal to upgrade sewer and electrical infrastructure at Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site. Fishermen's Bend is located approximately 30 miles east of Salem, Oregon in Township 9 South, Range 2 East, Section 25, Willamette Meridian.

Implementation of the proposed action would conform to management actions and direction contained in the attached *Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site Sewer and Electrical Upgrade Environmental Assessment* (EA). The EA is attached to and incorporated by reference in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination. The project also conforms to the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (RMP); *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994); *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (ROD, January, 2001); and the *Implementation of 2002 Survey and Manage Annual Species Review* (June 2003).

The EA and FONSI will be made available for public review from December 15 through January 16, 2003. The notice for public comment will be published in a legal notice in Salem's Statesman Journal newspaper; and posted on the Internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/salem/html/planning> under Environmental Assessments. Comments received by the Cascades Resource Area of the Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97306, on or before January 16, 2003 will be considered in making the final decisions for this project.

## Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon review of the EA and supporting documents, I have determined that the Proposed Action (Alternative 2) is not a major federal action and would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the following discussion:

1. Sewer and electrical infrastructure upgrades at Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, as described in the proposed action would not affect
  - a. Public health or safety [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)] (EA, Appendix A: Environmental Elements);
  - b. Unique characteristics of the geographic area [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)] because there are no historic or cultural resources, parklands, prime farmlands, wilderness, or ecologically critical areas located within the project;

- c. Districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor would the proposed action cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources or wild and scenic river outstandingly remarkable values [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)] (EA, Appendix A: Environmental Elements).
  - d. The following resources: Air Quality, Environmental Justice, Flood Plains, Hazardous or Solid Wastes, Native American Religions concerns, Threatened or Endangered Plants, Water Resources, Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Land Uses, Late successional and old growth habitat, Mineral Resources, Rural Interface Areas, and Special Areas.
2. With the implementation of project design features including but not limited to:
    - a. Applicable design features, the proposed action is unlikely to have any significant impacts on visual resources, soils, wildlife, and vegetation. Any potential effects to these resources are anticipated to be site-specific and/or undetectable over the watershed, downstream, and/or outside of the project area [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)] (EA Chapter 3, pages 8-15).
  3. The proposed action is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without highly controversial [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)], highly uncertain, or unique or unknown risks [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)].
  4. The proposed action does not set a precedent for future actions that may have significant effects, nor does it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)].
  5. The interdisciplinary team evaluated the proposed action in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)]. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted (EA Chapter 3, pages 8-15) because of the project's scope (effects are likely to be too small to be measurable), scale (project area of 117 acres, less than two percent of federal ownership and less than 0.5 percent the total acreage in the Middle North Santiam 5<sup>th</sup>-field watershed), and duration (direct effects would occur over a maximum period of 2-3 years).
  6. The proposed action would have no effect on endangered or threatened terrestrial (northern spotted owl and bald eagle) species or their habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)]. The "no effect" determination is based on the location and timing of the project and that the scale of the project is small and would not result in habitat modification.

The proposed action has been determined to have "no effect" on Upper Willamette River steelhead or Upper Willamette River chinook. The "no effect" determination is based on project design features that include no in-water work and ground disturbing activities limited to flat ground at least 100 feet from the North Santiam River.

7. The proposed action does not violate any known Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)].

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12/12/03  
Date

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### **1.3 Purpose and Need for Action**

Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site was constructed in the late 1960's. Since that time, very little work has occurred on the park's sewer system. At the request of the Bureau of Land Management, an evaluation of Fishermen's Bend's sewer system was recently conducted by OTAK Inc., an architectural and engineering firm. Based on current requirements of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, they found that several of the septic tanks and some of the drain fields were inadequate. They also found that campsite grey water sumps did not meet the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's design standards for sumps. OTAK Inc. recommended going to a more centralized system, with the drain fields located further away from the North Santiam River. The work needed to install the new system, offered an opportunity to provide electrical hook-ups, an amenity that has been identified as needed in a recent park visitor survey (See Appendix 2, page 20).

### **1.4 Conformance with Land Use Plans, Policies and Programs**

The proposed action is in conformance with the following documents: *RMP (Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan)*, dated May 1995 (pg. 41 ["provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected recreation demand within the planning area"]); *Middle North Santiam River Watershed Analysis*, dated 2002; 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 Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, dated April 1994; and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, dated January 2001.

The proposed action is also compliance with or contributes to meeting the following goals and objectives identified in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) *National Strategic Plan (FY 2000 - 2005)*. The strategy's Mission Goal 01.01 calls for "Providing opportunities for environmentally responsible recreation." As part of this Mission Goal 01.01, Long-Term Goal 1.1.1 calls for, "75% of physical facilities with Special Recreation Management Areas to be in good or fair condition by Fiscal Year, 2005." Fiscal Year 2005 would end on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The proposed action would contribute to meeting both of these goals.

### **1.5 Permits Required**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Large Onsite Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) Permit is the only permit required.

### **1.6 Decision to be Made**

The Cascades Field Manager is the official responsible for deciding whether or not to prepare an environmental impact statement, and whether to approve this project as proposed, not at all, or to some other extent.

## 2.0 CHAPTER 2.0 – ALTERNATIVES

### 2.1 Background

Several other design options were considered as part of OTAK Inc.'s evaluation process. One option included replacing only the existing tanks and drain fields. Another option considered centralizing the existing restrooms into larger drain fields. Both options did not provide for hooking up existing sumps which do not meet current Oregon Department of Environmental Quality standards. Developing a centralized system that fed into Mill City's sewer treatment system was explored, but was found to be infeasible due to Oregon State Land Use Zoning Laws.

