

## *Decision Notice & Finding of No Significant Impact*

# **Round Meadows Trail Reroute Project**

USDA Forest Service  
North Fork John Day Ranger District, Umatilla National Forest  
Umatilla County, Oregon

T6S, R33E, sections 14, 15, and 22, Willamette Meridian, Surveyed

### **Introduction**

The Round Meadows Trail (#3155) is part of the Winom-Frazier Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) complex. This complex consists of approximately 130 miles of motorized trails that offer a variety of difficulty levels for Class I (4-wheeler) and Class III (motorcycle) use. Round Meadows Trail is rated as “easy” and is part of a loop<sup>1</sup> that is popular with both novice and experienced riders. Use of the trail and its associated loop continues to increase.

The Tower Fire severely burned the area surrounding the Round Meadows Trail in 1996, removing much of the vegetation. Then, in the spring of 1997, an intense thunderstorm caused major damage to this trail, washing out two bridges and causing rutting. Another storm in 2000 caused additional damage to the trail. Severe gullying has developed on a steep portion of trail adjacent to South Fork Cable Creek, and a large amount of soil continues to be deposited into the creek. South Fork Cable Creek contains populations of both resident and anadromous fish, including Threatened steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), that could be harmed by continued sediment deposition. Maintenance has been performed on the trail including installation of erosion control devices and minor trail realignment. However, the gullying is so severe that the trail is not repairable in its current location. The gully also presents safety hazards to OHV riders.

Trail conditions are preventing achievement of Forest Plan goals for recreation and natural resources (pages 4-1 through 4-3). There is a need to: 1) reduce sediment entering South Fork Cable Creek from the Round Meadows Trail, 2) preserve the OHV recreation experience on this popular trail, and 3) maintain or improve OHV safety. The Round Meadows Trail Reroute Environmental Assessment (EA) documents the analysis of two alternatives to meet this need and the “No Action” alternative. The EA is available for public review at the North Fork John Day Ranger District in Ukiah, OR, or it can be viewed on the web at [http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/nepa/Rnd\\_mdws\\_EA.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/nepa/Rnd_mdws_EA.pdf).

### **Decision**

Based upon my review of all alternatives, I have decided to implement the Proposed Action of the Round Meadows Trail Reroute Project. This alternative will reroute two sections of trail. One of the original trail segments will remain open to use, while the gullied portion of the original trail will be decommissioned and rehabilitated. This project

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<sup>1</sup> Other trails included in this loop are the Whoop-De-Do (#3045), Cut-Across (#3158) and the Tower Loop (#3040) trails. In addition, the Roundaway (#3046), River (#3043), Cable Creek (#3152) and Short Cable (#3124) trails tie into this loop.

will increase the total length of the Round Meadows Trail from the current 6.8 miles to 8.1 miles.

Reroute A: 1.1 miles of new trail will be constructed, traversing a ridge before rejoining the existing trail. The original route (Segment #1 – 1.1 miles) will remain open to create a short loop for beginning riders and disperse use.

Reroute B: 0.5 miles of new trail will be built and 0.3-miles of the original route (Segment #2) will be closed. Two new 25-foot-long bridges will be constructed across South Fork Cable Creek upstream of the existing bridges. Because the Tower Fire burned native, on-site materials, bridges will be constructed using poles or glue laminates. The bridge crossings will be moved upstream to a more constricted part of the channel that has higher banks. This location will be less prone to floods and channel instability, so the bridges will require less maintenance. The original bridges will be dismantled and, to the extent possible, decking and other materials will be reused. The ascending portion of trail north of the stream will be redesigned to avoid the steep, gullied trail segment, using several climbing turns to prevent future erosion. This will increase trail length by 0.2 mile, while eliminating a “more/most difficult” trail segment (Segment #2) that did not fit the overall designation as an “easy” level trail.

The eroded gully will be repaired by reshaping its sides to improve stability. Stair-like structures will be built across the gully to slow downhill flow of water and trap eroded soil. Vegetation will be reestablished on the bare soil using native seed. Trail construction will be accomplished manually or by using a small tractor or backhoe (like a Kubota KX-41). All terrain vehicles will be used to carry in tools and most construction materials, with heavy bridge materials transported by helicopter.

