

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
3815 N Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

## **DECISION RECORD**

John C Pointner Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary  
DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2013-0008-EA

### **1. Background**

The Coeur d'Alene Field Office is proposing to construct 0.9 miles of pedestrian/bike trail on the Bureau of Land Management lands, hereafter, called the John C Pointner Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary (JCPMWS), near Cougar Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene, approximately 1 mile south of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. A standard trail system would be constructed using hand tools (shovels, rakes, clippers, saws) to a standard trail of 2 ft wide dirt path with most vegetation cleared to 2 ft on either side of the trail. The Bureau of Land Management recently acquired an easement to cross private lands to access the John C Pointner Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary from the existing Nature Conservancy land trails. This area will provide outstanding views and vistas of Lake Coeur d'Alene and the surrounding shoreline.

### **2. Decision**

It is my decision to create 0.4 miles of trail which would tie into an additional 0.5 miles of existing (user defined) trail to make a 0.9 mile loop trail through 28 acres of BLM managed properties along Lake Coeur d'Alene (See Vicinity Map #1 and Project Map #2). The trail will have two benches that will act as resting and viewing areas. There will also be an interpretive overlook that will be dedicated to John C Pointner who sold the property to the BLM.

The trails will be standard trail design of 2 ft width of bare ground and vegetation cleared to 2 ft on both sides of the trail. Approximately 80 percent of the new trail will follow previously constructed and abandoned logging roads.

The BLM will also install signs to inform the public of the boundaries of the private lands adjacent to the public lands.

Full-bench construction, properly installed drainage, and other design features would be employed to decrease the potential for trail erosion into the wetland.

Trail improvements and construction will occur between August 1 and April 1 to mitigate impacts to migratory birds and Special Status birds during the nesting season.

Signs will be posted advising users to stay on designated trails to mitigate impacts to wildlife and habitat quality outside of the trail corridor, to avoid trampling impacts to site vegetation and to limit weed introduction.

The Coeur d'Alene Field Office botanist will inventory the proposed trail segment prior to ground-disturbing activities. If BLM Sensitive species are found, measures would be implemented to reduce project impacts to plants growing within the proposed trail corridor.

The BLM will also monitor disturbed areas for post-project vegetation recovery. Areas that do not vegetate quickly and would be vulnerable to weed invasion will be planted with native and/or desirable non-native species.

The BLM will conduct post-construction weed monitoring to track potential impacts from weed introduction.

The BLM will also expand interpretive displays at the trailhead that will increase public awareness about lake ecology, the function of wetlands, and the vulnerability of site plant communities to weed invasion.

The Coeur d'Alene Field Office hydrologist will inspect the new trail segment prior to ground-disturbing activities. If specific potential problem areas for drainage or erosion are found, they will be addressed through design measures.

Following large floods or runoff events the BLM will inspect the trail to insure soil stability and proper drainage is maintained.

### **3. Authority**

This decision is made in accordance with The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 as Amended, Section 301.

### **4. Rationale**

This alternative will satisfy the Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan (2007) direction to "Initiate project planning for the John C. Pointer Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary. Manage the area in conjunction with the Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area and adjoining property owners, and consider development of trails and wildlife viewing facilities" (Action RC-1.2.15). By completing the trail on the John C Pointner Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary (JCPMWS) the BLM will help to address the trespass problem onto private lands. As documented in the Finding of No Significance, this action is not expected to result in significant effects to the environment.

### **5. Public Involvement**

In December of 2011, the BLM held a public meeting on the proposed easement acquisition and trail construction at the JCPMWS property. The comments received were mostly in support of the project and acquisition of the easement.

The scoping document was also posted on the Coeur d'Alene Field Office's web page for review and comment.

## 6. Coordination and Consultation

The BLM has been closely coordinating activities in the Cougar Bay area with the Nature Conservancy.

The BLM sent a letter describing the proposed action to Mr Chief J Allan, Chairman of the Coeur d'Alene tribe on November 17, 2011.

## 7. Protest and Appeal

This decision constitutes my final decision. Any party that is adversely affected by it may appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. A notice of appeal must be filed in this office (Coeur d'Alene Field Office, 3815 N Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The Notice of appeal must be sent certified mail. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision is in error in a statement of reasons. 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 within 30 days of filing the notice of appeal with the authorized officer. Any request for stay of this decision, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.21, must be filed with your notice of appeal.

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4/15/13

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Kurt Pavlat  
Field Manager

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Date