

# Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests

## Crooked River National Grassland

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### Projects & Plans

## Project Documents

### DECISION MEMO

#### BRIDGE AND SPRING CREEK BRIDGES

**BEND-FORT ROCK RANGER DISTRICT  
DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST  
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

### DECISION

#### DESCRIPTION

The Bridge Creek and Springs Creek bridges planning area is located approximately 14 miles west of Bend, Oregon and is primarily accessed via County road 4601. The bridges are located within the Bend Municipal Watershed where recreation use is restricted to day, hiker only use with domestic animals prohibited. The recreation in the area is predominantly dispersed in nature. The vegetation is mostly mixed conifer forest and the bridges are in or near the Bridge Creek burn.

The project is located in Township 18 South, Range 10 East, Section 7.

#### FOREST PLAN DIRECTION

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#### SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

##### ✦ By Administrative Unit

- Deschutes SO
- Bend/Fort Rock
- Crescent
- Sisters
- Ochoco SO
- Lookout Mtn.
- Paulina
- Crooked River NG

##### ✦ Forest Health, Fire, Fuels, Vegetation Management

##### ✦ Wildlife

##### ✦ Recreation

##### ✦ Land Acquisition

##### ✦ Miscellaneous

#### PLANS, ANALYSES, ASSESSMENTS

▶ **Links**

▶ **Evaluate Our Service**

We welcome your comments on our service and your suggestions for improvement.

Forest

**Deschutes National Forest**

1001 SW Emkay Drive  
Bend, OR 97702

(541) 383-5300

**Ochocho National Forest**

3160 N.E. 3rd Street  
Prineville, OR 97754

(541) 416-6500

**Crooked River National  
Grassland**

813 S.W. Hwy. 97  
Madras, OR 97741

(541) 475-9272



The Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). The analysis conducted for the Bridges Planning Area tiers to the LRMP and its supporting documentation.

The project is located within MA 10 (Bend Municipal Watershed) land allocation in the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The project is located within of the boundaries of the Northwest Forest Plan. The project lies primarily within the Bridge 6th field Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC), within the Tumalo 5th field HUC.

**PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION**

The Bridge Creek bridge originally was a 4 foot wide bridge which allowed snow to build up on it. As the bridge aged it broke in the middle under a heavy snow year. It was decided at the time to not replace the bridge and allow the hiking only traffic to scramble across existing down logs across the creek. Over time it has been determined that for safety reasons, the log crossings are dangerous under frosty or wet conditions. Therefore, a bridge is required for safe crossing. In addition, the bridge will be a single log stringer bridge with handrails, which will not be wide enough to allow snow to build up.

The Spring Creek bridge is a 15 foot bridge over a spring fed stream, which is aging and in need of replacement. A better crossing site exists approximately 100 feet up stream. The proposed relocated bridge site is naturally armored to protect the riparian area and will allow for a single log stringer bridge with no handrail due to the minimal height above the water. The stream fluctuates little, but will respond to extreme precipitation events, especially during snow melt.

**There is a need to replace both bridges to provide safe hiker only crossings over these two creeks.**

## **SCOPING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The scoping process identifies public, Forest Service and other agencies environmental issues regarding a proposal to implement an action. Public scoping is incorporated early in the planning process in order to integrate the issues with the project alternatives

A summary of the proposed action was included in the Schedule of Projects (SOP) since Winter 2002.

No comments were received. There were discussions with the City of Bend on the decision to replace or not, with what style of bridge and whether treatment is necessary.

## **REASON FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

These activities normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, and fall within a category of actions that may be excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). Categories are described in Chapter 30, Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Environmental Policy and Procedures, subsection 31.2. The authorization of the trail construction falls under category 31.2 (1), as established by the Chief of the Forest Service for the reconstruction and construction of trails. I have reviewed the physical and biological conditions with resource specialists. I have concluded that the proposed activities are consistent with the intent of recreation management plans and in accordance with the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1990 as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan 1994. I have concluded that no extraordinary circumstances exist which would indicate this action could have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

## FINDINGS

This project is consistent with standards and guidelines found within the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Appropriate surveys for Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species were completed and a determination of "No Effect" or "No Impact" was reached for each species. Biological evaluations are contained in the project file.

An appropriate cultural resource inventory has been completed and there would be no effect to known historic or prehistoric properties eligible for listing under the National Register of Historic Places.

This project is not subject to appeal (36 CFR 215.8) and can be implemented immediately upon signing of this document.

WALTER C. SCHLOER, JR.  
DATE

Posted to web on 8/11/03

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