

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene District, Idaho

**DECISION RECORD**

**Project Name:** Prichard Creek Channel Restoration Environmental Assessment  
**BLM Office:** Coeur d'Alene Field Office, 3815 N. Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815  
**NEPA Register No.:** DOI- BLM-ID-C010-2012-008-EA  
**Project Location:** Shoshone County, Idaho. Boise Meridian  
T. 49 N., R. 5 E., Section 6

**Contact:** Mike Stevenson, Hydrologist, cstevenson@blm.gov

The BLM prepared the attached environmental assessment (EA) for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based upon my review of the EA, I have determined the proposed Prichard Creek Channel Restoration is not a major federal action that may have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. As analyzed in the EA, no environmental effects of the proposed action meet the definition of significance as defined by regulations to implement NEPA found at 40 CFR 1508.27. This finding is based on my consideration of both the context and intensity of the project, as described below.

**Context**

The BLM, Coeur d'Alene Field Office, is proposing to stabilize several eroding stream bank sites and improve channel function in a reach of Prichard Creek near Murray, Idaho. The over-steepened banks and unstable floodplains are a chronic source of sediment directly entering Prichard Creek. The multi-year restoration work would be implemented under a contract, over several low-flow seasons, beginning in the late summer or early fall of 2012.

**Proposed Action and the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

The bank and floodplain restoration will proceed as described and analyzed for the Proposed Action alternative in the environmental assessment (EA) listed above and as attached. The over-steepened banks and unstable floodplains are a chronic source of sediment directly entering Prichard Creek. Together, the existing conditions are inhibiting natural recovery of the channel.

The restoration is being completed on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered public lands.

**Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act**

In accordance with regulations to implement the procedural requirements of NEPA found at 40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508 and 43 CFR Part 46, the BLM has reviewed the proposed action in the Prichard Creek Channel Restoration EA. BLM's review determined that implementation of the

proposed action would not result in any significant impacts to the human environment thus requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

### **Public Involvement**

The public was notified of the project through the BLM e-Planning NEPA Register and no public scoping comments were received. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be available with the EA and this Decision Record (DR) from the Idaho BLM public internet site at <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.html> throughout an administrative appeal period for this decision.

### **DECISION**

It is my decision to implement the Prichard Creek Channel Restoration Project proposed action as it is described in the referenced EA to include all environmental design and monitoring features. This decision is further conditioned upon any stipulations or mitigation measures required of BLM.

### **Rationale**

My decision to restore the channel as described in the Proposed Action alternative of the EA has been made for the following reasons:

1. **Consistent with RMP Goal:** The channel restoration will help the Coeur d'Alene Field Office comply with the Resource Management Plan by:
  - a. Restoring or improving water quality to sustain beneficial uses on public lands.
  - b. Applying appropriate reclamation measures to mitigate adverse erosion and sediment delivery.
  - c. Improving degraded riparian and wetland vegetation.
2. **Public Involvement:** The BLM solicited input from the public during scoping for the EA and considered any comments received following publication of the pre-decisional EA.

**Authority:** The authority for this decision is contained in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 USC 1715), as amended.

**Compliance and Monitoring:** Post project monitoring will be completed by the staff to determine the effectiveness of the restoration measures. All other monitoring will be performed in accordance with FLPMA, approved activity plans, Code of Federal Regulations and BLM Instruction Memoranda.

**Alternatives Considered:** In addition to the Proposed Action alternative, the EA analyzed a No Action alternative in which the BLM would not restore the actively eroding areas as described in the EA. Under the no action alternative the actively eroding sites would continue to adversely impact the project area.

**Land use Plan Conformance:**

The proposed action conforms to the Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan (RMP), as it was approved June 29, 2007 (BLM, 2007). It is specifically provided for by the following decisions for the management of soil and water resources (SO and WA) on page 14 of the RMP. Goals and actions include "Manage soils on public land to maintain, restore, or improve soil erosion class and watershed health."; "Apply appropriate reclamation measures to mitigate adverse erosion and sediment delivery." (Action SO-1.1.3); "Maintain, improve, or restore water quality to sustain designated beneficial uses on public lands" (Goal WA-1); and "Prescribe and implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reasonably prevent degradation of water quality (RMP, Appendix C, page C-6)".

**Approval and Effective Date**

/s/ Kurt Pavlat  
Kurt Pavlat, Field Manager

August 24, 2012  
Date

## **Administrative Review Procedures**

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 August 3, 2012. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at 3815 N. Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815. 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 (IBLA), Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300-QC, Arlington, VA 22203 after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21(b) 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. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

### **Standards for Obtaining a Stay**

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a 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 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 a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision from which the appeal is taken, and with 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 Office of the Regional Solicitor at Department of the Interior, Boise Field Solicitor's Office, University Plaza, 960 Broadway Ave, Suite 400, Boise, ID 83706, no later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.