
CRGNSA CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION
BUILDING DEMOLITION, CD-14-01-G
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
LITTLE WHITE SALMON NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY
COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA
SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

BACKGROUND

The proposed demolition of two houses at the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery housing complex by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is required to be consistent with the purposes of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act as determined by the Forest Service pursuant to Section 14(d) of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. A complete consistency review application was received by my office in April 2014.

DECISION

I find that the above proposal is consistent with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) Management Plan provided that it is implemented as described in the application materials, the CRGNSA Consistency Determination Findings of Fact, referenced as CD-14-01-S, and provided the following conditions are applied:

1. Should any historic or prehistoric cultural resources be uncovered during project activities, the applicant shall cease work and immediately notify the CRGNSA office and the Washington Office of Archeology and Historical Preservation. The applicant will also notify the Indian Tribal governments within 24 hours if the resources are prehistoric or otherwise associated with Native American Indians.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (APPEAL) OPPORTUNITIES

A written request for review of the Consistency Determination, with reasons to support the request, must be received within 20 days of the date shown with the Area Manager signature below. Requests for review should be addressed to: Request for Review, Regional Forester, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

This project may begin immediately as long as it complies with the conditions as described in item 1 above. This decision expires two years after the date on this determination. If implementation has not commenced before that date, a new consistency review or extension shall be required.

CONTACT

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area staff prepared an analysis file in conjunction with this project. For further information, contact Christine Plourde at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, phone: (541) 308-1713, e-mail: cplourde@fs.fed.us.



July 31, 2014

Lynn Burditt

Date

Area Manager

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

FINDINGS OF FACT

LANDOWNER:	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
PROPOSED ACTION:	Building Demolition
LOCATION:	Township 3N, Range 9E, Section 26 Tax lot ID: 03092600070000
NATIONAL SCENIC AREA DESIGNATION:	General Management Area
LAND USE DESIGNATION:	Open Space and Recreation
LANDSCAPE SETTING	Gorge Walls, Canyonlands and Wildlands

The following findings of fact contain the applicable standards and guidelines from the CRGNSA Management Plan. The Management Plan, as adopted in 2004 and updated in 2011, is in effect. The CRGNSA Management Plan standards and guidelines are displayed in regular type. The findings are displayed in **bold type**.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

A notice describing the project was sent to a mailing list of known interested parties and adjacent landowners on May 8, 2014. A period of 30 days was allowed for public comment. The following comments were received:

The Gifford Pinchot Accountability Group submitted comments stating they had no concerns and the project should proceed as quickly as possible.

The Friends of the Columbia River Gorge submitted comments outside of the comment period. They stated that the project should meet the applicable guidelines for the CRGNSA Management Plan, including cumulative effects analysis for natural and cultural resources.

B. PROJECT PROPOSAL

The U.S Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) has proposed the removal of two houses from the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery (NFH) housing compound in Skamania County.

The residential compound at Little White NFH was constructed in 1953 and contains five houses along Chinook Drive, a private road. Quarters #5 and #7 are proposed for removal. The demolition process would include the removal of the proposed houses in their entirety. The footprint of each home will be filled in with fill and topsoil, graded to match the surrounding elevation, and landscaped to match the surrounding housing/residential area. Due to the fact that the existing residents are required to live on site as terms of their employment, it would be the intent of the Service to reserve the newly created outdoor spaces as “green areas” that can be enjoyed by the current residents.

C. LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 3 (Open Space), GMA guidelines, states:

Review Uses- All Lands Designated Open Space

1. The following uses may be allowed on all lands designated Open Space subject to compliance with guidelines for the protection of scenic, cultural, natural, and recreation resources:
 - f. Removal/ Demolition of structures that are 50 or more years old, including wells, septic tanks and fuel tanks.

Findings: The proposed demolition of two structures is consistent with the type of reviewable uses allowed for GMA Open Space.

D. SCENIC RESOURCES

The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 1 (Scenic Resources), GMA guidelines, states:

4. A site plan and land use application shall be submitted for all new buildings, except for buildings smaller than 60 square feet in area and less than or equal to 10 feet in height, as measured at the roof peak. The site plan and application shall include all information required in the site plan guidelines in "Review Uses" (Part II, Chapter 7: General Policies and Guidelines). Supplemental requirements for developments proposed on lands visible from key viewing areas are included in the key viewing areas guidelines in this chapter.
5. For all proposed development, the determination of compatibility with the landscape setting shall be based on information submitted in the site plan.

Findings: The submitted application provides adequate information for the evaluation of effects to scenic resources. The information submitted in the application will be the basis for evaluation of consistency with the landscape setting.

Key Viewing Areas

GMA Guidelines

1. The guidelines in this section shall apply to proposed developments on sites topographically visible from key viewing areas.
2. Each development shall be visually subordinate to its setting as seen from key viewing areas.
3. Determination of potential visual effects and compliance with visual subordination policies shall include consideration of the cumulative effects of proposed developments.
4. The extent and type of conditions applied to a proposed development to achieve visual subordination shall be proportionate to its potential visual impacts as seen from key viewing areas.
 - A. Decisions shall include written findings addressing the factors influencing potential visual impact, including but not limited to:
 - (1) The amount of area of the building site exposed to key viewing areas.

