

Wildwood Footbridge Maintenance

Decision Record

Environmental Assessment Number OR 080-08-11

September 2008

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office
Salem District, Cascade Resource Area

Township 2 South, Range 7 East, Section 31, Willamette Meridian
Salmon River Watershed
Clackamas County, Oregon

Responsible Agency: USDI - Bureau of Land Management

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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering economic use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

BLMORWA/AE-08/094+1792

I. Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis for the Wildwood Footbridge Maintenance Project. This analysis is documented in the *Wildwood Footbridge Maintenance Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact* (EA). The EA proposed action is a proposal to perform maintenance on the Salmon River footbridge, utilizing a partial containment system designed to contain water and solids dislodged during maintenance activities (EA section 2.2). The footbridge maintenance project area is within the Salmon River fifth field watershed, near the City of Sandy in Clackamas County, Oregon. The project area is located within Wildwood Recreation site; a 500 acre BLM managed day use recreation area within Township 2 South, Range 7 East, section 31. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this project was signed on June 17, 2008. The EA was then made available for public review from June 18, 2008 to July 3, 2008. No public comments were received during the EA comment period.

II. Decision

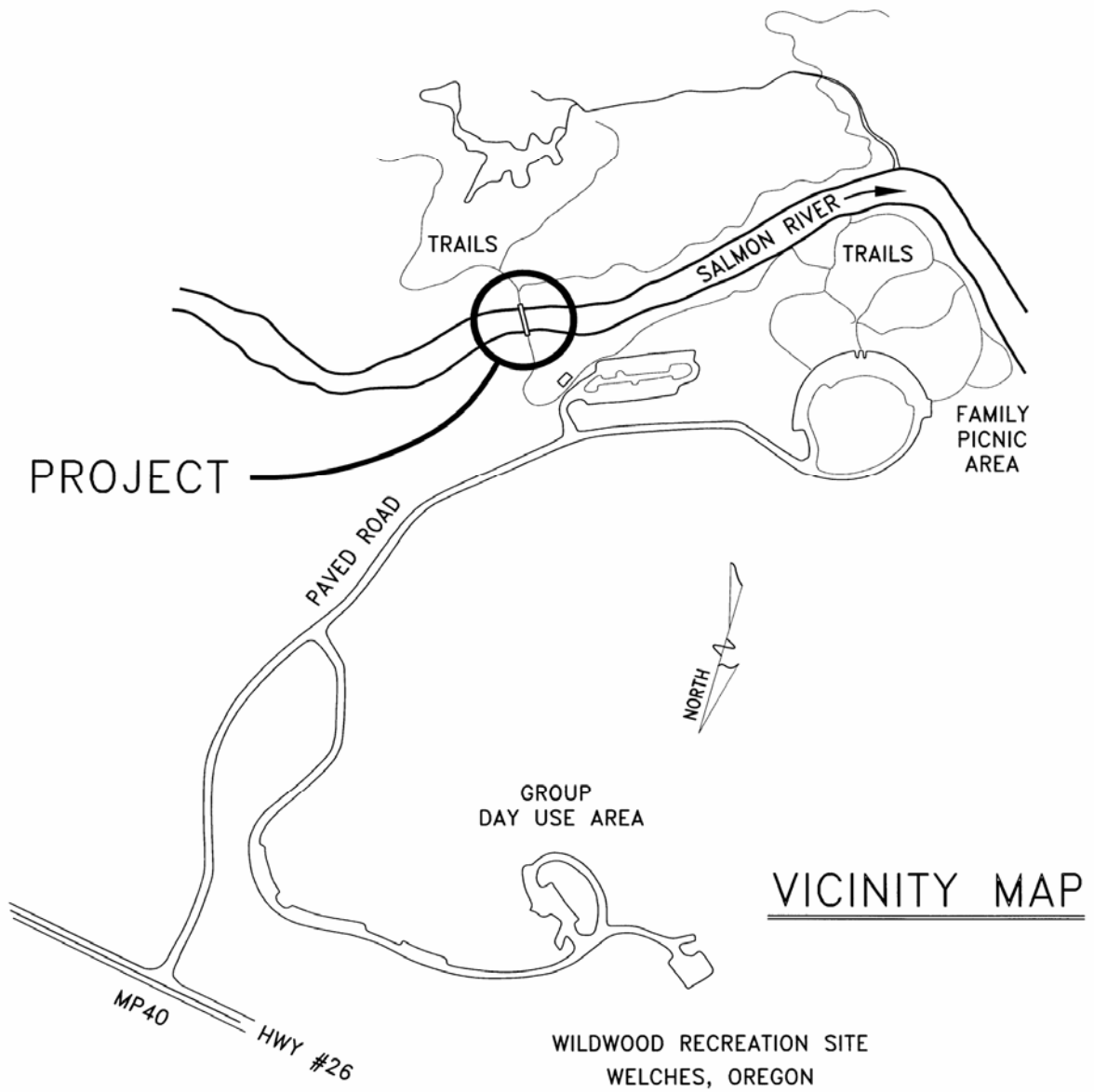
Based on the analysis contained in the EA, I have decided to implement the Proposed Action (Partial Containment) of the Wildwood Footbridge Maintenance EA (EA section 2.2), herein known as the “selected action”. The following is a summary of the selected action.

