

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**
Border Field Office
1103 N Fancher Road
Spokane, WA 99212

DECISION RECORD

**South Fork Crab Creek Riparian and Wetland Enhancement
Environmental Assessment**

DOI-BLM-OR-135-2015-0003-EA

1. Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Border Field Office has analyzed a proposal to enhance riparian and wetland conditions on BLM-administered lands in the lower South Fork Crab Creek drainage. South Fork Crab Creek Riparian and Wetland Enhancement Environmental Assessment (EA) describes the proposed treatments, a no action alternative, and the environmental impacts associated with improving riparian and watershed conditions in the project area.

The project area is located approximately 12 miles north of Ritzville, Washington in Lincoln County (see EA Figure A-1). The legal description of the lower South Fork of Crab Creek area includes portions of Township 21 N., Range 35 E., Section 23.

2. Decision

I have decided to implement the riparian restoration and wetland enhancement project described in the EA as the proposed action (see pp. 7-14). Implementation will include development of a hardened water crossing, enhancement of the South Fork Crab Creek riparian area, creation and enhancement of wetland conditions in the valley of South Fork Crab Creek, control of invasive plants, and temporary suspension of active grazing use.

3. Authority and Rationale for the Decision

My decision is issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). FLPMA directs the BLM to protect the quality of ecological, environmental, and water resources and provide food and habitat for fish, wildlife and domestic animals (43 U.S.C. 1701). My decision conforms to the Spokane District Resource Management Plan (RMP) as amended. The 1987 RMP Record of Decision (p.



12) identified protection and enhancement of water quality as a management objective. The RMP (ROD, p. 19) also identified restoration of natural functions and general habitat improvement as goals for riparian habitat areas, wetlands, and floodplains. Implementing this project will help to achieve the management objective and goals in the RMP.

I have also determined that the actions analyzed in the EA (DOI-BLM-OR-135-2015-0003-EA) do not constitute a major federal action and that their implementation will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. See the attached Finding of No Significant Impact.

4. Consultation and Public Involvement

BLM initiated National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation with the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP), and the Tribal Chairs and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Spokane Tribe of Indians. Consultation is discussed in Section 12 of the EA. On May 27, 2014, BLM posted a scoping letter on its public NEPA website describing the proposed action and purpose and need for action. BLM met with the current allotment grazing lessee. Additionally, BLM shared information and received comments from an adjacent landowner. On August 26, 2015, BLM posted the South Fork Crab Creek EA and Finding of No Significant Impact on its public website. The comments received in response to these solicitations resulted in modifications to the proposed action and updates to the EA.

5. Protest and Appeal

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. To appeal, you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Border Field Office, 1103 North Fancher Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99212, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the office noted above. The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile or email. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board (see 43 CFR 4.21), the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision, the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and the Office of the Solicitor (Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97205) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office.

/s/ Lindsey Babcock

11-6-2015

Lindsey Babcock
Field Manager

Date

cc:
Dean White