### 2.2 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The proposed action would involve converting six individual restroom septic fields in the park to a more centralized sewer system with two larger drain fields (See Project Map, Page 7). Existing campsite sumps would be replaced with a gray water disposal unit and a trailer/RV sewer connection that would be hooked into the centralized sewer system. Metal electrical pedestals each with a 50 amp, 30 amp, and 20 amp plug-in would be installed using the same sewer trenches. The pedestals would be approximately 36 inches in height and 8 inches wide. Four similar electrical hook-ups would be installed in each of the three group camps. Sewer tanks and drain fields in the park's headquarters and volunteer host sites would also be upgraded.

**Timing of Work:** The project would be implemented as funding allows. If planned funding remains available, work would start in early September of 2004 and would be completed by the end of May 2005.

**Disturbance:** To a large extent, the system was designed to mitigate impacts to the park's visual character, by locating most of the sewer and power infrastructure below paved roads, trails, or already disturbed areas. It is estimated that including tanks, trenches and drain fields, only two acres or two percent of the park, not in roads, trails, or other disturbed areas, would be affected. Approximately 40 trees, 12 to 32 inches in diameter may need to be removed during construction. These trees are scattered throughout the park and their removal should not affect overall canopy closure. This estimate is based on the fact that more excavation than average may be needed to get the depths necessary due to the park's sand and cobble soils. It is hoped that actual construction may require less excavation, reducing the number of trees to be removed.

**Rehabilitation:** After construction, all disturbed areas originally under pavement or gravel would be resurfaced. Drain fields would be planted and maintained with a native grass ground cover. Other disturbed areas would be immediately planted with native grass seed. Additional native vegetation including ferns, shrubs and trees would be planted after construction is completed.

**Proximity of Project Work to Water:** Though some work will occur within designated Riparian Reserves, no disturbance of riparian habitat is expected. The work closest to the North Santiam River is in the River Loop, which would be at least 100 feet from the river on existing roads. Most of the work is at least 400 feet from the North Santiam River, and from the wetland in the northwest corner of the park. All the work would occur on relatively flat topography and no sediment inputs into the river or wetlands are expected.

The main fill area identified for the placement of extra soil and rock materials removed from the trenches and tank holes is over 350 feet from the river. The fill area is also relatively flat and no sediment inputs into the river are expected.

**Sewer and Power Lines – See Project Map, Page 7**

<b>Trench Length (feet)</b>	<b>Trench Depth (feet)</b>	<b>Trench Width (feet)</b>	<b>Trees Removed</b>
<b>Camp Loop and Campsite Connections</b>			
4,450 feet under pavement or other disturbed areas and 90 feet in undisturbed areas	3 to 6	3 to 16	14 trees*, 12 to 32 inches in diameter
120 feet of pressurized line out to Camp Loop drain field under pavement or trails and 400 feet under undisturbed areas.	3	3	No trees greater than 12 inches in diameter Equipment may also clear a 12 foot path of vegetation in undisturbed areas
250 feet of trench for electrical line only for Salmon Group Camp	3	2.5	1 tree, 20 inches in diameter Equipment may also clear a 12 foot path of vegetation in undisturbed areas
<b>River Loop and Campsite Connections</b>			
1600 feet under pavement or other disturbed areas and 285 feet in undisturbed areas	3 to 6	3 to 16	8 trees*, 12 to 24 inches in diameter
<b>Group Loop Connections</b>			
1700 feet under pavement or other disturbed areas and 880 feet in undisturbed areas	3 to 6	3	No trees greater than 12 inches in diameter
1060 feet of pressurized line out to Camp Loop drain field under pavement or gravel road	3	3	No trees greater than 12 inches in diameter Equipment may also clear a 12 foot path of vegetation in undisturbed areas
100 feet of trench for electrical line for Steelhead Group Camp and 125 feet for Trout Group Camp. Would also need one new power pole	3	2.5	1 tree 18 inches in diameter Equipment may also clear a 12 foot path of vegetation in undisturbed areas

\* This assumes a full 16-foot wide trench. If trench is narrower, many of these trees may not be removed.

## Septic Tanks

Tank Location and Size	Tank Depth (feet)	Area Disturbed (feet)	Trees Removed
<b>Camp Loop Campsites</b>			
Between #2 and #4 2 – 8,000 gallon 1 – 5,000 gallon	13	40 by 85	3-7 trees, 12 to 24 inches in diameter
Between #8 and #10 1 – 1,000 gallon	13	24 by 27	2 trees, less than 20 inches in diameter
Between #22 and #24 1 – 1,500 gallon	12	30 by 30	No trees greater than 12 inches in diameter
Between #27 and #29 1 – 5,000 gallon	15	30 by 45	No trees greater than 12 inches in diameter
Between #38 and #40 1 – 1,000 gallon	12	24 by 27	1 trees, 18 inches in diameter
<b>River Loop Campsites</b>			
Near restroom trail 1 – 4,000 gallon	15.5	36 by 45	No trees greater than 12 inches in diameter
<b>Group Loop</b>			
Near Cedars Restroom 1- 5,000 gallon	13	60 X60	4 trees, 14 to 26 inches in diameter
Near Firs Restroom 3- 5,000 gallon	18	30 X45	1 tree, 12 inches in diameter
<b>Park Headquarters</b>			
Main Office Shop 1- 1,000 gallon	10	21 by 24	No trees greater than 12 inches in diameter
Host Site 1- 1,000 gallon	10	21 by 24	No trees greater than 12 inches in diameter
Pump House 1- 5,000 gallon	10	21 X 27	1 tree, 16 inches in diameter

## Drain Fields

Location	Size (feet)	Depth (feet)	Trees Removed
North of Camp Loop	2 fields 90 X 90 each	2	3 trees, 18 to 30 inches in diameter
Northeast of Group Loop	2 fields 60 X 90 each	2	No trees removed
Main Office Shop	30 X 90	2	No trees removed
Host Site	30 X 60	2	No trees removed
Pump House	45 X 150	2	No trees removed

Note: All proposed drain field locations were evaluated and approved for use by Marion County and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

## **Other Related Project Actions:**

**Host Islands:** Two host utility islands would be installed at the host sites near the Firs Restroom and one island at the host site near the Cedars Restroom. These islands would have sewer, water, and electrical hook-ups. The islands would reduce the need for hoses, which are a tripping hazard and would provide a safety barrier against oncoming vehicle traffic. The islands would be located on existing pavement, so no disturbance to vegetation would be necessary.