As part of my decision, I have chosen to implement the standard operating procedures identified in Appendix A to this Decision. I have also decided to monitor the implementation of this project also described in Appendix A to this Decision. The project will be implemented in 2005, with bridges installed during the in-stream work window (July 15 to August 31).

## **Public Involvement**

Scoping for the Round Meadows Trail Reroute project was initiated when this proposal was listed in the Winter 2002 quarterly issue of the Umatilla National Forest Schedule of Proposed Activities (January 2002). A letter dated March 5, 2002 was mailed to 75 interested organizations, individuals, and other agencies. Internal consultation with agency specialists at the District and Forest headquarters also occurred. These efforts resulted in one response from the League of Wilderness Defenders/Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project. This response identified a concern that opening additional miles to OHV would likely result in more abuse by users.

The Round Meadows Trail Reroute project lies within lands ceded to the United States by treaties with American Indian tribes. These treaties established trust responsibilities for the United States that were intended to protect reserved rights and interests of the tribes. This trust responsibility has been facilitated during the development of this proposal by providing information about the proposal to the staffs of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm

Springs Reservation of Oregon. This was done in separate letters sent to each Tribe on March 19, 2002.

Using comments from scoping, the interdisciplinary team identified several issues regarding the effects of the proposed action (pages 5-7 of the EA). Trail maintenance and big game disturbance were identified as key issues. Key issues are defined as resource or other values that drive the development of an alternative to the proposed action, may be adversely affected by the proposed action, or are “unresolved conflicts regarding alternative uses of available resources” [NEPA sec. 102(2)(E)]. These issues provide the focus of the analysis and are used in defining the alternatives. Tracking issues are important in the context of the proposal or required by law or regulation to be discussed. These issues are generally of high interest or concern to the public or are necessary to understand the full extent of the alternatives. Tracking issues included: Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species, heritage and cultural resources, noxious weeds, and visual quality.

The Environmental Assessment was posted on the Umatilla National Forest website for 30-day review. Also a letter announcing its availability was sent to the entire mailing list of interested publics, agencies, and organizations on December 18, 2002, with a hard copy of the Environmental Assessment sent to 14 organizations and individuals. One comment was received from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon. The Tribes raised the possibility that ground-disturbing activities could reveal previously undiscovered archaeological resources, and asked that appropriate parties be notified if such resources are encountered. This has been added to mitigation.

### **Rationale for my Decision**

I emphasized recreation more than other resources in making my decision because this area is part of the popular Winom-Frazer OHV Complex. When compared to the other alternatives, my selected alternative not only resolves the trail maintenance problems, it also enhances the OHV recreation experience by creating a short loop route. Beginning riders can take the gentler ridge segment at Reroute A or try the more challenging sidehill segment. The Proposed Action will also retain the more scenic Segment #1, and I anticipate that use will be distributed between Reroute A and Segment #1, reducing overall maintenance. Rider safety will be improved by eliminating use of the gullied portion of trail and replacing it with a gentler climb (EA page 17).

### **Key Issue: Trail Maintenance**

Maintenance costs for the Proposed Action fall between the costs of No Action and Alternative 1—Alternative 1 would reduce maintenance by \$1,050 while the Proposed Action will reduce maintenance by \$610 (EA page 13). The Proposed Action will address the existing trail concerns, but it will also add 1.3 miles of trail, which will increase the amount of trail to be maintained. This could potentially expose more area to soil disturbance and increase maintenance costs, although it could also spread out use so that overall wear is reduced and maintenance is less intense (EA pages 13, 16-17, and 31).

**Key Issue: Big Game Disturbance**

The Proposed Action will slightly increase big game disturbance by increasing the motorized trail/road density in the subwatershed by 0.2 miles/mile<sup>2</sup>. However, the resulting density (1.7 miles/mile<sup>2</sup> including trails) will remain below the Forest Plan desired open road density of 2.0 miles/mile<sup>2</sup> so disturbance to big game should not increase.

