

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND
DECISION RECORD**

**Proposal To Reserve A Federal Land Policy Management Act Right-of-Way
To Bonneville Power Administration For Road Access To An Existing
Power Line Corridor**

EA OR 090-00-19

BACKGROUND

The Interdisciplinary Team for the McKenzie Resource Area, Eugene District, Bureau of Land Management has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and analyzed a proposal from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to obtain permanent access to an existing power corridor constructed over BLM Land. The analysis looked at two action alternatives; (1) Constructing a new access road approximately 900 feet in length, or (2) reopening an existing road which had been closed since 1995 because of failing log culverts. The EA and a preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were made available for public comment May 17, 2000 to June 1, 2000. No public comments were received.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the information contained in the EA (OR 090-EA-00-19) and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the Proposed Action or Alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in 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* (May 1995), with which this EA is in conformance, and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

DECISION

It is the decision of the Bureau of the Land Management to implement the Proposal To Reserve A Federal Land Policy Management Act Right-of-Way to Bonneville Power Administration For Road Access To An Existing Power Line Corridor (the Proposed Action as described in EA No. OR 090-EA-00-19). The authority for the reservation of right-of-way is Section 507 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act.

Implementation of this decision will result in constructing a new access road approximately 900 feet in length and decommissioning 1,000 feet of existing road as described in the Proposed Action. All design features of the Proposed Action described in the EA will be implemented.

The selected alternative is in conformance with the following documents:

“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;

“Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan,” May 1995.

ALTERNATIVES

In addition to the Proposed Action, the EA considered two other alternatives in detail: Alternative III would re-open and use existing Road 17-1-22, which would include two low water crossings. The No Action Alternative would involve no management activities at this time. Alternatives to specific features of the Proposed Action were not analyzed in detail because they would not have resulted in measurable differences in impacts.

RATIONALE FOR SELECTION

The purpose of the action is to control and prevent road related run-off and sediment production, and provide Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) road access to their existing power line corridor.

The Proposed Action would most effectively meet the purpose of the action because it would provide restoration to an existing road that parallels a perennial creek (Rawhide Creek), would also provide BPA access to their power line corridor, and install a gate at the junction of Road 17-1-15.1 to control unauthorized vehicle access onto Road 17-1-22. Based on the analysis discussed and presented in the EA, the Proposed Action is consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and the objectives for the Riparian Reserves, and would not prevent or retard attainment of any of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (EA, p. 4-5).

Alternative III also meets the purpose of the action (EA, p. 6). Alternative III provides access also but reopens an existing road that parallels Rawhide Creek that was previously closed because of flood damage. This would keep the road inside the riparian zone and would not result in efforts to restore the riparian zone.

The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose of the action because it would not consider restoration activities, nor would it consider constructing an access road for BPA.

Approved by: Emily Rice Date: June 6, 2000
McKenzie Field Manager