

**Decision Notice  
And  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
For**

**Sanitation Environmental Assessment**

**Deschutes National Forest  
Bend-Fort Rock and Sisters Ranger Districts  
Deschutes and Jefferson County, Oregon**

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**Decision**

I have decided to authorize implementation of **Alternative B of the Sanitation Environmental Assessment** (EA) with mitigation measures. Alternative B is the preferred alternative identified in the 30-day public review and comment period notice, published January 22, 2002 in The Bulletin. I have decided that Alternative B best meets the purpose and need for action.

Four (4) sites, identified through surveys as requiring further survey, are not included in this decision. Surveys will commence following snowmelt. Identified sites are Big Obsidian Flow Trailhead, Browns Mountain Boatramp, East Lake Campground, and South Twin Lakes Campground. A separate public review process will cover these four (4) sites following completion and analysis of the surveys.

This Decision will:

- Remove 13 existing toilets at 11 different recreation sites.
- Install 14 toilets at the same 11 recreation sites.
- Install 4 new toilets at 4 other recreation sites.
- Replace 3 drainfields and replace/relocate 1 drainfield.

Specific site locations are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

**Table 1: Toilet Location and Proposed Action Descriptions**

<b>Dist.</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Replacement Type</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Legal Description</b>
Bend-Fort Rock (BFR)	Devils Lake Trailhead	CXT - Double	Relocate and Remove Existing Toilet	T17S, R8E, Section 10
BFR	Green Lakes Trailhead	CXT - Double	Relocate and Remove 2 Existing Toilets	T17S, R8E, Section 11
BFR	Beach Day Use	CXT - Single	Relocate and Remove Existing Toilet	T18S, R8E, Section 5
BFR	Lava Cast Forest Trailhead	CXT - Single	Relocate and Remove Existing Toilet	T20, R12E, Section 28
BFR	Little Fawn Campground	CXT - Single	New Toilet	T18S, R8E, Section 5
BFR	Phil's Trailhead	CXT - Single	New Toilet	T18S, R11E, Section 3
BFR	Swampy Lakes Trailhead	CXT - Double	Relocate and Remove Existing Toilet	T18S, R10E, Section 30
BFR	Todd Horse Camp	CXT - Single	New Toilet	T18S, R9E, Section 18
BFR	Wanoga Snopark	CXT - Single (2)	Relocate and Remove 2 Existing Toilets	T18S, R10E, Section 28
BFR	Chief Paulina Campground	CXT - Single	New Toilet	T22S, R12E, Section 2
Sisters	Sheep Springs Campground	CXT - Single (2)	Remove and Replace Existing Toilet	T12S, R8E, Section 19
Sisters	Three Cr. Meadow Campground	CXT - Double	Remove and Relocate Existing Toilet	T17S, R9E, Section 11

Sisters	South Shore Campground	CXT - Double (2)	Relocate and Remove 2 Existing Toilets	T13S, R8E, Section 26
Sisters	Three Creek Lake Campground	CXT - Single (2)	Remove and Replace Existing Toilet	T17S, R9E, Section 14

Three (3) of the drainfields would be replaced adjacent to the existing drainfield sites. The East Lake campground drainfield would be relocated to a different site from its existing location, partially on private land. Existing drainfield lines would be removed and approximately 200 to 400 feet of new line for each site would be buried approximately 1.5 to 3 feet deep. In each drainfield location, it is estimated 3-5 lodgepole pine trees less than 21 inches DBH (diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground) would need to be removed to provide room for the drainfield lines. The lines would be broken up into smaller lengths, for example five (5) 60-foot lines disturbing an area of approximately 60 x 60 feet.

**Table 2: Drainfield Location and Proposed Action Description**

<b>District</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Legal Description</b>
BFR	East Lake Campground	Sewer Line Drainfield	Relocate	T21S, R13E Sections 31,32
BFR	West South Twin Campground	Drainfield	Replace	T21S, R8E Section 33
BFR	Gull Point Campground	Drainfield	Replace	T21S, T8E Section 34
BFR	North Wickiup Campground	Drainfield	Replace	T21S, R8E Section 34

## Decision Rationale

Across the Deschutes National Forest recreation sites have been developed with associated sanitation facilities. Many of these sites were developed in the 1950s through 1970s, many with water associated recreation. These sites have experienced an increase in public use and are incapable of supporting the present or expected increase in use patterns. Present sanitation facilities generally do not conform to various governmental standards and codes. Of the nearly 400 sanitation facilities across the Forest, approximately 15% have been replaced with sealed vault toilets and an additional 10% have been retrofitted to a higher standard venting system. Few of the existing toilets are barrier free accessible.

