FINAL DECISION NOTICE
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
USDA Forest Service

Forest System Road 3300 Flood Repair Project

Okanogan – Wenatchee National Forest
Cle Elum Ranger District
Kittitas County, WA

HISTORY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

In June 2011, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest was granted Federal Lands Highway funding after a 100-year flood event earlier that spring. The Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads, known as ERFO, has made it possible for the Cle Elum Ranger District to plan and implement multiple flood repair projects. The intent of the ERFO program is to pay the unusually heavy expenses in the repair and reconstruction of Federal roads as a result of damaged sustained by a natural disaster over a wide area or by a catastrophic failure (Federal Highway Administration, 2013). The Cle Elum District in July 2012 proposed to address flood damaged along Forest System Road (FSR) 3300 at mile post 3.9 and 4.4 as an ERFO project.

A proposed action for the 3300 Flood Repair project was developed and sent to the public in July 2012. The 2012 scoping letter it its entirety can be found in Appendix A of the EA and page DN-5 further describes the Public Involvement and Scoping for this project. The Forest Service worked with Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) for the repair at mile post 4.4. The Cle Elum Ranger District is the road manager for Forest System Road (FSR) 3300; however, at mile post 4.4 the land manager is WA DNR.

After analyzing and reviewing feedback from the scoping and comment period, the Cle Elum Ranger District refined the original proposed action (Alternative A) and included an additional alternative (Alternative B) to remove the entire campground at mile post 3.9. By refining the original proposed action and by adding this additional alternative, no additional action alternatives were necessary.

This decision incorporates the completed 3300 Flood Repair Environmental Assessment (EA) by reference. The EA documents the development of the two action alternatives and discloses known environmental impacts. The EA is available at the Cle Elum Ranger District or from the Forest's projects and plans website under "Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Current and Recent Projects":

http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/okawen/landmanagement/projects

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose and need of the 3300 Flood Repair Project is described in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Purpose and Need of Project.

Need	Purpose
Address roads with serious damaged caused by a natural disaster or catastrophic failure (Federal Highway Administration, 2013). Damaged was sustained by May 2011 100-year flood event.	The project will restore FSR 3300 to a two-lane width for motorized traffic.
Reduce road and stream interactions.	The project will strengthen the road embankment and road protection on FSR 3300. The project will minimize the release of sediment from the exposed damage areas.
Maintain aquatic and wildlife habitat standards in respect to the Forest Plan and national direction.	The project will reconnect a floodplain along mile post 3.9 and meet aquatic and wildlife standards during project implementation. The project will minimize the release of sediment from the exposed damage areas.

In general, the Desired Future Condition is one in which access would be restored for land management and recreation, while providing for aquatic, riparian, and other wildlife resources. Refer to page I-16-17 of the EA for more information on the Desired Future Condition and the Purpose and Need for Action.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Decision

This Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Issues (FONSI) documents my decision regarding the implementation of the 3300 Flood Repair Project. I have decided to implement Alternative A as presented in the Final 3300 Flood Repair EA. Management actions are necessary to accomplish the purpose and need for the project area. Alternative A includes:

Mile Post 3.9 (Figure II-1 in EA)

- Replacing the missing gabion baskets with welded wire mesh bins to support road structure.
- Removing the levee structure on the opposite stream bank from the road.
- Decommissioning a portion of Taneum Campground including the removal of 2-3 campsites and a picnic area. Roads within the campground adjacent to the decommissioned portion will be raised 1-2 feet to protect the remaining portion of the campground from high flood flows and to create a clear delineation between

the vehicle accessible areas and the floodplain. The waterline running from the footbridge and other culturally important sites will be protected.

- Placing three rock vortex weirs into Taneum Creek designed to transfer velocity away from the road and dissipate stream flow energy. Weirs will be placed within the creek in between the existing drivable ford and the downstream footbridge.

Mile post 4.4 (Figure II-2 in EA)

- Installing welded wire mesh bins along the stream face adjoining the remaining gabion baskets.
- Building a swale on the south side of the floodplain that would allow it to undergo adjusting as a range of stream flows pass through it.
- Installing a large woody debris structure at the upstream point where Taneum Creek meanders away from FSR 3300.
- All trees removed during project construction will be replaced in the stream at mile post 3.9 or 4.4.

