

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Draft Environmental Assessment
Klum Landing Campground Improvement Project
Jackson County, Oregon



U.S. Department of the Interior
Lead Agency
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Lower Columbia Area Office
Portland, Oregon



U.S. Department of the Interior
Cooperating Agency
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
Medford, Oregon

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U.S. Department of the Interior

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and our commitments to island communities.

Mission of the Bureau of Reclamation

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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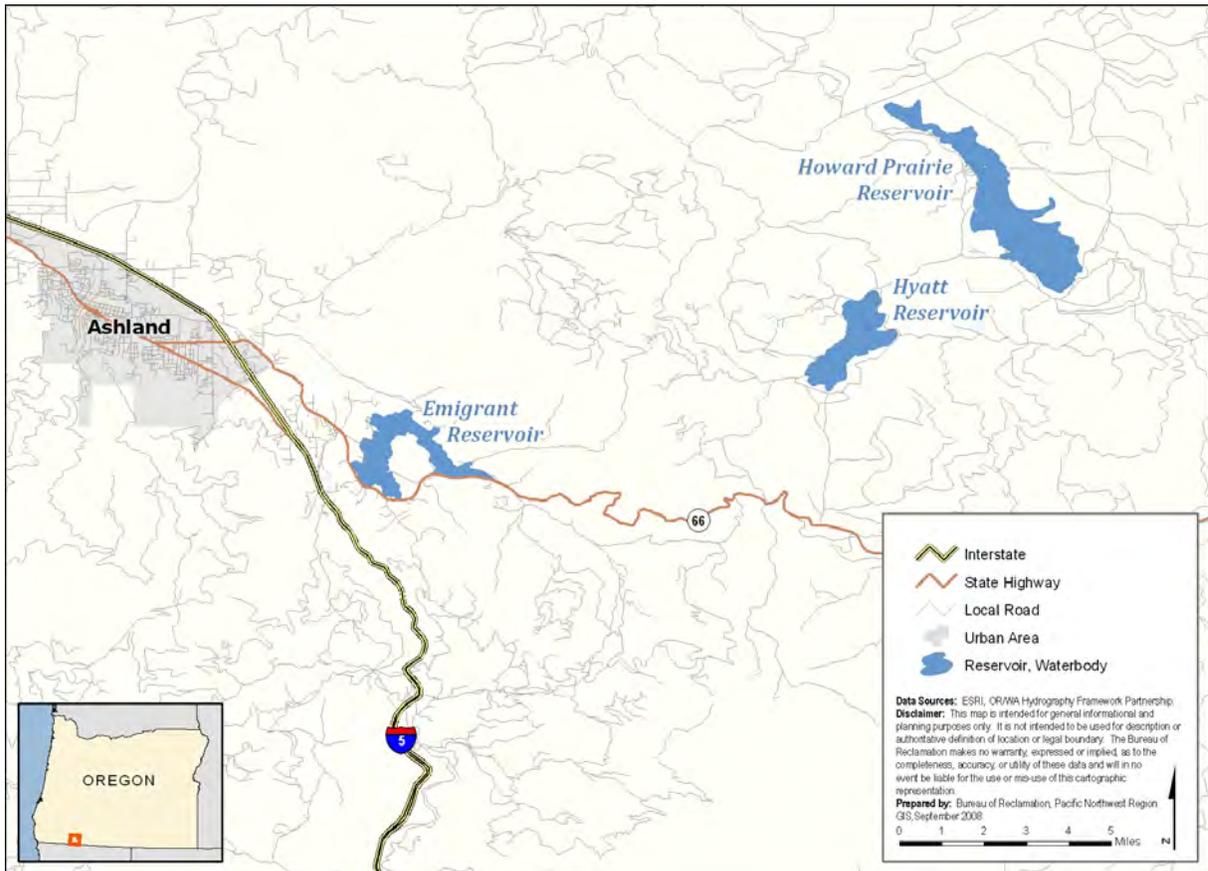


Figure 1 – Location Map

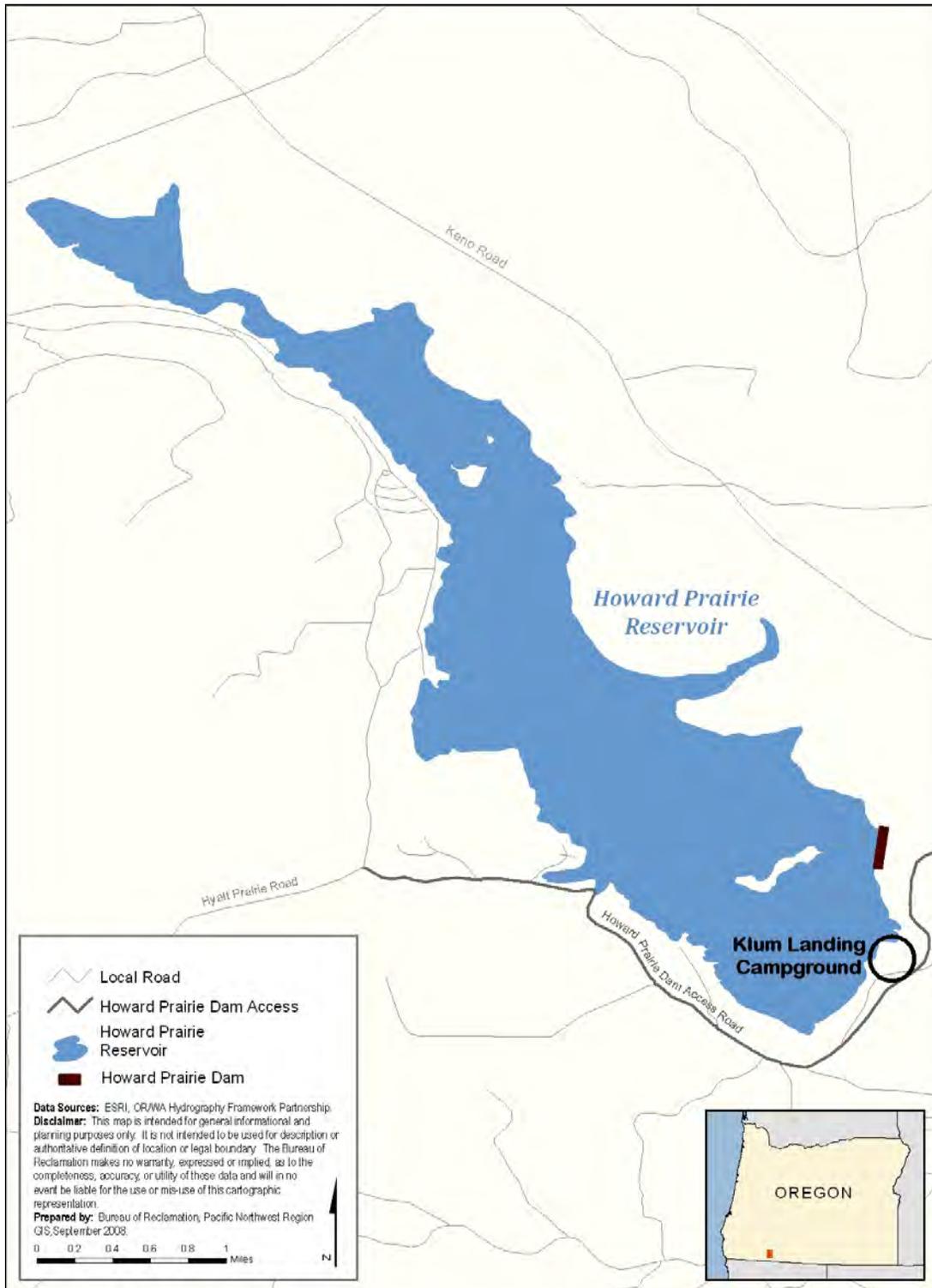


Figure 2 – Detailed Map of Location

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is proposing to allow Jackson County Parks (JCP) to improve Klum Landing Campground at Howard Prairie Reservoir. This draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the proposed alternatives for the Klum Landing Campground Improvement Project.