**Soil Removal and Fill:** An estimated 2,000 cubic yards of soil and rock material not put back into the trenches would be used to help fill in an area approximately 200 feet by 200 feet on a 17-acre parcel of land adjacent to Fishermen's Bend that was recently acquired by the BLM. This parcel is in need of clean fill material due to past quarrying activities. Some of the fill would also be used to provide an overflow parking area approximately 60 feet by 60 feet in size across from Salmon Group Camp. Two trees 16 inches in diameter and one tree 12 inches in diameter would need to be removed for the proposed parking area.

**Roads and Road Construction:** The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Waste Pollution Control Permit would require that we have vehicle access to both of the large drain fields for maintenance purposes. The Group Loop drain field already has an existing gravel road that can be used.

Two new gravel roads are proposed. Road 1 would be approximately 12 feet wide and 560 feet long in order to access the Camp Loop drain field. The area is relatively flat with little vegetation. No trees would need to be removed. Road 2, leading from the park to the fill area, would be approximately 12 feet wide and 360 feet long. The area is relatively flat with little vegetation. No trees over 12 inches in diameter would need to be removed.

## **Additional Design Features**

**Existing Septic Tanks:** All existing septic tanks would be pumped by a licensed service provider and abandoned in place in compliance with all local, state and federal requirements.

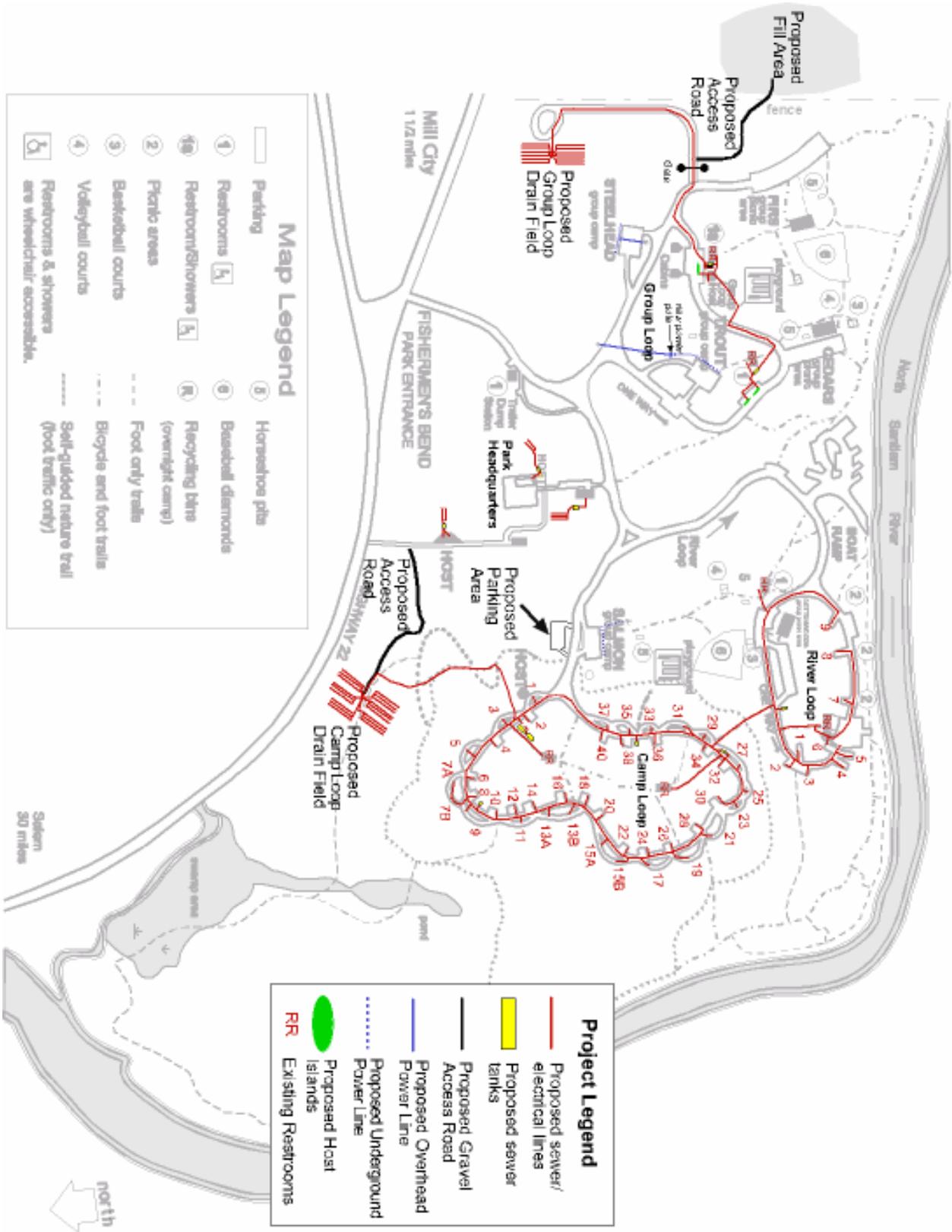
**Road Construction:** Best management practices outlined in Appendix C-2 of the Salem District RMP, May 1995 would be followed in the design and construction of the proposed roads.

