

# Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests Crooked River National Grassland

- ▶ Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests Home
- ▶ About Us
- ▶ Contact Us
- ▶ Current Conditions
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ FAQ'S
- ▶ Fire & Aviation
- ▶ Maps & Brochures
- ▶ Newsroom
- ▶ Passes & Permits
- ▶ **Projects & Plans**

Schedule of Proposed Actions

**Project Information**

Plans, Analyses, Assessments

- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Recreational Activities
- ▶ Volunteering

▶ Newberry National Volcanic Monument

- ▶ Conservation Ed.
- ▶ Contracting
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Forest Products
- ▶ Geology
- ▶ Heritage
- ▶ Partnerships
- ▶ Plantlife
- ▶ Water/Fisheries
- ▶ Wildlife

## Projects & Plans **Project Documents**

### **DECISION NOTICE AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Cultus Lake Forest Service  
Improvements Environmental  
Assessment  
Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District  
Deschutes National Forest  
Deschutes County, Oregon**

## **Location**



**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

**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 Cultus Lake Forest Service Improvements Environmental Assessment (EA) may be reviewed in the District Office located at the Bend/Fort Rock District Ranger's Office located at 1230 N.E. Third Street, Suite A-262, Bend, Oregon. This environmental assessment describes a range of alternatives for improvement of the Forest Service boat ramp and associated parking areas at Cultus Lake.

The project area is located approximately 30 miles southwest of Bend, within Township 20 South, Range 7 East, Section 12, Willamette Meridian, and Deschutes County, Oregon. The project area is located within a Late-Successional Reserve within the range of the northern spotted owl.

## Decision

I have decided to authorize implementation of **Alternative 3**, the preferred alternative, of the Cultus Lake Forest Service Improvements Environmental Assessment. This alternative is particularly responsive to the issues of 1) improving and providing adequate boat ramp area for efficient launch and retrieval of boats; 2) improving and providing adequate parking for the public that uses the Forest Service boat ramp facility; and 3) improving public safety. Alternative 3 is the preferred alternative that was identified in the 30-day public review and comment period notice and published February 12, 2003 in The Bulletin.

Alternative 3 will remove, reconfigure, and replace the Forest Service boat ramp and docking area. Two new concrete ramps (approximately 15 feet x 30 feet each) will replace the existing ramp (approximately 24 feet x 30 feet). New base material, utilizing current technology, and an improved ramp design will allow the ramps to better withstand wave wash, climate, and provide more efficient platforms for vehicles and trailers. The existing boarding floats (dock) will be relocated and secured with pilings between the concrete ramps allowing boat access from both sides. Dredging will occur to an approximate depth of four (4) feet, at low water conditions, which will allow safe clearance for boats and will improve access to open water from the boat ramp. The south portion of the parking area, immediately adjacent to the boat ramp, will: be redesigned to incorporate more efficient traffic flow and utilize parking potential; be paved and have designated parking for approximately 14 vehicles with trailers; remove approximately five (5) trees between 10 and 15 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) to optimize parking efficiency and improve driver safety. The north portion of the parking area will: be redesigned to incorporate and utilize parking potential; have designated parking for approximately 36 vehicles with trailers and seven (7) passenger vehicles; and remove approximately 20 trees between 10 and 25 inches DBH to optimize parking efficiency and prevent hazard tree development. Trees will be planted between the parking area and lake. The access road will be paved to the entrance of the boat ramp to accommodate two-way traffic. This will allow for more efficient and safe travel into the launching facilities and developed campground areas. A variety of standard mitigation measures have been included in order to ensure consistency with the Forest Plan (EA pages 12-13 and Appendix A of the Project Record, District Files).

## Decision Rationale

Alternative 3 provides the best combination of resource benefits and protection. This alternative makes substantial progress in improving the quality of the boat ramp and boat access while reducing damage to boats, trailers, and vehicles, reducing damage to vegetation adjacent to parking areas and roadways, and reducing sedimentation into the lake. This alternative will utilize the parking areas to provide maximum designated parking while reducing resource damage from off road parking adjacent to the access road. This alternative will improve public safety by improving access to the boat ramp and parking areas and to the public campgrounds.

## Other Alternatives Considered in Detail

In addition to Alternative 3, two other alternatives were developed and analyzed but not selected.

**Alternative 1 (No-Action).** I did not select this alternative because it does not address the improvements to reduce 1) inefficiency of boat launch and retrieval; 2) damage to boats, vehicles and trailers associated with boat launching and retrieval; 3) congestion within the boat launch/retrieval area; and 4) parking inefficiency associated with congestion and haphazard parking within parking areas. The boat ramp would continue to provide inefficient launching and retrieval boats, particularly during peak periods of use. The present boat ramp would continue to deteriorate and contribute to the damage to boats, trailers, and vehicles, and continue to be a safety concern. The existing boarding floats (dock) would continue to remain accessible from one (1) side only, contributing to the inefficiency of launching and retrieval of boats. Access to open water from the boat ramp and returning to the boat ramp through shallow water, would continue to provide unsafe conditions for boats. Parking potential and efficiency would not be utilized, congestion and haphazard parking in parking areas would continue, and safety concerns with line-of-sight interference, hazard trees, and parking along access roads would continue.

**Alternative 2 (Proposed Action).** I did not select this alternative because the dimensions of a new concrete ramp would remain the same size as the existing ramp (approximately 24' x 30'). The rationale for the inefficiency of launching and retrieval of boats and boarding float access would be the same as stated in Alternative 1 (No-Action). Improvement would be made in reducing potential damage to boats, trailers, and vehicles. Improvement for boat access to and from open water would result from dredging activities. Parking efficiency would be improved and congestion reduced under this alternative when compared with Alternative 1 (No Action). This alternative would not sufficiently utilize parking potential and efficiency or reduce congestion, would not reduce safety concerns with line-of-sight interference or the potential development of hazard trees, and would not sufficiently reduce parking along access roads when compared with Alternative 3.

