

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

No. OR090-98-02

ACCESS PROJECT PLAN

**for the
Lower Lake Creek
Special Recreation Management Area**

I. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. BACKGROUND

The proposed action is located within the Lower Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) along Highway 36 and Lake Creek in Sections 19, 20, and 30 of Township 16 South of Range 7 West. This area has always had a high visitor rate especially during hot summer days. Because of high visitation, in 1973, BLM constructed a stairway from Highway 36 down to the falls site. BLM did this to direct foot traffic onto one path to reduce hillside erosion, vegetation disturbance, and be able to clean up the trash left by visitors. Access to the rock slide, the main attraction, has safety concerns as visitors park along Highway 36 and walk outside of the guardrail. A Recreational Area Management Plan (RAMP) was developed and approved in April 1997 for this area. The proposed action is part of the overall proposals of the RAMP. Diagrams of this proposed access project plan are attached at the end of this document.

B. PURPOSE AND NEED

This proposed action is needed to provide safer access to the Falls site and to provide an alternative day-use area for visitors. The proposed action is a result of public input and direction through the RAMP process. Safety issues were identified as a major concern during the planning process. Among the concerns were traffic hazards along Highway 36 due to the illegal parking and foot traffic. In the past signing has not discouraged illegal parking. Pedestrians usually ignore the path inside the guardrail, and walk on the highway surface. Pedestrians also cross Highway 36 on a blind curve, increasing risks. (Visitors, even outside of Oregon, are attracted to the well “established” Lake Creek Slide/Falls area.

The purpose of this proposed action is to address the above safety concerns by providing safer access facilities to the Falls area while retaining the natural environment as much as possible.

Objectives are to:

- ! reduce foot traffic on Highway 36
- ! provide visitor parking
- ! provide disabled access where appropriate
- ! provide an alternate day-use area, disabled usable
- ! help reduce current crowd capacity to manageable levels
- ! develop the proposed facilities within the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) criteria of Rural and Semi-Primitive

C. CONFORMANCE

The project access plan is in conformance with the **Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994)**, and the **Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP) (June 1995)**.

Land Use Plan Conformance

Plan maintenance documentation postponing surveys for 32 Component 2 and Protection Buffer species was recently completed (“Plan Maintenance Documentation, USDI Bureau of Land Management, To Change the Implementation Schedule for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Species,” approved March 3, 1999). The Proposed Action and alternatives are in conformance with the direction provided in the Plan Maintenance Documentation. The implementation of the plan maintenance is provided for by BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-4).

The effect of the plan maintenance action was analyzed in an environmental assessment, “To Change the Implementation Schedule for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Species,” issued October 7, 1998 (“Schedule Change EA”). The analysis contained in the Schedule Change EA is incorporated into this document by reference. Both the Schedule Change EA and the Plan Maintenance Documentation are available for viewing at the Eugene BLM District Office or on the internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/nwfp.htm>.

D. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

The project access plan is consistent with previously completed documents including the **Lower Lake Creek Special Recreational Management Area Plan (April 1997)**, **Federal Coastal Zone Management Program**, BLM’s **RECREATION 2000: A STRATEGIC PLAN**, **Late-Successional Reserve Assessment, Oregon Coast Range Province, Southern Portion (R0267, R0268)**, and the **Lake Creek Watershed Analysis (June 1995)**.

E. ISSUES NOT ANALYZED

No site specific surveys were completed for any of the 32 Component 2 or Protection Buffer species listed in the Schedule Change EA. However, it is possible that individuals may reside in the project area. The issue of how the Proposed Action and alternatives would impact potential locations of these species was not analyzed because impacts are not expected to exceed those anticipated in the Schedule Change EA.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The proposed action is divided into 2 main development areas, the **lower** and **upper** areas. The **upper** proposed facilities are located above the falls site and include the former parking lot along Highway 36. The **lower** proposed facilities located ½ mile below the falls area, include the power house site and BLM access road #16-7-30.4.

A. PROPOSED ACTION for the LOWER ACCESS FACILITIES

The proposed action consists of 5 developmental phases:

1. Improving the access road (#16-7-30.4)
2. Developing a public parking area
3. Installing a footbridge (disabled accessible)
4. Repairing and constructing the Flume trail - 2 sections:
 - Phase I, accessing the falls
 - Phase II, overlooking the Falls
5. Developing the Powerhouse day-use picnic site (disabled accessible)

Refer to the attached access project plan for a description of these 5 phases.

