

**DECISION RECORD
FOR
JC Boyle Canal Rockslide Mitigation
Environmental Assessment # OR 014-06-04**

INTRODUCTION

On December 2, 2005, a sudden failure of the uphill slope above the JC Boyle Canal resulted in a rockslide and deposition of rock and other earthen debris in the upper canal access road, the JC Boyle Canal and along the west bank of the Klamath River directly below the slide location. In addition, the rockslide resulted in the closure of the upper canal access road (a road used by the public to access recreational sites below the JC Boyle Powerhouse); damaged a section of the JC Boyle Canal, and left the remaining portion of the uphill slope unstable and prone to potential sudden catastrophic failure. To mitigate the effects of the slide and reduce the potential for further sudden failure of the slope, PacifiCorp submitted a proposal to implement "Emergency Stabilization" methods to structurally stabilize the remaining rock wall on the uphill side of the slide, including BLM-administered lands in the Klamath River Canyon. The effects of implementation of the emergency stabilization activities were analyzed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) #OR-014-06-04.

DECISION

It is my decision to authorize implementation of the JC Boyle Canal Rockslide Mitigation and Stabilization actions as analyzed in EA #OR-014-06-04. Specifically, this decision will result in the implementation of the following actions:

- Hand scaling of the rock slope
- Cable lashing
- Installation of draped cable nets
- Installation of rock bolts
- Installing modified cable net fence

Mitigation

The following specific mitigation measures listed in the EA will be implemented:

- Silt fences or stacked hay bales will be installed in the road ditch down gradient from stabilization work. The silt fences or stacked hay bales will be used trap sediment prior to the initiation of work activities. The road ditch will be reshaped and the sediment trapping devices will be kept in place through at least the first wet season after project completion. Trapped sediment will be removed from ditches and placed in stable locations (i.e., low relief areas not connected to watercourses).
- The rockslide and subsequent canal water break resulted in the deposition of rock and other earthen debris along the west bank of the Klamath River and the discharge of sediment in the river. Rock scaling and installation of rock bolts, draped cable net and rock fence will reduce the potential for further rockslides and discharge of sediment in the river in the area directly below the site of the proposed stabilization work. In addition, the proposed plan to revegetate the disturbed area located above the west bank of the

Klamath River will stabilize loose soils and other slide debris and mitigate the potential for further discharge of sediment into the Klamath River.

- Revegetation of the slide area above the west bank of the Klamath River will restore the vegetative cover in the area of the slide and reduce the visible evidence of recent slide activity.
- The draped cable net and cable net fence will be constructed from non reflective zinc-coated steel, thus reducing its visibility within the surrounding viewshed.
- Public road access to the Klamath River Canyon downstream of the project area will be provided.

Monitoring

Stabilization actions taken, including mitigations, will be monitored for effectiveness in accomplishing objectives and minimizing potential impacts.

Resources Not Present/Not Affected

The following resources are not present and/or not affected by the proposed rockslide stabilization activities: prime and unique farmlands, floodplains, Wild and Scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species, mining claims, cultural or paleontological resources, hazardous materials, roadless areas, wilderness areas, and wilderness study areas.

Environmental Consequences

I have determined that implementation of the Proposed Action, including listed mitigation measures, will result in effects that are no greater than those described in the EA #OR-014-06-04 and the Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (KFRA RMP/EIS).

RATIONALE FOR SELECTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The decision to implement the Proposed Action meets the purpose and need identified in the EA to provide for public safety through the proposed emergency stabilization activities and furthers the intent established in the RMP to protect resource values.

The No Action Alternative is rejected because it does not meet the purpose and need for action identified in the EA.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

No listed species or their habitat would be affected by actions under this Decision. A "No Effect" determination was made by the BLM for all listed species.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information in the EA and project record, I conclude that this proposed action is tiered to and consistent with the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (June 1995).

This decision is consistent with the *Endangered Species Act*, the *Native American Religious Freedom Act*, cultural resource management laws and regulations, and Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice). This decision will not have any adverse effects to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution (per Executive Order 13212). No effects beyond those

anticipated in the EA or the KFRA RMP EIS would occur. (Refer to the accompanying Finding of No Significant Impact.)

