

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Twin Falls District
Burley Field Office
15 East 200 South
Burley, ID 83318

Finding of No Significant Impact
Goat Springs Quarry
Free Use Permit
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID- T020-2013-0028-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

I have determined that the Proposed Action, as described in the Goat Springs Environmental Assessment (EA) will not have any significant impact, individually or cumulatively, on the quality of the human environment. Because there would not be any significant impact, an environmental impact statement is not required.

In making this determination, I considered the following factors:

- 1. The activities described in the Proposed Action do not include any significant beneficial or adverse impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)).** The EA includes a description of the expected environmental consequences of issuing a Free Use Permit (FUP) to the Twin Falls Highway District (TFHD) for the quarrying and crushing of rock for chips, aggregate, and gravel materials from the Goat Springs Quarry.
- 2. The activities included in the Proposed Action would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).** Air quality impacts are expected to be confined to the immediate areas of the quarry and would continue at similar levels as they have occurred under the current permit. Additionally, a stipulation would require the TFHD to take appropriate measures for abating dust including but not limited to watering roads during operational periods.
- 3. The proposed activities would not significantly affect any unique characteristics (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)) of the geographic area such as prime and unique farmlands, caves, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or areas of critical concern.** The project area does not contain any unique characteristics.
- 4. The activities described in the Proposed Action do not involve effects on the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).** The proposed action would result in issuing one permit for mineral materials from a quarry that has been in use for 19 years. The total area of new disturbance would be approximately 2 acres over the next ten years. The impacts are well understood and are not significant.

5. **The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).** Mineral material permits have been issued on public lands in the Burley Field Office for over 50 years. The effects of the actions are known and well understood.

6. **My decision to implement these activities does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).** Mineral material permits have been issued in the Burley Field Office for over 50 years. The Goat Springs Quarry has been developed and mined over the past 19 years.

7. **The effects of mining gravel would not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the effects of other actions (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).** The EA discloses that there are no other connected or cumulative actions that would cause significant cumulative impacts. The activity in the quarry typically is sporadic in nature, operating for a few days, to several weeks at a time. Other actions in the foreseeable future include other material sites operating, OHV use, trail users in the South Hills, livestock grazing, private land uses, and the construction of the SWIP Transmission Line. Existing and past uses include livestock grazing, recreational uses, past road, power line and infrastructure construction, and private land uses. Cumulatively, these actions would not cause significant impacts.

8. **I have determined that the activities described in the Proposed Action will not affect or cause loss or destruction of scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).** Cultural resource surveys were completed and no Historic Properties were located within the project area.

9. **The proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).** The effects to wildlife from this action are not expected to be adverse. The amount of habitat removed by the project, 2 acres, would not constitute a significant loss of available habitat.

10. **The proposed activities will not threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).** Page one of the EA describes conformance with the Twin Falls MFP and provides a description of relevant laws and regulations.

APPROVED:

/s/Michael Courtney

Michael Courtney
Field Manager
Burley Field Office

5/12/14

Date