- Power washing the entire bridge structure. No chemicals would be added to the wash solvent. A fine mesh screen will be suspended beneath the footbridge and scaffolding system, which accesses the work areas beneath the footbridge. The mesh screen will trap particles such as paint chips, wood splinters, and organics that become dislodged during the initial cleaning process.
- Repairing support beams and bulkheads. Beams will be treated using fused borate rods.
- Repairing the lamination separation that occurs at several locations throughout the structure.
- Repairing areas of decay and wear on the bridge deck surface.
- Cleaning and painting metal hardware of rust and scaling paint. Debris netting will be required to be erected before blasting commences.
- Applying new paint coating and rust priming compound to all cleaned hardware.
- Repairing drainage problems at the approach to both bridge ends
- Replacing the existing staircase, located east of the south bridge approach. No vegetation over 12 inches diameter breast height (dbh), would be removed.
- Replacing approximately 20 ft. of handrails.

Project Design Features

- *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plant Species:* Prior to entering BLM lands, off-road machinery would be washed so that it is free of noxious weed/invasive plants seed and plant parts. Other disturbed areas would be immediately planted with native grass seed.
- *Equipment Refueling:* Refueling of equipment would only be allowed in parking areas.
- *Permits:* All local, state, or federal permits required for this project would be obtained prior to implementation.
- *Timing of Work:* The project would be implemented Fall 2008.
- *Disturbance:* The proposed project has been designed to mitigate impacts to the park’s visual character. The proposed project would have minimal ground disturbance. The proposed project will not require trees to be removed and only minimal amounts of understory vegetation will be impacted.

Map 1: Project Area



- **Rehabilitation:** After project completion, all disturbed paved areas would be resurfaced. Other disturbed areas would be immediately planted with native grass seed. Additional native vegetation including ferns, shrubs and trees would be planted after maintenance is completed.

III. Alternatives Considered

Alternative 1: Partial Containment (Proposed Action) (Partial Containment): The proposed action is described above in **Section II Decision**.

Alternative 2 (Full Containment): Under Alternative 2, maintenance would be performed on the Salmon River footbridge utilizing a full water containment system. The full containment system will consist of the same maintenance components, design features and configurations as the partial containment system with several additional features. The fine mesh screens will be complemented or replaced with impermeable tarps, which will contain the runoff water generated during the initial wash procedure. The water contained by the tarps will be routed to collection points on the ends of the bridge. The collection points consist of gutters and funnels, and will function to transport the runoff water to barrels for removal from the site. A mechanical winch would be used to assist lifting of the barrels for hauling and removal.

Both actions alternatives would meet the Decision Criteria described in the EA. Both alternatives would:

- Effectively address the maintenance needs for the Wildwood Footbridge (EA sections 1 and 2).
- Provide for minimal disruption to visitor use and associated experiences within Wildwood Recreation Area (EA section 3.0).
- Minimize impacts to the Affected Environment (EA section 3.0).

Alternative 3 (No Action Alternative): Under the “no action” Alternative 3, no maintenance actions would take place on the Salmon River footbridge.

III. Decision Rationale

Considering, the content of the EA and that there were no public comments on the EA, I have decided to implement the Selected Action, as previously described (DR section II) for the following reasons.

The Selected action and Alternative 2 have similar environmental effects (EA section 3.0). The Government estimate for total project cost would be approximately 20% less under the Selected Action (Partial containment) when compared with Alternative 2 (Full containment). The partial containment system would not require removal, transportation, and disposal of pentachlorophenol.

