

**Finding of No Significant Impact
For the
Goodenough Creek OHV Bridge Environmental Assessment
DOI- BLM-ID-I020-2014-0020-EA
Introduction and Background**

Goodenough Creek is an historic spawning stream for a local population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) found in the Portneuf and Snake River Tributary System in eastern Idaho. Currently, an unimproved Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) crossing impedes migrating fish, particularly the young. In addition, OHV use of the crossing has adversely impacted stream habitat conditions by increasing direct and indirect sedimentation. YCT is native to the Snake River drainage. YCT have been documented in Goodenough Creek.

The BLM completed the Goodenough Creek OHV Bridge EA (DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2014-0020-EA) which analyzed and disclosed environmental impacts of implementing the Proposed Action, installation of an OHV bridge over Goodenough Creek on the BLM administered lands in Goodenough Creek Campground. The Proposed Action is located along Goodenough Creek in T. 9 S., R. 36 E., Section 7, SESE of the Boise Meridian, Idaho. The Proposed Action is also located within the Goodenough Creek Campground which is approximately 4.5 miles west of McCammon, Idaho.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

I have reviewed the EA including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts regarding the EA. I have also reviewed the ten Intensity Factors for significance listed in 40 CFR 1508.27 and have determined that the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action affecting the quality of the human environment or causing unnecessary or undue degradation of the natural environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement has not been prepared.

Implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40CFR 1508.27) provide criteria for determining the significance of effects. ‘Significant’, as used in NEPA, requires consideration of both context and intensity. The bold and italicized text are repeated from 40CFR 1508.27 for completeness and an explanation follows for relevance to the decision.

This project does not have international, national, region-wide, or statewide importance. The analysis has shown that the project significance is local in nature and that the installation of the bridge will have no significant impact on existing resource values.

Context:

The project is a site-specific action directly involving the disturbed area of the existing ford-crossing for OHVs within the campground. The BLM administered public land involved does

not in and of itself have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance. The bridge, would be manufactured from metal, would be 30' in length and 6' wide. It would rest on two cement footings. The two footings would require approximately 6 cubic yards of concrete each. At both ends of the bridge, barriers would be installed to limit the size of motorized vehicles to 50 inches or less in width and full size vehicles would not be allowed to use the bridge.

Fill would be needed to connect the bridge to the OHV motorized trails on both the north and south side of the creek. The abutments to secure the bridge are on both sides of the embankment and are each 3 feet tall by 2.5 feet wide by 10 feet long. Approximately 6 yards of riprap would be used to armor the side of the bridge. Both the fill and riprap would be procured from off-site locations. Permits for this project were obtained from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, in compliance with the Clean Water Act and Also the State of Idaho Department of Water Resources for stream alteration. The permits are located in the case file of this project.

Intensity.

The following discussion is organized around the 10 Significance Criteria described at 40 CFR 1508.27. The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

(1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and/or adverse.

The analysis documented in EA DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2014-0020-EA did identify that fish would benefit because they would have the ability to access more habitat up and down the creek in the long term. Soils disturbance may result in some minor erosion and sediment may enter the stream in the short term. Overall, the benefits in the long term outweigh the minor impacts associated with the installation of the bridge. Once the bridge is installed the soils that have been impacted due to vehicles crossing the stream would begin to recover from the past disturbance. The *Cumulative Impacts Of the Proposed Action* section (pages 18-20) describes the impacts associated with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that have occurred, or are likely to occur, in the area.

(2) The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.

The environmental analysis documented no major effects on public health and safety from the Proposed Action described in the EA.

(3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

The environmental analysis documented no major effects on unique geographic features of the area. The EA explains that a Class III Cultural Resources Inventory was conducted to assess the effects of the proposed project on cultural resources. The BLM determined No Historic Properties Affected for this project and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with this finding. The SHPO report of this project is located in the case file. There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers within the area, and no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. There are also no Wilderness Study Areas in the area.

(4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality or the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

There are no effects on the quality or the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial. The installation of the bidge is only beneficial to the quality of the environment.

(5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

The environmental analysis did not identify any effects on the human environment which are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. The bridge allows for fish passage and would allow for OHV users to safely pass over the creek. The effects of the proposed action on the human environment are not highly uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risks.

(6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

The proposed action does not set precedent or represent a decision in principle about a future management consideration. The proposed action involves pacing a bridge over a creek, which is a common management practice to protect fish habitat and provide safe OHV riding over creeks. The installation of the bridge was analyzed in the *Cumulative Impacts Of Alternatives* section (pages 18-20). No significant cumulative impacts were identified within the EA. Implementation of this decision would not trigger other actions, nor will it represent a decision in principle about future consideration. The activity is not connected to any other future actions.

(7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

The EA documents the connected and cumulative impacts with the scope of the analysis area. The analysis did not identify any known significant cumulative or secondary effects. The cumulative effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions are considered and disclosed in the *Cumulative Impacts Of Alternatives* section (pages 18-20) of the analysis. No individually or cumulatively significant impacts were identified in the EA in combination with the installation of the bridge.

(8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

The proposed action would not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The EA noted that Cultural Resources were present but no Historic Properties would be affected for this project and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with this finding.

(9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

There are no endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 within the project. However, the BLM has designated YCT as “sensitive” in coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The YCT is listed as a Rangewide/Globally Imperiled – Type 2 fish, meaning the species experiencing significant declines through its range with a likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to its rarity and/or significant endangerment factors such as habitat loss. The installation of the bridge would improve fish passage for the species.

(10) Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

The environmental analysis documents that the proposed action is consistent with Federal, State, and local laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

I find that implementing the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment in either context or intensity. I have made this determination after considering both positive and negative effects, as well as the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of this action and reasonably foreseeable future actions. I have found that the context of the environmental impacts of this decision is limited to the local area and I have also determined that the severity of these impacts is not significant. This document is adequate and in conformance with the Pocatello Resource Management Plan (RMP), as amended.

/s/ David A. Pacioretty
David A. Pacioretty
Date: April 2, 2015
Pocatello Field Manager