**Special Status Species:** A no entry buffer has been posted around the *Pannaria rubiginosa* lichen population site to avoid any potential inadvertent impact to the *Pannaria* population or its habitat. Two mollusk "hot spot" areas have been identified and will be protected. Trees with active and inactive red tree vole nests will be protected as long as they do not pose a safety hazard to the contractor or to the public.

**Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plant Species:** All earth moving equipment and off-road machinery would be cleaned and free of soil, brush, weeds and any part thereof before entering BLM lands to help prevent the spread of any noxious weed species.

**Sewage Pumping:** All required sewage pumping would be done by a licensed service provider.

# Project Map



## **2.3 Alternative 2 (No Action)**

The BLM would not implement any of the proposed action. This alternative serves to set the environmental baseline for comparing effects to the proposed action.

## **3.0 CHAPTER 3.0 – AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT and ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

In accordance with law, regulation, executive order and policy, an interdisciplinary team reviewed the elements of the human environment (Appendix 1) to determine if they would be affected by the alternatives described in Chapter 2.0. Those elements of the human environment that were determined to be affected are Recreation, Visual Resources, Soils, Wildlife, and Vegetation.

### **3.1 Recreation**

#### **Affected Environment**

Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Site is located less than mile west of Mill City, and is open mid-April through October. The park offers a forested setting along the North Santiam River and features 49 family camp units, six family picnic units, three group camps, three large group day-use shelters, two cabins, flush restrooms and showers. The park also has a small nature center with changing natural resource displays, an amphitheater that features nature programs and children’s activities, nature and river access trails, a boat ramp, playgrounds, athletic fields, volleyball courts, basketball courts, and horseshoe pits. These facilities provide for a wide variety of recreational activities including camping, picnicking, boating, walking, bicycle riding, nature study, fishing, water play and the other recreational activities associated with the use of the specialized recreation facilities described above. Volunteer campground hosts and other volunteers assist park staff in the operation of this recreation site. Use fees are required for individual campsites, cabins and all group facilities.

Given the amenities that Fishermen’s Bend already offers, it attracts visitors seeking a more developed experience where social interaction is high. The pull-through sites in the camp loop are very popular for recreational vehicles or trailers and the back-in sites are popular with tent and truck campers. Each of the individual campsites has grey water sumps that do not meet the current requirements of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The few electrical outlets available at group sites are over used to the point that they are flipping electrical breakers. The only onsite disposal system for sewer waste for recreational vehicles, trailers and campers is the dump station located near the entrance to the park.

There are no sewer hook-ups for host sites and hoses have to be run across walking areas to hook into water and electrical outlets.

## **Environmental Effects**

### ***Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)***

The proposed sewer system would be in compliance with the current requirements of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Electrical and sewer service to each individual campsite would be provided and the grey water sumps would be removed and replaced with collectors that are hooked into the sewer system. The load on the park's dump station would be reduced, increasing its potential longevity for serving the remaining group sites.

Fishermen's Bend is often at capacity for much of July and August. This is unlikely to change with the addition of the electrical and sewer hook-ups. The hook-ups may increase occupancy in the park in the lower use part of the season from May through June and September through October.

The addition of the electrical hook-ups would reduce the reliance of larger vehicles on generators and the noise they make. The electrical hook-ups in the group camps would provide additional service and help reduce the pressure on the existing outlets and the potential for unsafe overloads.

The improved sewer and electrical hook-ups for host sites would assist in attracting and retaining quality volunteer hosts that play a critical role in maintaining the park. The utility islands for the host sites in the Group Loop would reduce tripping hazards and provide a safety barrier between host vehicles and oncoming traffic.

Given the relatively high level of amenities the park already offers, the addition of electrical and sewer hook-ups is unlikely to greatly alter the character of the park or the type of visitors it attracts. The hook-ups would simply provide an added service that visitors could choose whether or not to use. Due to parking limitations, back-in sites would most likely continue to be used by tent and truck campers. Input by visitors responding to the projects scoping letter and other visitor survey data indicate that the proposed improvements would be a desirable amenity for most visitors. Some individuals may still choose to use other less developed parks, and several are located within 60 miles of Fishermen's Bend.

Cumulative Effects: No cumulative recreational effects were identified for this project because there are no other planned actions that would affect recreation resources in the park.

### ***Alternative 2 (No Action)***

The sewer facilities would continue to be inadequate for meeting Oregon Department of Environmental Quality standards. As individual systems at each restroom fail, the septic tank would need to be replaced and new drain fields installed. This would involve a relatively high level of disturbance near the restrooms. The closure or replacement of the campsite grey water sumps may be required, causing similar campsite disturbance to the hook-ups described for proposed action without the added benefit of sewer and electrical hook-ups.

Those campers needing electrical power would continue to rely on generators and the noise disturbance associated with generators would continue. If additional hook-ups for group camps are not provided, the existing outlets may need to be removed to reduce safety concerns associated with over use.

## 3.2 Visual Resources

### Affected Environment

All of Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site falls in a Visual Resource Management Class II category, which calls for low levels of change and retention of the existing landscape character. While most of the park provides a forested setting, man-made modifications are very evident including roads, trails, signs, restroom and shelter structures, athletic fields, playgrounds, volleyball courts, and basketball courts. No disturbance associated with the proposed action would be observable from the North Santiam River. Most of the construction work would occur when the park is closed.