B. PROPOSED ACTION for the UPPER ACCESS FACILITIES

The proposed action consists of 3 developmental phases:

1. Reopening the upper parking lot
2. Coordinating with ODOT for facility options
3. Constructing a pedestrian boardwalk

Refer to the access project plan for a description of these 3 phases. The construction window for the upper facilities would be between July 1 and Sept 15.

C. NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

A No Action alternative would leave the area as it is, undeveloped for public access, leaving safety issues unaddressed.

D. ALTERNATIVE A (Lower area)

Alternative A pertains only to the proposed action for the **lower** access facilities. In addition to the proposals in the **lower** access facilities it adds a small overflow parking lot. This overflow lot was BLM's previous campground parking lot when

it was in operation in the 70s (refer to diagram #5). This alternative is not part of the current lower access plan but it could be implemented at a future date, if after monitoring the main parking facility that more space outweighs the consequences of this development. This parking lot would:

- Accommodate at least 6 more public vehicles
- Have boulder barriers placed at the end of the lot to prevent vehicles from going into the old BLM campsite (a recovered riparian area)
- Be re-rocked and graded not paved
- Have bollards (wooden posts) installed to keep public vehicles out of the administration parking area
- Have any hazard trees removed

E. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED

Building a trail next to Highway 36 from the **lower** parking lot to the rockslide was considered in the preliminary stages of this access plan. This alternative was abandoned when considering safety issues for hikers and maintenance costs of keeping the trail clear of falling rocks, rubble, and mud. The ground is not stable in several sections and debris from above and below Highway 36 frequently tumbles down the hillside into Lake Creek. Establishing a trail below Highway 36 could encourage parking along the Highway because visitors would know they could “cut down” the embankment to the trail - resulting in hazardous parking, uprooted vegetation, and more slide activity.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The following section describes the existing environment that may be affected by the project plan. This information forms the baseline for measuring changes as described in the next section, Environmental Consequences.

- A. AIR** - Air quality within the project area is excellent with visibility limited only by terrain. Minor localized sources of air pollution exist in the form of automobile exhaust, road dust, and smoke from nearby slash burns or residents burning debris. Smoke sometimes drifts into the canyon but the effect usually is of short duration.
- B. CULTURAL/ARCHEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL** - No documented archeological sites have been found at this time within the project area. In the 1930s, a flume was constructed along the east side of the Falls and bedrock slide area. This flume directed water from the upper falls to the powerhouse, which generated electricity for the local residents. Today one can still see the deteriorating remains of this flume and the powerhouse.

C. FISH, WILDLIFE, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (INCLUDING T&E SPECIES)

Fish - Coho, chinook, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout are the major species in Lake Creek. Resident and anadromous lampreys, sculpins, and mussels also inhabit the creek. Non-native centrarchids, catfish and kokanee were introduced into Triangle Lake immediately upstream and are periodically found at the falls area although they are able to maintain themselves there. Since the 3 fish passages were constructed at the Lake Creek ACEC site in 1989, fish migration is available above the Falls. Most spawning gravel is located below and above the Falls area. Spawning and rearing is limited by the steep gradients and the confined channel. Fish habitat contains riffles, rapids, cascades, and pools. Substrates and cover include turbulence, boulders, cobble, rubble, scattered logs and other large wood debris all of which are found in Lake Creek.

Wildlife - Habitat for the bald eagle, marbled murrelet, and spotted owl is adjacent and included in the project area. An occasional eagle is sighted near the project area and spotted owls may use this site for foraging. Surveys have resulted in detections of marble murrelets, but these birds were only flying over the site. The project site is within a suitable habitat (at least 56%) for the red tree vole.

Reptiles, Amphibians and Mollusks - There are no records of any special status amphibians or reptiles having been observed in or near the project area. Mollusks surveys were completed in the spring of 1998 in conformance with Survey and Manage criteria. The surveys did not find any special status species.

D. GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS - During the Eocene Epoch, thick layers of sediment accumulated in the subsiding basin located in this area. Due to overwhelming amounts of sand and silt diluting marine faunas, the fossil record of this environment is meager. Sedimentary formation in this area has been named the Flournoy Formation, and consists primarily of sandstone and siltstone. During the Pleistocene Epoch, a large block of sandstone slid from the high north slope of the valley to block Lake Creek. This resulted in water being held behind the landslide and forming Triangle Lake. The creek eventually found an outlet against the south wall where it is incised in the bedrock rather than in the landslide material. The Flournoy Formation is very well exposed near the Lake Creek bedrock slide and fish ladder developments.