**Tracking Issue: Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species**

According to the Biological Evaluations for terrestrial wildlife species and aquatic species, all the alternatives will have **no effect** on Proposed, Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive species. Soil disturbance will increase slightly in the short-term as construction—mainly bridge relocation—occurs. However mitigation (silt fences, seasonal work restrictions, etc.) and gully repair will prevent increasing sediment in South Fork Cable Creek. Shade will remain unchanged and large instream wood will slightly increase due to dismantling of the old bridge.

The Fish and Aquatic Habitat Specialist's Report determined that activities **may affect but are not likely to adversely affect** Mid-Columbia steelhead trout, a threatened fish species and **may impact** individuals or habitat for redband trout (a Region 6 sensitive species), but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species. The report also determined that this project will **not likely result in the destruction or adverse modification of essential fish habitat for Chinook salmon** (EA pages 28-29). The National Marine Fisheries Service was consulted and they concurred with this determination.

**Tracking Issue: Heritage and Cultural Resources**

Known heritage or cultural resources have been avoided through project design, and mitigation measure #11 will prevent effects to as yet unknown sites. The Round Meadows Trail Reroute project meets the conditions of the 1995 Programmatic Agreement between the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Office, and Region 6 of the Forest Service, and complies with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (EA page 33).

**Tracking Issue: Noxious Weeds**

Adding 1.3 miles of trail to the OHV Complex equates to about 0.5 acres of exposed mineral soil which could be invaded by noxious weeds. However, this activity will occur in a post-fire, high-density lodgepole pine stand, which is generally not conducive for noxious weed establishment on the Umatilla National Forest<sup>2</sup>. Elimination of chronic soil disturbance associated with the gully at Segment 2 would reduce opportunity for weed invasion, as would mitigation (such as seeding and mulching) and monitoring. The area with the highest potential of invasion would be along the trail's edge (EA page 31).

**Tracking Issue: Visual Quality**

A landscape simulation model was run with ArcMap 3-D Analysis Geographic Information Systems technology. This model simulated the view of the proposed trail

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<sup>2</sup> There are no known noxious weed sites within dense lodgepole pine stands on the District.

layouts from points along the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway. Results showed that the terrain, even with the post-fire reduction in vegetation, blocks views of the trail and its reroutes at the trailhead. Reroute A can be seen from the byway, but because it is located on the horizon line at the top of a ridge it will not deviate in color, line, or texture from the existing landscape. These results were field verified and found to be accurate (EA page 32).

### **Inventoried Roadless Area**

The Round Meadows Trail Reroute will occur within the South Fork-Tower Inventoried Roadless Area. While this was not identified as an issue at the time the EA was prepared, effects to the Inventoried Roadless Area were analyzed in the EA (page 36). According to Appendix C of the Forest Plan FEIS, opportunities for solitude and primitive experience do not exist within the roadless area due to its shape, terrain, and bordering management activities. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum is divided among Roaded Modified (48 percent), Roaded Natural (32 percent), and Semi-primitive Motorized (2 percent). Also, OHV trails have been an existing use in this location (EA page 36 and Forest Plan FEIS Appendix C page C-188 and 189)).

### **Other Alternatives Considered**

Two other alternatives were considered in the Round Meadows Trail Reroute Environmental Assessment (pages 9-10). A comparison of alternatives can be found in the Environmental Assessment (pages 12-13).

#### ***No Action***

Under the No Action alternative, current management plans would continue to guide management of the project area. This alternative was not selected because:

- Too much extensive trail maintenance would be regularly required to make the trail safe and usable
- Even with regular maintenance, Segment #2 would be below Forest Service standards for trail management
- While regular trail maintenance would somewhat address the gully next to South Fork Cable Creek, OHV riders would use their own path up this steep slope, causing more damage to vegetation and soils
- Sediment would continue to be deposited into South Fork Cable Creek, adversely affecting water quality and fish habitat

#### ***Alternative 1***

This alternative would reroute two sections of trail the same as the Proposed Action, however, both existing segments would be decommissioned afterward. Alternative 1 would cost less to maintain than the Proposed Action and would result in no change to big game disturbance (compared to the Proposed Action, which will increase motorized trail and road densities by 0.2 miles/mile<sup>2</sup>). I chose the Proposed Action over this alternative because the differences in environmental effects are small, yet the recreation experience would be enhanced by the additional 1.3 miles of trail and another loop opportunity. I place more emphasis on recreation in this case because of the area's dedication to the OHV complex.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Context of Action:** The context of the Round Meadows Trail Reroute project will be local in nature. Effects on water will be limited by timing of work within the Riparian Habitat Conservation Area and mitigation such as silt fences. My selected alternative will add 1.3 miles to the Winom-Frazier OHV complex, which is approximately 1 percent of the associated trail system.