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

This decision is issued effective immediately due to the potential immediate substantial risk of sudden catastrophic failure of the remaining portion of the slope uphill from the Powerhouse access road and J.C. Boyle Canal and the resulting potential risk to human safety. This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. Thus, notwithstanding the provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(a)(1), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of the decision. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted below, within 30 days from receipt of this decision.

Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
2795 Anderson Ave, Building 25
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. The Interior Board of Land Appeals must decide an appeal of this decision within 60 days after all pleadings have been filed, and within 180 days after the appeal was filed (43 CFR 4.416). A copy of the notice of appeal, statement of reasons, and other documents should be sent to the:


Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region
U.S. Department of the Interior
Lloyd 500 Builder, Suite 607
500 N.E. Multnomah Street
Portland, OR 97232

If the statement of reasons is filed separately it must be sent to the:

Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearing and Appeals
4015 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22203

It is suggested that any notice of appeal be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

Before deciding to file an appeal, I encourage you to contact me to determine if your concerns might be met in some other way, or to assist you in the appeal process if it is appropriate. Thank you for your continued interest in the multiple use management of your public lands.



Jon Raby, Manager
Klamath Falls Resource Area
Lakeview District, Bureau of Land Management

4/14/06
Date

Map of Proposed Stabilization Activities

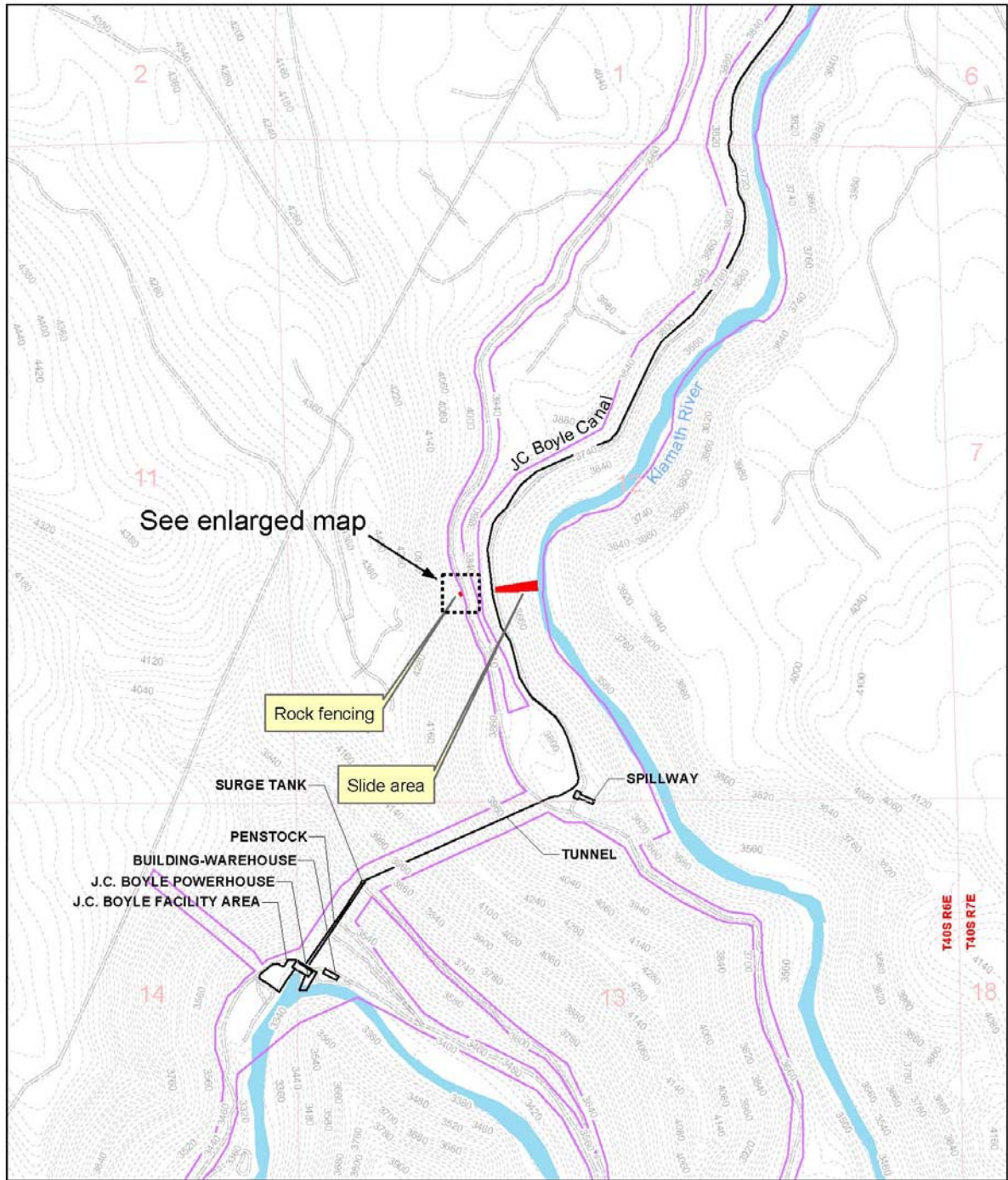
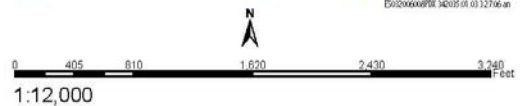