Reclamation administers the Howard Prairie Reservoir along with land sections of irregular length and width around it. Land ownerships vary with each section as indicated in Figure 3. Half of the campground is on Reclamation land and half is on Oregon & California Railroad (O&C) lands under management jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This draft EA evaluates the actions proposed for the entire campground through a Memorandum of Understanding with BLM (Appendix A), which is a cooperating agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

This draft EA will be used to determine whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact or a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

1.1 Location and Background

Howard Prairie Dam and Reservoir is located approximately 15 miles east of Ashland, Oregon in the Rogue River Project Talent Division in southwestern Jackson County, Oregon (see Figure 1). The reservoir is located on Beaver Creek in the Klamath River basin. Howard Prairie Dam impounds water that is released into the Howard Prairie Delivery Canal for irrigation districts in the Bear Creek Valley. Klum Landing is located on the southeast end of the reservoir near Howard Prairie Dam (see Figure 2) and includes a campground and day use area. Although Klum Landing covers approximately 156 acres, the geographic scope of this draft EA is limited to the overnight campground portion that is roughly 15 acres in size.

Through contractual agreement, JCP manages Klum Landing Campground and several other recreational sites at Howard Prairie Reservoir on behalf of Reclamation. JCP funds its operation and maintenance operations through county revenue and site-use fees.

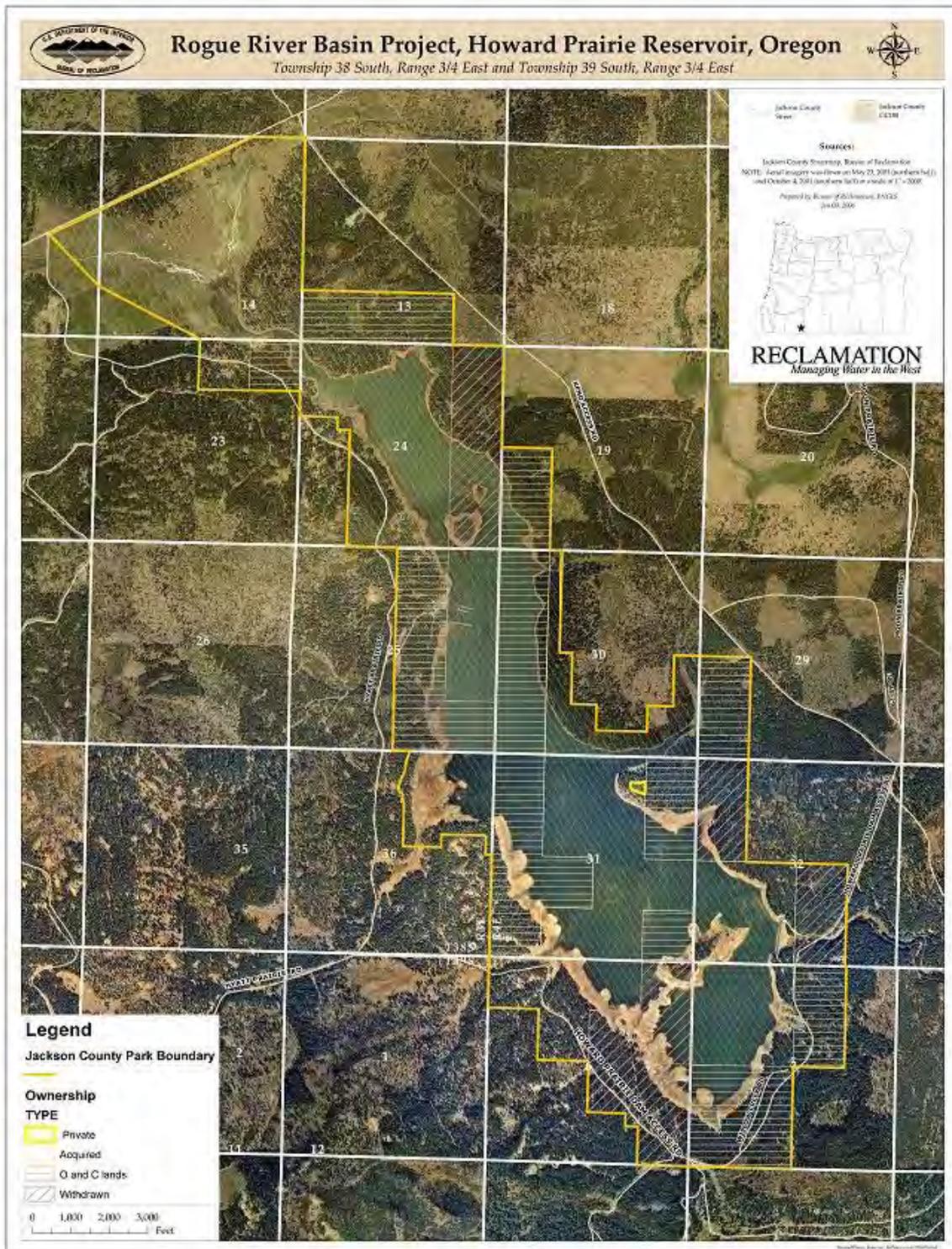


Figure 3 – Land Ownership Boundaries

1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is to improve facilities within the Klum Landing Campground in cooperation with JCP. Klum Landing Campground currently has 32 sites without utility hookups for tents or recreational vehicles (RVs). There are picnic tables, fire rings, drinking water, a restroom facility with showers and flush toilets, and three vault toilets. The two-way paved road through the campground is narrow, steep, and in poor shape. Vehicle parking is undefined at many sites, resulting in large areas where the soil is compacted and has no vegetation. The need to upgrade facilities and improve campground conditions was identified by JCP and Reclamation.

The proposed action would provide needed upgrades to existing features and additional features for a wider range of users. The planned improvements include providing water and power hookups to more than half of the campsites, adding 5 additional campsites, improving traffic flow and road surfacing, construction of a new vault toilet to replace two old toilets, and providing an additional campsite that meets the Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAABAAG) standards for accessible design (36 CFR 36). Parking at campsites would be defined and paved to limit the impacts on soils and vegetation and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

1.3 Authority

The Rogue River Basin Project's Talent Division was authorized by the Secretary of the Interior under the Act of August 20, 1954 (ch. 775, 68 Stat. 752). The Act was amended with the Act of October 1, 1962 (Public Law 87-727, 76 Stat. 677) to include the authority to construct public recreation facilities. The 1962 Act also arranged for the operation and maintenance of the facilities by an appropriate State or local agency at Howard Prairie Reservoir and other reservoirs encompassed by the Act.

Reclamation has a Title 28 grant program to provide funds for cost shared activities with non-Federal entities involving recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement facilities at Reclamation projects. This program is authorized by the Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992, Public Law 102-575 (106 Stat. 4690), Title 28 which amends the Federal Water Projects Recreation Act (P.L. 89-72) to require the non-federal public entities involved to bear not less than half of the costs of operation, maintenance, and replacement allocated to recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement of Reclamation project land and water areas. The proposed ADAABAAG-accessible sites are authorized under the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 Public Law 90-480 (82 Stat. 718, 42 USC 4151 et seq.) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, Public Law 93-112 (87 Stat. 394, 29 USC 794).

1.4 Scoping

The scoping process under NEPA involves requesting input from interested parties so that they can help identify important issues related to the project that need to be considered or included in the alternatives and addressed in the draft EA. Reclamation began this process for the Klum Landing Campground Improvement Project on January 19, 2007, when a scoping letter describing the proposed action and background information was sent to over 150 individuals, agencies, and organizations with interests in the project (see Appendix B). Reclamation received written scoping comments that were split approximately equal in favor of and against the proposed improvements to Klum Landing.

