

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Owyhee County Road and Bridge Shoofly and Shop Pit Free Use Permit
Renewals
DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0005-EA

I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) and have determined the actions analyzed in DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0005-EA would meet the identified Purpose and Need and 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 attached 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 majority of the long-term effects, as well as some short-term, associated with the extraction of zeolite were identified. However, these impacts would be localized and within, or compliant with, all State and Federal regulatory thresholds; therefore, the Proposed Action would not significantly affect the human environment.

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

The analysis did not find that the Proposed Action would have a significant adverse effect on public health or safety.

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 were no significant effects associated with any unique characteristics of the project area.

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

No impacts were identified to be highly controversial. The Shoofly and Shop Pits have been in existence for nearly 30 years and were previously analyzed under a Categorical Exclusions. The amount of disturbance at the sites necessitated an Environmental Analysis.

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 significant effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unknown risks as a result of this action.

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 authorization of Free Use Permit renewals does not establish a precedent for future actions. Further, it does not represent a decision in principle about future considerations.

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 will not result in significant cumulative effects on biological, cultural, historic or social resources, even when considered in relation to other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future actions.

8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

Based on the analysis in the EA, the proposed actions would not result in loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, prehistoric, or historical resources.

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 EA did identify that the authorization of Free Use Permit renewals and potential expansion of the existing disturbed area at the Shoofly Pit could repel species that could use the habitat, but that only individuals would be displaced.

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

The proposed actions analyzed in the EA were developed in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws/regulations for the protection of the environment. The EA discloses the potential effects of the proposed actions on all critical and non-critical elements, and it was determined that the proposed actions will not adversely affect any of them.

/s/ Tanya Thrift

09/30/2014

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Date