**Camp and River Loops:** The removal of vegetation would be most evident in areas that require larger disturbance such as the installation of sewer tanks near campsites 2, 8, 22, 27, and 40. Most of the vegetation being removed near campsites is closer to the road and parking pads, rather than the core camp sites. Some of the potential loss of vegetation may be screened from view by vehicles parked at the sites. Any observable changes from campsites would be in view hours to days depending on how long each campsite is occupied.

The electrical and sewer hook-up infrastructure installed at individual campsites would be observable, but relatively unobtrusive and similar to infrastructure seen at other campgrounds with full hook-ups. Most of the disturbance associated with installing the sewer and electrical hook-ups would be along the parking pads of existing sites, minimizing the amount of vegetation needed to be removed. Vehicles parked on parking pads would also help screen the electrical and sewer hook-ups from the view of those occupying the campsite.

The removal of trees and vegetation along roads and trails between campsites would also be observable, but for shorter periods of time from seconds to minutes while they are driving through the camp loop or walking along roads or trails.

**Group Loop:** None of the proposed trenching activities in the group loop can be observed from any of the group camps or the group day-use facilities. Much of the work occurring near the Group Loop Restrooms would be screened by the host facilities. Any other potential visual changes along roads and trails would be observable to visitors for short periods of time (minutes) while they are driving through the group loop or walking along roads or trails.

**Park Headquarters:** The only public use the area around the Park Headquarters receives is visitors using the pay phone or visitors seeking information and assistance at the park's office. This is already a highly modified area of the park. All of the proposed construction activities in the park headquarters would be screened by maintenance buildings or housing facilities and would not be observable to those visiting the park's office.

**Drain fields:** The Camp Loop and Group Loop drain fields are observable from State Highway 22 for a very short (seconds) period of time. The area around the Camp Loop drain field is open and brushy and has very few trees. The Camp Loop drain field may be seen for a few seconds while walking along the nature trail. The area around the Group Loop drain field is open and grassy.

## **Environmental Effects**

### ***Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)***

Changes to the overall landscape character of the park are expected to be low and would comply with Class II guidelines. Most of the disturbance would be associated with modifications to vegetation. This disturbance would be most observable in the first two years following construction until replanted vegetation has a chance to mature. The replanting of native vegetation would make it less likely that changes would be noticed by the casual observer, however, those who are very familiar with the site may notice some change. The campsites near new sewer tanks would lose some screening, but most of this loss would be next to the parking pad rather than the core area of the campsite. Some of this screening will return as replanted native vegetation grows.

The visual effects to roads and trails would be minimal given that they will be resurfaced. While other areas of the park along roads and trails may show some visual disturbance related to loss of vegetation, they are only occupied by visitors for short periods of time. These areas would also appear more natural in a few years as replanted native vegetation matures.

Cumulative Effects: No cumulative visual effects were identified for this project because there are no other planned actions that would affect vegetation and campsite screening throughout the park.

### ***Alternative 2 (No Action)***

With the exception of unplanned changes (i.e. wildfire, disease etc.) no major modifications to the forested character of the park would be expected to occur.

## **3.3 Soils**

### **Affected Environment**

Soils of Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site are composed almost entirely of "Camas gravelly sandy loam." Soils in the Camas Series were formed in recent alluvium derived mainly from basic igneous and sedimentary rocks. This excessively drained soil complex at Fishermen's Bend has slopes of 0 to 3%, with generally low fertility and available water capacity of three inches or less. Hazard of water erosion is slight when not immediately adjacent to stream flooding.

### **Environmental Effects**

#### ***Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)***

Minimal impacts to soils are expected given that most of the ground disturbing activities would occur on previously disturbed areas including paved roads, parking lots and existing trails. These areas would be resurfaced after work is completed. Areas not being resurfaced would be replanted with native grasses for rapid soil protection and retention. Larger native vegetation would also be planted for longer term rehabilitation. Given the relatively gentle slopes of the project area, the amount of erosion should be small, very localized and would occur mainly during construction and the first year following the completion of the project.

Cumulative Effects: Given the minimal effects of the proposed action on soils and the fact that most of the work would occur on already disturbed areas, no measurable cumulative effects were identified.

### ***Alternative 2 (No Action)***

Since no ground disturbing activities would be implemented, there would be no direct or indirect effects to soils including loss in soil productivity. The current soil processes would continue.

## **3.4 Wildlife**

### **Affected Environment**

#### Survey and Manage Mollusks

The proposed project area was surveyed for Mollusks in accordance with the Survey Protocol for Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusk Species from the Northwest Forest Plan, Version 3.0. Approximately 40 acres within Fishermen's Bend was surveyed, and, *Megomphix hemphilli*, the Oregon Megomphix was found at 11 sites within the project area. Based on Management Recommendations for Terrestrial Mollusk Species, Megomphix hemphilli, the Oregon Megomphix, Management Strategy 3" can be applied to the entire Recreation Site. Two "Hot Spots" of known sites and habitat features, consisting of approximately 20 acres of the northeast quarter of the Recreation Site, and 16 acres along the western edge of the campground loop have been identified and will be managed to emphasize habitat protection, maintenance, and enhancement for Oregon megomphix. This is approximately 18% of the total acres within the Recreation Site. No further restrictions to the proposed action are recommended for Survey and Manage Mollusks.

#### Oregon Red Tree Voles

BLM IB No. OR-2002-033 responds to questions concerning the need for surveys for certain types of projects. According to the IB surveys are not required where the action is considered to be routine maintenance. This includes the removal of hazard trees. However, surveys were conducted on the proposed project for Oregon red tree voles. Six trees that might be affected by the project were identified as potentially having nests. All six trees were climbed and no active nests were identified.