Other geologic formations within or near the project area include intrusive igneous rocks of gabbroic or basaltic composition, and alluvium. Alluvium consists of unconsolidated silt, sand, and gravel deposited along streams.

E. LAND OWNERSHIP - Adjacent land ownership in the project plan includes: Blachly-Lane Cooperative Electric Association, Willamette Industries, Seneca Jones Timber Company, and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

F. RECREATION MANAGEMENT SITUATION - General recreation activities within the project area include watching wildlife (usually fish), picnicking, and water activities such as swimming, water sliding, and diving. Existing developments include a stairway and an interpretation sign. The lower project area

once had (through the 60s-80s) an operating BLM campground, rocked road, and hiking trail. The campground located along the creek bed was prone to flooding every winter. The rocked road is now covered with vegetation and had a washed out culvert (winter floods of 1997) which was restored in 1998. Also existing on the lower project site are the powerhouse with its overgrown parking area, pump shed, and residence that was razed by the Lake Creek Rural Fire Protection District fall of 1997. The winter of 1997 brought several slides to the canyon area, some major ones along Highway 36 and other minor ones within the project site. BLM initiated visitor services during the summers of 1997 and 1998 resulting in a reduction of vandalism, loud parties, resource damage, and improved some safety issues for visitors. The area has not been managed for any Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class prescription that applies a set of criteria (BLM Manual 8320) to define a land area's capability and suitability for providing a particular range of recreational experience opportunities. There are no known commercial uses within the project plan area.

Public motorized access is available by using State Highway 36 and BLM Road Number 16-7-30.4 that access the planned lower parking lot. OHV use is designated under the RMP as "limited to designated roads". OHV use is naturally discouraged by the steep canyon type terrain and heavy vegetation.

- G. SCENERY - VISUAL RESOURCES** - Lake Creek Falls, approximately 20 feet in height, is an attractive site. Lake Creek with rushing water, falls, and quiet pools offer a variety of sights and sounds for the visitor. Vegetation is lush during the summer months and bright with colors in the fall. The project area is heavily forested and has a lot of undergrowth, which limits distance viewing in the creek areas during the summer. Riparian areas with their deciduous plant species create viewing areas during winter months.

Both project areas have steep hillsides forming a narrow gorge along Lake Creek. Due to the roadside and riparian vegetation an adjacent landowner's timber harvest (1997) cannot readily be seen from the project area.

The BLM's Visual Resource Management (VRM) System establishes management classes that set standards for maintaining the visual resources. This inventory classified the project area as A for scenic quality. The sensitivity rating was high for the project area. The project area has had little change since this inventory was completed. The RMP designates the project area to be managed under Class II. This allows management activities to retain the existing character of the landscape.

- H. SOILS** - The project areas have predominantly Digger and Meda Soil Series (Lane County Soil Survey, Soil Conservation Service, USDA). Digger soil is a moderately deep (20-40%), well drained gravelly to very gravelly loam formed in colluvium and residuum weathered from sandstone and siltstone. Meda soil is a deep, well drained loam and clay loam formed in alluvium and colluvium on fans and terraces.

