

**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Jump Creek Recreation Site Road Improvement**  
**Environmental Assessment #DOI-BLM-ID-B030-2012-0015-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 #DOI-BLM-ID-B030-2012-0015-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) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.*

The Environmental Assessment (EA) considered both beneficial and adverse impacts of the Proposed Action. The area within the Jump Creek Recreation site would benefit from the implementation of the proposed action through items such as:

- *Public Safety* - The proposed project would eliminate safety concerns of visitors rolling their vehicle off of the road as they make multiple attempts to drive up and out of the recreation site on the treacherous road, as well as visitors being stranded overnight at the site.
- *Accessibility* - The project would ensure disabled visitors access to the restroom facilities. Without the project, as road conditions deteriorate throughout the season, the road becomes inaccessible to two-wheel drive traffic. As a result, those disabled visitors without four-wheel drive vehicles would not be able to access the facilities and day use areas. Able visitors would still be able to park in the upper parking areas and hike down to the facilities. The proposed project would ensure year round access to the main parking area for all visitors.
- *Natural Resources* – Although impacts to natural resources were negligible, resource concerns such as impacts to water quality and fisheries (Redband trout) as a direct result of erosion from the roadbed, due to the current graveled surface, insufficient drainage, and steep grades, would be eliminated with the. The project would also help minimize the creation of new trails from the upper parking areas leading into the canyon, as visitors would have access to the main parking site which is the preferred access point into the canyon.
- *Amenities* - The project would increase the longevity of the restroom and day use facilities within the recreation site by eliminating the erosion and sediment from the roadbed that is washed into these facilities during spring rains. Heavy rains such as those received the past two or three spring seasons, bury concrete walkways and fire-rings and fill restrooms with several inches of sediment, as well as wash out the main trail leading into the canyon.

Potential impacts associated with cultural resources were identified in the EA, however these impacts were considered to be minimal and would be mitigated through monitoring during implementation of the project.

2) *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.*

The proposed project eliminates the safety concern of visitors rolling their vehicle off of the edge of the battered road as they make multiple attempts to drive up and out of the recreation site. The risk of visitors being stranded overnight at the site due to poor road conditions would also be removed.

3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

No major effects on any unique characteristics were identified in the EA. No parklands, prime farmlands, or wild and scenic rivers occur in the study area.

4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

No effects on the human environment were identified as being highly controversial. The Proposed Action is similar to actions taken in other road reconstruction projects the BLM has completed.

One of the overall objectives of the project is to improve the public safety and overall recreation experience within the Jump Creek Recreation Site. In addition to improving public safety, the project ensures access for disabled visitors year-round, improves the longevity of the recreational facilities, and mitigates natural resource concerns.

Public scoping throughout this process was 100% supportive for the reconstruction and paving of the road leading into the main/lower parking area of the recreation site.

5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

The analysis did not identify any effects on the human environment which are highly uncertain or involve unknown risks as a result of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is similar to other road reconstruction projects the BLM has completed. As such, the Proposed Action does not include any actions or effects that would be considered highly uncertain, unique or involve unknown risks.

No action would continue to result in public safety issues, limited access for disabled users, damage to recreational facilities, and adverse impacts to natural resources within the area.

- 6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

The actions and practices analyzed in the EA are normal practices that have been successfully implemented elsewhere. This EA does not set a precedent for future actions that have significant effects.

- 7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

This EA considered potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action and concluded that implementation would not cause significant cumulative effects on biological, cultural, or social resources.

- 8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

Based on the analysis documented in the EA, the Proposed Action would not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. Any concerns about cultural resources located within the project area would be mitigated through monitoring efforts during project implementation.

Currently undiscovered eligible or listed properties that might be discovered in the future would be protected from loss or destruction.

- 9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

The project area contains no threatened or endangered species or habitat that has been determined critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

- 10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, and local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.*

The Proposed Action was developed in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws for the protection of the environment. The EA disclosed any effects of the Proposed Action on all critical and non-critical elements and it was determined that the Proposed Action would not adversely affect any of these elements or violate any existing Federal, State, or local law imposed for the protection of the environment.

/s/ Loretta V. Chandler  
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4/2/13  
Date