1.5 Related Actions and Activities

Tree Removal Projects

The removal of hazard trees within the campground area is recommended for public safety reasons. A tree is considered hazardous if it has defects that may cause all or part of the tree to fall which may result in property damage, personal injury, or death. Tree defects may include decay in any part of the tree, loosened or damaged roots, insect damage, disease, mechanical damage, death of the tree, or any other factors that allow or accelerate conditions that may result in all or part of the tree to fall. To enhance public safety in Klum Landing Campground, hazard trees should be removed during construction.

The BLM's proposed Forest Management Project recommends thinning 500 acres of Reclamation-owned forest lands at Howard Prairie to reduce stand densities, reduce the impacts of forest pathogens, and promote desired tree species. Other units proposed for thinning treatments are located to the east and south of Klum Landing, outside of the protected Conservation Support Areas and Mapped Owl Conservation Areas (BLM 2007).

Fire Hazard Reduction

Jackson County officials and concessionaires at Howard Prairie Resort have expressed concern about the threat of fire around the edges of Howard Prairie Lake. White fir is a shade-tolerant species that is encroaching on historic Douglas fir and sugar pine sites and, in some cases, is becoming the most abundant species on mixed conifer sites. Decades of fire suppression and an increase in forest pathogen and insect infestation have combined to produce conditions that are conducive to an intense, large-scale conflagration. Ignition sources, other than lightning, that result from increased human presence include campfires, fireworks, off-road vehicle use, and smoking outside of designated areas.

Heavy use by the public during the summer recreation season increases the risk of a human-caused forest fire at Howard Prairie. Thinning trees in the campground and surrounding areas would reduce the probability of devastating wildfires by removing unhealthy trees, removal of smaller trees which act as fire ladders, and increasing the distance between the tree crowns.

Recreation

Previous improvement activities have occurred in phases at Klum Landing Campground with partial funding through Reclamation's Title 28 grant program. The funding was used for upgrades and expansion of the day-use parking lot and the boat ramp, a new vault toilet, and a new flush-toilet restroom and shower facility. This draft EA covers the final phase of the Klum Landing Campground improvements which is to upgrade the overnight camping area.



Figure 4 –Restroom and Shower Facility at Klum Landing Campground.

Chapter 2 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the alternatives being considered for the Klum Landing Campground Improvement Project. The alternatives are the No Action Alternative as required by NEPA and the Preferred Alternative. These alternatives are described in detail in this section.

2.1.1 Alternative Development

NEPA requires Federal agencies to evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to a proposed Federal action that meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. During the scoping process, Reclamation proposed three alternatives in the scoping letter provided in Appendix B. Alternative A was the No Action Alternative and Alternatives B and C were considered the Action Alternatives. Due to the similarity between Alternatives B and C and feedback received from interested parties during the scoping process, the two alternatives were combined to create the Preferred Alternative for this draft EA. Table 1 compares the major features of the campground design for all four of the alternatives.

Features	No Action – Alternative A	Scoping Alternative B	Scoping Alternative C	Preferred Alternative
Number of campsites	32	42	32	37
Number of campsites with hook-ups	0	15	15	18
Estimated number of trees removed	0	130	95	112
Number of restrooms added	0	1	1	1

2.2 Alternatives

2.2.1 Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, Klum Landing would remain in the current configuration and only minimal maintenance would take place to ensure the campground is useable and safe (see Figure 5). No significant work to repair or enhance the campground would occur under this alternative.

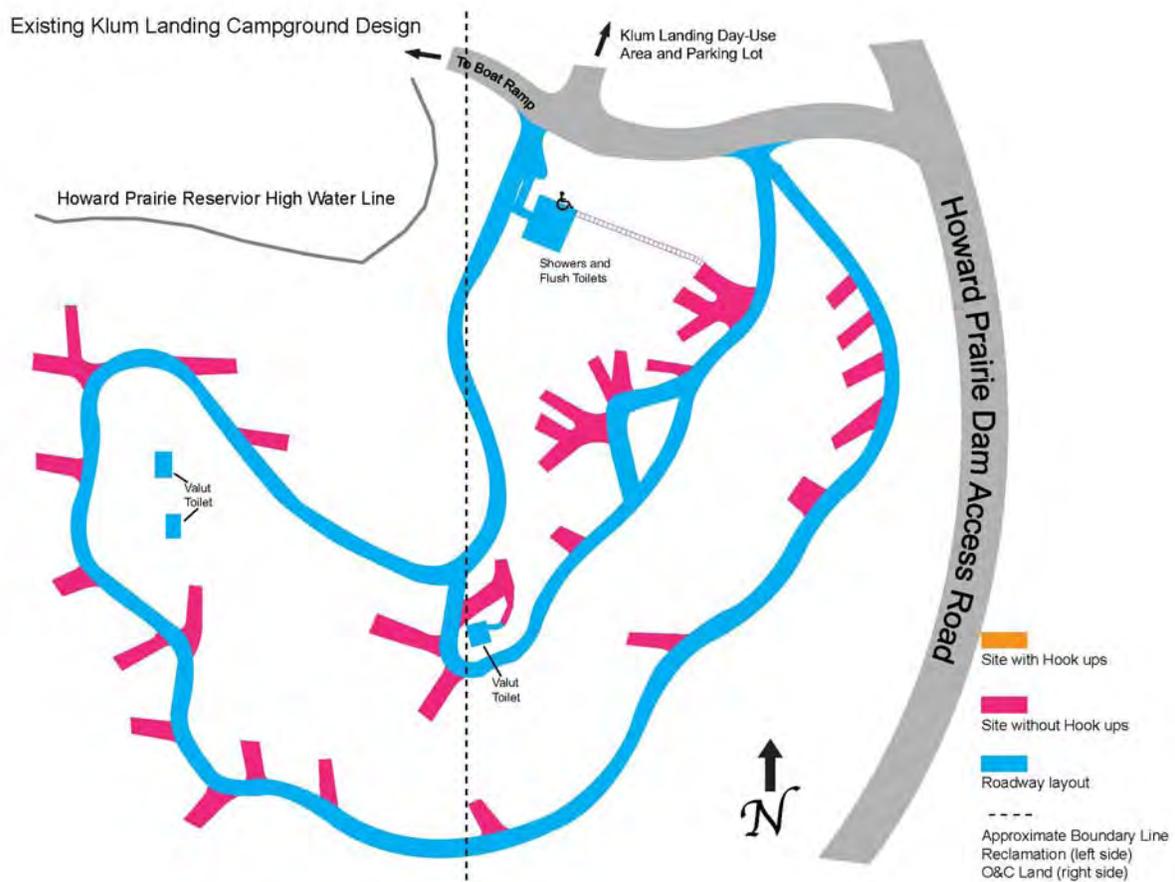


Figure 5 –Klum Landing Campground Current Configuration

2.2.2 Preferred Alternative

If the Preferred Alternative is selected, project activities would include reconfiguring the Klum Landing Campground from a 32-unit campground with no hookups to a 37-unit campground that has 18 sites with water and power hookups. Other activities would include dividing the campground into two one-way loop roads, paving the roads and the campsite spurs, providing two ADAABAAG-accessible campsites, lengthening and reconfiguring the campsite spurs, and installing underground utilities and a new vault toilet. The proposed campground configuration is shown in Figure 6.

One additional campsite would be available for people with disabilities. Reclamation Policy and Federal law requires that all new construction be in full compliance with current Federal accessibility standards. The provision of sites with hookups and eventual paved spurs would also improve access for people with lesser physical impairments such as elderly people and young children.