## Consultation With Others

The Cultus Lake Forest Service Improvements project was initially listed in the 2002 winter edition of the Central Oregon Schedule of Projects. The Schedule of Projects, which includes the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest, is sent quarterly with the status and descriptions of new, continuing, and completed projects. Approximately 3,200 individuals, organizations, and public agencies received this winter edition summary of projects.

Scoping letters with proposed actions were sent, June 5, 2002, to approximately 80 interested members of the public to solicit input into project area design and analysis. Four (4) written responses were received in support of the proposed designated non-motorized trail. No comments were received in opposition to the proposed project. The following is a brief summary of the input received.

1) The Oregon State Marine Board responded to scoping with a letter expressing strong support for the project. A new ramp, functional docks neat the ramp, minor channel improvements, an organized, orderly traffic flow and parking are all very necessary at this site.

3) Three (3) individuals submitted letters of comments and support regarding the proposed action (EA page 10). Comments addressed congestion at the boat ramp, haphazard parking, difficulty in launching and retrieval of boats at low water, damage to motor propellers as a result of low water obstructions, and damage to trailers from ramp design and low water obstructions.

The Cultus Lake Forest Service Improvements Environmental Assessment was sent to approximately 85 interested members of the public to solicit comments, during a 30-day comment period from February 12 to March 14, 2003, regarding the preferred alternative (EA page 11). Comments were received from one agency, Oregon State Marine Board, expressing support for the project. No other responses were received.

## Finding of No Significant Impact

Sufficient information has been disclosed in the analysis to make a reasoned choice among alternatives and no significant impacts on the quality of the human environment have been identified. Information available from past actions of similar context and intensity in this area also indicates that no significant impacts would be anticipated.

Based on the site-specific environmental analysis documented in the environmental assessment, I have determined that this is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. An analysis of the cumulative effects of the planned resource activities indicated that the combined effects are environmentally acceptable for soil, water, and all renewable forest resources. Based on the analysis, I expect only short duration adverse impacts from implementation of this alternative. All impacts are limited in scope and intensity and can be considered minor. This determination is based on the mitigation measures (EA pages 12-13)

designed into the selected alternative and the following factors:

(1) Beneficial and adverse direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts discussed in the Environmental Assessment have been disclosed within the appropriate context and intensity. No significant effects on the human environment have been identified. There will be no significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects to soil, water, fish, wildlife resources, inventoried roadless areas, old growth stands or other components of the environment (EA pages 13-26).

(2) No significant adverse effects to public health or safety have been identified (EA page 25).

(3) There will be no significant adverse impacts to wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, prime farmlands, old growth forests, range and forestland. No significant effects are anticipated to any other ecologically sensitive or critical areas (EA pages 13-26).

(4) The effects of implementation of this decision are not highly controversial (EA pages 13-26).

(5) Based on previous similar actions in the area the probable effects of this decision on the human environment, as described in the environmental assessment, are well known and do not involve unique or unknown risks (EA pages 13-25).

(6) This action does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, nor does it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (EA page 26).

(7) This decision is made with consideration of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions on National Forest land and other ownerships within potentially affected areas which could have a cumulatively significant effect on the quality of the human environment. I find there to be no such cumulative significance (EA pages 13-26).

(8) Based on the pre-disturbance survey and record search of the project area, the project proposal will have "no adverse effect" (as defined in 36 CFR 800.4 (b)(1)) on any listed or eligible cultural resources (EA page 24).

(9) The biological evaluation and assessment for the area indicates that the proposed project will have no significant adverse impacts on any proposed, endangered, sensitive or threatened plant or animal species. Should any endangered or threatened species be found during project activities, the environmental analysis will be reviewed and revised if necessary. The Cultus Lake Forest Service Improvement contract will contain provisions that will permit appropriate protection of any threatened and endangered species identified (Appendix B of the Official Record - Wildlife and Botanical Biological Evaluations and Wildlife Biological Assessment).

(10) This decision is in compliance with relevant federal, state and local laws, regulations and requirements designed for the protection of the environment. Effects from this action meet or exceed state water and air quality standards (EA pages 25-26).

## Other Findings

The alternatives are consistent with the goals, objectives and direction contained in the Deschutes National forest Land and Resource Management Plan and accompanying Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision dated August 27, 1990 as amended by the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (1994), the Cascade Lakes Watershed Analysis, 1995, the Inland Native Fish Strategy, 1995, and the Cultus Mountain/Sheridan Mountain Late-Successional Reserve Assessment, 1996 (EA page 26).

This decision is in compliance with Executive Order 12989 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations". No minority or low-income populations would be disproportionately affected under any alternatives (EA page 25).

There is no habitat within the planning area classified as "Essential" for anadromous fisheries.

A 30-day notice and opportunity for comment was published in The Bulletin on February 12, 2003 and placed on the Deschutes National Forest Website. The preferred alternative was identified. Four (4) letters in favor of the proposed action were received. No other expression of interest was received during the comment period (CFR 215.6). Therefore, this decision is not subject to appeal pursuant to CFR 215.8(a)(3). For further information, contact David Frantz, Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE Third, Bend, Oregon, 97701, (phone 541-383-4721, email [dfrantz@fs.fed.us](mailto:dfrantz@fs.fed.us)).

---

WALTER C. SCHLOER, JR.  
District Ranger  
Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District  
Deschutes National Forest

Date

[top](#)

[Disclaimers](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Print This Page](#)