### **Environmental Effects**

#### ***Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)***

#### Survey and Manage Mollusks

The identified protection areas should be sufficient to meet the long term habitat requirements of the Oregon megomphix. Any disturbance to Oregon megomphix habitat features is expected to be minimal, and no major change to overstory shade conditions is expected to occur. No major impacts to Oregon Megomphix populations are expected to occur as a result of implementing the proposed action.

## Oregon Red Tree Voles

No trees with active nests were identified, so no impacts to Oregon red tree voles are expected.

Cumulative Effects: Given that most of the work would occur on already disturbed areas and that very little change to the overall habitat in park is expected, no measurable cumulative effects were identified.

### ***Alternative 2 (No Action)***

With the exception of the ongoing evaluation and removal of hazard trees, or other habitat modifying events (wildfire, wind, disease, etc.), no changes to wildlife habitat in the park would be expected.

## **3.5 Vegetation**

### **Affected Environment**

Most of the construction activities would be contained within or near already disturbed areas including roads, trails and campsites. Existing vegetation consists of grasses, forbs, shrubs in the understory and hardwood and conifer trees in the overstory.

### Special Status/Survey and Manage Species

A small population of just a few individuals of the *Pannaria rubiginosa* lichen was identified during a field review. The locations were identified and added to the project site survey and their protection was incorporated into the proposed action.

### Noxious Weeds

Scotch Broom is the only noxious weed species commonly found within the general vicinity of proposed ground disturbing activities. This species is designated a Priority III (established infestations) on the Oregon Department of Agriculture's noxious weed list. This weed species is commonly found throughout Western Oregon tending to occupy areas of high exposure to light.

### **Environmental Effects**

#### ***Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)***

Most of the disturbance associated with construction would take place under roads, trails or already disturbed areas, minimizing the overall amount of vegetation removed. Some vegetation including trees would need to be removed during the construction project. Some of this vegetation would return naturally and the seeding and replanting of disturbed areas would help the rehabilitation the process.

### Special Status/Survey and Manage Species

The posted “no entry” buffer should be sufficient to avoid any impact to the *Pannaria* population or its habitat.

### Noxious Weeds

Most of ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed action would occur on existing roads, parking areas and trails. These areas would be resurfaced, limiting the potential for noxious weed growth. Soil disturbing activities outside these areas would be the most likely places for weed establishment. Project design features require seeding disturbed areas with native species that allow natural plant succession to occur, therefore reducing the likelihood of invasion of non-native species.

### Cumulative Effects

Given that most of the work would occur on already disturbed areas and that natural areas would be replanted with native vegetation, no measurable cumulative effects were identified.

### *Alternative 2 (No Action)*

With the exception of the ongoing evaluation and removal of hazard trees, or other habitat modifying events (wildfire, wind, disease, etc.), no changes to vegetation in the park would be expected.

## **4.0 CHAPTER 4.0 – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, CONSULTATION, and MONITORING**

### **4.1 Public Scoping and Notification**

#### **Tribal Governments, Adjacent Landowners, General Public, and Federal, State, County and local government offices**

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003 over 900 scoping packets were sent out to potentially affected and/or interested individuals, groups, and agencies. The packets contained a map and description of the proposed sewer and electrical upgrades and a comment sheet. A total of nine responses were received. All public input was assigned a number and filed within the Project Record. The BLM response to the comments received are contained in Appendix 2.

The EA and FONSI will be made available for a 30-day public review period starting on December, 15<sup>th</sup> and ending on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Notification of the comment period will include: the publication of a legal notice in the City of Salem’s Statesman Journal; a copy of the EA and FONSI mailed to those individuals that specifically requested a copy on their scoping comment sheet; a letter to be mailed to those individuals, organizations, and agencies that have requested to be involved in the environmental planning and decision making processes; and posting on the Internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/salem/html/planning> under Environmental Assessments. Comments received in the Salem District Office, Cascades Resource Area Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem,

Oregon 97306, on or before the end of the 30-day comment period will be considered in making the final decision for this project.

## **4.2 Consultation**

### **United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

The proposed action would have no effect on endangered or threatened terrestrial species (northern spotted owl and bald eagle) or their habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)]. The “no effect” determination is based on the location and timing of the project and that the scale of the project is small and will not result in habitat modification.

### **NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service)**

A determination has been made that the proposed action would have no effect on Upper Willamette River steelhead trout or chinook salmon. This determination is based on the design features that include no in-water work, flat ground in the project area that will prevent sediment runoff and a majority of the work occurring over 400 feet from the North Santiam River. Only approximately 300 feet of sewer line will be installed under existing roads and campsite parking pads less than 400 feet but still greater than 100 from the North Santiam River. Due to the ‘no effect’ determination, no consultation with NOAA Fisheries is required.

## **4.3 Monitoring**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Permit Large Onsite WPCF Permit will have system monitoring and reporting requirements. These requirements will be complied with.

## 5.0 CHAPTER 5.0 – LIST OF PREPARERS

The following individuals participated on the interdisciplinary team or were consulted in the preparation of this environmental assessment:

Resource	Specialist	Initials	Date
Botany TES and Special Attention Plant Species	Terry Fennell	TGF	12/9/03
Cultural Resources	Fran Philipek	FUF	12/8/03
Air Quality	Sam Caliva	SAC	12/08/03
Fisheries	Dave Roberts	DAR	12/8/03
Hydrology/Water Quality/Soils	Patrick Hawe	PH	12/8/03
Recreation, Rural Interface and Visual Resources	Laura Graves	LJG	12/8/03
Riparian Ecology	Dave Rosling	DR	12/9/03
Wildlife TES and Special Attention Animal Species	Jim Irving	JIR	12/10/03

## 6.0 APPENDICES

### 6.1 Appendix 1 – Environmental Elements

The table below describes whether the project affects elements of the human environment required by law, regulation, Executive Order and policy in order to support a Finding of No Significant Impact. Critical Elements of the Human Environment (BLM H-1790-1, Appendix 5, and subsequent executive orders) are in *italics*. Affected elements are **bold**.