- I. TOPOGRAPHY** - The upper and lower facilities proposed in this project plan are confined in a steep canyon. This canyon begins to widen and has some flat areas where the lower facilities are proposed.
- J. VEGETATION** - There is a mixed coniferous-deciduous forest at this elevation (700 feet) with a dense covering of ferns and mosses on the forest floor. Poison oak mixed with ferns and Devil's club also occurs within the project area. In general, the conifers dominate the valley walls, while the deciduous trees are more common in the riparian areas. Identifications indicate a typical coastal rain forest assemblage. Different portions of the project area have been botanically surveyed over a number of years since 1992. A botanical survey was conducted in the immediate vicinity of the bedrock slide area during 1992, no Special Status plants were located at that time. In 1993 one of the proposed flume trail routes was surveyed and approximately 14 plants of a Bureau Sensitive species *Cimicifuga elata*, (tall bugbane), were located. Surveys were also done in 1997 including the day-use site. This survey located additional *Cimicifuga elata*. There are also a number of nonnative plants within the proposed project. These plants are *Hedera helix* (English Ivy) near the pumphouse site and Himalayan blackberry in the day-use area. Survey and Manage surveys were completed in 1998 and no listed species were documented.
- K. WATER** - Lake Creek usually has low summer flows, between 20 and 50 cubic feet per second (CFS). Winter peak flows range between 2,000 and 6,000 CFS. Flooding is common downstream. Although no water quality data is available, some problems in the past have occurred. There has been one case of hepatitis reported in the 70s contracted from drinking water from Lake Creek near the previously decommissioned BLM campground site. Water quality may be negatively affected by lack of sanitation units along the populated creek. Triangle Lake above the project site influences the water quality of Lake Creek. Residents with septic tanks and motor boat activity are some of the possible contributors to water quality issues. Some contaminants such as bacteria, petroleum products, and dissolved solids can pollute Triangle Lake and may affect downstream water quality. Most suspended solids (sediment) settle out in the Lake; therefore, the water appears clean.
- L. WETLAND/RIPARIAN ZONES** - Lake Creek project area has a very narrow riparian zone surrounded by steep canyon slopes. The riparian zone at the powerhouse day-use area is broader and, therefore, functions more effectively. The project area Falls within a 50-year flood plain. Low areas flood during most rainy seasons, excluding the powerhouse site.
- M. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS** - Lake Creek (Segment B) flowing through this project area, was identified in the RMP as an eligible river under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. It has Outstandingly Remarkable Values for its fish runs and rearing habitats for anadromous salmonids in the Siuslaw Basin. Lake Creek has not been assessed and, therefore, the RMP provides interim management to protect its identified fish values until suitability for inclusion in the National System is determined.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The following are either not present or would not be affected by the Proposed Action or Alternatives: **air quality, cultural resources, farm lands, flood plains, Native American Religious Concerns, soils, reptiles and amphibians, mollusks, minority or low income populations, hazardous materials, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species, and wilderness.**

A. IMPACTS FROM THE PROPOSED ACTION

VEGETATION

- ! The proposed action should not adversely impact *Cimicifuga elata*. Monitoring the survival and condition of this species will continue to assess the effect of recreation pressures. Survey and Manage surveys were completed in 1998 and no species were documented. Seeding for erosion control is not foreseen due to anticipation of low disturbance. In the event that seeding of areas is determined to be necessary the botanist would provide input as to what seed mix would be appropriate to retain native species.
- ! Survey and Manage surveys were completed in 1998 and no species were documented for the project site.
- ! Impacts to vegetation would be minor during construction of facilities. Removal of vegetation for trail clearing would occur although much of the trail is along an overgrown established route. A botany clearance would be done for the overlook trail route once this future section is designed. The access trail route has already been cleared of botany concerns.
- ! The proposed plan minimizes the removal of trees for the parking lot and sanitation unit within the project area; however, some existing hazard trees or potentially hazardous portions of trees would need to be removed for visitor safety. Any large trees removed may be used for fish habitat by installing them in Lake Creek.
- ! The access road is on an existing road grade, and a lot of the access trail is along an established flume route, reducing any new ground breaking disturbance and minimizing disturbance to vegetation.

RECREATION

- ! Public safety would improve by directing visitors away from Highway 36.
- ! There would be a designated parking area for visitors located below the highway.

- ! Visitor appreciation for the area would be enhanced with interpretation, disabled overlook for viewing fish, and a hiking trail along the old flume route.
- ! The Proposed Action would encourage families and nature lovers to visit the area instead of the “party types”, and thus change visitor dynamics. This user group change was beginning to occur at the end of the first season (1997) of intensive BLM presence on site.
- ! Sanitation would be implemented with a permanent sanitation unit near the bridge site.
- ! Crowd control of the Lake Creek ACEC (rock slide area) would be implemented with the smaller parking facility, BLM presence, alternate disabled accessible day-use area, and ½ mile access hiking trail, influencing carrying capacity in the targeted area of 50 visitors or less at a time.

FISH & WILDLIFE

- ! Additional impacts to wildlife from this plan are expected to be negligible because of the fact that visitors and vehicles are always near or in the project area creating a norm for wildlife.
- ! Removal of landslide material and creation of boardwalk has potential for a short-term increase in sediment and channel disturbance. The shoulder widening to accommodate the boardwalk has the potential to reduce the channel width and create disturbance during construction.
- ! This proposed project was judged to be “No Affect” on Federally listed terrestrial vertebrate species. Three such species are known or suspected to be present, at times, in the vicinity and they are the bald eagle, marbled murrelet and the northern spotted owl.

