

## Finding of No Significant Impact

NEPA Number DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2013-0009-EA  
Redevelopment of Wildlife Water Catchment 661

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment (EA), and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, described below, I have determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

### Context

This catchment is located on lands administered by the BLM Hassayampa Field Office. This catchment, originally constructed over 40 years ago, is intended as supplemental water sources for wildlife, and is located near important habitat for various desert wildlife species. This catchment is located near, but is outside of, the Hummingbird Springs Wilderness. It is located in the NE¼ of the SW¼ of Section 3, T3N, R8W (Hummingbird Springs, Ariz. 7.5' Quadrangle). The footprint of the catchment renovation would lie entirely within the current wildlife water enclosure fence.

### Intensity

The following discussion is organized around the 10 Significance Criteria described at 40 CFR 1508.27. The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

#### **1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse**

This project would disturb approximately 0.5 acres of upper Sonoran vegetation. Temporary disturbance to wildlife and recreation would occur over a 1 – 2 week period. This project would provide a more reliable water source for wildlife in the area. The improved catchment would require less maintenance and water hauling trips which would reduce disturbance to wildlife and reduce the costs associated with operation and maintenance.

#### **2. Degree of effect on public health and safety**

No effect.

#### **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:**

Because no significant cultural resources were found at the Catchment No. 661 site, the Proposed Action should have negligible direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to cultural resources. No park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers or areas of critical environmental concern are located in the vicinity. The catchment site is adjacent to, but located outside of, the Hummingbird Springs Wilderness Area.

#### **4. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial:**

Possible effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be controversial.

#### **5. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk.**

There is little uncertainty as to the effects on the quality of the human environment. It is unlikely that there are unique or unknown risks inherent this action.

**6. 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:**

This action should have no such effect.

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

This action is not related to other actions that would cumulatively cause significant negative actions. This action could be related to other pro-active wildlife enhancement projects that would cumulatively causes significant positive impacts on wildlife in the area.

**8. Degree to which the action may adversely affect district, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources:**

There is a chance that cultural resources could be damaged due to project activities. However, the project was surveyed for cultural resources and there were no significant cultural resources found in the area. If cultural resources are discovered during construction activities, construction will be halted and BLM Archaeology staff will be contacted so that construction personnel can receive instructions on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts.

**9. Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat:**

This action will not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species or critical habitat.

**10. Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local environmental protection law:**

This action does not violate any federal, state, or local environmental protection laws.

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Rem Hawes, Field Manager, Hassayampa Field Office

\_\_02-22-2013\_\_

Date