

# FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and DECISION RECORD

## Chimney Road Recreational Access Project

DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2013-0026-EA

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District  
Sierra Front Field Office  
5665 Morgan Mill Road  
Carson City, Nevada 89701  
775-885-6000

December 2013



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Sierra Front Field Office is proposing, in coordination with the Great Basin Institute (GBI), Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space (County), and the Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID), to construct and maintain the *Chimney Road Recreational Access Project* (Project) in Washoe County, Nevada (Figures 1 & 2 of the final EA). In order to evaluate this proposal, the BLM has prepared a final environmental assessment (EA) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Key elements of this Project include:

- Construct and maintain a ¼ acre recreational staging area (Figure 4);
- Install informational signage;
- Install directional signage on Chimney Road to the new recreational staging area; and
- Evaluate the need for all weather surfacing (gravel) from the end of the gravel on Chimney Drive to the new recreational staging area (approximately 1,250 feet).

The need for this Project is to provide the public with a safe and designated recreational staging area. In an effort to protect Sun Valley's drinking water and reduce impacts to Sun Valley Regional Park, the existing unapproved staging area adjacent to the SVGID water tanks on Chimney Road will no longer be available for recreational purposes in 2014 (Figure 4 of the final EA). This effort is being completed under a separate BLM/SVGID action. Without the construction of a new recreational staging area, users are likely to create new staging areas which would result in damage to resources.

## **LAND USE CONFORMANCE STATEMENT**

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (CRMP), May 2001, page REC-2, RMP Level Decisions, Desired Outcomes #1:

- "Provide a wide range of quality recreation opportunities on public lands under management by the Carson City Field Office [now known as the Carson City District Office]."

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

On June 10, 2013, the BLM initiated a 30-day public scoping period. A news release was published issued on June 10, 2013. Articles on the Project were printed on *KTVN Channel 2* (web version) on June 10, 2013 and *This is Reno* on June 12, 2013. Letters were mailed to 318 residences in the vicinity of the Project area. Notification was also provided to the Nevada State Clearinghouse. On June 20, 2013 a workshop was held at the Sun Valley Neighborhood Center, in Sun Valley. A presentation on the Project was made by the BLM. Thirteen people attended the two-hour workshop. Representatives from the BLM, SVGID and County were available to answer questions. The BLM received seven written comments, one commentator proposed a new location for the staging area. The public scoping period closed on July 9, 2013. Outside of the scoping period, the BLM received one comment submitted to the County concerning a nuisance ordinance.

On November 18, 2013, the BLM initiated a 15-day public review period for the draft EA. Notification of the draft EA availability was made to the Nevada State Clearinghouse and to 258 residents in the vicinity of the Project area by postcard. The comment period closed on December 2, 2013. The BLM received no substantive comments.

**AUTHORITY**

Implementation of the Proposed Action is under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

**RATIONALE**

Selection of the Proposed Action would be the best alternative to meet the recreational needs in the Sun Valley/Chimney Road area. A nearby informal staging area adjacent to the SVGID water tanks is scheduled to be closed in 2014 under a separate BLM/SGID action to reduce vandalism and to ensure that the public's drinking water is safe. Without construction of a new staging area, recreational users would likely cause resource damage by moving to unapproved areas. Selection of the Proposed Action would provide a safe and designated staging area and would alleviate new resource damage.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the final EA, and considering the significance criteria found in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action, will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Thomas  
Field Manager  
Sierra Front Field Office

12-5-13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**DECISION**

It is my Decision to authorize the construction and maintenance of the Chimney Road Recreational Access Project and associated signs. Prior to implementation, the BLM, GBI and SVGID will enter into an agreement defining roles and responsibilities during Project construction.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Thomas  
Field Manager  
Sierra Front Field Office

12-5-13  
Date

**APPEAL PROCEDURES**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4. If you appeal, your appeal must also be filed with the Bureau of Land Management at the following address:

Leon Thomas  
Field Manager  
BLM, Sierra Front Field Office  
5665 Morgan Mill Road  
Carson City, NV 89701

Your appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days from receipt or issuance of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4942, January 19, 1993) for a stay (suspension) of the decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to:

Board of Land Appeals  
Dockets Attorney  
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22203

A copy must also be sent to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor at the same time the original documents are filed with the above office.

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Regional Solicitor  
Pacific Southwest Region  
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712  
Sacramento, CA 95825

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellants success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

The Office of Hearings and Appeals regulations do not provide for electronic filing of appeals. Electronically filed appeals will therefore not be accepted.