

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Salem District
Marys Peak Resource Area

Updates to Wayfinding Signage to the Alsea Falls Recreation Site
DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2015-0004-DNA

Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0001-EA

A. Background and Description of the Proposed Action

Proposed Action Title/Type: Alsea Falls Sign Replacement and Improvement.

The purpose of this document is to determine whether existing environmental analysis that have been completed with similar work and intensity are adequate. The work that will be done is the removal and replacement of existing signage within the Alsea Falls recreation area and wayfinding signage along major routes of travel leading to the site.

This review indicates that the project proposal is substantially similar in type, location and intensity, scope and location to the proposal analyzed in the Signage updates within the Alsea Falls Recreation Site (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2015-0001-DNA), the Alsea Falls Recreation Site Sign Installation (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0015-CX) and the Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0001-EA). It affirms that the project, as designed, is consistent with the direction provided in the NEPA process in the indicated plans.

Location of Proposed Action: Alsea Falls Recreation Site, Alsea Falls National back Country Byway from 99w to Highway 34

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to improve and replace signage within Alsea Falls Recreation Area and wayfinding signage used along the major travel routes leading to the recreation area. Approximately 80 signs will be replaced. The proposed action will use the best methods that have been employed at Alsea Falls and similar locations. The BLM Sign Guidebook (2004) will be used to ensure that the appearance and material stay uniformed and consistent. The BLM will work closely with County and State counterparts where signage appears on their right of ways to ensure every action will be performed in a responsible manner.

The purpose of this project is to effectively manage recreation use in the planning area and to provide the public with safe routes of travel that are easily identifiable.

Specific activities that will take place as part of this project include removal of old, decaying, deteriorating and redundant signs, including the posts and other materials used to anchor the

signs in place. After removal the installation of new signs, posts, and anchors will be performed at the same location on ground that has been disturbed in the past. All materials that will be used will be in accordance to NEPA standards that were identified in earlier NEPA documentation.

Due to the limited scope of the project, impacts to visitors are expected to be minimal. All routes will remain open. Most of the work will be completed during the weekdays of the early months of the recreation season to limit the impacts to the public.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

The signage updates conform to the Salem District Resource Management Plan/Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended by the 2001 *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (2001 ROD).

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

- Provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected recreation demand within the planning area. (RMP p. 41).
- Continue to operate and maintain developed recreation sites and trails (RMP p. 43).

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is provided for in the following LUP decisions (Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan 1995 and the Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan):

Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (pp. 41–44):

Enhance travel and recreation management through increased emphasis on interpretive and informational signs and maps. Identify on informational handouts at field locations all major travel routes within the planning area. Prepare a travel map for public distribution. These actions will support state and local strategies to encourage tourism.

Back Country Byways

Continue to facilitate, manage, and promote public use of the Nestucca River and South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byways.

Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan EA (pp. 24–25)

Theme 5 – General Management, Visitor Services and Interpretation

5.1. Direction: *Provide public information and interpretative materials that enhances visitor experience, clearly articulates rules and regulations and protects public safety.*

- Improve the overall appearance and consistency of visitor information. Kiosks, maps and other information should be standardized in appearance. Durability and legibility will be primary criteria for sign selection.
- Install and maintain visitor information at developed campgrounds and day-use facilities that clearly articulates rules and regulations. Install appropriate wayfinding information that leads visitors to developed sites from the South Fork Alsea Byway.

5.4. Direction: *In the Alsea Falls Recreation Area, emphasize and place priority on visitor safety. Visitor safety will be improved through increased traffic control measures such as speed bumps, well-defined parking, updating signage, increasing radio communication capabilities, and developing sites that can accommodate a campground host and seasonal employee.*

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

- Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan EA (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0001-EA)
- Signage updates within the Alsea Falls Recreation Site (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2015-0001-DNA)
- Alsea Falls Recreation Site Sign Installation (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0015-CX)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action previously identified?)

Yes. The proposed site and similar actions were described and analyzed in the Alsea Falls Recreation Site Sign Installation (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0015-CX) and the Signage updates within the Alsea Falls Recreation Site (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2015-0001-DNA).

The Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan EA makes references to similar actions as listed below.

Theme 4: Visitor Information and Interpretation (p. 19)

Existing general information and directional signage would be maintained or replaced. Bulletin boards and kiosks provide non-site specific interpretation while site brochures provide minimal history and directional information. Recreation opportunities would be publicized and promoted within the local area.

Signage includes:

- *Rules and regulations posted at registration kiosks in the campground and picnic area.*
- *Large South Fork Access Road (South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway) entrance sign on the east and west terminus.*
- *Forest Service posters depicting flora and fauna from around the United States.*

- *Large map of travel routes and connections with the Eugene District BLM.*
- *Five wooden interpretation and information bulletin boards with maps, generic interpretation and other important periodic information.*
- *Road safety signage including speed limits and trail user crossings.*
- *Department of Fish and Wildlife fishing regulations.*
- *Location maps or direction signs are fairly limited in the recreation area.*

The Alsea Falls Recreation Site Sign Installation CX makes reference to a similar action (p. 1).

Background and Description of Proposed Action:

The proposal is to install two kiosks to house site-specific interpretative signs in the day-use and campground areas to describe recent management activities and local flora. Minimal ground disturbance will occur as project activities will occur within the previously disturbed road bed and there will be no digging into the natural substrate.

The Signage updates within the Alsea Falls Recreation Site DNA makes reference to similar actions, these are referenced below (p. 1).

The BLM analyzed projects in the Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0001) in 2012 and specifically addressed signage improvements within the Alsea Falls Recreation Site (both day-use and campground areas). The BLM has identified six signs within the recreation site that need to be moved or removed (Figure 1). These signs have outdated or incorrect information. The signage updates are consistent with the activities analyzed to meet the Purpose and Need of the project. Work will begin in summer 2015 and is not expected to impact visitor use of the site.

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?**

Yes, the proposed action was analyzed in Chapter 2 of the EA (pg 13-32) compared to a No Action alternative. No new environmental, cultural or public interest concerns have developed since the range of alternatives in the EA was analyzed. There is no need to analyze a new list of alternatives.

- 3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?**

There is no new information that changes the circumstances that were analyzed in the Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan EA, in regards to hydrology, wildlife, botany, fisheries, recreation, and cultural resources for the installation and removal of signage.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the current proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes, cumulative impacts have been analyzed in the existing Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan EA for a similar action in the area. The implementation of the action will be similar in intensity and scope; the BLM will also use the best management practices and follow the design features in the EA to limit effects on the area's resources.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes, the level of public involvement during the Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan EA is within NEPA standards and is sufficient due to the nature of this project.

The Scoping process and public involvement can be found in the Decision record section 6.0 Pg 8 and is as follows.

Public Involvement/ Consultation/Coordination

Public Scoping

The BLM conducted external scoping (seeking input from outside the BLM) for this project by means of a scoping letter mailed on February 16, 2010, to approximately 86 federal, state and municipal government agencies, nearby landowners, tribal authorities, and interested parties on the Marys Peak Resource Area mailing list. In March 2010, the BLM held two public meetings to solicit comments on the planning area. Held in Corvallis and Alsea, the meetings provided an open house forum for members of the public to explain their interests and concerns regarding management of BLM lands within the Alsea Falls RAMP. These meetings contributed to setting the scope of the plan and identified issues and concerns to address. The BLM followed up with another scoping letter, posted online and mailed to interested and affected parties, to solicit comment on draft plan alternatives. The comment period was open June 17 to August 31, 2010. The BLM received thirty comments during the scoping period.

A BLM website followed initial scoping to provide plan-related information and provide background for interested parties. The RAMP has also been included in the Salem District's quarterly Project Update publication since 2010. The publication provides information regarding BLM's current project work and provides contact information for public involvement. The BLM has provided sufficient opportunities for public involvement.

EA and FONSI Comment Period

The BLM made the EA and draft FONSI available for public review from October 9, 2012 to November 7, 2012. The BLM invited the public, by means of a press release and

letters to those on the mailing list, to attend an open house in Corvallis, Oregon on October 29, 2012. Information on the plan was presented to the 10 attendees. Representatives from the planning team and agency management were made available to discuss the EA and proposed action.

Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Name	Resource
Tim Fisher	Site Manager
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife
Douglass Fitting	Hydrology and Soils
Scott Snedaker	Fisheries
Ron Exeter	Botany, Non-Native Invasive Species
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Coordinator
Heather Ulrich	Cultural Resources

Prepared and Reviewed By

/s/ Daniel Davis
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May 13, 2015
Date

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/ Andy Frazier
Andy Frazier
Acting Marys Peak Field Manager

May 11, 2015
Date