**Intensity of Effects:** The beneficial and adverse effects discussed in the Round Meadows Trail Reroute Environmental Assessment have been disclosed within the appropriate context, and effects are expected to be low in intensity because of project design, mitigation, and Best Management Practices. Significant effects to the human environment are not expected. The rationale for this determination of non-significance is based on the environmental assessment, in light of the factors listed in 40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1):

- 1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse** - Beneficial and adverse effects were considered during analysis of the Proposed Action and its alternatives and are disclosed in Chapter III of the EA. Beneficial effects of relocating and repairing the trail under the Proposed Action include improved trail quality, reduced maintenance costs, reduced long-term sediment into an anadromous fish-bearing stream, enhanced recreation opportunity, and improved public safety. Several adverse effects were identified including reduced quality of elk habitat (due to disturbance), an increase in short-term sediment, and an increase in the potential for noxious weed spread. The reroutes and bridges will produce irretrievable changes in the natural appearance of the landscape. However, the visual effect of the trail reroutes will be reduced by locating the reroutes in less-visible locations. The Proposed Action has been designed to minimize potential environmental impacts to resource values in the project area, particularly water quality and fish habitat. The Proposed Action includes mitigation and management requirements to reduce potential environmental impacts from implementation (EA pages 11-12). None of the adverse effects of the Proposed Action were identified as significant.
- 2. Degree to which public health and safety may be affected** - The project will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)). The Round Meadows OHV trail will be improved to proper standards, which will increase safety of users (EA page 17). Due to mitigation and Best Management Practices, effects on water quality (sediment) are expected to be very limited (EA pages 28-29 and 34-35).
- 3. Effects to unique characteristics of geographic area** - There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)). The project is not in close proximity to any park lands, prime farmland, forestland, or rangeland (EA page 36). There are no wetlands in the project area. While the bridge relocation would occur within a floodplain, the result would be to move the bridge to higher ground that would be less likely to flood. Due to its location, the Round Meadows Trail Reroute project would have no impacts on floodplains that would affect human safety, health, or welfare (EA

pages 35-36). The proposed project is located within the South Fork-Tower Roadless Area. Due to its long and narrow shape, opportunities for solitude and primitive experience do not exist within this roadless area, and OHV trails are an existing use in this location. There are also 100 acres of the North Fork John Day Wilderness within the analysis area, though the proposed activities would not occur near the wilderness. There would be no change in visual condition as viewed from the Wilderness (EA page 36). A portion of the treatments will occur along the Blue Mountain State and National Scenic Byway, though activities will not contrast with the existing landscape (EA page 32). There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers within the project area. The project does not conflict with any of the desired conditions for migratory birds (EA page 36).

4. **Degree to which effects are likely to be highly controversial** – The Proposed Action does not involve effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)) because the project is intended to reduce the environmental effects of an activity that is already approved in this area. The EA effectively addressed and analyzed all major issues associated with the project. During scoping, 30 day public review of the EA, and effects analysis, no scientific controversy was identified.
5. **Degree to which effects are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks** - My decision will not impose any highly uncertain, unique, or unknown environmental risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)). This type of trail reconstruction and bridge replacement has been implemented successfully on the District in the past, meeting regulations concerning these activities and the protection of National Forest resources. The effects analysis did not reveal any highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks (EA pages 15-38).
6. **Degree to which the action may set precedent for future actions with significant effects** - The decision does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects and does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)). I have concluded that this project represents an opportunity to enhance public OHV use in the Umatilla National Forest, which is consistent with the Forest Plan. Once this project is implemented, limits could still be put on future OHV trail enhancements and reroutes. The Forest Service will also have the ability to decommission trails in the future, if necessary, so my decision is not irreversible. Based on this information, implementing the Round Meadows Trail Reroute project will not set precedent for future actions with significant effects.
7. **Relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant impacts** - This action, together with other past, present and foreseeable future activities within the area affected, will not reach a level of significance (EA pages 15-38). Where appropriate, design features and mitigation measures (EA pages 11-12) were developed to further reduce effects to vegetation, soils, water quality, and fish.
8. **Degree to which the action may adversely affect historic places or loss of scientific, cultural, or historic resources** - The project area has been

