

Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests Crooked River National Grassland

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Projects & Plans

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Decision Memo Road Closures

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 physical closure of 5 user created roads adjacent to Newberry National Volcanic Monument (NNVM), on the Deschutes National Forest, Bend Fort Rock Ranger District. These roads lead to user created dispersed campsites along Paulina Creek.

There is approximately ¼ mile of road to close. Obliterating the site and blocking with large rocks and logs will close the roads. The roads are contributing to resource damage through erosion, trampling and soil displacement. The dispersed campsites will be modified by shrinking them and using barriers to protect riparian areas, but not closed.

There are 5 user created roads to be closed. See map. They are located along Paulina Creek and most cross the Peter Skene Ogden National Recreation Trail. Access to four of these sites is from Highway 97 east on Road 21, and onto the 2120 road. One is accessed from the north side of Paulina Creek, off of the 9735 500 road. The general area is, northeast of La Pine, Oregon. Legals are as follows:



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SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS

PROJECT INFORMATION

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✦ Forest Health, Fire, Fuels, Vegetation Management

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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



Township 21 South, Range
11 East, Section 28 (4 roads)
Township 21 South, Range
12 East, Section 32 (1 road)

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

USER ROAD CLOSURES

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

DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

DECISION

I have decided to authorize the physical closure of 5 user created roads adjacent to Newberry National Volcanic Monument (NNVM), on the Deschutes National Forest, Bend Fort Rock Ranger District. These roads lead to user created dispersed campsites along Paulina Creek.

There is approximately ¼ mile of road to close. The roads are contributing to resource damage through erosion, trampling and soil displacement. The dispersed campsites will be modified by shrinking them and using barriers to protect riparian areas, but not closed.

LOCATION

There are 5 user created roads to be closed. See map. They are located along Paulina Creek and most cross the Peter Skene Ogden National Recreation Trail. Access to four of these sites is from Highway 97 east on Road 21, and onto the 2120 road. One is accessed from the north side of Paulina Creek, off of the 9735 500 road. The general area is, northeast of LaPine, Oregon. Legals are as follows:

Township 21 South, Range
11 East, Section 28 (4 roads)
Township 21 South, Range
12 East, Section 32 (1 road)

The project is located 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 Paulina 6th Field HUC and Newberry 5th Field HUC (Hydrologic Unit Code).

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

Over numerous years, general disperse recreation use has grown as the population of Central Oregon has increased. More and more people desire to use National Forest land for camping, hunting, fishing, etc. The area along Paulina Creek is no exception and has seen significant increases in dispersed use. Most people enjoy camping near water, but not necessarily in a campground. Those with 4 wheel drive high clearance vehicles have progressively created roads that access closer to Paulina Creek. With more use comes more resource damage. Vegetation gets cut and trampled, soil gets displaced, erosion increases, and riparian vegetation adjacent to the creek gets eradicated.

There is a need to control the access to Paulina Creek by closing 5 user roads, thereby protecting the valuable riparian related resources and preventing further degradation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This proposal would:

Close 5 user created roads,
which access dispersed
campsites near the Peter
Skene Ogden trail and
Paulina Creek.

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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