

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
HUMBOLDT COUNTY MAYHEW DRIVE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2012-0048-EA**

Based on the Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2012-0048-EA, dated November 2013, I have determined that the approval of the Proposed Action, including proposed environmental protection measures, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be required as per section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act.

I have determined that the approval of the road right-of-way in order to extend Mayhew Drive and to upgrade Bronco Drive and Bruce Drive to County maintained roads is in conformance with the approved Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan (MFP) and is " ... consistent with other Federal Agency, state, and local plans to the maximum extent consistent with Federal law and Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) provisions" (BLM Land Use Planning handbook H-1601-1). This finding and conclusion is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), with regard to both context and intensity factors.

As a result of the analysis presented in the EA, no additional mitigation measures were identified by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) beyond those environmental protection measures specified in the Proposed Action (section 2.1.1 Environmental Protection Measures).

Context

The project is the Humboldt County's right-of-way (ROW) to extend Mayhew Drive and to upgrade Bronco Drive and Bruce Drive to County maintained roads. The proposed ROW would be a total distance of approximately of 5,905 feet (approximately five acres) and the width would vary on each section of road. The project would encompass 5.9 acres of public lands managed by the BLM. The project is located off Highway 95, approximately 9 miles north of the city of Winnemucca, in Township 37 North, Range 38 East, section 9, SWSE, and section 16, W2NE, MDM. The ROW authorization is to be authorized to Humboldt County in perpetuity.

The proposed action includes:

- Road construction with crushed aggregate in the center of the ROW
- Open v-ditch drainage structures on both sides of the roadway for the entire length
- 18 inch drain pipes at all roadway intersections to facilitate water flow
- 50 foot wide radius at the intersections at Bronco Drive, Baker Lane, Sarah Way, Delaney Drive, Shirley Drive, and Bruce Drive

Intensity

1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

The EA has considered both beneficial and adverse impacts of issuing an authorization for the road ROW. Concerns related to natural resources including air quality, sensitive plant species, migratory birds, kangaroo mice, and permanent loss of individual small mammals were analyzed. Environmental protection measures are included as part of the Proposed Action in

order to avoid or reduce impacts to wildlife resources. Any adverse impacts would be classified as short-term, since they would either end or be wholly or partially mitigated prior to and/or during construction and during post-construction monitoring activities.

This road ROW extension of Mayhew Drive would provide north/south travel between Bruce Drive to Sweetbriar Lane and upgrades would convert Bronco and Bruce Drive from non-maintained roads to county maintained roads.

There are no long-term impacts to the area anticipated from the proposed action.

2) The degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health or safety.

The Proposed Action is not expected to adversely affect public health or safety. No immediate threat to health and safety of the public would be caused by the Proposed Action. Mayhew Drive would be extended to provide a safe, internal north/south access route within the Sand Dunes subdivision, thereby improving traffic flow. The road extension would also include improvements to the intersections of Mayhew and Bruce, Sarah, Delaney, Baker, and Bronco Streets.

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.

There are no unique characteristics within the geographic area associated with this project. There are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers and/or ecologically critical areas in the location of the proposed action.

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

No controversy with this project was identified during the public review of the Preliminary EA. No comment letters were received during the public review period from August 29, 2013 to September 30, 2013.

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

The Proposed Action is not unique and does not involve unknown risks on the human environment.

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 Proposed Action will not establish a precedent for future actions. The authorization is limited to the size of the Mayhew Drive road extension and upgrading of Bronco Drive and Bruce Drive to County maintained roads. Based on the ROW and the footprint of the action (5.9 ac.) any additional proposed authorizations would be limited.

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

Based on the analysis provided in the EA, no significant cumulative impacts are expected.

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.*

No listed or eligible for listing NRHP sites were found in the project area. Segments of the “Old Emigrant Trail” and the “North Side Trail” are within five miles of the project area to the south, and generally follow the Little Humboldt and Humboldt Rivers. An historic site known as the “Toll House,” a stage route station built in the 1860s, is located 2.5 miles northeast of the project area. The proposed project would not impact these features.

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

There are no known threatened or endangered (T &E) species nor is the habitat conducive for T&E species to be present in the project area. In 2010 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service designated the Greater sage-grouse as a candidate species. The project location is not within or directly adjacent to Greater sage-grouse habitat.

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

The Proposed Action does not violate or threaten any known Federal, State, or local laws or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.



Derek Messmer
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office



Date