Modification of the parking area, and construction of the proposed trail may require the felling of several trees only if they present a safety hazard. It is not expected that conifers would be cut, and few, if any hardwoods would be felled for these purposes. Consequently, no suitable habitat for the above mentioned species would be removed.

Some noise could be created by machinery. However, this temporary disturbance would be overshadowed by continuous noise of the adjacent State highway and large groups of people who regularly frequent the area immediately adjacent to the proposed site.

- ! No habitat for the red tree vole is expected to be modified during this action, unless hazard trees are identified. Yet, the removal of hazard trees would not reduce the red tree vole habitat below the 40% threshold considered adequate for this species, as 56% (well above the minimum

threshold) of the forested acres within the watershed is considered suitable habitat for the red tree vole.

- ! Restoration of the washed out culvert under the access road would help stabilize the tributary, improve fish habitat, reduce sediment delivery to Lake Creek, and reestablish the road crossing for administration parking and public access to the new facilities.

TOPOGRAPHY - Impacts to the topography would be minor as most construction is on pre-existing site location.

LAND OWNERSHIP - There could be an impact with Blachly-Lane Coop lands regarding locating a safe overlook trail route. Currently the boundary line is not established between the 2 properties and, if the trail route needs to cross into Blachly-Lane lands, BLM would need to acquire their permission by an easement.

WETLAND/RIPARIAN ZONES - Riparian Zone - some trail construction and bridge construction would temporarily disrupt the riparian site but it is anticipated to recover within a growing season.

WATER QUALITY - The sanitation unit selected would ensure that water quality is maintained and would be monitored and maintained in accordance with the SEIS/ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management direction.

SCENERY - VISUAL RESOURCES - The proposed action visually enhances the area with removal of the deteriorating powerhouse, debris removal left from former landowners and vandals, and placement of facilities according to ROS guidelines.

COMBINED RESOURCES

- ! The proposed plan would construct new facilities to minimize the diversion of natural water flow, reduce sediment, protect fish and wildlife, and accommodate a 100-year flood event.
- ! The proposed action avoids developing known slide areas with developments to ensure safety to users and to ensure water quality and aquatic conservation strategy objectives.
- ! The proposed action would only minimally disturb vegetation, water, and soils as road, parking lot, and facilities are mostly constructed on preexisting road grades, trails, and resident area.

B. IMPACTS FROM NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

- ! Public access would continue to be unsafe without designated parking and pedestrian access trail.
- ! The sanitation issue would continue to be unaddressed, resulting in continuing health concerns.

- ! Removal of all “debris” left at the Powerhouse site would not be possible, possibly causing some safety issues as well as being a visual “eye sore”.

C. IMPACTS FROM ALTERNATIVE A

Alternative A adds a small overflow parking area that would be on a pre-existing site, everything else is the same. Impacts from Alternative A would be the same as the proposed action except for the following:

- ! Some resource disturbance may result as this lot is located in a way that visitors could be more inclined to explore the undeveloped riparian area (old campground site) than follow the sign to the designated day-use facilities or the trail system. This could result in additional impacts to vegetation as well as having visitors in unmanaged areas.
- ! More visitors (6-24, based upon passenger capacity) would be encouraged to visit the site, which would counter techniques for limiting the number of visitors to the site.

V. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- A. **PROPOSED ACTION** - The Proposed Action would not result in significant cumulative effects. The site specific effects on vegetation and soils described herein as well as other resources would be very minor and temporary. Some vegetation loss can be expected during facility development but most development is occurring on pre-existing road grades, trails and resident area.
- B. **NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE** - By not implementing the Proposed Action there would be no cumulative effects except for the continuing trend of overcrowding on hot days, obnoxious visitor behavior, and an increased potential for traffic/pedestrian accidents along Highway 36.
- C. **ALTERNATIVE A** - Alternative A would be the same as the Proposed Action as it would not result in significant cumulative effects.
- D. **OTHER IMPACTS** - There are no other known activities scheduled within this project area. There is a fish habitat restoration project proposed to happen in the near future - possibly in 1998 - within the Lower Lake Creek Special Recreation Area Management Area (SRMA). This habitat enhancement project would be in Lake Creek just downstream and adjacent to the powerhouse site. An EA would be prepared for that project.

