

Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests Crooked River National Grassland

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Projects & Plans

Project Documents

Decision Memo Nordic Trail Reconstruction Newberry National Volcanic Monument

Deschutes National Forest Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District Deschutes County, Oregon

On May 2, 2003, District Ranger Walter C. Schloer, Jr. made a decision to authorize the reconstruction and relocation of Nordic ski trails adjacent to Newberry National Volcanic Monument (NNVM). This decision allows for the reconstruction of 9 miles of Nordic trail and the relocation of .75 mile of nordic trail, separating it from the existing snowmobile trail. Reconstruction consists of removing brushy undergrowth, blow down, prune limbs, felling dead trees that could fall into the trail, fixing drainage problems and resigning the trails with reassurance markers and directional signing. These trails serve Nordic skiers from Ten Mile Snow Park and access the Caldera area. Reconstruction will be accomplished by chainsaw and hand tools.

The Newberry National Volcanic Monument - Nordic Trail Reconstruction (NNVM-NTR) planning area is located approximately 10 miles east of Highway 97, northeast of LaPine, Oregon and is primarily accessed via Highway 97 and County road 21. The trails begin at Ten Mile Snow Park, in Township 21 South, Range 12 East, Section 32, and go east from there into the caldera area.

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SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS

PROJECT INFORMATION

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✦ Forest Health, Fire, Fuels, Vegetation Management

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✦ Miscellaneous

PLANS, ANALYSES, ASSESSMENTS

► **Links**

► **Evaluate Our Service**

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

Deschutes National Forest

1001 SW Emkay Drive
Bend, OR 97702

(541) 383-5300

Ochoco 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 project is located in Township 17 South, Range 11 East, Sections 4,5,6, and 31. Rock Springs Guest Ranch is located to the east of the trail system. There are Bureau of Land Management lands between Rock Springs and US Forest Service lands. The Rock Springs Trails project is located approximately 10 miles northwest of Bend, Oregon.

The District Ranger may implement this decision immediately upon signature of this document. This decision is not subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.8 (a) (4). For further information contact Marv Lang at 1230 NE Third Street, Suite A-262, Bend, Oregon, 97701. Telephone (541) 383-4793; FAX (541) 383-4700; e-mail melang@fs.fed.us. This Notice can also be viewed at the Deschutes National Forest website: www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/index.html.

DECISION MEMO

**NEWBERRY NATIONAL
VOLCANIC MONUMENT
NORDIC TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION**

**BEND-FORT ROCK RANGER
DISTRICT
DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST**

DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

DECISION

I have decided to authorize the reconstruction of approximately 9 miles and the relocation of approximately .75 mile of Nordic ski trails located in or adjacent to Newberry National Volcanic Monument (NNVM), on the Deschutes National Forest, Bend Fort Rock Ranger District. These trails serve Nordic skiers from Ten Mile Snow Park and access the

Caldera area. Reconstruction will be accomplished by chainsaw and hand tools and will consist of removing brushy undergrowth, blow down, prune limbs, fell dead trees that could fall into the trail, fix drainage problems and resign the trails with reassurance markers and directional signing. The construction of .75 mile of trail will relocate the Nordic trail from a road, which serves as a snowmobile trail.

LOCATION

The Newberry National Volcanic Monument - Nordic Trail Reconstruction (NNVM-NTR) planning area is located approximately 10 miles east of Highway 97, northeast of LaPine, Oregon and is primarily accessed via Highway 97 and County road 21. The trails begin at Ten Mile Snow Park, in Township 21 South, Range 12 East, Section 32, and go east from there in to the caldera area.

The project is located within or adjacent to the Newberry National Volcanic Monument in the Deschutes National Forest. The project is located outside of the boundaries of the Northwest Forest Plan. The project lies primarily within the Lake 6th Field HUC and Newberry 5th Field HUC (Hydrologic Unit Code).

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

There are approximately 10 miles of Nordic trails in NNVM. They are all in need of brushing, pruning, clearing of logs and felling dead trees that could fall into the trail. In addition, new signing and reassurance markers are needed. There is also a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section of Nordic trail, which is located on the same route as a snowmobile trail. This is currently, the only section in the area where trails are collocated. This would relieve congestion and potential conflict.

There is a need to clear Nordic trails of vegetation in order to allow snow to build up evenly, extending the snow season. In addition, there is a need to fell vegetation (trees) that could blow down into the trail in the future. There is also a need to replace deteriorated reassurance markers

and signing. There is a need to relocate the Nordic trail off of the snowmobile trail by constructing $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of new Nordic trail.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This proposal would:

- Clear all logs and brush from the trail clearing width.
- Prune all limbs that hinder snow fall and signing as high as possible by hand.
- Replace deteriorated signing and reassurance markers.
- Relocate $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of Nordic trail off of the snowmobile in order to separate uses and minimize conflict.
- Fix any drainage problems.

All work would be done with hand/power tools. Slash would be scattered.

SCOPING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The scoping process identifies public, Forest Service and other agency's 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.

Letters outlining the proposed action were mailed to approximately 60 interested parties on the Project mailing list on September 27, 2001.

A summary of the proposed action was also included in the Schedule of Projects (SOP) since spring Issue 2001.

There were no internal or external scoping issues identified.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

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.

The trails fall within the Riparian Habitat Conservation area along Paulina Creek and Paulina Lake.

See Hydrology/fish report for details.

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.

There are known weed sites in the general area of this project.

FINDINGS

This decision is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with 40 CFR 1508.4 and Forest Service Environmental Policy and Procedure Handbook 1909.15. This decision falls within 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 (1990) as amended by the Inland Native Fish Strategy (1995), and the best science of the draft Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (2000). I have concluded that no extraordinary circumstances (see Note 1) exist which would indicate this action could have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

This decision may be implemented immediately upon my signature, and is not subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.8 (a) (4).

WALTER C. SCHLOER, JR.

DATE

Note 1: As defined by the Interim Direction

"Clarification of Extraordinary Circumstances for Categories of Actions Excluded From Documentation" appearing in the Federal Register Vol. 67, No. 164, August 23, 2002.

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