

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Four Rivers Field Office  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5339

**DECISION RECORD  
For the  
Highlands and Crane Creek Ridge  
Trails Construction and Designation  
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0041-EA**

I have decided to implement Alternative B, the New Trails alternative of the Highlands and Crane Ridge Trails Environmental Assessment #DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0041-EA (see attached map). The following actions will occur:

- Highlands Trail – construct 0.9 mile of trail;
- Crane Creek Ridge Trail – construct 0.6 mile of trail;
- Designate Highlands Trail and Crane Creek Ridge Trail for non-motorized uses only and add these two trails as components of the Ridge to Rivers Trail System (see attached Map).

**Authority**

Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directs that public lands be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in accordance with the land use plans developed under Section 202 of the Act. The 1988 Cascade Resource Management Plan provides the additional management direction required by FLMA. Designation of trails is authorized under 43 CFR 8342 - Designation of Areas and Trails. These designations will be effective upon issuance of the Decision Record.

**Compliance and Monitoring**

BLM recreation staff and law enforcement personnel, in cooperation with City of Boise's Ridge to Rivers staff will monitor recreation use in the area to ensure compliance with the non-motorized trail use designations and trail closures. Additionally, Ridge to Rivers trail maintenance staff and volunteers will monitor trail conditions to identify resource concerns (e.g. erosion, revegetation progress). Changes in management will be made as necessary, based on monitoring results.

**NEPA Compliance**

Public notification of this project was initiated with the publication of the proposal on the BLM NEPA website on August 7, 2012. The Four Rivers Field Office participated in a public scoping meeting associated with the City of Boise's forthcoming Open Space Management Plan for the Boise foothills on December 13, 2012. These new trail opportunities were discussed with the general public attending and feedback opportunities were provided. Comments were supportive of additional trail opportunities, especially re-establishing the connection between Bob's and Corrals Trails. Additionally, the adjacent private landowner has been involved in the development of trail options from the beginning of this process.

Based on my review of the EA and comments, I determined that the proposed actions will not result in any significant impacts to the human environment. The EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is available upon request to the Four Rivers Field Office, and is available with this Decision Record on the BLM NEPA Register internet site at:

[https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do)

### **Rationale for the Decision**

The Proposed Action implements the intent of BLM's 1988 Cascade Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision that directs the agency to:

1. "...provide and maintain recreation opportunities and facilities on public lands. Recreation facilities (will be) provided to meet existing or anticipated demand, for public safety, and to protect recreation facilities."
2. Designate the Boise Front as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).
3. Within the 12,000 acre Boise Front Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the following activities will receive management emphasis or resource use limitations to further protect resource values:
  - a. Motorized and non-motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails;
  - b. The area will be managed to conform to Class II Visual Resource guidelines;
  - c. Water control structures will be installed to reduce erosion where needed;
  - d. Certain existing roads and trails will be closed and rehabilitated."

The proposed action would effectively address the purpose and need identified in the EA to:

- (1) meet the public demand to provide recreational trail opportunities in a frequently used area of the Boise Foothills;
- (2) re-establish a closed connection trail; and
- (3) provide a short loop opportunity off Bob's Trail.

The project is in conformance with the multi-agency adopted *Public Land Open Space Management Plan for the Boise Foothills* (2000) that lists a principal goal and related objectives for recreation use on the public lands of the Boise Foothills:

Goal: Provide the public with a wide range of recreational opportunities compatible with other plan goals at appropriate places, while taking care to protect the ecological diversity of the Foothills.

Objective 1: Manage the recreation uses to be compatible with the natural resources found in the Foothills;

Objective 2: Manage trails and trailheads to protect Foothills resources, take pressure off The Boise River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), reduce trail conflicts, and offer additional recreation opportunities;

Objective 3: Have recreational activities or improvements avoid or minimize impacts to important resource values;

Objective 4: If negative impacts to critical resources occur due to a recreational facility or use, seek to mitigate, relocate, or impose seasonal closures to address the impacts."

The proposed action will not have a significant impact to the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required (FONSI for DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0041-EA).

## Administrative Remedies

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on July 1, 2013. Within 30 days of this decision notification, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the authorized officer at *Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705*. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the authorized officer.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21 (b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and 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 irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
- 4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the authorized officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Boise Field Solicitors Office, *U.S. Department of the Interior, University Plaza, 960 Broadway Avenue, Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83706* not later than 15 days after filing the document with the authorized officer and/or IBLA.

### Approval of Authorized Officer

/s/ Terry A. Humphrey

8/2/2013

Terry A. Humphrey – Four Rivers Field Manager

Date

**Contact:** For questions concerning this decision, please contact Larry Ridenhour, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Four Rivers Field Office, 208-384-3334 or at [lridenhour@blm.gov](mailto:lridenhour@blm.gov).

## Location of Highlands and Crane Creek Ridge Trails