<b>Elements Of The Human Environment</b>	<b>Status: (i.e., Not Present, Not Affected, or Affected)</b>	<b>Does this project contribute to cumulative effects? Yes/No/NA</b>	<b>Remarks Not affected– why</b>
<i>Adverse Impacts on the National Energy Policy</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	NA	<i>There are no known energy resources located in the project area. The proposed action will have no effect on energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.</i>
<i>Air Quality</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	NA	
<i>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</i>	<i>Not Present</i>		
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	No	<i>There are no known cultural resource sites located within the project area (based on results of surveys S946, S947, S948, S952, S953). If cultural resources are found during the implementation of the proposed action, the project may be redesigned to protect the cultural resource values present, or evaluation and mitigation procedures would be implemented based on recommendations from the District Archaeologist.</i>
<i>Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	NA	<i>The proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.</i>
<i>Prime or Unique Farm Lands</i>	<i>Not Present</i>		
<i>Flood Plains</i>	<i>Not Present</i>		
<i>Hazardous or Solid Wastes</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	NA	<i>All sewage to be disposed of would be completed by a licensed provider.</i>
<b><i>Invasive, Nonnative Species (Executive Order 13112)</i></b>	<b><i>Affected</i></b>	No	<b><i>Effects described in Chapter 3, Section 3.5, pages 13-14.</i></b>
<i>Native American Religious Concerns</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	NA	

<b>Elements Of The Human Environment</b>	<b>Status: (i.e., Not Present , Not Affected, or Affected)</b>	<b>Does this project contribute to cumulative effects? Yes/No/NA</b>	<b>Remarks Not affected– why</b>
<i>Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Fish Species or Habitat</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>The proposed action would have no effect on T/E fish species or habitat. The “no effect” determination is based on project design features that include all project activities occurring on relatively flat topography that will prevent sediment runoff from entering the North Santiam River; most ground disturbing activities occurring at least 400 feet from the river with the small portion of work occurring closer to the river (over 100 feet) being located within an existing road and campsite parking pads.</i>
<i>Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Plant Species or Habitat</i>	<i>Not Present</i>		
<i>Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Wildlife Species or Habitat</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>The proposed action would have no effect on endangered or threatened terrestrial species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)]. The “no effect” determination is based on the location and timing of the project and that the scale of the project is small and will not result in habitat modification (see Chapter 4, Section 4.2, page 16).</i>
<i>Water Quality (Surface and Ground)</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>This proposal is unlikely to affect water quality or quantity or to impede and/or prevent attainment of the stream flow and basin hydrology, channel function, or water quality objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) because all construction activity would occur in an existing recreation site primarily on surfaces that have been previously disturbed. New disturbance to soils, and by extension to aquatic processes, would be limited to the road right of ways and new drain fields all of which are far removed from contact with the North Santiam River.</i>
<i>Wetlands/Riparian Zones</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>While some work may occur within Riparian Reserve, this work would occur in areas previously disturbed and with no riparian vegetation.</i>
<i>Wild and Scenic Rivers</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>The proposed action would not affect either the free-flowing character of the North Santiam River or any of the potential outstandingly remarkable values for which it was found eligible in the Salem District RMP, May 1995.</i>
<i>Wilderness</i>	<i>Not Present</i>		
<i>Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>See water quality, above and other water resources, below.</i>
<i>Coastal zone</i>	<i>Not Present</i>		
<i>Downstream Beneficial Uses</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>See water quality, above.</i>
<i>Fire Hazard/Risk</i>	<i>Not Affected</i>	<i>NA</i>	

<b>Elements Of The Human Environment</b>	<b>Status: (i.e., Not Present, Not Affected, or Affected)</b>	<b>Does this project contribute to cumulative effects? Yes/No/NA</b>	<b>Remarks Not affected– why</b>
Fish Species with Bureau Status and Essential Fish Habitat	Not present		No special status fish species are found within the project area. The project is not expected to have any affect on Essential Fish Habitat as designated under the Magnuson Stevens Act.
Land Uses (right-of-ways, permits, etc)	Not present		
Late successional and old growth species habitat	Not present		
Mineral Resources	Not Present		
<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Affected</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Effects described in Chapter 3, Section 3.1, page 9.</b>
Rural Interface Areas	Not Affected		No concerns associated with rural interface were identified during the scoping process or by staff.
<b>Soils (productivity, erodibility, mass wasting, etc.)</b>	<b>Affected</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Effects described in Chapter 3, Section 3.3, pages 11-12.</b>
Special Areas outside ACECs (Within or Adjacent) (RMP pp. 33-35)	Not Present		
<b>Special Status(except T/E) and SEIS Special Attention Plant Species/Habitat</b>	<b>Affected</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Effects described in Chapter 3, Section 3.3, pages 13-14.</b>
<b>Special Status (except T/E) and SEIS Special Attention Wildlife Species/Habitat</b>	<b>Affected</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Effects described in Chapter 3, Section 3.4, pages 12-13.</b>
<b>Vegetation – Forest Environment</b>	<b>Affected</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Effects described in Chapter 3, Section 3.5, pages 13-14.</b>
<b>Visual Resources</b>	<b>Affected</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Effects described in Chapter 3, Section 3.2, page 11.</b>
Water Resources – Other (303d listed streams, DEQ 319 assessment, water quantity, Key watershed)	Not Affected	NA	Measurable effects to stream flow, channel conditions, and water quality due to the proposed action are unlikely. This action is unlikely to alter the current condition of the aquatic system either by affecting its physical integrity or in-stream flows. The proposed action would also move the drain fields further away from the North Santiam River, decreasing the chance of ground water contamination.
Water Use - Municipal and Domestic	Not Affected		See Water Resources Above.

