

**DECISION RECORD for the  
MINERS CREEK CULVERT REMOVAL AND  
ROAD DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT  
Environmental Assessment # OR-014-01-06**

**DECISION**

Based on site-specific analysis, the supporting project record, management recommendations contained in the Spencer Creek Watershed Analysis (1994), and management direction contained in the Klamath Falls Resource area RMP, I have decided to implement Miners Creek Culvert Removal and Road Decommissioning Project as described in the proposed action, Alternative 2.

**Description of the selected alternative:** Two existing undersized culverts on Miners Creek would be removed. The stream channel at the crossings will be stabilized so that erosion potential and sedimentation are minimized. Rock and log step pool grade controls would be installed where necessary to stabilize sediment accumulated behind the culverts and to provide habitat and fish passage in the stream. A third rock structure would be installed at the mouth Miners Creek at Spencer Creek on private timberlands below BLM project area. The structure on private timberlands would be installed to improve fish passage and prevent further channel head-cutting. Approximately 1.2 miles of BLM road in the inner gorge of Miners Creek would be obliterated and/or decommissioned. A total of 3.2 miles of road in Section 33 would be obliterated or decommissioned. Roads affected would be #38-6E-33.02 (upper culvert) and #38-6E-33.04 (lower culvert). Approximately 0.3 miles of private commercial forestland road would be decommissioned at the mouth of Miners Creek by installing roadblocks.

**DECISION RATIONALE**

The selected alternative addresses the identified purpose and need for action in that it decommissions or obliterates (3.2 miles) of BLM roads and 0.3 miles of adjacent private roads and removes fish migration barriers. The selected alternative is consistent with applicable land use plans, policies, and programs (EA, pp1). Through the interdisciplinary team process, it was determined that maintaining the roads for future use was not necessary. The selected alternative provides for the lowest maintenance costs and the best protection for aquatic resources in Miners Creek. The selected alternative will improve water quality and help to support the maintenance of the long-term viability of aquatic species found in the Spencer Creek watershed (EA, pp. 6-10.) Public comment included two written endorsements supporting alternative 2, the proposed action.

Although the selected alternative has a low probability of short-term adverse effects to water quality and fish resulting from turbidity associated with removal of culverts, the high probability of long-term beneficial impacts outweighs the predicted short-term impacts (EA, pp.10-11). Project design features adequately protect environmental resources and minimize the risk of adverse effects that might result from implementing the project.

Alternative 1 (Upgrade existing culverts and maintain current road access) was not selected because the need for keeping the road was not demonstrated. The need to keep these roads in our transportation system did not outweigh the cost of upgrading the stream crossings to provide adequate fish passage, reduce sediment delivery, and provide for passage of 100 year flood events. Additionally, this alternative would not lead towards reduction in road densities or reduced number of stream crossings.

The "no action" alternative was not selected because it does not address the purpose and need for action to reduce sedimentation from road crossings, remove fish migration barriers, and eliminate the risk of culvert failure due to undersized pipe culverts. The "no action" alternative would not alleviate the long-term adverse effects on water quality and aquatic species or facilitate attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) objectives or fish habitat management objectives described the Klamath Falls Resource Area Management Plan.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

Any party adversely affected by this decision may appeal within 30 days after receipt of the decision in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR Parts 4.4. The notice of appeal must include a statement of reasons or file a separate statement of reasons within 30 days of filing the notice of appeal. The notice of appeal must state if a stay of the decision is being requested and must be filed with the Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resources Area, Bureau of Land Management, 2795 Anderson Ave., Building 25, Klamath Falls, OR 97603. 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 Building, 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 Hearings 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 a protest, I encourage you to contact me to determine if your concerns might be met in some way other than via a protest, or to assist you in the protest process if it is appropriate. Thank you for your continued interest in the multiple use management of your public lands. This notice constitutes the decision notification for purpose of protests under 43 CFR subpart 5003 - Administrative Remedies.

  
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Field Manager

Date July 12, 2002