The “No Action Alternative” was not selected for the following reasons. The “No Action Alternative” would not:

- Meet the purpose and need of the project (EA section 1.2),
- Result in any short term costs to the Government because the maintenance project would not be implemented. However, the lifespan of the bridge would be compromised and it is estimated that full bridge replacement would be needed within the next 10-15 years.

IV. Compliance with Direction

The analysis documented in the *Wildwood Footbridge Maintenance Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact* (EA) supplements analysis found in the *Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement*, September 1994 (RMP/FEIS). This project has been designed to conform to the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, May 1995 (RMP), and related documents which direct and provide the legal framework for management of BLM lands within the Salem District (EA section 1.3). All of these documents may be reviewed at the Cascades Resource Area office.

V. Public Involvement/ Consultation/Coordination

Scoping

Public outreach for this project consisted of scoping via the March 2008 Project Update. The Salem District did not receive any comments in regards to the proposed footbridge maintenance project. Prior to project implementation, information on project specifics will be posted at kiosks within Wildwood Recreation Site, and visitors will be informed of alternative access points to the Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness Area (EA section 5.2).

Comment Period and Comments

A copy of the EA and FONSI was made available on the Internet at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/plans/index.php> and the notice for public comment was published in a legal notice by the *Sandy Post* newspaper on June 18, 2008. A copy of the EA and FONSI was also made available for review at the Salem District Office, Cascades Resource Area Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon. During the EA comment period, I received no comments concerning this project.

ESA Section 7 Consultation

US Fish and Wildlife Service: The proposed action will have no effect on T/E Wildlife Species or habitat due to the timing, location and nature of the project. No T/E habitat modification would occur.

NOAA Fisheries: As part of the consultation requirement with National Marine Fisheries Service, the Selected Action is covered under the *Biological Assessment for Programmatic Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Activities in Northwestern Oregon, May 2, 2008 Prepared and Reviewed by: Salem District Bureau of Land Management, Eugene District Bureau of Land Management, Mt. Hood National Forest, Willamette National Forest, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Siuslaw National Forest* (EA section 5.1.1.2).

VI. Conclusion

Review of Finding of No Significant Impact

I have determined that change to the Findings of No Significant Impact (EA #OR080-08-11 FONSI – June, 2008) covering the *Wildwood Footbridge Maintenance* project is not necessary because I've considered and concur with information in the EA and FONSI and this Decision Record.

No new information was provided that lead me to believe the analysis, data or conclusions are in error or that the selected action needs to be altered. The selected action would not have effects beyond those already anticipated and addressed in the RMP EIS. Supplemental or additional information to the analysis in the RMP/FEIS in the form of a new environmental impact statement is not needed for the reasons described in the Findings of No Significant Impact (*Wildwood Footbridge Maintenance EA*, pages 4-6).

Administrative Review Opportunities

You have the right to appeal this decision to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board), in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. The public notice for this Decision will be published in the *Sandy Post* newspaper on September 10, 2008. If you choose to appeal, a notice of appeal must be filed in this office (Salem District BLM) within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of the public notice in the above newspaper.

If your notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, one must be filed with the Board within thirty (30) days after the notice of appeal was filed. A copy of your notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, Oregon 97232.

As provided by 43 CFR Part 4, you have the right to petition the Office of Hearings and Appeals to stay implementation of the decision; however, you must show standing and present reasons for requesting a stay of the decision that address your interests and the manner by which they would be harmed. A petition for stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied; (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits; (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Should you choose to file one, your stay request must accompany your notice of appeal. A notice of appeal with petition for stay must be served upon the Board, Regional Solicitor, and adverse parties at the same time such documents are served on the deciding official at this office. The person signing the notice of appeal has the responsibility of proving eligibility to represent the appellant before the Board under its regulations at 43 CFR § 1.3.

Implementation Date

Implementation of this decision may occur after the completion of the administrative appeal process.

Agency contact: For additional information concerning this decision or the appeal process, contact Zach Jarrett (503) 375-5610 or Carolyn Sands at (503) 315-5973, Cascades Resource Area, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE Salem, OR 97306.

Approved by: Cindy Enstrom
Cindy Enstrom, Field Manager
Cascades Resource Area

9/4/2008
Date