

**Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact
For Richland School District Recreation & Public Purpose Lease
EA#OR135-FY04-005/WAOR 59648**

Decision:

It is my decision to select Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) of Environmental Assessment #OR135-FY04-005 to authorize a Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) lease of a 40-acre parcel of public land, to the Richland School District #400. The subject parcel will be leased with an option to purchase, under the authority of the R&PP Act (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

The legal description of subject parcel is: T. 9. N., R. 28 E., Section 6, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Willamette Meridian, Benton County, Washington.

In accordance with procedures set forth in 43 CFR 2740, the land will be leased under the special pricing program at \$80 per year, and if and when conveyed under the special pricing program at \$10 per acre. The sale of the public land will be subject to all valid existing rights. All minerals, and ditches and canals will be reserved to the United States.

The public lands being transferred have been examined in accordance with Section 120(h) of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended. No evidence was found to indicate that any hazardous substance was stored for one year or more or disposed of or released on the property.

The mitigation measures identified in the environmental assessment are accepted and will be carried forward as stipulations in the lease.

Rationale for Decision:

The lease meets the identified need for Richland School District to construct a middle school and athletic fields.

Efforts to design and implement the mitigation measures by the Richland School District, BLM, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and numerous consultants may fail to protect the burrowing owl burrow from direct and indirect impacts of the improvements to Melinda Drive along the northern boundary of the parcel. This impact was considered in my decision making process. Various mitigation measures have been developed, and carrying them forward as lease stipulations is expected to provide appropriate protection considering the analysis done to date.

The decision to adopt Alternative 1 is not expected to result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The proposed action is in conformance with Spokane Resource Management Plan (RMP)(1987), and as amended in 1992. Leasing and eventual disposal of