Through the scoping and the official comment period, the IDT made adjustments to the original Alternative A presented in the Draft EA to better meet the project's purpose and need. The original Alternative A did not include rock vortex weirs at mile post 3.9. These were included in the design to better protect the road and decrease stream velocity. The original Alternative A also did not include building a swale on the south side of the floodplain but only included a simple de-watering measure at mile post 4.4. The added design of the swale and large woody debris structure will increase the floodplain capacity and reduce road and steam interactions. These improvements did not change the original intent of Alternative A. All specialists reviewed the updated design and completed the necessary additional analyses. Impacts to recreation and roadway travel did not change with the adjustments. For a full description of Alternative A, reference page II-2-4 of the EA.

Rationale

I have determined that this project will serve the public interest by addressing serious damage to FSR 3300 caused by the May 2011 flood event, reducing road and stream interactions, and maintaining aquatic and wildlife habitat standards. My conclusion is based on a review of the record that shows a thorough review of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgment of incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, and risk. Refer to page II-6 of the EA for a summary of Alternative Accomplishment of Purpose and Need and Chapter III for the effects of the proposed actions.

Forest System Road 3300 is an important access route for forest management activities, recreation and public use, and Washington State managed land. Alternative A both maintains needed road access and enhances aquatic habitat within the floodplain. Alternative A will remove 2-3 campsites and a picnic area at Taneum Campground. Due to the low-moderate use of the campground, there will be enough remaining campsites to accommodate the demand for camping at this location. Furthermore, raising the campground road would protect the road surface and the remaining portions of the

campground from future flood flows. All Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) structures will be protected.

Based on the project design in Chapter II of the EA and the associated effects analysis in Chapter III of the EA, this project meets the identified Purpose and Need as follows:

- Alternative A will return the road to its two-lane width and will be consistent with Level IV Federal Road standards. Access will be maintained to National Forest and State-managed lands.
- Alternative A will increase the floodplain capacity at mile post 3.9, reducing road and stream interactions at that site. Rock vortex weirs placed in the stream will also dissipate stream flow energy. Swale and large woody debris structure at mile post 4.4 would also assist in moving Taneum Creek away from FSR 3300.
- Alternative A design criteria and best management practices will protect aquatic organisms and limit degradation of aquatic habitat. Additional floodplain and rock vortex weirs at mile post 3.9 would enhance aquatic habitat. Swale and large woody debris structure at mile post 4.4 will make better use of the available floodplain.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No Action

The Forest Service Road 3300 Flood Repair Project EA includes a No Action alternative, as per 36 CFR Part 220, Section 220.7 (b)(2)(ii). The No Action Alternative considers effects to the project area if no management action were taken. I did not choose the No Action Alternative because the existing condition would continue and it would not meet this project's purpose and need. No Action would result in the continued use of road barricades and a narrowed road width. Forest System Road 3300 is a two-lane paved road that is currently reduced to one-lane at both sites. Continuation of this state could potentially limit safe travel through the site (see Recreation and Fire and Public Safety Effects in Chapter III of the EA). No Action would leave the damaged road shoulder exposed at both locations and highly susceptible to more damage in the next flood season. The continued erosion of the road into the channel would contribute asphalt and road fill at the two damage sites. Chip seal asphalt road surface and fill material would be delivered into Taneum Creek. The campground levee would remain in its current location and continue to constrict the floodplain (see Fisheries and Hydrology Effects in Chapter III of the EA).

Alternative B

Alternative B was developed during project scoping to incorporate a road repair with the total removal of the Taneum Campground. This alternative proposed to repair and protect the road at mile post 3.9 and to remove the levee like structure opposite the stream bank. All campground structures would need to be removed prior to the levee removal as flood flows would dissipate over the floodplain and over the campground. The Taneum Campground would be officially closed. The repair at mile post 4.4 includes repairing the road to pre-flood conditions.

Alternative B also meets all of the project's Purpose and Need elements; however, Alternative A better achieves forest objectives for public use and land management. Taneum Campground, although small, provides a niche camping experience and allows for the public to experience a historic CCC structure.

Unresolved Conflicts

An unresolved conflict of the proposed action was identified during the project scoping period (EA page I-18). Alternative B was developed to address concerns raised (EA page II-1) and includes the full abandonment of Taneum Campground. All concerns and actions proposed during scoping and the official comment period are addressed and analyzed either in the No Action Alternative, Alternative A, or Alternative B.

ALTERNATIVES ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

Alternative C- No berm removal

Engineers in March and April of 2013 analyzed the effectiveness of removing the berm protecting the Taneum Campground at mile post 3.9. Modeling found that removing the current berm would not directly increase the floodplain and would not decrease the flood pressures on the road. The IDT discussed the potential of creating an additional alternative that would repair the roadway without removing any portion of the campground.

This alternative was not developed in detail because under further analysis it did not meet the purpose and need of the project. Although the berm removal on its own will not guarantee road relief, it will create additional floodplain capacity and needed riparian habitat improvements. Similar to the No Action alternative, this alternative would have perpetuated the condition of the constrained channel between the berm and the road. Furthermore, there were no identified issues with removing a portion of the campground with the berm. For these reasons, Alternative C was not analyzed in detail in the EA.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCOPING

The Project Initiation Letter (PIL) on October 5, 2011 directed the IDT to include a compilation of specialist and planner from the Cle Elum and Naches Ranger Districts. For a full list of persons consulted, see Chapter V of the EA.

The 2013 Flood Repair Project Proposals (scoping letter in Appendix A of the EA) contained the proposal for FSR 3300. The government to government consultation letter was sent to the Yakama Nation on July 10, 2012 and on July 20, 2012 the public scoping letter was sent to over 1,000 recipients. The current Taneum Campground concessionaire (Thousand Trails) was notified of the proposed action on August 28, 2012.

Additional public outreach included presentations and available information at:

- Forest Service Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA)
- 2012 Central Washington Sportsmen Show
- Multiple (2011-2013) Trails and Wilderness Interest Group Meetings (TWIG)
- 2012 Central Washington State Fair
- Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Association meetings, both local and regional
- Dust Dodger Motorcycle Club meetings
- Cascade Quad Squad Club meetings
- 2013 Central Washington Sportsmen Show
- Naches Ranger District foyer

The IDT received 18 comments during the scoping period on the 3300 Flood Repair project. Topics within the comments included safety concerns, firefighting access, travel access, illegal use, recreational access, hunting access, capital improvement retention, economics, wildlife habitat improvement, aquatic habitat improvement, access for allotment, and access for elderly. For a complete list of comments and topics, see the project file. In December 2012, Washington Fish and Wildlife, Yakama Nation, NOAA Fisheries, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expressed concern over not being able to provide adequate fish habitat along the side of the roadway and suggested to provide a greater floodplain area. At mile post 3.9 they specifically suggest relocating or abandoning the campground. The inter-disciplinary team (IDT) discussed comments and information gathered during scoping and came to consensus that concerns raised by Washington Fish and Wildlife, Yakama Nation, NOAA Fisheries, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service warranted an additional alternative to be developed in detail. Alternative B is described in detail in Chapter II and effects are outline in Chapter III. No other comments warranted an additional alternative.

Comment Analysis

Three individuals along with Pacific Northwest 4WD Association, Conservation Northwest, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, WA Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Yakama Nation supplied separate responses during the EA comment period. Similar issues and topics from the comment period are organized and responded to below. To view each individual comment and a more detailed Forest Service response, please see the project file.

- **Topic 1:** Taneum Campground is small and should be decommissioned for restoration purposes.
  Response: Taneum Campground offers a unique historical camping experience. The campground is located near a former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp and has a CCC built picnic shelter, horseshoe pits, and a stone water spigot. There are only two remaining camping areas on the Cle Elum Ranger District that have similar CCC era historic features. The Taneum Campground is unique in its historic campground setting and quiet location. More information on the impacts of the 3300 Flood Repair Project to the Taneum Campground can be found on page III-44 of the EA.

- **Topic 2:** Full removal of Taneum Campground will improve habitat for elk, landbirds, fisher, and other species by restoring forested cover.
  Response: Both Alternatives A and B are consistent with Forest Plan Standards for all wildlife species including landbirds, fishers, elk, and critical wildlife habitat. Full removal of the campground would improve habitat for a variety of wildlife. Alternative A has no direct or indirect effects on landbirds and is consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Executive Order 13186. Overall Alternative A will have a minimal impact on wildlife species and effects are site specific.

- **Topic 3:** Analysis for water quality limitations for sediment, temperature, and turbidity in Taneum creek is unclear.
  Response: The effects on stream temperatures, sediment, and turbidity are covered in the analysis under Hydrology (starting on EA page III-1). District hydrology specialist also elaborated on Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) findings on page III-6 of the Final EA. This project will have no effect on the stream temperatures within the planning area or the downstream segments of Taneum Creek. With design features for re-vegetating disturbed areas, none of the treatments will effect streamside vegetation or shading to measurable levels and therefore treatments will not affect this parameter or exacerbate the 303(d) listings downstream. The current TMDL allocation of 55 percent effective shade is expected to be met with all action alternatives. This project will not impair water temperature in streams and is in compliance with the Clean Water Act and the Wenatchee National Forest Water Temperature TMDL Technical Report (III-6).

- **Topic 4:** The CCC Structure should be protected in a rink dike during flooding.
  Response: Protection of the CCC structure and other historic features is different for each alternative. Alternative B would call for the removal and relocation of all historic features. Removing the campground but leaving the CCC shelter is not consistent with management of Washington State historic properties. For Alternative A, standard cultural protection mitigation measures were determined to be sufficient in protecting all historic properties. These options were identified by cultural specialist in coordination with the Stand Historic Preservation Act standards.

- **Topic 5:** Existing ford for Taneum Campground locks moderately confined channel in place. Natural channels and habitat recovery throughout the stream reach cannot occur with man-made constraints.
  Response: The effects of the existing ford are covered within the cumulative effects analysis in the environmental consequences section of the EA (Chapter III). The removal of the ford and foot bridge was not analyzed separately for this project because it is not within the scope of the flood repair. The purpose and need of this project is to address roads with serious damage caused by a natural disaster or catastrophic failure, reduce road and stream intersections, and maintain aquatic and wildlife habitat standards. When the Cle Elum Ranger District completes its landscape analysis in the Taneum Watershed it will be able to analyze impacts of the entire FSR 3300 including recreation sites. If Alternative B had been selected, the campground would be closed, therefore, the ford would no longer be used.

- **Topic 6:** A logjam should be considered in the mile post 4.4 design.
  Response: After further analysis, the IDT came to a consensus that the proposed design at mile post 4.4 will include a swale and large woody debris structure for Alternative A. The Forest Service worked with partner agencies to have a consensus of the appropriate road repair and stream structure at this location. The inclusion of a woody debris structure along with a swale moving the thalweg (center of stream) away from the road for Alternative A will reduce road and stream interactions.

- **Topic 7:** The removal of the campground will have no measurable impact to peak or base flows; alternatives lack rationale to remove the campground.
  Response: The modeling completed in April of 2013 did show that removal of the campground berm would do little to relieve flood pressures on the road. The combination of the berm removal and rock vortex weirs would slow down the velocity of the stream at this location and provide for potential floodplain to be re-occupied. In the long term, the stream could meander or alter paths and it would be able to occupy the removed portion of the campground. Other long term benefits of an improved floodplain capacity include a decrease in sediment inputs.

  The No Action alternative would allow for the Taneum Campground to remain in its current condition with the berm in place. This alternative was fully analyzed within the EA.

- **Topic 8:** The existing condition described in the EA is not the true baseline condition.
  Response: The Forest Service uses the existing condition to help tell the story of the proposed action. The existing condition is a representation of the landscape in its current state. For the 3300 Flood Repair Project, the existing condition was considered to be post 2011 flood including the damaged and eroded roadway. The term 'baseline' can have a different meaning depending on what is being measured. It is not necessarily equivalent to the existing condition. Other agencies and land managers may view baseline conditions differently than the Forest Service NEPA standards.

  In order to capture effects of past, present, and future foreseeable actions, the Forest Service completes a comprehensive cumulative effects analysis for each impacted resource. Each resource specialists layers the impacts of the proposed action on top of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. This allows the Forest Service to ensure that compounding impacts are not overlooked.

- **Topic 9:** Natural channels and habitat recovery throughout the stream reach cannot occur with man-made constraints. Vertical walls constrain stream channel and limit fish habitat availability and complexity.
  Response: Alternative A will be an improvement to the current condition as it will stabilize road conditions to a less erosive state, decrease stream velocity, and improve the floodplain accessibility. A full effects analysis for aquatic species and riparian habitats can be found in the EA pages III-7-26. Alternative A will meet all Forest Service Standards and Guidelines including the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives.

In several locations along Taneum Creek FSR 3300, and the stream interact, often constraining the stream. Maintaining access along FSR 3300 is critical for both state and Forest Service managed land. It provides important access for forest and fuels management, recreation, hunting, and allotment management. In order to maintain this access and provide for aquatic restoration, the Cle Elum Ranger District will soon initiate a landscape analysis project in the Taneum watershed. Impacts of FSR 3300 and Taneum creek outside of the project area are outside the scope of this flood repair project, however, they can be addressed during the watershed landscape analysis.

- **Topic 10:** Continued erosion of the roadway into the creek is a small impact relative to the impacts of rebuilding road in-kind (the way it was).
  Response: Effects of taking no action in comparison to Alternative A and Alternative B can be found in Chapter III of the EA. As stated in the EA if no action is taken the erosion of road fill would continue to negatively impact the creek and water quality without any type of arrestment. Since the original damage in 2011, the road has measurably continued to erode into the stream. Construction related activities will have short term negative impacts to aquatic resources, however, Alternative A would provide for long term aquatic area improvement and floodplain capacity.

- **Topic 11:** Alternatives presented in the EA (draft EA) will not meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) or Riparian Reserve objectives and will have significant adverse impacts on resources.
  Response: Alternatives A and B presented in the 3300 Flood Repair EA both meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives, Riparian Reserves standards, and other Okanogan-Wenatchee standards and guidelines. This analysis can be found starting on page III-22 of the EA. No significant impacts will be a result of implementing Alternative A. Construction related activities will have short term negative impacts to aquatic resources, however, Alternative A would provide for long term aquatic area improvement and floodplain capacity. Note: Forest Service standards, including ACS, do not apply at mile post 4.4. During the analysis specialists found that if mile post 4.4 were under the Northwest Forest Plan, they would likely meet all Forest Service standards and guidelines.

  The following FONSI (DN-10) documents how Alternative A meets the criteria of having no significant impact in respect to National Environmental Policy Act standards.

- **Topic 12:** Taneum Creek has suffered from decades of mismanagement from grazing, railroad and tractor logging, ORV use and road construction and maintenance.
  Response: In several locations along Taneum Creek, FSR 3300 and the stream interact, often constraining the stream. Maintaining access along FSR 3300 is critical for both state and Forest Service managed land. It provides important access for forest and fuels management, recreation, hunting, and allotment management. In order to maintain this access and provide for aquatic restoration, the Cle Elum Ranger

District will soon initiate a landscape analysis of the Taneum watershed. Impacts of FSR 3300 and Taneum creek outside of the project area are outside the scope of this flood repair project, however, they can be addressed during the watershed landscape analysis. Alternative A meets Forest Service and Washington State water quality guidelines.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

My responsibility as the Line Officer with authority to make this decision is to review the EA and determine whether the proposed action may have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. In compliance with 40 CFR 1508.13 and 1508.25, the following findings support my determination that there will not be a significant effect on the human environment and an environmental impact statement will, therefore, not be prepared.

SIGNIFICANCE

From 40 CFR 1508.27:

"Significantly" as used in NEPA requires considerations of both context and intensity:

> *(a) Context. This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant.*
>
> *(b) Intensity. This refers to the severity of impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action.*

Context
This project is a site-specific action that by itself does not have international, national, region-wide, or statewide importance. The discussion of the significance criteria that follows applies to the intended action and is within the context of local importance in the area associated with the Forest System Road 3300 Flood Repair project area.

Intensity
The following discussion is organized around the 10 Significance Criteria described in NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1508.27).

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. A thorough effects analysis (direct, indirect, and cumulative) is available in Chapter III of the EA, and in the Biological Evaluations and Biological Assessment (in the project file). The beneficial effects of the action as disclosed

in Chapter III do not bias my finding of no significant environmental effects, nor do beneficial effects mask adverse effects.

2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety. The proposed actions will not have adverse effects to public safety. Effects to fire fighting and public safety can be found on page III-46 of the EA. Alternative A will restore the road to its two-lane width improving travel conditions from its current state. This project proposes no prescribed burning or invasive species treatment and is consistent with the Clean Air Act (EA, page III-57).

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, ecologically critical areas, critical habitat, Inventoried Roadless Areas, or Potential Wilderness Areas. There will be no significant effects on the unique characteristics of the area. No Inventoried Roadless Ares, Potential Wilderness Areas, park lands, prime farmlands or prime forest lands are found in the project area (EA, page III-57). This project complies with regulations of Wild and Scenic Rivers and will have no impact on designated Wild and Scenic Rivers (EA, page III-58). I base my determination on the effects discussion found in the EA Chapter III. Project design criteria and mitigations address and minimize possible effects to the scenic character.

   Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures listed in Appendix B will limit or eliminate damage, or assure rehabilitation to the water and aquatic/riparian resources. Implementation of design features for Riparian Reserves will ensure compliance with floodplain management and wetland protection. Design features are expected to improve and restore the function of this area (EA, page III-2). Impacts to critical habitat are summarized in Significant Criteria element #9 on page DN-13.

   Historic resources will be protected with standard cultural mitigations. Alternative A will have no adverse effect on cultural or historic properties. The cultural and historic analysis can be found on page III-52 of the EA.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial. The nature of potential effects on the human environment from the Alternative A is well established and is not likely to be highly controversial. The Forest Service has used best available science and monitoring data from other similar projects in guiding the effects of this project. The Forest Service also conducted far reaching scoping on this project (EA, page IV-1).

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. The Forest Service has considerable experience with this type of action. The effects analysis (EA Chapter III) as well as science and monitoring shows the effects are not uncertain.

Effects do not involve unique or unknown risk. There is no science indicating different effects than described in the EA on the quality to the environment.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration. My decision to implement the actions included in Alternative A does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. I have made this decision based on the overall consistency of the proposed activities with the Amended Wenatchee Forest Plan standards and guidelines. The decisions made and analysis completed is site and temporal specific. The purpose and need are only relevant to the specific affected environment.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts. The effects of implementing the actions included in Alternative A will not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the effects of other past and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Actions in Alternative A along with past, current and future foreseeable actions that could impact the project area are routine Forest Service activities. The impacts of the project were reviewed holistically to ensure effects were not significant when actions were combined. For more information on the cumulative effects of each resource, see Chapter III of the EA.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. I have determined that the actions described in Alternative A do not adversely affect or cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. The Taneum Campground Community Kitchen historic property is located within the area of potential effect; however, it will be protected with project design features and mitigation. An 'Appendix B', Archaeological Field Survey, was completed and it was determined the project would have "no adverse effect" to the Taneum Campground Community Kitchen (Buchholz and Gadd 2012: Report R2012061703004). Contract(s) for the project will include the Standard Clauses BT6.24 (Protection of Cultural Resources) and CT6.24 (Site Specific Protection Measures for Cultural Resources). The portions of the campground being removed and reclaimed by the floodplain are not historic properties. More information is found on page III-52 of the EA.

   There are no effects to tribal customs or practices. This project is consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act. No cultural resource concerns or issues were identified in the government-to-government consultation process.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act. A Biological Assessment of threatened and endangered wildlife and aquatic species was completed and concluded the following for the implementation of Alternative A:
    a. Fisheries: Proposed activities for Alternative A may affect, and are likely to adversely affect federally listed MCR Steelhead and Bull trout and their designated critical habitat. Essential fish habitat may be adversely affected. Proposed activities would not impact interior river lamprey, pygmy whitefish and Umatilla Dace individuals or habitat, and would not likely contribute to a trend towards Federal listing or loss of viability to either population or species.

       Other Management Indicator Species (MIS) present in the project area include Cutthroat Trout and Rainbow trout. Alternative A will have short term negative impact on the species with long term improvement and continued species viability. In general, project implementation would cause short term negative effects with long term habitat improvement.

    b. Wildlife species: Alternative A may affect but will not likely adversely spotted owls, and because of planned tree removal at milepost 3.9, it may affect but will not likely adversely affect newly designated critical habitat for spotted owls. The project area is outside of the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone, and provisions of the North Cascades Chapter of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan are not applicable here; however, Alternative A would not result in net loss of core area for grizzly bears within Taneum Creek watershed.

       Other wide-ranging carnivores—gray wolves and wolverine—potentially use the project area on an incidental basis. Due to slight loss of predaceous foraging opportunity associated with disturbance during the construction period, Alternative A may affect but will not likely adversely affect gray wolves, and may impact but would not likely adversely impact California wolverine (a species proposed for listing). Individual animals may be briefly displaced during construction. Pacific fisher (a Regional Forester Sensitive Species) is not currently present in the Project area; therefore, the Project would not cause a downward population trend that would lead towards federal listing under the Endangered Species Act.

       The project area is outside the known range of marbled murrelet, and does not provide habitat for Canada lynx, Townsend's big-eared bat, western gray squirrel, and Big Horn Sheep. The project will have no effects on these species

    c. No listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species were detected within the project area. No Strategic of Survey and Manage species were

identified within the project area. Alternative A will have no effect on any listed plant species (EA III-40).

Consultation for aquatic and wildlife species is being completed through the Aquatic Restoration Biological Opinion II (ARBO II) process requiring pre-notification to US Fish and Wildlife and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries 60 days before project implementation.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The actions described in the Alternative A do not threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. State, local, and federal laws were reviewed in the analysis of 3300 Flood Repair project and no inconsistencies were found. More information can be found on page III-58 of the EA. Other required findings of applicable laws can be found below on page DN-10.

I find that implementing Alternative A does not constitute a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment in either context or intensity. I have made this determination after considering both positive and negative effects, as well as direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of this action.

I have found that the context of the environmental impacts of this decision is limited to the local area and is not significant. I have also determined that the severity of these impacts is not significant based on the above.

I base my conclusion on a review of the record that shows a thorough review of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgment that there is not incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, or risk associated with Alternative A. My basis includes the effects analysis contained in the EA in Chapter III, public comment, and consultation with interested environmental groups and government agencies (EA, Chapter IV and comment analysis in project file).

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS

Wenatchee National Land and Resource Management Plan as Amended by the Northwest Forest Plan (Amended Forest Plan)

This decision is consistent with the Wenatchee National Land and Resource Management Plan's (as amended) Goals and Objectives. Project design is in conformance with Amended Forest Plan Forest-wide Management Area standards and guidelines. Chapter III of the EA show adherence to these land allocations in the Hydrology, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Recreation effects analyses. The following are the applicable land allocations:

Table 2: Damaged Sites and applicable Land Allocations from the Northwest Forest Plan and Wenatchee Land and Resource Management Plan.

Damaged Site Location	Land Allocation	
	Northwest Forest Plan	Wenatchee Management Plan
FSR 3300 mp 3.9	-Riparian Reserve -Matrix	-Developed Recreation -Riparian Management Area -General Forest
FSR 3300 mp 4.4	None: WA State managed land	None: WA State managed land

Note: Mile post 4.4 is not on National Forest land therefore Wenatchee National Forest and Northwest Forest Plan standards do not directly apply.

No management activities are planned in Administratively Withdrawn or Congressionally Withdrawn Areas. This project is consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) objectives. The project will maintain all nine objectives of the ACS at the project and 5th field watershed levels (EA, pages III-22-24). The project may involve some short term negative impacts associated with construction but this will be offset by long term riparian area improvements. The project will not threaten viability of any Management Indicator Species (EA, page III-22)

This project has no impact on timber or other Forest resources and is consistent with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976. This project does not proposed any commitments of resources that are irretrievable or irreversible (page III-58 in EA).

This project is consistent with 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. The project will have "No impact" and Survey and Manage wildlife species (EA page III-26 and Wildlife Specialist Report) and botany species (EA page III-41).

