



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

1300 AIRPORT LANE, NORTH BEND, OR 97459

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1792 (OR-120)

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for The Army Corps of Engineers Use of a Staging Area Ancillary to the Coos Bay North Jetty Interim Repair

Introduction:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to analyze the environmental effects of an interim repair of the Coos Bay North Jetty. The jetty is part of the Corps' Coos Bay navigation project, located in Coos County, Oregon. The proposed project will provide a stable entrance channel and minimize the need for maintenance dredging.

The project includes the ancillary use of United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District (BLM) land for an overland staging area. BLM has reviewed the EA for the potential effects of the Corps' use of a 10-acre cleared staging area on the North Spit located about 7 miles north of the jetty on BLM land. The land is in the jurisdiction of the Umpqua Field Office. The Corps has filed an application for a temporary amendment to their existing right-of-way (R/W) for use of this site. The Corps is requesting use of BLM lands from August 2008 through the completion of the Coos Bay North Jetty Interim Repair Project, which is anticipated to last as late as March 2009. All improvements associated with the staging area would be temporary and would be removed at the end of the project. Following the completion of the project the staging area would be restored to preconstruction conditions to the extent practical.

Background:

The Coos Bay District (CBD) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is under the direction of the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan* (RMP), as supplemented and amended and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and its' Record of Decision (ROD) (BLM, 1995). The RMP and its' ROD are in conformance with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and its ROD (Northwest Forest Plan [NWFP]) as supplemented and amended (Interagency, 1994).

Activity resulting from the proposed action would be subject to State of Oregon Administrative Rule No. 340-108, *Oil and Hazardous Materials Spills and Releases*, which specifies the reporting requirements, cleanup standards and liability that attaches to a spill or release or threatened spill or release involving oil or hazardous substances. In addition, the Coos Bay

District Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan and Spill Plan for Riparian Operations apply when applicable to operations where a release threatens to reach surface waters or is in excess of reportable quantities.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

A careful review of the EA, which I herein adopt, indicates that there will not be a significant impact on the quality of the human environment from the implementation of the Proposed Action. I agree with this conclusion and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This determination is based on consideration of the following factors:

1. The proposed action will occur in localized areas within the boundaries of the Coos Bay District. The proposed action is not national or regional in scope.
2. The proposed action will not significantly affect public health and safety. Public safety will be maintained by restricting public access at the staging area.
3. The proposed action will not have an impact on unique characteristics of the geographic area such as energy development, air quality, prime unique farmlands, environmental justice/native American trust resources, wild & scenic rivers/wilderness, or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. The effects on the quality of the human environment of the proposed action are not highly controversial.
5. The possible effects of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment are not highly uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risk.
6. The proposed action does not establish a precedent for actions with future significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. The right-of-way grant will be for temporary use and the site will be restored to pre-construction conditions to the extent possible.
7. There are no significant cumulative effects identified by this assessment.
8. The proposed action will not adversely affect sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Nor will it cause a loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. The proposed action will fully comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. United States Fish & Wildlife Service consultation was completed April 2008, and National Marine Fisheries Service consultation was completed June 2008.
10. The project is consistent with the conservation needs of Special Status Species (SSS) and will not contribute to the need to list any SSS, either under the provisions of the ESA or other provisions of the manual (BLM Manual 6840.02).

11. There are no irreversible or irretrievable resource commitments identified by this assessment.

12. The proposed activities will not violate Federal, State, or local laws imposed for the protection of the environment.

Dennis Turowski /s/

7/21/08

A. Dennis Turowski
Umpqua Field Manager

Date



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1792/2800 (OR-120)
OR 36509

July 22, 2008

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Enclosed is the Decision Record for the Coos Bay North Jetty Interim Repair Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The general public was informed of the planned EA and initial comments were requested on the proposed management actions through a notice to those on the mailing list and a news release published in The World newspaper on April 11, 2008. A notice was also posted on the Corps internet site, <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil>. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project was signed on July 21, 2008.

The decision has been made to proceed with the project. The Decision Record is open to Appeal procedures as detailed at 43 CFR Part 4 Subpart E – Special Rules Applicable to Public Land Hearings and Appeals (Administrative Remedies). Appeals of this action must be filed within 30 days after publication of a Notice of Availability for this Decision. If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulations 43 CFR 2801.10 for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Please direct requests for copies, questions, or comments to Coos Bay District BLM, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459-2000, Attention: Linda Petterson, call (541) 751-4207, FAX (541) 751-4303; or e-mail to OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov, Attention: Linda Petterson.

Sincerely,

Dennis Turowski

A. Dennis Turowski
Umpqua Field Manager

Enclosure



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DECISION RECORD

for

The Army Corps of Engineers' Use of a Staging Area Ancillary to the Coos Bay North Jetty Interim Repair

Background

The Coos Bay North Jetty Interim Repair Environmental Assessment (EA) is tiered to the Coos Bay District BLM, Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, (RMP, BLM, 1995), which is in conformance with the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for the Late Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its Record of Decision (ROD), (Northwest Forest Plan, Interagency, 1994), as supplemented and amended, and the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standard and Guidelines (Interagency, 2001).

The estimated environmental effects described in the EA are based on research, professional judgment and the experience of the Interdisciplinary Team identified in the EA. No significant adverse impacts are expected to (1) Air Quality, (2) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, (3) Cultural Resource Values, (4) Prime or Unique Farmland, (5) Flood Plains, (6) Native American Religious Concerns, (7) Hazardous Materials/Solid Waste, (8) Threatened or Endangered Species, (9) Water Quality, (10) Wetlands and Riparian Zones, (11) Wild and Scenic Rivers, (12) Wilderness Values or (13) Noxious Weeds.

United States Fish & Wildlife Service consultation was completed April 2008 and National Marine Fisheries Service consultation was completed June 2008.

The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project was signed on July 21, 2008.

Decision

I have decided to implement the Proposed Action as described in the EA, including all Project Design Features listed in the EA to minimize potential impacts to the environment.

Rationale for Decision

The decision to implement the Proposed Action is being made for the following reasons:

No Action Alternative – Under this alternative, taking no action is likely to force the Corps to find another site for staging rock needed for the jetty repair. Staging at another site could add an additional loading and unloading of the jetty rock, increasing the risk of fractures in the rock and

raising overall project costs. Appreciably higher costs could impede the Corps' ability to accomplish the required proposed jetty repair and could lead to a complete breach through the North Jetty in the upcoming winter storm season. A breach through the jetty would cause rapid sediment movement through the breach and toward the navigation channel, which would adversely affect commercial and recreational vessels using the entrance channel and harbor area.

Proposed Action – Implementing the Proposed Action will support the Corps' proposed jetty repair which will stabilize and raise the crest elevation of the jetty, adding more rock to fill in the seaward scalloped area, and adding more rock to fill in the breach area so that deterioration does not continue.

Implementing the proposed action is consistent with the conservation needs of Special Status Species (SSS) and will not contribute to the need to list any SSS either under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act or other provisions of BLM Manual 6840.02.

Decision Recommended by:

Scott Hoefs (acting) /s/

 Natural Resources Staff Administrator

7/22/08

 Date

Nancy Zepf (acting) /s/

 Natural Resources Staff Administrator

7/22/08

 Date

Decision by:

Dennis Turowski

 A Dennis Turowski
 Umpqua Field Manager

 Date