

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
GREEN PETER RESERVOIR / QUARTZVILLE ROAD RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS
LINN COUNTY, OREGON

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (Corps) plans to implement recreation improvements at Green Peter Reservoir in Linn County, Oregon. Providing quality, safe recreation opportunities to the public is consistent with objectives in the 1987 Corps Green Peter Master Plan. Implementation will result in increased safety and health conditions for campers and will reduce harmful impacts to the environment by eliminating dispersed camping and will fulfill improvements detailed in the Corps' 2011 Recreation Concept Plan for the area. Actions will include permanent closure of dispersed camping along Quartzville Road over an approximately 17-mile stretch, expansion of recreation facilities at Whitcomb Creek Park, and improvements of facilities at Moose Creek Park and Trout Creek Campground. Closure of dispersed camping is scheduled to occur in 2014, while other actions will occur in later years.

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) and have determined that implementation of the preferred alternative will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

While acknowledging the impacts discussed in the EA and outlined above, the Corps is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to make a determination of the significance of those impacts. The Council of Environmental Quality has defined "significance" in 40 CFR 1508.27.

The EA and this Finding of No Significant Impact have listed all of the important considerations and their environmental impacts; these, both individually and cumulatively, are not *significant* as *significant* has been defined by NEPA regulations and case law.

While acknowledging the impacts discussed in the EA and outlined above, the Corps is required by NEPA to make a determination of the significance of those impacts. A checklist of considerations that help in making the determination of whether impacts of a project rise to the level of *significantly affecting the quality of the human environment* is provided at 40 CFR 1508.27. Following is the checklist from (1) to (10).

- (1) Significant impacts include both beneficial and harmful impacts: Only minor disturbances are expected from the construction of the proposed project. Benefits of the project will result from closure of dispersed camping and improvements of existing facilities.
- (2) Public health and safety: There will be no adverse impacts to public health and safety from implementation of the project. Safety will be improved by closure of dispersed camping along Quartzville Road, which has been a safety concern. Closure will also improve water quality and lessen littering in the lower part of Quartzville Creek and along the road.
- (3) Unique characteristics of geographical area: No unique geographical characteristics of the area were identified for the proposed project. There will be no impacts or changes to the geographical characteristics of the area with this project.
- (4) Are effects on quality of the human environment controversial? Based on public review, several individuals expressed concern over loss of the ability to camp along Quartzville Road in close proximity to the reservoir. Most campers understand problems caused by dispersed camping and the benefits that will result from closure.

- (5) Are the risks uncertain or unique? No, there are no identified risks.
- (6) Future Precedents: The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects because this action is not unusual in and of itself, nor does it lead to any further actions that are unique.
- (7) Cumulative Impacts: The effects of the proposed project have been considered along with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within and adjacent to the project area. The proposed project is not expected to have any indirect effects beyond the benefits expected from closure of dispersed camping and improvements to existing facilities.
- (8) National Register of Historic Places and other historical and culturally significant places: The proposed project has been coordinated by the Corps' Cultural Resources Team and the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). A determination of *No Adverse Effect* was made. Concurrence was obtained from SHPO in a letter dated December 30, 2013.
- (9) Endangered Species Act: A determination of *May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect* was made for the northern spotted owl and determinations of *No Effect* were made for Oregon chub, bull trout, Fender's blue butterfly, golden paintbrush, desert parsley, Kincaid's lupine, and Nelson's checker mallow. Determinations of *No Effect* were also made for designated critical habitat for northern spotted owl, Oregon chub, bull trout, Fender's blue butterfly, Willamette daisy, and Kincaid's lupine. Concurrence on these determinations was obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a letter dated August 26, 2013.
- (10) Other Legal Requirements: There are no known violations of any federal, state, or local laws with the proposed action.

Based upon the EA prepared for this project, I have determined that implementation of the preferred alternative will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date: 28 Mar 14

Signed: Glenn O. Pratt DPM

 Glenn O. Pratt
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander