

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

LAKE HAVASU FIELD OFFICE Havasu Travel Management Plan (TMP) Environmental Assessment Mohave County, AZ and San Bernardino County, CA DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0020-EA

Background

This Travel Management Plan (TMP) is the product of extensive public and agency input. Its intent is to establish a comprehensive travel network, and meet both current and future access needs to the area's public lands while resolving conflicts of users of the travel network identified in this document. This document identifies a proposed system of roads, primitive roads and trails, and the terms for their use and maintenance. Additionally, it outlines facilities to be developed in support of recreation through creation of new routes, and closure of other routes. The travel network identified in this TMP comprises both motorized and non-motorized trails.

This TMP covers public land south of Interstate 40 to just north of Cattail State Park, and from the Colorado River east to the field office boundary.

Determination

On the basis of the information contained in the Havasu Travel Management Plan (TMP) Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0020-EA), I have determined that the Proposed Action does not constitute a federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the *context* and *intensity* of the impacts described in the EA.

Context

The Havasu TMP designates 845.33 miles roads, primitive roads, and trails and sixteen Technical Vehicle Sites (TVS) on public lands within Mohave County, Arizona and San Bernardino County, California administered by the LHFO. The Havasu TMP is one of six Travel Management Areas (TMA) within the LHFO. The Bullhead TMP was completed in 2009.

The Proposed Action would consist of 571.44 miles of roads/primitive roads open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, 49.15 miles of trails open to non-motorized use, and 69.43 miles of roads/primitive roads limited to authorized users/vehicles. The remaining 155.31 miles of roads, primitive roads, and trails would be closed to motorized and mechanized use. Additionally, fourteen TVS would be established for a total of sixteen TVS throughout the planning area.

Intensity

1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

The Proposed Action would impact resources as described in the EA. Measures to reduce impacts were incorporated into the design of the action alternatives. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA and associated appendices are considered significant.

2) The degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health or safety.

The Havasu TMP is designed to minimize impacts to health and public safety by reducing public use conflicts, establishing a labeled travel network, and restricting motorized access to hazardous sites. Although off-roading activities have some inherent risk to public safety, the TMP includes measures that reduce safety risks.

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.

The project area is located on public lands administered by the Lake Havasu Field Office. There are no farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area.

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

Scoping for the Proposed Action and background information was made available to affected and interested agencies during the 6-month scoping period that was held between August 2010 and February 2011. A second, 60-day public scoping was held between February 6, 2013 and April 8, 2013. No controversies were identified.

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

There are no highly uncertain, unique or unknown risks in implementation of the Proposed 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 Proposed Action would not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects. Any other actions would be subject to separate analysis under NEPA.

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

A cumulative effects analysis was conducted as part of the EA, and it determined that there were no cumulatively significant effects associated with the selected alternative.

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 of destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

BLM has made the determination that the project would not affect historic resources. Design features for managing sites that are determined to be potentially impacted by motorized and non-motorized use include: use limitations on routes with known resources, closure of routes in and through known resources, and prohibiting off route travel, and prohibiting artifact collection and disturbance of archaeological sites.

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

No federally listed species under the ESA, or critical habitat for such species, will be adversely affected by the Havasu TMP. LHFO performed an informal consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to determine potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and its critical habitat. To ensure that the Proposed Action will not likely adversely affect threatened and endangered species and its critical habitat, mitigation measures were built into the project design.

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 in conformance with the 2007 Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan. The action does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

FONSI

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the discussion of environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan.



Kimber Liebhauser
Field Manager,
Lake Havasu Field Office



Date