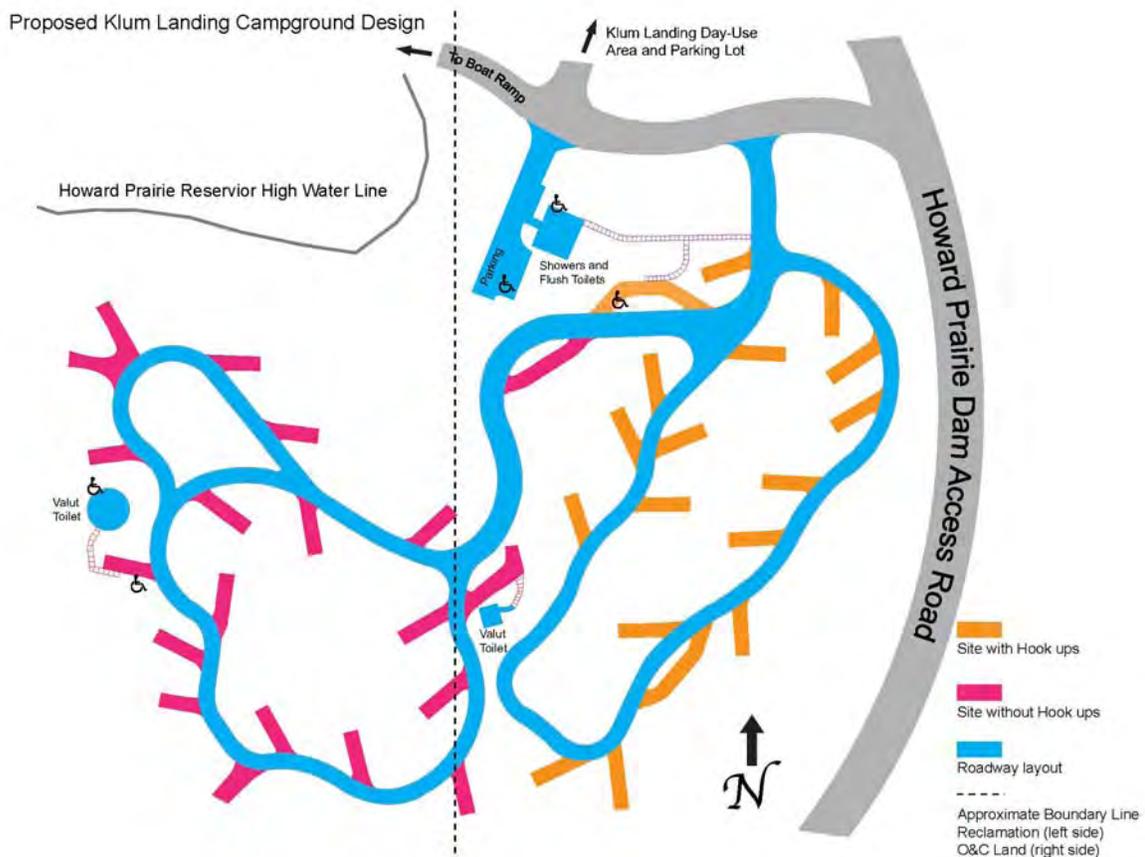


Figure 6 – Proposed Klum Landing Campground Configuration (Conceptual Design)

Chapter 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 Introduction

Howard Prairie Reservoir is located in the southern Cascade Mountains between Ashland and Klamath Falls, Oregon. The reservoir has almost 1,200 surface-acres of water surrounded by pine and fir forests situated at an elevation of 4485 feet. The scenery, water activities, and hunting and fishing opportunities make it a popular area for enjoying the outdoors.

3.2 Recreation

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Land Ownership & Management

Land ownership around the reservoir is comprised of Reclamation lands, O&C lands administered by BLM, and a small parcel of private land located on the east side of the reservoir. The western portion of Klum Landing Campground is located on Reclamation lands and the eastern portion is located on O&C lands.

JCP has a three-party agreement with Reclamation and BLM to manage the developed recreation facilities on Howard Prairie Reservoir. JCP directly manages five recreation sites on the reservoir plus two other sites through agreements with third parties.

Existing Facilities

The reservoir is a popular destination for boating, fishing, camping, and group-use activities. Facilities are generally open from mid-April through October. The largest recreation development on the lake is Howard Prairie Resort which is managed by a concessionaire through a contract with JCP. The Resort includes a large campground with approximately 300-units, a marina, a store, a restaurant, and camper services on the southwest end of the reservoir. About half of the campsites have utilities and some sites have camp-trailers in place for rent.

In addition, JCP operates semi-primitive campgrounds at Willow Point (41-units), Klum Landing (32-units), and Grizzly Creek (20-units) (Jackson County 2008). There are group camping facilities at Sugar Pine (10-units) and Lily Glen Equestrian Park (150 people maximum) (Jackson County 2008). Camp Apserkaha (120 people overnight) is managed by the Table Rock Fellowship through a lease with JCP. The camp has 12 primitive cabins and a

covered picnic pavilion with kitchen facilities and is available for rental to non-profit organizations. Dispersed camping occurs at other locations around the lake, particularly on the east shore of the reservoir where unregulated use is causing resource concerns.

Section 1.2 has a detailed description of the existing Klum Landing Campground facilities. There is one site for a camp host and one ADAABAAG-accessible site with a paved pathway to the restroom building. Current camping fees are \$18.00 per night and no reservations are taken. The roadway through the campground is paved, but in poor condition. The campsite spurs are native surface and of various lengths with little site control or definition (see Figure 7). The campground is located adjacent to a popular two-lane boat ramp with paved parking for more than 60 vehicles with boat trailers.



Figure 7 – Native surface campsite at Klum Landing Campground.

Demand

JCP manages the recreational facilities adjacent to Howard Prairie Reservoir, including Klum Landing and the Howard Prairie Resort. The website for Howard Prairie Resort states that, “From Father’s Day through Labor Day most of the utility sites are filled by Thursday evening. We rarely have to turn people away, but on weekends from the middle of June to Labor Day we typically reach, or nearly reach, capacity in the campgrounds” (Howard Prairie Resort 2008). JCP stated that Klum Landing Campground tends to be full more frequently earlier in the season rather than later, depending on the weather and the quality of the fishing (Hutton 2008). JCP also stated that regardless of the fishing conditions last year, there was a higher campground occupancy rate than expected which could be related to higher fuel costs that compel people to stay closer to home (Hutton 2008).

In preparation for the 2008-2012 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) contracted Oregon State University (OSU) to conduct a survey of “baby boomers” and “pre-boomers.” In this study, baby boomers, or boomers, are Oregon residents born between 1946 and 1964, while pre-boomers are Oregon residents born between 1926 and 1945 (OPRD 2008a). Results of the survey included:

- RV/trailer camping will be one of the 10 most popular activities in terms of days spent, and those days (12.8) will represent an increase of 7.7 days (66 percent) over the current average number of days. RV/trailer camping is a top activity of people between the ages of 65 and 74.
- Looking to the future, respondents are more likely to expect an increase rather than a decrease in their outdoor recreation activities.
- On average across all activities, respondents expect to spend 28 percent more days recreating 10 years from now than they do currently. In other words, boomers expect to break the trend of decreasing recreation with age.
- Approximately one-third of respondents indicated they or someone in their household has a disability.
- More than a quarter of the respondents own an RV and another 17 percent expect to rent or own one in the future.

Results from the Oregon SCORP for 2003 through 2007 support a demand for more RV/trailer camping opportunities in Jackson County. The top five most significant participation growth activities in the state of Oregon from 1987 to 2002 were:

1. Nature/wildlife observation
2. Golf
3. RV/trailer camping
4. Using playground equipment
5. Sightseeing/driving for pleasure (OPRD 2008b)

Results of a Demand and Need Analysis by region in the Oregon SCORP identified an inventory of 5,771 RV/trailer campsites in Region 5 which includes Jackson County. The study found that there was a shortage of 659 campsites in this area to meet projected demand in 2007 (OPRD 2008b).

RV/trailer camping showed a 95.5 percent increase from 1987 to 2002 statewide. For Region 5, RV/trailer camping showed a 239 percent increase from 1987 to 2002. At the same time, car camping with a tent showed a 23.5 percent decrease from 1987 to 2002 (OPRD 2008b).

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Effects from the No Action Alternative at Klum Landing Campground may include further vegetation loss and soil compaction from uncontrolled vehicle parking. There is the potential for possible ground water contamination from the old vault toilets in the upper campground. Dust from the bare ground or smell from seeping vaults could impede the recreational experience of some people. Visitation is likely to increase at Howard Prairie Reservoir with or without the Klum Landing Campground Improvement Project. No other campground expansion activities are planned on Howard Prairie Reservoir at this time.

Preferred Alternative

The Klum Landing Campground reconstruction as described in Section 2.2.2 is expected to provide more recreation opportunities for the public with the addition of five more camping units during the recreation season. Eighteen units would be equipped with hookups which would help meet demand in this area and may increase park revenues used to offset operating costs. Modifying the road system from one large two-way loop to two smaller one-way loops would reduce the amount of traffic going past camp sites and improve public safety.

Less noise would be expected because the 18 sites with power hookups would reduce the noise from RV generators that are often in use because there are no hookups. Campers at the five additional sites may add slightly to the expected noise levels. Overall, the quality of the recreational experience would be enhanced by the absence of generator noise.

Some areas of the campground would be better protected from compaction and trampling since sites would be better defined and vehicles would be restricted to parking on improved spurs. Paved roads and parking areas would result in dust abatement, enhancing the outdoor recreation experience.

Replacing the old vault toilets in the upper campground would reduce the potential for leakage and odoriferous impacts to recreationists. The new toilets would also improve accessibility for people with disabilities, increasing their recreational opportunities. Improved sanitation facilities may also draw in recreationists that camp outside campground areas. There is generally a beneficial environmental effect from accommodating recreational campers in managed camping areas with sanitation facilities and amenities versus dispersed camping at unimproved sites without limitations.

3.3 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are historic, archaeological, architectural, and traditional cultural properties that reflect the national heritage. Federal law and regulation define historic properties to include prehistoric and historic sites, buildings, structures, districts, and objects that are included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) are locations that have special heritage value to a contemporary community that are important for the continuation of that community. In the West, TCPs are most commonly associated with Indian communities.

3.3.1 Affected Environment

The Western Cascades area of southern Oregon has been utilized by Indian groups for at least 10,000 years, as indicated by the discovery of a Clovis-style point in that area. Intensive use is documented for at least the last 7,000 years. At the time of Euro-American arrival in the 1820s, the Howard Prairie area was within the seasonal gathering territory of the Upland Takelma and, at least during the early historic period, was perhaps also used by a Shasta band who occupied lands near present-day Ashland. The Takelma and Shasta were removed from the area in 1856, and thereafter the Klamath likely used the area during trading expeditions to Ashland and other nearby settlements.

American settlement of the area began in 1846, when large numbers of settlers traveled over the Applegate Trail from the Willamette Valley to California. When gold was discovered near Jacksonville in 1850, miners flooded into the area. Their demand for beef and produce introduced cattle grazing on the upland prairies and farms began to appear in the valleys. By 1860, small orchards had been established along Bear Creek from Ashland to Brownsboro, irrigated by small ditches direct from the river. The railroad connecting the area to Portland and California was completed in 1887 which triggered a surge in population and the beginnings of a timber and orchard industry. By 1891, Medford was the center of an orchard industry marketing throughout the West and to more distant markets. However, limited rainfall hampered expansion of the industry, triggering commercial irrigation development starting in 1890. The Talent Irrigation District (TID) formed in 1916 and initiated construction of a reservoir and delivery system. By 1950, 20,000 acres were under irrigation in the Bear Creek Valley, with TID serving the largest area. In 1954, Reclamation was authorized to construct the Talent Division of the Rogue River Basin Project, to enlarge the TID system and to rehabilitate the Medford Irrigation District and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District systems.

Prior Investigations at Klum Landing Campground

An archaeological survey of the campground was completed in September 2004 (Gray 2004). The survey was conducted at 20-meter intervals, with closer intervals used where the surveyor

anticipated there was a higher probability for archaeological deposits. Visibility was approximately 50 percent due to past disturbances and intensive use that removed surface vegetation. In areas where duff and needle cover limited visibility, the duff was scraped away on a random basis to expose mineral soil and increase survey reliability. One isolated find (Klum-Iso-1) consisting of two obsidian flakes was recorded in an area of limited surface visibility near camp spur #10. The contractor recommended that subsurface probes be excavated in the vicinity of the isolated find to determine if an archaeological site was present.

In 2004, in association with the archeological survey, four Indian tribes were notified of the survey and requested to indicate if there were resources in the area of concern to those tribes. The tribes notified were The Klamath Tribe, The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians, The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community. None of the tribes responded to the request.

In May 2008, Reclamation contracted for test probing of the vicinity of Klum-Iso-1 (LaLande 2008). First, an area extending well beyond the location of the isolated find was intensively re-surveyed. A single additional isolated find (Klum-Iso-2) was found on the surface approximately 80 meters north of the original discovery. Klum-Iso-2 is an obsidian secondary flake that has been worked along one edge, and may be a pre-form for a projectile point. The item appears to have been discarded before completion. LaLande considered Klum-Iso-2 to be associated with Klum-Iso-1 and did not warrant separate documentation.

LaLande excavated four test units in the vicinity of Klum-Iso-1. Test methods were a 1-meter-diameter surface scrape through duff to expose mineral soil, and then excavation of a 30-cm by 30-cm-square shovel test probe in the center of each scraped area, with units excavated to 30 cm below surface (bs). Scraped and excavated soils were screened. Materials recovered were a metal tent stake and an obsidian late-stage reduction flake, each found between 1 cm and 10 cm bs and in different units.

Test probing demonstrated that the area of the isolated finds does not meet the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) minimum definition of a site, which is the presence of one feature or ten artifacts in association. LaLande concluded that the isolated finds do not constitute a property that would be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, as there is no potential for further study to yield information about the prehistory of the area. He recommends no further investigations as needed to comply with Section 106 for this undertaking. Reclamation's Regional Archeologist concurred with his findings.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

There would be no effect on historic properties as no ground disturbing action would be implemented and there are no historic properties present that might be damaged by continuance of existing use. Reclamation would continue to consult with the SHPO and the tribes for future Federal undertakings and would work with them to mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties.

Preferred Alternative

No effects would occur to historic properties within the project area. The area has been heavily impacted by the initial construction and subsequent operation and use of the campground. If any archaeological properties or traditional cultural properties had been present prior to construction, they would have been damaged or destroyed. Archaeological investigations in 2004 and 2008 have resulted in identification of no properties that have the potential to be eligible to the National Register. Indian tribes contacted in 2004 and during the NEPA scoping processes have not responded to requests for information about resources of interest to them. Therefore, Reclamation concludes that there is little likelihood that undetected archaeological or traditional cultural properties are present. Construction activities would be confined to the previously disturbed areas of the campground. If, however, during the course of ground disturbance related to this project, any archaeological materials or human remains are encountered, construction would be immediately halted in the vicinity of the discovery and the SHPO notified consistent with applicable Federal and State requirements.

3.4 Indian Trust Assets

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in property held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes or Indian individuals. Examples of trust assets are lands, minerals, hunting and fishing rights, and water rights. While most ITAs are on-reservation, trust assets may also be off-reservation. The United States has an Indian trust responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by or granted to Indian tribes or Indian individuals by treaties, statutes, and executive orders. ITAs are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations.

There are no ITAs in the proposed project area.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not deprive any of the tribes of their rights they may have to hunt or fish. Resources associated with these rights would not be affected under the No Action Alternative.

Preferred Alternative

Because there are no ITAs in the project area, the Preferred Alternative would have no effect on Tribal ITA interests.

3.5 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

This section describes the existing demographic characteristics and economic conditions in the project vicinity and addresses the potential impacts on regional demographics and economic resources.

3.5.1 Affected Environment

Population

Population estimates prepared by Portland State University indicate that the Jackson County added nearly 3,700 new residents between July 1, 2006 and July 1, 2007, reaching an estimated population of 202,310 (PSU 2007). Only five of Oregon's 36 counties grew faster than Jackson County during 2007. The county's growth rate of over 11 percent exceeded the state's average growth rate for both the past year and the current decade (PSU 2007).

There are more elderly people in Jackson County than the average Oregon county, reflecting its attraction to retirees. Estimates from the U.S. Census indicate that in 2006 more than 16 percent of the residents in Jackson County were 65 years old and over versus approximately 12 percent for the national average (Census 2008).

In 2000, there were 34,031 people with disabilities living in Jackson County (Census 2008).

Ethnicity

Table 2 shows the ethnicity data for Jackson County and the city of Ashland, based on the 2000 census data. The majority of the population for both the city and the county is white, followed by those of Hispanic or Latino origins.

Table 2 - Ethnicity in Jackson County, Oregon in 2000 (Census 2008)				
Ethnic Group	Jackson County Population	Percent of Total	City of Ashland	Percent of Total
Total	181,269	100%	19,522	100%
White	171,152	94.4%	17,873	91.6%
Black or African-American	1,261	0.6%	118	0.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	4,317	2.4%	199	0.1%
Asian	2,554	1.4%	365	1.9%
Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian	686	0.4%	26	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino	12,126	6.7%	695	3.6%
Two or more races	5,269	2.9%	608	3.1%

Personal and Household Income

Median household income in Jackson County in 2000 was \$36,461; per capita income in 2000 was \$19,498. Approximately 12.5 percent of the population in Jackson County was living at or below the poverty level (Census 2008).

Employment

In Jackson County during 2000, the population of people ages 16 and over was 142,297. Of that population, 80,714 or 61.2 percent were employed in the labor force and 6,395 or 4.5 percent were unemployed. The highest percentages of the employed were in management, professional, and related occupations; service occupations, sales and office occupations; and production, transportation, and material moving occupations. Smaller percentages of the employed were in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations and construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations (Census 2008).

Housing

Jackson County had 75,737 housing units in 2000. Of that number, 47,715 were single family homes and 11,528 were mobile homes. The median home value was \$140,000.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

If the No Action Alternative is selected, there would be no effects on the socioeconomics of the project vicinity. The conditions and features of the campground would remain as they currently exist.

Preferred Alternative

If selected, the Preferred Alternative would have a minor effect on the socioeconomics of the region. The addition of more ADAABAAG-compliant facilities would have a positive effect by increasing opportunities for all people to participate in outdoor activities. Based on population and recreation trends in Oregon, demand for the more recreation facilities appears to be strong. Construction activities associated with the improvements may provide short-term job opportunities.

Some visitors who prefer a more primitive camping experience with fewer people may be displaced to other sites on the lake. For those preferring few or no amenities, there would be fewer non-hook-up sites available than before the reconstruction. The sites with hook-ups would cost \$4 more per night than the sites without hook-ups which may displace a few people who prefer not to pay the difference.

3.6 Water Quality

3.6.1 Affected Environment

The project area is approximately 15 acres in size and has native surface roads and surface campsites.

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

With the No Action Alternative, adverse effects to the campground could occur long-term. The native surface areas would be devoid of vegetation and vulnerable to erosion during heavy precipitation events.

Preferred Alternative

No adverse effects would be expected with the improvements to campground conditions under the Preferred Alternative. Campsite spurs would be paved and delineated to restrict traffic impacts to paved surfaces only. Additionally, the compacted native surface area would be reduced by the paved spurs. As a result, soil erosion during precipitation events would be decreased, especially as vegetation covered previously bare ground.

Replacing the old vault toilets would improve water quality because they likely are leaking. The new vault toilets would reduce the potential for degradation in water quality. Wastes would be pumped out and hauled to a treatment facility.

Construction activities would include removal of vegetation, ground disturbance, grading surfaces, and paving and concrete placements. These activities would cause soil disturbance and increase the potential for soil erosion which may lead to a short-term increase in water quality degradation. Best Management Practices would be enforced to limit the degradation as much as possible. In the long term, paving prevents erosion and decreases sediment into the reservoir.

3.7 Vegetation

3.7.1 Affected Environment

The forested areas on Reclamation land at Howard Prairie can generally be categorized as mixed coniferous forest dominated by white fir. Understory vegetation is sparse because of the lack of sunlight reaching the forest floor and consists mainly of serviceberry shrubs (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium*), and some *Ceanothus* spp. Historically, Klum Landing would have almost certainly been more open and dominated by a few mature sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), as well as lesser amounts of mature Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*).

In Klum Landing Campground, a dense stand of young Douglas fir and white fir (*Abies concolor*) along with a few ponderosa pine scattered throughout, has resulted in a closed forest canopy. White fir is very susceptible to laminated root rot (*Phellinus weirii*), a forest pathogen fatal to the tree. These trees are hazardous to public safety because they can fall without warning. Many hazard trees have been removed from Klum Landing Campground in recent years.

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, Klum Landing Campground would continue in its present condition for the foreseeable future. Removal of increasing numbers of hazard trees can be expected as disease takes its toll. Stand numbers and diversity will decline. Increased compaction of vegetation would continue, reducing ground cover further over time.

Preferred Alternative

If this alternative is selected, there would be minor adverse effects to vegetation. Proposed campground construction activities would be implemented within the existing footprint of established campsites, roads, and currently compacted areas. Ground disturbance resulting from excavation for underground utilities would be kept to a minimum.

Approximately 62 trees may be removed because they lie in the path of construction or their removal would improve forest health. The total number of hazard trees removed within the bounds of the campground is not expected to exceed 50 trees. Hazard trees in the project area are primarily white fir of various sizes that are dead or dying and should be removed for public safety reasons.

Under the Preferred Alternative, the effects of removing trees would create a more open forest canopy and allow more sunlight to the forest floor which would promote a greater diversity of vegetation to grow on the bare ground. The potential for erosion would decrease with increased vegetation anchoring soils in place during precipitation events. The potential severity of a wildfire would also be reduced by a more open canopy.

3.8 Wildlife

3.8.1 Affected Environment

A variety of habitats hosting a variety of wildlife species are present in the Howard Prairie vicinity. The area, especially the Cascade Siskiyou area to the south, is known as a mixing zone where species that are typically found either to the west or to the east of the Cascades co-exist together (BLM 2000). As many as 90 mammal species are known to be in Jackson County and could be present in and around the campground, including many species of rodents (i.e., chipmunks, voles, squirrels); lagomorphs (rabbits); bats; carnivores (i.e., coyotes, bobcats, bear, martens); and larger herbivores (i.e., deer, elk) (ONHP 2008).

A variety of avian species are also likely to inhabit forested areas within the vicinity of Klum Landing. These species include, but are not limited to, Northern goshawks, bald eagles, black swifts, seasonal black-chinned hummingbirds, purple martins, and several species of woodpeckers.

Species listed as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or species that are candidates for listing, are discussed in Section 3.9.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

If this alternative is selected, there would be no adverse effects to wildlife. The campground would continue in its present condition for the foreseeable future.

Preferred Alternative

There would be minor adverse effects on wildlife under the Preferred Alternative. Implementation of the proposed project would not impact terrestrial wildlife species. Because the project area is currently utilized as a campground, there would be no displacement of wildlife. Species that prefer bushes or shrub-type habitats may benefit if hazard tree removal

results in canopy gaps that promote understory development. Thinning of the forest canopy would increase the understory, thereby increasing habitat for small mammals in the area.

3.9 Threatened and Endangered Species

3.9.1 Affected Environment

Of the 42 animals (birds, mammals, fish, insects, invertebrates, and reptiles) on the USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species System, 31 are aquatic species (i.e., fish, whales, sea lions, sea turtles, otters, coastal and sea birds) that will not be included in this discussion because there is no habitat for them within the project vicinity (TESS 2008). Of the remaining 11 listed species, six species are endemic to a narrow, or geographically limited, habitat type not represented in the Howard Prairie vicinity (i.e., butterflies, curlew, Columbian deer, pygmy rabbit). Of the remaining five species, four are considered wide-ranging species unlikely to be affected by actions at a small campground (i.e., grizzly bears, condors, Canada lynx, and gray wolves). The only federally listed species that will be discussed in the context of the Klum Landing Campground Improvement Project is the Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*).

The Northern spotted owl is protected as a Threatened species under ESA. The owl is strongly associated with late-successional coniferous forests from British Columbia through the Cascade Mountains and coastal ranges in Washington, and Oregon to northern California. Late-successional forests are characterized by large diameter trees, multi-layered canopies, and a higher percentage of canopy closure. The Final Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis caurina* clarifies that the primary threats to the owl include current and past habitat loss resulting from timber harvest, catastrophic wildfires, and competition from the barred owl (USFWS 2008). Although there are no longer designated boundaries for critical habitat for the spotted owl, the Final Recovery Plan designates Conservation Support Areas and Mapped Owl Conservation Areas. Two Mapped Owl Conservation Areas are located to the east and south of Klum Landing Campground. These areas function as shifting spotted owl habitat patches within a larger landscape that is managed for larger older trees by other Federal agencies.

None of the 15 plants on USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species System have a range or known habitat within the project area (TESS 2008). The Lady Slipper orchid (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) is an ESA candidate and an Oregon State Sensitive species that may inhabit the moist to dry coniferous forests of the campground or vicinity. Identified by a large pink flower, this orchid is sufficiently showy to attract notice during its bloom season that runs from April through August. If present in the project area, it will be easily noticed and avoided.

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

There is neither habitat nor known extant populations within the project area for 41 of the 42 Federally-listed animals. The one Federally-listed animal with habitat near the project area is the Northern spotted owl which inhabits areas surrounding the project site. Although protocol surveys for owls are no longer required, land management agencies like the Bureau of Land Management's Medford District record owls or nests as they are discovered and all documented sites receive seasonal protection (BLM 2007). There are no known Northern spotted owls or nests within Klum Landing Campground; therefore, construction activities would have no affect on the Northern spotted owl under the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative.

There is no habitat or known extant population of the 15 Federally-listed plant species within the project area.

No Action Alternative

If this alternative is selected, there would be no effects to Threatened or Endangered species or suitable habitat. The campground would continue in its present condition for the foreseeable future.

Preferred Alternative

Northern spotted owl populations and habitat are located outside the project area. Construction activities would have no affect on the spotted owl. Ground disturbance would be limited to areas that are currently heavily disturbed or immediately adjacent to those areas. Therefore, there would be no effects to Threatened or Endangered species under the Preferred Alternative.

No known occurrences of the Lady slipper orchid are in the project area. Ground disturbance associated with project construction would occur largely within previously disturbed areas of the campground and would be limited in scope and size. If any occurrences of the orchid are indicated by its brightly colored flower during construction, those areas would be marked off and avoided.

3.10 Cumulative Impacts

No other campground expansion activities are planned on Howard Prairie Reservoir at this time. There are plans to replace boat ramps at Willow Creek and Grizzly Creek and facility improvement projects are in progress at Asperkaha Group Camp. Visitation is likely to increase at Howard Prairie Reservoir with or without the Klum Landing Campground Improvement Project.

Discussions are still on-going for plans for future forest management in and around the developed recreation sites at Howard Prairie Reservoir. A separate NEPA analysis and public involvement opportunity would precede future large-scale forest stand treatments in the area.

Reclamation, in coordination with BLM, has identified a need to improve forest health and reduce fire danger around Howard Prairie Reservoir; however, these activities are being evaluated under a separate NEPA process. Some trees would need to be removed in the campground prior to construction activities for the proposed reconfiguration. Because the campground would be closed during construction activities, this would also be the best time to remove any additional undesirable trees, especially white fir. Such action would open up the stand to more sunlight, thus encouraging increased stand diversity by improving conditions for the remaining trees. With increased vigor in the remaining trees, there would be less potential for bark beetles or other destructive insects to invade the campground and destroy the stand. Fewer trees would also mean less fuel for wildfires and would reduce burn severity in the event of a fire.

Chapter 4 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1 Public Involvement

Reclamation's approach to preparing the draft EA has been to involve the public. The goal of the public involvement process is to ensure that all stakeholders have ample opportunity to express their interests, concerns, and viewpoints. By fostering two-way communications, Reclamation is also able to use the talents and perspectives of local interest groups and agencies during the alternatives development and analysis process in the draft EA.

As stated in Section 1.4, Reclamation sent out a scoping letter on January 19, 2007 to over 150 interested individuals, organizations, and agencies (see Appendix B). Nine responses were received and taken into consideration when formulating the alternatives presented in this draft EA.

4.2 Agency Consultation and Coordination

4.2.1 Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires all Federal agencies to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify their habitat. Due to the small size of the campground and its heavily disturbed environment, a relevant species list was not requested from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Coordination with USFWS and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife would occur through review and confirmation of the analysis and conditions contained in this EA.

4.2.2 National Historic Preservation Act

Reclamation completed archeological investigations of the area of potential effect in 2004 and 2008. An isolated find was found which was determined, upon further investigation in 2008, to not represent a site. A copy of the 2008 investigation has been provided to the SHPO.

Four tribes with an interest in the area were notified in September of 2004 about the proposed campground improvements and asked to indicate if they were aware of resources of interest in the vicinity. No responses were received. These same tribes will be notified in conjunction with the public review of the draft EA.

4.3 Tribal Consultation and Coordination

4.3.1 Government-to-Government Consultation with Tribes

The United States Government has a unique legal relationship with Federally-recognized American Indian tribes, based on recognition of the inherent powers of tribal sovereignty and self-government. Reclamation will uphold this special relationship and implement its activities in a manner consistent with it. A copy of this draft EA will be provided to the tribes with an interest in the Klum Landing Campground Improvement Project. If any of the tribes request a government-to-government consultation, Reclamation will gladly meet with them.

4.3.2 Indian Sacred Sites (Executive Order 13007)

As part of their review of the draft EA, tribes will have an opportunity to provide specific comments about Indian sacred sites that might be located in the project area.

4.3.3 Indian Trust Assets

As discussed in Chapter 3, Section 3.4, there are no Indian Trust Assets in the project area.

4.3.4 Other Laws and Regulations

The relationship between Federal agencies and sovereign tribes is defined by several laws and regulations addressing the requirement of Federal agencies to notify or consult with Native American groups or otherwise consider their interests when planning and implementing Federal undertakings. Among these are the follow:

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended
- Executive Order 12875, Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- Presidential Memorandum: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, April 29, 1994
- Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
- Tribal Treaties, Statues, and Executive Orders as discussed under 3.14 Indian Trusts Assets

Reclamation has adhered to these laws and regulations as applicable to the development of this project and will continue to do so as tribal consultation continues.

Chapter 5 CITED SOURCES

Parenthetical Reference	Bibliographic Citation
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Howard Prairie Resort 2008	Howard Prairie Resort. http://www.howardprairieresort.com/ . Website accessed 3-4-2008.
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Parenthetical Reference	Bibliographic Citation
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USFWS 2008	Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. Region 1, Portland, OR. http://www.fws.gov/pacific/ecoservices/angered/recovery/NSORecoveryPlanning.htm . Website accessed May 13, 2008.
Wilderness 2008	Wilderness Society. Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. Website accessed 03/04/2008. http://www.wilderness.org/WhereWeWork/Oregon/siskiyou.cfm

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APPENDIX A

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

AND

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



IN REPLY REFER TO:

PN-3822
ADM-13.00

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Pacific Northwest Region
Lower Columbia Area Office
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 750
Portland, Oregon 97232



AUG 27 2008

Mr. Tim Reuwsaat
Medford District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding (1425-08 MU 1L 7133) regarding the Klum Landing Campground Improvement Environmental Assessment (EA)

Dear Mr. Reuwsaat:

Enclosed for your files is the signed Memorandum of Understanding identifying the respective roles of the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management for compliance for National Environmental Policy Act for the Klum Landing Campground Improvement EA. We appreciate your cooperation with this process. A preliminary draft EA will be provided for review by the end of September. If you have any questions, please contact me at 503-872-2795.