inventoried for cultural and historic resources. There are no inventoried cultural or heritage resources within the area of potential effect. Both reroutes traverse slopes greater than 20 percent, terrain considered to have little potential for the location of historic properties. The Forest has complied with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Round Meadow Trail Reroute EA (EA page 33). There are also no scientific resources within the project area.

- 9. Degree the action may affect endangered or threatened species or critical habitat** – Listed species that have the potential to occur within the Round Meadows Trail Reroute area include: gray wolf, Canada lynx, Mid-Columbia steelhead trout, bull trout, essential habitat for Chinook salmon, and *Silene spaldingii*. Biological Evaluations conducted for this project have determined that the action will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The alternatives discussed in this Environmental Assessment have also been considered in consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The National Marine Fisheries Service concurred on April 29, 2004 that relocating and constructing trails may affect, but will not likely adversely affect Mid Columbia Steelhead. The project will have no effect on Columbia River bull trout or Essential Fish Habitat for Chinook salmon. (EA pages 22-24, 28-29, and 32)

- 10. Violation of Federal, State, or local laws for protection of the environment** - The Proposed Action will not violate of Federal, State or local laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)). Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the EA (EA pages 32-38). The action is consistent with the Umatilla National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (EA page 37) and is in compliance with the requirements of 36 CFR 219.27 (EA page 35).

Therefore, on the basis of the information and analysis contained in the EA and other information available as summarized above, it is my determination that adoption of the Proposed Action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. As a result, an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed.

### **Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations**

I have reviewed the Forest Plan and determined that this decision is consistent with the Forest Plan's goals and objectives as listed on pages 4 and 5 of the Environmental Assessment. The project was designed in conformance with the Forest Plan's Management Direction for the A3-Viewshed 1 and C7 Special Fish Management Area and the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines. I have also reviewed Chapter 4—Environmental Consequences from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Forest Plan, and conclude that the environmental effects associated with this project are consistent with those described in the FEIS.

This action also meets requirements under:

- the Endangered Species Act (EA page 32),

- the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act (EA page 33)
- the National Historic Preservation Act (EA page 33),
- the Clean Water Act (EA pages 35-35),
- the Clean Air Act (EA page 35),
- the National Forest Management Act (EA page 35),
- Executive Order 11988 for the protection of floodplains (EA page 36),
- Executive Order 11990 for the protection of Wetlands (EA page 35),
- Executive Order 12898 for Environmental Justice, including consideration of disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations (EA page 36),
- Executive Order 13186 for the protection of migratory birds (EA page 36), and
- will have no adverse effects on consumers, minority groups, or women (EA pages 37-38).

### **Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities**

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.11. Any individual or organization who submitted substantive comments during the comment period may appeal. Any appeal of this decision must be in writing and fully consistent with the content requirements described in 36 CFR 215.14. A written appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeal Reviewing Officer (the Regional Forester) within 45 days of the date of publication of the legal notice regarding this decision in the *East Oregonian* newspaper. Send appeals to:

Jeff Blackwood, Forest Supervisor  
Umatilla National Forest  
ATTN: 1570 Appeals  
2517 SW Hailey Avenue  
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Appeals can also be hand delivered at the above address from 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, or faxed to: 541-278-3730.

Appeals can also be filed electronically at: [comments-pacificnorthwest-umatilla@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-umatilla@fs.fed.us). Electronic appeals must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. E-mails submitted to email addresses other than the one listed above, or in formats other than those listed, or containing viruses, will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the appellant to confirm receipt of appeals submitted by electronic mail.

For further information regarding these appeal procedures, contact the Forest Environmental Coordinator, Dave Herr, at (541)278-3869.

