

Finding of No Significant Impact

Proposed Construction of Headquarters Facilities at Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Klickitat County, WA

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to evaluate a proposal to develop suitable facilities for refuge management at Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Identified facility needs include an office, shop, bunkhouse, residence, volunteer camper pads, and an improved public access entry road. The public was informed of the availability of the Draft EA through a news release in the local newspaper. This EA was made available for public review and comment from June 19, 2008 to July 5, 2008. Comments were received throughout the comment period. Comments were also accepted after the close of the comment period.

Pursuant to requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, an EA was prepared to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposal to construct headquarters facilities and two alternatives to the proposal. The alternatives include:

Alternative A: Construct headquarters facilities at Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed action is to construct a 4,000-square-foot shop/office building, a 1,960-square-foot bunkhouse, a 1,600-square-foot employee residence and two volunteer camping (recreational vehicle) pads on Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge at the site of the current headquarters. The proposed project will include improving the public access entrance road to the new facilities. Although the construction of a new equipment storage building will occur at a later phase, it is included in this alternative. (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative B: No Action Alternative.

Alternative C: Construct the proposed shop/office, bunkhouse, and residence on the Brumbaugh Tract located in the north central part of the Refuge on the east side of the BZ-Glenwood Highway.

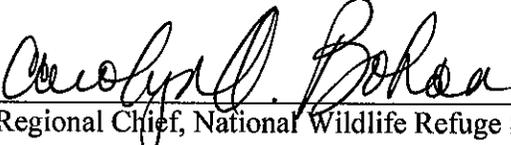
The Preferred Alternative was selected for implementation in order to provide administrative and management functions on an already existing headquarters site with ingress and egress to the property. Alternative C was not selected for implementation because it would result in greater environmental and visitor use impacts. The No Action alternative was not selected for implementation because it would preclude the Service from achieving its goal of locating facilities and staff on the Refuge.

As described in detail in the EA, implementation of the Preferred Alternative would not result in significant impacts to any affected resources.

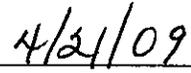
Based on review and evaluation of the information contained in the EA, I have determined that the proposed action (Construct headquarters facilities at the current Conboy Lake NWR headquarters site) would not constitute a major Federal action

significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement for the proposed action is not required.

This Finding of No Significant Impact and supporting reference are on file at Mid-Columbia National Wildlife Refuge Complex located at 64 Maple Street Burbank, WA 99323 or on the Complex website at <http://www.fws.gov/mcriver/>. These documents are available for public inspection.



Regional Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System



Date

References: Environmental Assessment. Construction of Headquarters Facilities at Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge. April, 2009.