

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Pocatello FIELD OFFICE
Decision Record
For the
Goodenough Creek OHV Bridge
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 project consists of installing a bridge over the creek to allow OHV's to access the trails. By installing the bridge, OHVs would no longer drive through the creek and impede fish migration.

Decision

It is my decision is to implement the Proposed Action and authorize the installation of the bridge for the protection of fish passage within Goodenough Creek. The installation of the bridge would benefit fish migration. YCT would benefit because they would be able to access more habitat up and down the creek. In addition, habitat degradation as a result of sediment introduction associated with OHV use of the unimproved crossing would be eliminated. With a reduction in sediment entering the creek, the embedding of spawning gravels would decrease. Other fish species in the creek would also benefit.

The bridge installation would have a long-term, beneficial impact by removing the OHV traffic in the channel. The channel and floodplain would narrow to about one-half of its present width over time. This would result in a narrower and deeper sediment transport channel, thereby improving the ability of fish to migrate. During construction, some cobble, gravel and sand would be shifted and transported downstream, however this would be a minor, short-term impact, lasting slightly longer than the bridge installation period.

Rationale

The Proposed Action would provide Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a BLM sensitive fish species, with access to additional spawning and rearing habitat in Goodenough Creek and would control erosion and provide stream bank protection while accommodating OHV use.

“Goal FW-1: Manage wildlife habitats so vegetation composition and structures assures presence of fish and wildlife as part of an ecologically healthy system.”

According to the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) the action has been analyzed in an EA and found to have no significant impacts, thus an EIS is not required.

I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the management direction in the approved Pocatello Resource Management Plan (April 2012). The current management direction for the plan is as follows:

Goal FW-1: Manage wildlife habitats so vegetation composition and structures assures presence of fish and wildlife as part of an ecologically healthy system.

The BLM Manual 6840- Special Status Species Management provides policy and guidance for the management of sensitive species. The primary objective of sensitive species management is,

“To initiate proactive conservation programs which minimize the potential for listing of BLM designated sensitive species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and to ensure that actions requiring authorization or approval by the BLM are consistent with the conservation of BLM sensitive species (USDI-BLM 2008:2)”.

Protest and Appeals Information:

See attached form

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Chuck Patterson (208) 478-6362 or myself at (208) 478-6341.

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