- (2) The degree of existing vegetation providing screening.
- (3) The distance from the building site to the key viewing areas from which it is visible.
- (4) The number of key viewing areas from which it is visible.
- (5) The linear distance along the key viewing areas from which the building site is visible (for linear key viewing areas, such as roads).

B. Conditions may be applied to various elements of proposed developments to ensure they are visually subordinate to their setting as seen from key viewing areas, including but not limited to:

- (1) Siting (location of development on the subject property, building orientation, and other elements).
- (2) Retention of existing vegetation.
- (3) Design (color, reflectivity, size, shape, height, architectural and design details and other elements).
- (4) New landscaping.

7. Existing tree cover screening proposed development from key viewing areas shall be retained as specified in the Landscape Settings Design Guidelines section of this chapter.

Findings: The majority of scenic resource guidelines do not apply to this proposal because there is no structural development. The only potentially visible change would be the removal of two buildings which are not consistent with the desired landscape character as designated. Existing tree cover is not necessary to meet scenic guidelines however, it is not proposed for removal. The proposed activity would have no adverse effect, including cumulative effects to scenic resources. No conditions of approval are required for the proposed action to meet Visual Subordinance.

Landscape Settings

The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 1 (Scenic Resources), GMA guidelines, states: Gorge Walls, Canyonlands and Wildlands, Design Guidelines:

Findings: These guidelines are not applicable to the proposed structure demolition because no structural development is proposed.

Scenic Travel Corridors

GMA Guidelines

1. For the purposes of implementing this section, the foreground of a scenic travel corridor shall include those lands within 1/4 mile of the edge of pavement of the scenic travel corridor roadway.

Findings: The proposal is within ¼ mile of Cook Underwood Road. The proposed demolition is entirely screened by existing vegetation and would have no effect to the scenic quality to the casual observer. The Scenic Travel Corridor guidelines are not applicable to the proposed structure demolition because no structural development is proposed.

Signs

GMA Guidelines

1. Except for signs allowed without review pursuant to “Uses Allowed Outright” (Part II, Chapter 7: General Policies and Guidelines), all new signs must meet the following guidelines unless these guidelines conflict with the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices for public safety, traffic control or highway construction signs. In such cases, the standards in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices shall supersede these guidelines.

Findings: These guidelines are not applicable to the proposed structure demolition. There are no signs proposed.

E. CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 2 (Cultural Resources), GMA Policies, states:

3. A four-step process shall be used to protect cultural resources: performing cultural resource reconnaissance or historic surveys before proposed uses are authorized; assessing the effects of proposed uses on significant cultural resources; and preparing mitigation plans to avoid or minimize impacts to significant cultural resources.
14. Mitigation measures shall ensure that a proposed use would have no adverse effect on significant cultural resources. Uses that would adversely affect significant cultural resources shall be prohibited.

The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 2 (Cultural Resources), GMA Guidelines, states:

Determination of potential effects to significant cultural resources shall include consideration of cumulative effects of proposed developments that are subject to any of the following: 1) a reconnaissance or historic survey; 2) a determination of significance; 3) an assessment of effect; or 4) a mitigation plan. (Added: CRGC adoption 7/13/10; U.S. Sec. Ag. concurrence 11/1/10)

Conclusion of Cultural Resource Protection Process

1. The local government shall make a final decision on whether the mitigation plan would reduce an adverse effect to no effect or no adverse effect. If the final decision contradicts the comments submitted by the SHPO, the local government shall justify how it reached an opposing conclusion.

Findings: The project has been reviewed by Marge Dryden, Forest Service Archaeologist, and by the State Historic Preservation Office. Notice was provided to the tribes. A cultural resource survey was completed by the USFWS.

The structures proposed for demolition are historic but not significant. There are no cumulative effects to significant cultural resources by the implementation of the proposed project.

The applicant may consider monitoring for archaeological material during the demolition process but it is not a condition of approval to meet standards of the CRGNSA Management Plan. While monitoring is not required during implementation of this project following condition of approval regarding discovery of cultural resources is required, as it is with all consistency determinations:

A condition should be placed stating that should any historic or prehistoric cultural resources be uncovered during project activities, the applicant shall cease work and immediately notify the CRGNSA office and the Washington Office of Archeology and Historical Preservation. The applicant should also notify the Indian Tribal governments within 24 hours if the resources are prehistoric or otherwise associated with Native American Indians.

F. NATURAL RESOURCES

The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 3 (Natural Resources), GMA guidelines, states:

Wetlands

GMA Guidelines

Review Uses

1. The following uses may be allowed in wetlands and wetland buffer zones, subject to compliance with guidelines for the protection of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources and "Approval Criteria for Modifications to Serviceable Structures and Minor Water-Dependent and Water-Related Structures in Wetlands" in this section.

Findings: The proposed project has been reviewed by Forest Service biologists and is not within the buffer of a wetland.