## 6.2 Appendix 2 – Public Scoping

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003 over 900 scoping packets were sent out potentially affected and/or interested individuals, groups, and agencies. The packets contained a map and description of the proposed sewer and electrical upgrades and a comment sheet. A total of nine responses were received and eight of the nine expressed general support for the proposed action. None of the responses expressed opposition to the project. Other specific questions are summarized below. All public input was assigned a number and filed within the Project Record.

### **Comment 1**

Comment: *“It would be very nice when finished in 2005, but we will miss the original management. Will the new management be in the hands of a private company?”*

BLM Response:

This question is outside the scope of this project. A contract for BLM road maintenance, facilities maintenance and recreation site maintenance in the states of Oregon and Washington has been prepared. Both private contractors and the BLM will have the opportunity to submit bids. The bids will be reviewed and the contract awarded to either a private contractor or the BLM in Spring of 2004.

### **Comment 2**

Comment: *“I wonder if having sewer and electric upgrades at sites will prevent some campers from finding affordable camping. Will the waste disposal site be closed? Will all campsites have sewer/electrical hook-ups?”*

BLM Response:

No changes in facility use fees are proposed as part of this project. Facility use fees would be addressed as part of an upcoming management plan for Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Site. The existing RV dump station would remain open. All of the individual campsites would have sewer and electrical hook-ups. Visitors at group facilities would continue to use the dump station.

### **Comment 3**

Comment: *“Will user fees be increased due to the upgrade?”*

BLM Response:

No changes in facility use fees are proposed as part of this project. Facility use fees would be addressed as part of an upcoming management plan for Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Site.

**Other past visitor input collected:** In the summer of 2002, displays were put up at Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Site asking for visitors to comment on several potential park improvements which included the addition of sewer and electrical hook-ups. Of the 25 responses received, 48 percent indicated support for electrical hook-ups, 12 percent indicated support for sewer hook-ups and 12 percent indicated they did not support electrical and sewer hook-ups. In the summer of 2003, a formal visitor survey was conducted using a standard survey form for the fee demonstration program. One of five site specific questions asked visitors if they would be in favor of electrical hook-ups in the camp and group sites. Of the 126 responses received, 60 percent indicated that they somewhat to strongly supported having electrical hook-ups, 14 percent were neutral, 21 percent somewhat to strongly opposed the electrical hook-ups and 5 percent left the question blank.

### 6.3 Appendix 3 – Sources Cited

Dowlan, S. 2003. *Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site Sewer and Electrical Upgrade: Mollusk Report*. Cascades Resource Area, Salem District, Bureau of Land Management. Salem, OR.

Fennell, T. 2003. *Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site Sewer and Electrical Upgrade: Biological Evaluation For Special Status Plant Species/Survey & Manage Species And Noxious Weeds*. Cascades Resource Area, Salem District, Bureau of Land Management. Salem, OR.

Graves, L. 2003. *Bend Recreation Site Sewer and Electrical Upgrade: Recreation, and Visual Resources*, Cascades Resource Area, Salem District, Bureau of Land Management. Salem, OR.

Hawe, P. 2003. *Bend Recreation Site Sewer and Electrical Upgrade: Hydrology/Channels/Water Quality*, Cascades Resource Area, Salem District, Bureau of Land Management. Salem, OR.

USDA. Forest Service., USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 1994. *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*. Portland, OR.

USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 2002. *North Santiam Watershed Analysis*. Salem, OR.

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USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 1994. *Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement*. Salem, OR.

USDI. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2003. *Formal and Informal Consultation on Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Routine Habitat modification Projects within the Willamette Province*. [Habitat Modification Biological Opinion – FWS reference: 1-7-03-F-0008]. Portland, OR.

### 6.4 Appendix 4 – Glossary

**Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS)** - The Aquatic Conservation Strategy was developed to restore and maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems contained within them on public lands. The strategy would protect salmon and steelhead habitat on federal lands managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management within the range of the Northern Spotted Owl. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy is designed to meet nine objectives. Compliance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives means that an agency must manage the riparian-dependent resources to maintain the existing condition or implement actions to restore biological and physical processes within their ranges of natural variability.

**Best Management Practices (BMP)** - Those practices utilized by the Bureau of Land Management (located in appendix C of the *RMP*) that are intended to maintain or improve water quality and soil productivity.

**Endangered Species Act (ESA)** - An Act of Congress in 1973 that defines the criteria for species

that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Environmental Assessment** – A concise document showing a systematic process of developing reasonable alternatives; and predicting the probable environmental consequences of a proposed action and the alternatives.

**Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)** - A group of resource specialists who conduct the environmental assessments.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** - The basic national charter for the protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals (section 101), and provides means (Section 102) for carrying out the policy.

**Riparian Reserves (RR)** - A Federal (BLM or USFS) land-use allocation which overlays all other land allocations. They are lands along streams and unstable and potentially unstable areas where special standards and guidelines direct land use.

**Riparian Zones** - Those parts of the riparian reserves where actual riparian conditions exist.

**Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (May 1995) (RMP)** - The Management Plan that addresses resource management on all Bureau of Land Management administered land within the Salem District.

**Scoping** - An ongoing process to determine the breadth and depth of an environmental analysis.

**Survey and Manage (S&M)** - A group of species that were defined in the Northwest Forest Plan that have special protection measures associated with them.