

Finding of No Significant Impact
Blacks Creek Reservoir Management Plan
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0007-EA

I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) and have determined the actions analyzed in Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0007-EA would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This finding was made by considering both the context and intensity of the potential effects, as described in the above EA, using the following factors defining significance:

- 1) The activities described in the proposed action (Alternative B of DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0007-EA) do not include any significant beneficial or adverse impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)), as described below:
 - a. There would not be any significant beneficial impacts of Alternative B of DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0008-EA to species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), candidate species for listing under ESA, and BLM special status species.
 - b. There would not be any significant adverse impacts of Alternative B of DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0008-EA on a species listed as threatened under the ESA.
 - 1) Slickspot peppergrass habitat, as described in Section 3.1.2.3 of the EA, would not be impacted. Please see the answer to Factor 9 for more detail.
- 2) The activities included in the proposed action would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).

The proposed actions would benefit public health and safety as described in Section 3.3.2.3 of the EA by reducing the amount of trash and litter accumulated on site.

- 3) The proposed activities would not significantly affect any unique characteristics (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)) of the geographic area such as prime and unique farmlands, caves, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or areas of critical concern.

No prime and unique farmlands, caves, wilderness study areas, or areas of critical concern are found within the project area.

- 4) The activities described in the proposed action would not involve effects on the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).

Public input was requested from affected landowners and interested publics. Comments in response to these scoping efforts did not reveal any controversy related to the size, nature, or effects of the proposed actions.

- 5) The proposed actions would not involve any effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).

Off-highway vehicle designations are a required action in land use plans and the effects are well documented. The EA (Section 3.0, *Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences*) discloses the expected environmental effects on the human environment; no unique or unknown risks have been identified.

- 6) My decision to authorize the proposed actions would not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).

No significant cumulative impacts were identified in the EA. Implementation of Alternative B would not trigger other actions, nor would it represent a decision in principle about future considerations.

- 7) The effects of the proposed actions would not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the effects of other actions (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).

The EA discloses that no other connected or cumulative actions would cause significant cumulative impacts (throughout Section 3.0, *Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences*). The proposed action was designed to lessen potential environmental effects relative to current uses. The cumulative effects analysis in the EA does not reveal any known significant cumulative effects. Any adverse impacts identified as a result of changes in OHV designations, when added to any adverse impacts of other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions, would result in negligible to minor impacts to natural and cultural resources.

- 8) I have determined that the activities described in the proposed action would not adversely affect or cause loss or destruction of scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).

Staff review, initial scoping, and public review did not identify any known or unknown cultural or historic resources as part of the affected environment.

- 9) The proposed activities would not likely adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).

The proposed action would not adversely affect any known threatened, endangered, or BLM special status species or its habitat. As disclosed in the EA (Section 3.1.1), Blacks Creek Reservoir contains a very small percent (4 percent) of slickspot peppergrass habitat, a proposed species. No slickspots would be adversely impacted by this project, disturbance to existing sagebrush would be kept to a minimum, and habitat restoration would benefit pollinators.

- 10) The proposed activities would not threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).

Chapter 1 of the EA (Section 1.5, Relationship to Statues, Regulations, and Other Requirements) describes how the proposed actions conform to relevant laws, regulations, policies, and any relevant local permitting requirements.

/s/ Matthew McCoy for

8/31/2012

Terry A. Humphrey
Four Rivers Field Manager

Date