



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Gales Creek Trail Repair and Partial Relocation
Oregon Department of Forestry
FEMA-1733-DR-OR

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) applied through the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, to reconstruct, including periodic relocation, six miles of a non-motorized recreation trail extending north from Gales Creek Campground in Washington County, Oregon. The trail was badly damaged by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides that occurred from December 1 through December 17, 2007. The event was declared a disaster by the President on December 8, 2007 under FEMA-1733-DR-OR.

Gales Creek Trail is part of the ODF recreation trail management program in the Tillamook Forest, located 32 miles west of Portland and one mile north of milepost 35 of Highway 6. It consists of 11.4 miles of trail for non-motorized traffic, including hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. The trail extends from Summit Trailhead to Reehers Camp Trailhead and winds through a forest with lush undergrowth. A total of 21 sites along a six-mile stretch of the trail were damaged from the December 2007 storms. The damaged sites are located north of Gales Creek Campground, with the first damaged site occurring approximately two miles from the Gales Creek trailhead at the campground. There is an elevation gain of over 1,200 feet from the trailhead at Gales Creek Campground to the last damaged site. In addition to repairing damaged sections of the trail, it is proposed that approximately three of the six trail miles be relocated upland away from Gales Creek to reduce the risk of repetitive damage from future storms.

The ODF will provide environmental mitigation measures and comply with Environmental and Historic Preservation regulations by 1) implementing its mitigation measures and construction Best Management Practices in accordance with those outlined in the Final Environmental Assessment for this project; 2) halting work in the event historically or archaeologically significant materials or sites are discovered during project implementation until the ODF and FEMA, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, determines appropriate measures have been taken to protect cultural resources; and 3) applying for and securing appropriate state and local authorizations and permits, as required. No federal permits are required.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementing regulations, FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to

determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Alternatives evaluated in the EA include: 1) No Action, and 2) Repair Gales Creek Trail and Relocate Vulnerable Portions (Proposed Action). The Draft EA was submitted for public review and comment. FEMA did not receive any comments.

FINDINGS

Based upon the attached Final EA and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EOs) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA determined the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the project, as described in the attached EA, may proceed.

APPROVAL



Mark G. Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 10

10-1-09

Date