Alternative B (Proposed Action) will accomplish the purpose and need for action and would meet current sanitation and water quality standards and codes. Relocation and replacement of toilets and drainfields will meet current health and safety codes, protect water quality, and locate all facilities on public-owned lands.

Alternative A (No Action) was not chosen because it does not meet the purpose and need for action and would continue to not meet current standards or codes. The demands from recreation use and growth in developed recreation sites in Central Oregon will not be met. Improvement and rehabilitation of present sanitation sites would not occur. The existing drainfields would continue to deteriorate over time and at some point cease to function. Toilets would not be replaced and would continue to leak and deteriorate. The risk of sewage leakage into ground and surface waters from inadequate sanitation facilities would continue to increase with potential degradation of water quality. The drainfield in East Lake Campground, that is partially located on adjacent private land, would remain.

## **Public Participation**

Approximately 70 letters outlining the proposed action were mailed to interested parties on the Project mailing list on September 27, 2001. One comment was received and was in favor of the proposed action, Alternative B.

A summary of the proposed action was included in the Schedule of Projects (SOP) since spring of 2000.

The project was discussed with representatives from a wide range of trail users, who have formed a group that meets monthly with the Bend Fort Rock Ranger District.

## **Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based on the site-specific analysis documented in the EA, I have determined that this decision does not constitute a major Federal action, individually or cumulatively, that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be necessary.

Beneficial and adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts discussed in the Environmental Assessment have been disclosed within the appropriate context (see effects section, EA, Pages 9-16. No significant effects to the human environment have been identified. This determination is based on the mitigation measures, Page 7-9, EA, designed into the selected alternative and the following factors:

(1) Based on the analysis, I only expect slightly adverse, short duration (hours/days) impacts from implementation of this alternative. These have been disclosed in the analysis. This and other impacts are limited in scope and intensity and can be considered negligible. Short-term impacts include noise and dust from reconstruction. Longer-term benefits include improving health and safety through replacing toilets and drainfields.

- (2) No adverse effects to public health or safety have been identified through implementation of this project. Health and safety will be improved through replacement of toilets and drainfields to meet current standards, as well as by protection of other resources such as water and soil. This finding is based on past similar projects and no adverse effects to public health or safety have been identified.
- (3) There will be no significant adverse impacts to unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. There are also toilet replacements within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). These are sealed vaults, which will replace leaking vaults, thereby protecting the resources.
- (4) The effects of implementation of this alternative do not rise to the level of scientific controversy as defined by the Council of Environmental Quality.
- (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.
- (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. Replacement of toilets and drain fields does not establish a need for other actions.
- (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 that could have a cumulatively significant effect on the quality of the human environment. I find there to be no such cumulative significance (See EA, Pages 9-16, throughout).
- (8) The Forest Archeologist applied criteria of effect and adverse effect as found in 36 CFR 800.9, and determined that implementation of this decision will have no adverse effect to sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.
- (9) The Biological Evaluation 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 or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (see Biological Evaluation and EA, Pages 8-11, and 15).
- (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 have the potential to meet or exceed state water quality standards. This project is consistent with Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA) in the Inland Native Fish Strategy Environmental Assessment, (1995).

## Other Findings

This action is consistent with the goals, objectives, and direction contained in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Deschutes LRMP and accompanying Final Environmental Impact Statement dated August 27, 1990 as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan.

## Administrative Review

A 30-day notice and opportunity for comment was published in The Bulletin on January 22, 2002. One (1) letter in favor of the proposed action was received. No other expression of interest was received during the comment period (CFR 215.6). The Responsible Official's decision did not modify the proposed action. Therefore, pursuant to CFR 215.8(a)(3) this decision is not subject to appeal.

## Implementation Schedule

Implementation of the Sanitation EA will begin immediately. It is important to begin implementation in order to facilitate funding objectives and to begin sanitation improvements prior to the summer recreation season. In accordance with CFR 215.10(C) implementation of the proposed action may occur immediately upon publication of the decision as provided in CFR215.9.

For additional information, contact Marv Lang, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE Third, Ste. A-262, Bend Oregon, 97701, (phone 541-383-4793, fax 541-383-4700, or email melang@fs.fed.us).

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WALTER C. SCHLOER, JR  
Bend-Ft. Rock District Ranger

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Date

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WILLIAM ANTHONY  
Sisters District Ranger

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Date

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[Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests Website](http://www.fs.fed.us/centraloregon/manageinfo/nepa/documents/bendfort/sanitation/decisionnotice.html)

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Last Update: 3/6/02

R.A. Jensen