

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Coeur d'Alene Field Office
3815 N Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

John C Pointner Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary
DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2013-0008-EA

Finding

Based upon review of the environmental assessment (EA), I have determined that the John C Pointner Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required. As described and analyzed in the EA, no environmental effects meet the definition of significance as defined by regulations to implement NEPA found at 40 CFR 1508.27. This finding is based on my consideration of both the context and intensity of the project, as described below.

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

Designating the trail will increase visitor use and enjoyment of the area. Building the trail and properly signing the area will decrease the amount of trespass onto the use of the area and may have some minor impacts to wildlife species using the area from visitation.

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

An Environmental Site Assessment was prepared as part of the acquisition of the easement and when the JCPMWS was acquired, and there were no major concerns associated with this easement or acquisition.

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.

An intensive on-the-ground cultural resource inventory was conducted for the proposed trail route. No cultural resources were located in the area of potential effect.

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

Coordination with potentially affected interests, including the landowner, The Nature Conservancy and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, did not identify any controversy.

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

The proposed trail involves no highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks. The EA identified potential benefits that would be realized by BLM's timely construction and management of public access across BLM lands for recreational purposes.

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.

Construction of the trail system at the John C Pointner Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary will not establish any precedent for future actions with significant effects.

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

As summarized in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Effects of Alternatives) of the EA, the JCPMWS trail system will result in some short term impacts from use and is a continuation of the acquisition of the easement of private property. Other reasonably foreseeable future actions include road encroachment and maintenance; flooding; erosion; recreational pursuits; agricultural use; and lake levels controlled by the Post Falls Dam. Maintenance and public use of a trail may temporarily disturb wildlife in the analysis area, but provide beneficial direct and indirect effects to visual, recreational, and natural resources. There is no potential for cumulatively significant adverse impacts when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects 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.

An intensive on-the-ground cultural resource inventory was conducted for the proposed trail route. There are no known historic properties in the area of potential effect and therefore no anticipated adverse effects to properties eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat that has been determined under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

As summarized in the EA the trail system will not affect any endangered or threatened species or its 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 is consistent and compatible with all known Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. Monitoring will be performed in accordance with applicable requirements.

Signature

/S/

4/15/13

Kurt Pavlat
Field Manager

Date