

**DECISION RECORD for the
BARNES VALLEY CREEK CROSSING UPGRADE
Environmental Assessment #-OR-014-00-02**

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the proposed action (Alternative I) and project design features identified in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Barnes Valley Creek Crossing Upgrade FY2000 Project, with the following modifications:

1. Road no. 41-14E-11 will be signed and gated at both sides of the Barnes Valley Creek crossing, approximately 200 yards from the crossing. During high water, iciness, or heavy snow, the crossing will be closed to vehicular traffic as a safety precaution. This closure would occur under authority for closures and restrictions, CFR 8364.1.
2. The crossing will be constructed with a turn-around pad available at both ends of the crossing such that vehicles can easily turn around without reversing several hundred yards uphill.

These measures were verbally suggested during the public comment period by nearby landowners to address safety concerns.

DECISION RATIONALE

The proposed alternative has the best combination of features to meet project objectives of improving fish passage and habitat. This alternative appears to be the most cost-effective means to achieve those objectives. Hydrologic function would improve by replacing the existing structure with one that has a shape and materials more consistent with the geomorphic setting of the project area. Sedimentation to the stream from the road will be reduced to less damaging levels. This project is one step toward attainment of recovery goals outlined in the Lost River (*Deltistes luxatus*) and shortnose (*Chasmistes brevirostris*) sucker Recovery Plan. Project design features adequately protect environmental resources and minimize the risk of adverse effects which might result from implementing the project. The Klamath Falls Resource Area determined that the project, as designed "may affect, not likely to adversely effect endangered shortnose sucker". A letter of U.S. Fish and Wildlife concurrence with that determination Service is dated September 11, 2000.

The No-Action alternative was not selected because the environmental consequences of maintaining a fish passage barrier does not lead towards attainment of fish habitat management objectives described the Klamath Falls Resource Area Management Plan.



Field Manager
Teresa A. Raml
Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

Date 12/27/00