This project is consistent with the 2005 Pacific Northwest Record of Decision for Invasive Plant Management (EA page III-40). All applicable prevention and treatment standards and guidelines from that document have been incorporated into the design criteria for the 3300 Flood Repair Project.

This project is consistent with the most recent (2012) Memorandum of Understanding between the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Forest Service regarding hydraulic projects conducted by the Forest Service. Appropriate instream work windows and general provisions for aquatic protection will be followed.

Roadless Area Conservation Rule

No management activities are proposed within or adjacent to any Inventoried Roadless Area.

Endangered Species Act

This project has been designed to promote the conservation of ESA-listed Bull trout and Middle Columbia steelhead habitat. The project arrests the erosion which is currently occurring at these sites and has a beneficial effect in the long term. The implementation

of any of these actions would not jeopardize the continued existence of Bull Trout or Middle Columbia steelhead, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. This project is therefore consistent with ESA direction. See Significant Criteria #9 above for more information. Alternative A may affect but will not likely adversely spotted owls, and because of planned tree removal at milepost 3.9, it may affect but will not likely adversely affect newly designated critical habitat for spotted owls. The project area is outside of the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone, and provisions of the North Cascades Chapter of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan are not applicable here; however, Alternative A would not result in net loss of core area for grizzly bears within Taneum Creek watershed.

Magnuson – Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
All streams currently or historically occupied by spring Chinook and Coho salmon in the project area have been designated as essential fish habitat by the NMFS. No negative effects to occupied and critical habitat are predicted to occur with either action alternative. This project is consistent with the MSA.

Clean Air Act (CAA)
Alternative A does not include any burning or actions that will cause more than incidental dust. The project will not compromise air quality and therefore is consistent with the Clean Air Act (EA page III-51).

Clean Water Act
To meet the intent of the Clean Water Act, activities planned in tributaries and mainstem of the Yakima River Basin cannot further impair the water temperature in streams, and should help restore water quality where possible. Activities in the Riparian Reserves and headlands will leave the structural shade that maintains the water temperature at current levels intact and improve vegetation and habitat features that will reduce stream temperatures in the long term. This project will not impair water temperature in streams and is in compliance with the Clean Water Act and the Wenatchee National Forest Water Temperature TMDL Technical Report (EA page III-7).

National Historic Preservation Act, Alaska Native Religious Sites, and Cultural Sites
I have determined that the actions described in Alternative A do not adversely affect or cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. There are no effects to tribal customs or practices. This project is consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act. No cultural resource concerns or issues were identified in the government-to-government consultation process. More information is found on page III-52 of the EA.

Floodplain Management (E.O. 11988), Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990), municipal watersheds
Floodplains are present in the analysis area. This project seeks to stabilize the existing floodplain interactions or increase floodplain access. The alternatives would restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. This project is consistent with Order 11988. The implementation of any of the actions would minimize

destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands. Streamside Riparian Reserves, seeps, and other wet habitats were assessed. This project is consistent with Order 11990.

The cumulative effects of repairing the currently degraded sites on FS3300 at mp 3.9 and mp 4.4 would be beneficial in nature. By decommissioning a part of the Taneum Creek Campground and designing in-stream channel components to improve habitat, Alternative A will improve the exiting stream condition.

Recreational Fishing (E.O. 12962)
Recreational fishing is an identified use in the analysis area. The implementation of either action alternative would not result in any appreciable reduction in the fish population numbers or otherwise negatively affect the fishing opportunity. This project is consistent with Order 12962.

Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898)
Alternative A is consistent with Executive Order 12898. This project will not have any disparate effects on minority populations or low-income populations. This project is site specific and will not have human health effects on any group. Refer to EA page III-58.

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION

Implementation is likely to begin August 19, 2014. In the event project implementation is not completed this fall, construction will resume in the summer of 2015. For detailed information on temporary road closures for FSR 3300 and public access to Taneum Campground, contact the Cle Elum Ranger District at (509) 852-1100.

INFORMATION CONTACT PERSON

For additional information concerning the 3300 Flood Repair Project, contact Bill Garrigues at (509) 653-1442.

MARY MAJ

8.19.14
DATE

District Ranger
Cle Elum Ranger District
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest