

and
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ESTABLISHMENT OF ELEVEN RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS

USDA Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region
Oregon and Washington

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Chief of the Forest Service, in Forest Service Manual Section 4063, I hereby establish the Research Natural Areas listed in Table 1 and as described in their respective Establishment Records in the section entitled "Location".

Table 1: Research Natural Area Locations

R N A	National Forest	Ranger District	County	Acres
Oregon				
Cache Mountain	Deschutes	Sisters	Deschutes	1400
Dry Mountain	Ochoco	Snow Mountain	Harney	2205
Gumjuwac/Tolo	Mt. Hood	Barlow	Hood River	3600
Hagan	Willamette	Blue River	Lane	1126
McKenzie Pass	Willamette	McKenzie	Lane	1187
Mokst Butte	Deschutes	Bend/Fort Rock	Deschutes	1250
Reneke Creek	Siuslaw	Hebo	Tillamook	480
Tenmile Creek	Siuslaw	Oregon Dunes NRA	Coos	1190
Vee Pasture	Fremont	Bly	Klamath & Lake	620
Washington				
Fish Lake Bog	Wenatchee	Lake Wenatchee	Chelan	206
Roger Lake	Okanogan	Tonasket	Okanogan	436

The Regional Forester recommended the establishment of these RNAs in the Record of Decision for their respective Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans). That recommendation was the result of an analysis of the factors listed in 36 CFR 219.25 and Forest Service Manual 4063.2. Results of the Regional Forester's analysis are documented in the Forest Plans and Final Environmental Impact Statements which are available to the public.

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

The Regional Forester has reexamined the RNAs to ensure that the environmental effects of establishing the areas as RNAs have not changed since the Forest Plans were adopted. In three cases (Cache Mountain, Dry Mountain, and Gumjuwac/Tolo) areas were recommended for addition or deletion from the proposed RNA to better accomplish the original purpose of the RNA. Proposed Tenmile Creek RNA boundary adjustments were adopted by the Record of Decision for the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area Management Plan in 1994. For the remaining RNAs no changes were found. This analysis is documented in the attached Environmental Assessment.

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment, it is my decision to adopt Alternative 2 which establishes these eleven areas as Research Natural Areas. Alternative 2 is selected because it provides long-term protection of the research and educational values of these special areas and the ecosystem elements that they represent. The RNAs will be managed in compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and Forest Service Manual direction regarding RNAs and in accordance with the management direction identified in their respective Forest Plans.

Although this alternative is consistent with the management direction in each Forest Plan it does change the allocation for these areas from "Proposed RNA" to "Established RNA". This is a non-significant amendment of the Forest Plans [36 CFR 219.10(f)].

OTHER ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED

The other alternative considered was Alternative 1, the "No Action" alternative which would continue management of the RNAs as "Proposed RNAs". Alternative 1 was not selected because it would provide only short-term protection of the research and educational values of the areas. Alternative 1 is consistent with the Forest Plans.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the environmental analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment, it has been determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination is based on the following factors [40 CFR 1508.27]:

CONTEXT

Although this is an addition to the national system of RNAs, both short-term and long-term physical and biological effects are limited to the local area.

INTENSITY

1. There are no known effects on public health and safety.
2. No significant direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to the natural resources or other components of the human environment are anticipated.
3. Effects on the human environment are not uncertain, do not involve unique or unknown risks,

and are not likely to be highly controversial.

4. There are no known effects on historical or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, or wild and scenic rivers. Effects of establishing the RNAs is to protect ecologically sensitive areas. No significant adverse effects area anticipated to any environmentally sensitive or critical area.

5. The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects.

6. The proposed action will not adversely affect any federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or Regionally listed sensitive species of plants or animals or their critical habitats.

7. The proposed action is consistent with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDA, USDI 1994).

8. The proposed action is consistent with Federal, State, and local laws and requirements for protection of the environment.

NOTIFICATION and IMPLEMENTATION

Legal notice of this decision will appear in The Oregonian and The Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The Forest Supervisor of each National Forest shall notify the public of this decision and mail a copy of the Decision Notice/Designation Order to all persons on their Forest Plan mailing lists.

Implementation of this decision shall not occur within seven days following publication of the legal notice of the decision in The Oregonian and The Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

APPEAL RIGHTS

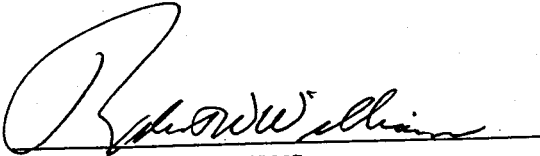
This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 217. A copy of the Notice of Appeal must be in writing and must be submitted to:

Chief, USDA Forest Service
ATTN: NFS Appeals
14th and Independence Ave., S.W.
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

Any written Notice of Appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9 (Content of a Notice of Appeal), must include the reasons for appeal, and must be submitted within 45 days from the date of legal notice of this decision in The Oregonian and The Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

CONTACT PERSON

For further information regarding this decision contact Sarah Greene,
RNA Coordinator, Pacific Northwest Research Station, 3200 S.W. Jefferson
Way, Corvallis, Oregon 97331, Phone 541-750-7360.


ROBERT W. WILLIAMS
Regional Forester

6/9/97
Date

Research Natural Area Locations



50 0 50 Miles