Sincerely,

/s/ KAREN A. BLAKNEY

ACTING FOR

Ronald J. Eggers
Area Manager

Enclosure

bc: PN-3822 (Hessman), PN-6519 (Abshire)
BFO-3000 (Busch), LCA-6502 (Sommers)
(w/encl to all)

Memorandum of Understanding

1425-08 MU 1L 7133

Between

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office**

And

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Columbia Area Office**

Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is proposing to allow Jackson County Parks (JCP) to improve Klum Landing Campground located on the southeast end of Howard Prairie Reservoir near Ashland, Oregon. Through contractual agreement, JCP manages Klum Landing day-use and overnight camping areas on behalf of Reclamation. JCP has performed upgrades and expansions to Klum Landing in phases with the final phase being improvements to the overnight campground.

JCP is the recipient of a grant to improve Klum Landing Campground through Reclamation's Title 28 grant program. Funding is contingent upon evaluation and legal compliance as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Half of the campground is located on Reclamation land and the other half is on O&C lands under management jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). An Environmental Assessment (EA), which will encompass the entire campground, is anticipated to be the appropriate level of NEPA documentation.

Reclamation only has authority to fund or perform construction on Reclamation lands. However, the geographic scope of the EA will include the O&C lands portion of Klum Landing because JCP will need permission from BLM for the construction planned on the O&C lands. A combined NEPA document will permit the respective agencies to comply with NEPA at lesser cost than if each produced an EA. An interagency agreement dated December 1982 between Reclamation and BLM discusses the general roles and responsibilities of each agency as related to Environmental Impact Analyses and Statements (Section P). As provided for in that agreement, Reclamation will be the lead agency because they are initiating the action, and BLM will be a cooperating agency.

Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to identify the respective roles of Reclamation and BLM for NEPA compliance for the Klum Landing Campground Improvement Environmental Assessment.

Objectives

This MOU defines general and collective responsibilities for Reclamation as the lead agency and BLM as a cooperating agency for the Klum Landing Campground Improvement Environmental Assessment which geographic scope encompasses both Reclamation lands and O&C lands under BLM management jurisdiction.

Implementing Actions

1. Reclamation will:
 - a. Be the lead agency responsible for completing the EA and associated activities;
 - b. Consult with BLM on projects and management activities related to the O&C lands portion of Klum Landing Campground;
 - c. Provide a preliminary draft EA for review and a copy of the final EA/FONSI.

2. BLM will:
 - a. Be a cooperating agency for the EA in order to provide the NEPA compliance needed to evaluate JCP's request for construction on O&C lands under management jurisdiction by BLM;
 - b. Provide technical information and assistance to Reclamation related to the O&C lands portion of Klum Landing Campground;
 - c. Conduct a review of the preliminary draft EA and provide comments as necessary to Reclamation.
 - d. Provide own funding for actions as a cooperating agency.

General Provisions

1. Nothing herein shall or shall be construed to obligate Reclamation to expend or involve the United States of America in any contract or other obligation for the future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for the purposes and projects contemplated hereunder.
2. No member of or delegate to Congress, or resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this MOU or to any benefit that may arise out of it.
3. Either party may terminate this MOU by providing 60 days written notice to the other party. Unless so terminated, this MOU will expire on 12/31/2008.

Signatures

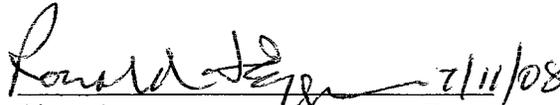
for

Bureau of Land Management


Signed _____ Date 7/1/08
Typed Name: Timothy B. Reuvsaad
Title: District Manager

for

Bureau of Reclamation


Signed _____ Date 7/11/08
Ron Eggers
Area Manager

APPENDIX B

SCOPING LETTER AND MAILING LIST

Copy



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
Lower Columbia Area Office
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 750
Portland, Oregon 97232



IN REPLY
REFER TO:

LCA-6502
LND-8.00

JAN 19 2007

Subject: Comment Requested for Proposed Klum Landing Campground Improvement Project,
Howard Prairie Reservoir, Oregon

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation wants to determine if there is support for, or opposition to proposed changes to Klum Landing campground at Howard Prairie Reservoir. We are requesting that interested parties provide comments by **March 9, 2007**. Based on the comments we receive, Reclamation will either: (1) implement the proposed change consistent with Reclamation policies and legal requirements, (2) circulate an environmental assessment for further public comment, or (3) make only minor upgrades to Klum Landing to maintain it in its existing condition. We request that you review the information below and return your written comments to Ms. Tanya Sommer, Natural Resource Specialist, at the above address by March 9, 2007.

Background

Howard Prairie Dam and Reservoir are components of the Bureau of Reclamation, Rogue River Basin Project, in southwestern Oregon. The Reservoir is a water storage facility for irrigation districts in the Bear Creek Valley. Along the Reservoir shoreline there are several developed recreational sites for day use and overnight camping. Many of those sites are operated by Jackson County Parks Department. The County and Reclamation are proposing to upgrade and improve Klum Landing Campground located on the southeast shore of Howard Prairie Reservoir. At the present time, this is the only campground being evaluated for improvements, but Reclamation and Jackson County may propose changes at other recreation sites at Howard Prairie Reservoir in the future. Selection of any of the options below will not require an increase in the fees that the County charges at its campgrounds and it will not change the length of the operating season. The proposed changes would be funded by Federal funds, from the Bureau of Reclamation, and by funds from Jackson County Parks.

Proposal

The proposal is to redesign the campground by widening and realigning parts of the roadway, modernizing the campsites with longer parking spaces, and providing water and electricity hookups to some of the sites. The road through the campground is narrow and poorly designed for large recreational vehicles (RVs). The campsites are too short for some RVs and do not provide water or electrical hookups. Both improvement options (Alternatives B and C, described below) have many features in common: both will provide facilities that are accessible to people with disabilities, both will require the removal of some trees, and both will require campground closure during construction.

Options

Alternative A is to make no improvements other than to maintain the campground facilities including the replacement, as needed, of road surfaces, restrooms, and picnic tables. Reclamation and the County will not make changes that make the campground more accommodating for large RVs.

Alternative B is redesigning the campground to increase the number of available campsites from 32 to about 42 sites. When complete, the campground will have additional restrooms and about 15 sites equipped with electrical and water hooks. Alternative B will require cutting as many as 130 trees for the road layout and campsite locations.

Alternative C is to redesign the campground and add the amenities included in Alternative B without increasing the number of campsites to more than about 32 campsites. Limiting the total number of campsites reduces the number of trees that would be cut to approximately 95 and leaves more shoreline open for use by all campground users. In the future, a campground loop that adds additional sites may be considered if demand for campsites increases. This alternative is preferred by Reclamation because it balances safety, campground improvements, and potential disturbance to natural resources.

What's Next?

Please send your comments, feedback, and concerns about the proposed Klum Landing Campground Improvement Project to Reclamation at the above address by March 9, 2007. Your comments will be used to inform Reclamation prior to making a decision about upgrading this campground. For more information contact Ms. Tanya Sommer at 503-872-2846, or at tsommer@pn.usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ RONALD J. EGGERS

Ronald J. Eggers
Area Manager

bc: Mr. Randy Hutton
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