Figure 2
JC Boyle
Rockslide Area

- Hydro Facilities
- Roads
- FERC Boundary
- River
- section polygon
- Topography
- JC Boyle Canal Repair Area



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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for the
J.C. Boyle Canal Rockslide Mitigation
Environmental Assessment (EA) #OR-014-06-04

The Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and analyzed a proposal to implement Emergency Stabilization methods to structurally stabilize the section of rock wall remaining on the uphill side of the rock slide that occurred on December 2, 2005.

The proposed action to use stabilization methods and install structural controls on BLM Administered Lands includes:

1. Scaling - This work consists of removing loose blocks using hand tools. Scaling will occur on the slope above the upper canal access road for a length of roughly 150 feet.
2. Cable Lashing - Cable lashing will be installed to provide support during construction operations as well as long-term support of the larger blocks that comprise the north side of the rock outcrop.
3. Draped Cable Nets - Approximately 288 square feet of draped cable nets installed the full height on the northern portion of the rock outcrop
4. Rock Bolting - Installation of approximately fifty-five (55) rock bolts to provide needed support to the outcrop.
5. Modified Cable Net Catch Fence - A modified cable net catch fence, 165 feet long would be installed approximately 10 feet up the slope above the top of the road cut.

The stabilization activities and installation of structural controls will be conducted using a crane positioned along the upper canal access road. No new access roads or other surface disturbance, other than the activities described above, will be required to complete the work. No hazardous materials will be used during the installation of structural controls. Non toxic grout will be used to secure rock bolts, anchors and fence posts. Certified Engineering Geologist through Cornforth Consultants will perform construction monitoring services during the stabilization project.

Based on the information in the EA, it is my determination that the proposed action analyzed does not constitute a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the Final - Klamath Falls Resource Area Management Plan and EIS (KFRA RMP/FEIS - September 1994), and its Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (KFRA ROD/RMP - June, 1995). As designed, including mitigations, the project will contribute to meeting the Management Action/Direction and Objectives of the Klamath Falls Resource Area RMP and will have no affect on prime and unique farmlands, floodplains, Wild and Scenic rivers, water quality, air quality, threatened or endangered species, mining claims, hazardous materials, cultural/paleontological resources, roadless areas, wilderness/wilderness study areas, low income/minority populations, or energy production. Impacts to soils will be minor. Additional impacts on aesthetic qualities of this area will be negligible.

It is my determination that the proposed action does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement, or a supplement to the existing RMP or Environmental Impact Statement, is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Signed


Jon Raby, Field Manager
Klamath Falls Resource Area

Date

4/14/06