**Implementation Date**

If no appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of my decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15<sup>th</sup> business day following the date of the last appeal disposition.

**Contact**

For additional information concerning the Round Meadow Trail Reroute decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Janel Lacey, District Environmental Coordinator at the North Fork John Day Ranger District, P.O. Box 158, Ukiah, OR 97880, or by telephone at (541)427-5394.

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CRAIG SMITH-DIXON  
North Fork John Day District Ranger

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Date

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## **Mitigation and Management Requirements**

Mitigation measures were developed to lessen some of the potential effects that the action alternatives could cause. These measures are common to both action alternatives and include the following:

Mitigation measures were developed to lessen some of the potential effects that the action alternatives could cause. These measures are:

- No live trees will be cut, except some lodgepole pine saplings that have grown on the proposed reroutes since the 1996 fire.
- Bridge and trail work will not occur during May and June in order to avoid human disturbance during the elk calving period. Work in the stream will only occur from July 15 to August 31 (the in-stream work window) to reduce sediment and potential impacts on fish. No equipment will be used in the stream.
- Heavy bridge materials will be flown in by helicopter and all other bridge materials brought in by OHVs using the existing trail system and placed by hand (using block and tackle where necessary) to avoid soil and streambank disturbance.
- No treated wood will be used for any project components.
- A silt fence will be placed between the stream and sill construction on the new bridges to trap loose soil. Sediment traps will be placed below the current gully and in other locations as necessary. The traps will be cleaned out as needed and sediment will be transported outside the Riparian Habitat Conservation Area. Sediment traps will be monitored periodically during the spring and after any large storm. Traps will be removed once the disturbed areas have been successfully re-stabilized with vegetation.
- Displaced soil will be collected from existing bridge decking and used in repair of the gully or deposited outside of the Riparian Habitat Conservation Area. Existing sills will be left in place to avoid soil disturbance. Stringers<sup>3</sup> on the larger bridge will be cut on one end so they fall into the stream to function as large wood fish habitat. The stringers on the small bridge would be removed.
- Any spills of oil or hazardous substances during construction will be mitigated according to standards required by the Hazardous Substance Spill Plan for the District. No fueling will occur within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.
- Construction activities will avoid wet areas (creek, seeps, shallow depressions with standing water) where possible in order to protect spotted frogs and their habitat.
- Seeding of the gully and other disturbed areas will be done as needed using certified noxious weed-free, native seed to reduce the spread of noxious weeds and restore soil protection. A mulch of natural material will be used to protect and cover the bare soil and seed to increase soil stability.

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<sup>3</sup> The main bridge support beams that cross the creek and support the bridge decking.

- If any cultural resources are encountered during ground disturbing activity, work will cease until the Forest or Zone Archeologist can investigate and determine an appropriate process. Also, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation will be notified.

### **Monitoring**

- An aquatics specialist will assist in layout of rerouted trail segments to ensure riparian areas and other unique habitats are protected as described in the mitigation section. Trail reroutes that do not meet mitigation requirements will be adjusted accordingly. This monitoring is considered essential.
- An aquatics specialist will monitor the functioning of sediment traps until the conditions they were to mitigate have stabilized. This monitoring is considered essential.
- An aquatics or soils specialist will visually spot monitor during and after gully restoration to ensure that the gully is adequately reshaped and soil erosion structures are effective. This monitoring is considered essential.
- An aquatics specialist will monitor during and after activities to ensure that sediment is not entering the creek as a result of the project. If sediment does enter the creek, the aquatics specialist will identify immediate corrective action and document modifications to be used in future projects. This monitoring is considered essential.
- The District noxious weed coordinator will inspect all activities during implementation to determine whether mitigation measures and project risk management plans are implemented as designed. Deviations will be corrected immediately. This monitoring is considered essential.
- For five years after activities are completed, the District noxious weed coordinator or crew will conduct an annual inventory of the Round Meadows Trail Reroute project area and access routes to determine if existing noxious weed populations have spread or if new sites have occurred. Any noxious weeds found will be treated in accordance with the Umatilla National Forest Environmental Assessment on the Management of Noxious Weeds (1995). This monitoring is considered essential.