

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Coeur d'Alene District, Cottonwood Field Office**

**DECISION RECORD
Old Powerline Road ATV Trail
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2013-0012-EA**

This documents my decision, as the Field Manager of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cottonwood Field Office (CFO), to authorize the Old Powerline Road ATV Trail (DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2013-0012-EA). The project area is located in T. 29 N., R. 8 E., Section 25 within the American River drainage, in Idaho County, Idaho just southeast of the rural community of Elk City. (See Map 1)

Decision

It is my decision, to authorize and implement the Old Powerline Road ATV Trail project on BLM managed lands within the project area.

The BLM will construct 118 feet of motorized trail in Idaho County, southeast of Elk City, Idaho, creating a 55" wide trail crossing BLM lands and designate the trail as Limited to motorized vehicles 50" or less in width (Map 2). This designation will be incorporated into the CFO Travel Management Plan.

The project features will include the constructions of a 55" wide trail and removal of the rock barrier and other material used previously to decommission the road prism. This will be accomplished with an excavator and crews using hand equipment (e.g., chainsaws, shovels, etc.). As needed, appropriate trail drainage and erosion control measures will be implemented. If, in the future, Bennett Forest Industries (BFI) revokes the County's easement or a permanent easement is not obtained from BFI, a gate or permanent barrier will be installed at the parking area to prevent trespass onto BFI managed lands.

In addition, the pioneered route (approximately 140 feet) created on BLM managed lands (Map 2), will be decommissioned and restoration of disturbed riparian areas will be conducted. This will be accomplished by partially re-contouring and deep ripping the trail with an excavator. Several large boulders will be selectively placed at the trail junction to restrict motorized access. Disturbed areas will be seeded with desired species (Table 3) and mulched with weed free straw and selective placement of large wood debris would occur. Planting of desired riparian shrubs and trees will also be conducted.

Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 43 CFR, Subpart 2932, the BLM has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed action in the Old Powerline ATV Trail (DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2013-0012-EA). Review of this EA resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI).

Rationale for Decision

My decision is based on consideration of the design features and information contained in the EA, management requirements of applicable laws and policies, and the comments received from public involvement and agency consultations for this project.

Implementation of the Proposed Action meets the purpose and need identified in the EA and is consistent with objectives and potential impacts analyzed in the EA and the Cottonwood Field Office RMP. The No Action alternative would not provide a loop trail recreation opportunity, a secondary fire evacuation route for American River property owners, nor would it rehabilitate the pioneered route on BLM lands.

The decision is consistent with Federal, state and local laws and requirements. It conforms to 2009 Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP) (EA, section 1.3), specifically with direction for recreation management on page 41 of the RMP for Goal RC-1-“Manage public lands and waters to provide a broad spectrum of recreation experiences and benefits and with direction for travel management on page 44 of the RMP for Objective TM-1.3-Make future route modifications (amending, revising, or revoking route designations) as needed based on access needs, recreational opportunities, results of environmental monitoring, and natural and cultural resource constraints.

The action will not violate other Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment (FONSI, Intensity factors). Implementation of the proposed action would result in no adverse effects to Endangered Species Act-listed, proposed, or candidate species; and critical habitats (EA, sections 3.4.8, 3.4.9, and 3.4.10). Implementation of the proposed action would have no impact to BLM sensitive species or habitats and will not cause a trend toward federal listing or reduce the viability of the populations or species (EA, sections 3.4.8, 3.4.9, and 3.4.10). The project incorporates applicable Federal, State and local requirements regarding Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and Idaho State Water Quality Standards.

Public Involvement, Agency and Tribal Consultation and Coordination

The public was notified of the project proposal through the BLM e-Planning NEPA Register at <https://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.html> in September 2013. On September 23, 2013, the BLM sent scoping letters describing the proposal to the Nez Perce Tribe and potentially interested individuals, businesses, organizations and agencies.

Issues identified during scoping that are addressed in the EA are listed in section 1.4.1. They include concerns for air quality (fugitive dust and vehicle emissions), Area of Critical Concern (American River Historic Site District), aquatic species (impacts to aquatic species, aquatic habitats, and water quality), cultural resources, wildlife (impacts to wildlife, migratory birds, habitats, and sensitive wildlife species), recreation (user conflicts and public safety), socio-economic concern (cost/benefit), transportation (motorized and mechanized vehicular access), and a Riparian Conservation Area.

The BLM completed an intensive cultural resource inventory of the project area and no properties listed or eligible for listing, in the National Register were found within the project area. The BLM spoke with the Nez Perce Tribe cultural resource staff, to brief them on the proposal, answer questions and address any concerns identified by the Nez Perce Tribe.

Consultation under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office was completed.

Mitigation Measures/Monitoring

No mitigation measures have been identified for this action. Design features were incorporated into the proposed action to minimize conflicts and impacts to resources. A paleontologist will monitor the site annually to minimize impacts to the unique paleontological resources of the project area.

Protest and Appeal

The NEPA documents will be available with this Decision Record during a 30-day administrative review period on the Idaho BLM NEPA website at <https://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.html>.

Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the Cottonwood Field Office, 1 Butte Drive, Cottonwood, Idaho, 83522. 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.

/s/

3/18/15

Will Runnoe
Field Manager
Cottonwood Field Office

Date