Streams, Ponds, Lakes, And Riparian Areas

GMA Guidelines

Review Uses

1. The following uses may be allowed in streams, ponds, lakes, and riparian areas, subject to compliance with guidelines for the protection of scenic, natural, cultural and recreation resources and "Approval Criteria for Modifications to Serviceable Structures and Minor Water-Dependent and Water-Related Structures in Aquatic and Riparian Areas" in this section.

Findings: The proposed project has been reviewed by Forest Service biologists and is not within the buffer of streams, ponds, lakes, or riparian areas.

Wildlife Habitat

GMA Guidelines

Review Uses

1. Except uses allowed outright, proposed uses may be allowed within 1,000 feet of a sensitive wildlife area or site, subject to compliance with guidelines for the protection of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources and "Approval Criteria for Review Uses Near Sensitive Wildlife Areas and Sites" in this section. Updated lists of species included in sensitive wildlife sites can be found on the websites for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Species of Concern list) and the Wildlife Division of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. A list also is maintained by the USDA Forest Service – Scenic Area Office and available at the Gorge Commission office and on its website.

Site Plans and Field Surveys for Review Uses Near Sensitive Wildlife Areas and Sites

1. In addition to the information required in all site plans, site plans for uses within 1,000 feet of a sensitive wildlife area or site shall include a map prepared at a scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet (1:1,200), or a scale providing greater detail.
2. A field survey to identify sensitive wildlife areas or sites shall be required for (1) land divisions that create four or more parcels, (2) recreation facilities that contain parking areas for more than 10 cars, overnight camping facilities, boat ramps, or visitor information and environmental education facilities, (3) public transportation facilities that are outside improved rights-of-way, (4) electric facilities, lines, equipment, and appurtenances that are 33 kilovolts or greater, and (5) communications, water and sewer, and natural gas transmission (as opposed to distribution) lines, pipes, equipment, and appurtenances and other project related activities, except when all of their impacts will occur inside previously disturbed road, railroad or utility corridors, or existing developed utility sites, that are maintained annually.

Field surveys shall cover all areas affected by the proposed use or recreation facility. They shall be conducted by a professional wildlife biologist hired by the project applicant. All sensitive wildlife areas and sites discovered in a project area shall be described and shown on the site plan map.

Approval Criteria for Review Uses Near Sensitive Wildlife Areas and Sites

4. The wildlife protection process may terminate if the local government, in consultation with the state wildlife agency, determines (1) the sensitive wildlife area or site is not active, or (2) the proposed use would not compromise the integrity of the wildlife area or site or occur during the time of year when wildlife species are sensitive to disturbance.

Findings: The proposed project has been reviewed by Forest Service wildlife biologist. The project may be within 1,000 feet of Bald Eagle habitat however it was determined that the proposed project would not compromise the integrity of the site.

Rare Plants

GMA Guidelines

Review Uses

1. Except uses allowed outright, proposed uses may be allowed within 1,000 feet of a sensitive plant, subject to compliance with guidelines for the protection of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources and "Approval Criteria for Review Uses Near Sensitive Plants" in this section. Updated lists of sensitive plant species can be found on the websites for the Oregon or Washington Natural Heritage Program. A list also is maintained by the USDA Forest Service – Scenic Area Office and available at the Gorge Commission office and on its website.

Findings: The proposed project has been reviewed by Forest Service botanist/ ecologist and is not within 1,000 feet of sensitive plant species.

Cumulative Effects: The proposed project has no adverse effects to water, wildlife or sensitive plant resources. There are no cumulatively effects that are adverse from the proposed action to these resources.

G. RECREATION RESOURCES

The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 4 (Recreation Resources), GMA guidelines, state:

Allowable Uses

The following uses are allowable, subject to compliance with the "Approval Criteria for Recreation Uses" and "Facility Design Guidelines For All Recreation Projects" in this section.

1. Recreation Intensity Class 1 (Very Low Intensity)
 - A. Parking areas for a maximum of 10 cars for any allowed uses in Recreation Intensity Class 1.
 - B. Trails for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking use.
 - C. Pathways for pedestrian and bicycling use.
 - D. Trailheads (with provisions for hitching rails and equestrian trailers at trailheads accommodating equestrian use).
 - E. Scenic viewpoints and overlooks.
 - F. Wildlife/botanical viewing and nature study areas.
 - G. River access areas.
 - H. Simple interpretive signs and/or displays, not to exceed a total of 50 square feet.
 - I. Entry name signs, not to exceed 10 square feet per sign.
 - J. Boat docks, piers, or wharfs.
 - K. Picnic areas. L. Restrooms/comfort facilities.areas, in addition to allowed individual campsite units or parking area maximums.

Findings: The proposed project is within an area designated Recreation Intensity Class 1. No recreation development is proposed. The project is consistent with the RIC as proposed.

H. CONCLUSION

The proposed demolition of two houses at the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery is consistent with the National Scenic Area Management Plan Policy and Guidelines provided it meets the criteria and conditions listed in the Findings of Fact and Consistency Determination.