VI. MITIGATION

Surveys for the 32 species listed in the Schedule Change EA will begin if technical feasibility problems can be solved. If it is determined by species experts that survey feasibility issues have been resolved throughout the suspected range of any of the 32 species, and if a letter of direction is received prior to issuance of a Decision Record, surveys and appropriate management actions would be implemented.

VII. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

During this planning process the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was consulted. Their coast province level 1 team reached an impacts determination of likely to adversely affect because of potential transient siltation and disturbance to juvenile and adult coho salmon and steelhead trout passing through the project area. In the subsequent biological opinion on the project from the National Marine Fisheries Service, the service agreed to the project and with the likely to adversely affect impact findings during construction. The change in adding the upper facilities to this access project plan will require re-initiation of consultation with NMFS. The Biological Assessment (BA) will be submitted to NMFS in March 1999.

BLM employees who were consulted were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
John Applegarth	Wildlife Biologist (amphibians)
Graham Armstrong	Hydrologist
Woody Banks	Civil Engineering Technician
Glen Gard	Environmental Protection Specialist
Phil Redlinger	Silviculturist
Gerald Russell	Civil Engineer
Dennis Smith	Recreation Maintenance
Mike Southard	District Archaeologist
Kipp Wagner	Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
Barry Williams	Soil Scientist
Joe Williams	Recreation Specialist

VIII. LIST OF PREPARERS

BLM employees who helped prepare this document were:

Name	Title
Neil Armantrout	Fishery Biologist
Dan Crannell	T & E Biologist
Russ Hammer	Fishery Biologist
Gary Hoppe	Landscape Planner/Environmental Coordinator
Jeanne Hutcheson	Editorial Assistant
Saundra Miles	Recreation Planner, lead writer
Kathy Pendergrass	Botanist
Mark Stephen	Forest Ecologist

IX. MAILING LIST

This EA will be available for public review and mailed to the following interested parties and organizations:

John Bianco - Creswell
Blachly-Lane Electric - Eugene
Board of Lane County Commissioners
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, & Siuslaw Indians - Coos Bay
Congressman Peter Defazio - Eugene
Dept. Of Land Conservation and Development - Salem
Governor's Forest Planning Team - Salem
Kalapooya Sacred Circle Alliance - Springfield
Charles & Reida Kimmel - Eugene
Pam Hewitt - Marcola
Lake Creek RFPD - Blachly
Department of Environmental Quality - Portland
Lane County Land Management - Eugene
Leigh Ann Lipscomb - Eugene
Ann Mathews - Eugene
Oregon Natural Resources Council - Eugene
Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife - Corvallis, Newport, Springfield
Oregon Dept of Forestry - Veneta
Oregon Dept of Transportation - Springfield
Oregon State Police - Florence
The Pacific Rivers Council - Eugene
John Poynter - Lorane
Peter Saraceno - Eugene
Harold Schoreder - Eugene
Roseburg Forest Resources - Roseburg
Seneca Jones Timber Co LP - Eugene
Mike Sheetz - Springfield
Craig Tupper - Eugene
Sierra Club - Many Rivers Group - Eugene
State Representative Jim Welsh - Salem
Swanson-Superior Forest Products - Noti
Triangle Lake Grange #533
US Fish & Wildlife Service - Portland
USFS-Siuslaw National Forest - Mapleton
West Coast Forest Resources LP - Reedsport
Weyerhaeuser Company - Springfield
Willamette Industries, Inc. - Eugene
Jan Wroncy - Eugene

Preliminary
Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Lower Lake Creek Access Plan

Environmental Assessment No. OR090-98-02

FONSI:

The Coast Range Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management has analyzed a proposal for the Lower Lake Creek Access Plan. The proposed project prescribes for the upper area to reopen the parking lot and construct a pedestrian trail and boardwalk to the stairway. The plan for the lower area prescribes developing a parking area, pedestrian footbridge, a day-use picnic area, disable access facilities and renovation of the Blachly-Lane Flume trail. The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) #OR090-98-02 contains a detailed description and analysis of the proposed actions. This EA was prepared under the guidance provided by the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994)* and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (June 1995)* and is consistent with these documents.

On the basis of the information contained in the EA and all other information available to me as summarized above, it is the determination of the Bureau of Land Management that the Lower Lake Creek Access Plan does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.