

Decision Record
For
Gerber South Boat Ramp Improvements EA #OR-014-08-03

INTRODUCTION

The South Gerber concrete boat ramp was removed approximately eighteen years ago due to unsafe conditions. The previous ramp was in need of replacement due to failure along the concrete planks of the ramp and inadequate length. The public has continued to use the parking area and primitive ramp for launching boats since 1990. The BLM has received several complaints about the need for an improved ramp at the South Gerber campground. The Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) prepared the Gerber South Boat Ramp Improvements EA #OR-014-08-03 (EA) and conducted an interdisciplinary analysis of a proposal to implement improvements to the Gerber Recreation Site including replacement of the concrete boat ramp.

DECISION

It is my decision to authorize the implementation of the proposed action as analyzed in the EA. Specifically, this decision will result in the following:

- construction of a concrete boat ramp (consisting of a 25.3' X 177.4' cast-in-place concrete ramp with a 6' X 60' self adjusting wood float guided by a concrete and steel adjusting guideway)
- installation of a 1,410 sq. ft. concrete pad with pre-cast concrete vault toilet
- graveling and chip sealing the access road and 28,000 square foot parking area

The location of the treatments is shown on the attached map.

Mitigations

The following mitigations described in the EA shall be implemented:

Weeds – To reduce the potential for introduction of noxious weeds, all equipment will be cleaned off prior to operating on BLM lands. Removal of all dirt, grease, and plant parts that could carry noxious weed seeds can be accomplished with a pressure hose.

Fisheries – No reservoir drawdown will occur for the project. If the reservoir level is too high to allow for the full design length of the ramp to be constructed, then the project would be completed to the level of water which is practicable within contractual parameters. A future ramp extension would occur when the reservoir level allows final ramp design length to be completed. The future ramp extension would likely occur within ten years of initial construction, based on historical reservoir levels. Construction and design features of the project that would likely minimize and/or avoid impacts to fish would be as follows:

- 1) A silt/turbidity curtain would be used to surround the construction site, reducing the movement of water-borne particles and excluding fish from within the work zone.
- 2) A sediment fence would be installed to prevent surface flow and potential erosion occurring during construction. Post construction activities will include seeding and/or planting sod or other vegetation on any exposed surfaces to prevent subsequent erosion.

Water Quality – Additional project design features to prevent pollutants from entering the water include:

- use of porous material in the parking area to allow water infiltration
- grading one half of the parking area to drain runoff into a center swale area with native vegetation
- surface grooves in the ramp to disperse pollutants from vehicles into the rip rap along the ramp edges
- installation of a trench drain when chip-sealing the parking lot

Cultural Resources – Prior to project implementation, the project lead shall meet with the KFRA Lead Archaeologist to ensure that additional site information has not come to light since preparation of the EA.

DECISION RATIONALE

Implementation of Alternative 1, as proposed and mitigated, meets the purpose and need identified in the EA and would be consistent with objectives and potential impacts analyzed in the EA and the KFRA RMP. Alternative 2, the No Action Alternative, is rejected because it does not meet the purpose and need for action identified in the EA.

Surveys

The project area has been surveyed for cultural resources using BLM Class III survey methods. No cultural sites were found within or adjacent to (up to 300 ft. of) the project boundary. No noxious weeds, special status plant species, or special status terrestrial wildlife species are known to be located within the proposed project area.

Consultation and Coordination

Proposed critical habitat for the endangered shortnose sucker includes waters of Gerber Reservoir below the high water mark. Based on the assessment of the proposed action, the BLM believes that the proposed action **may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect** shortnose suckers.

The Klamath Tribes have been consulted and have requested to monitor the project during construction. The project lead will meet with the KFRA Lead Archaeologist concerning project timing to facilitate this request.

Finding of No Significant Impact

No significant impacts were identified. No impacts beyond those anticipated in the KFRA RMP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would occur. (Refer to the Finding of No Significant Impact for EA #OR-014-08-03.)

CONCLUSION

Based on the information in the EA and project record, I conclude that this Decision Record is consistent with the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (June 1995).

This decision is consistent with the Endangered Species Act, The Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations. It is also consistent with Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice and will not have any adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution per Executive Order 13212.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Any party adversely affected by this decision may appeal within 30 days after receipt of the decision in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR Parts 4.4. The notice of appeal must include

a statement of reasons or file a separate statement of reasons within 30 days of filing the notice of appeal. The notice of appeal must state if a stay of the decision is being requested and must be filed with:

Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
2795 Anderson Ave, Building 25
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

A copy of the notice of appeal, statement of reasons, and other documents should be sent to the:

Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Regional Solicitor
805 SW Broadway, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97205

If the statement of reasons is filed separately is must be sent to the:

Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearing and Appeals
4015 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22203

It is suggested that any notice of appeal be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

Before deciding to file an appeal, I encourage you to contact me to determine if your concerns might be met in some other way, or to assist you in the appeal process if it is appropriate. Thank you for your continued interest in the multiple use management of your public lands. This notice constitutes the decision notification for purpose of protests under 43 CFS subpart 5003 B Administrative Remedies.

/s/ Donald J. Holmstrom
Donald J. Holmstrom, Field Manager
Klamath Falls Resource Area

5/28/08
Date