

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**LAKE HAVASU FIELD OFFICE
Crossman Peak Road Right-of-Way
Lake Havasu City, Arizona
DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0027-EA**

Determination

On the basis of the information contained in the Crossman Peak Road Right-of-Way Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0027-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 Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received an application for a road right-of-way, from Paso de Oro Drive to private property on Crossman Peak, on May 12, 2008 from GTP Acquisition Partners II, LLC (GTP). The proposed road right-of-way is located east of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, within Mohave County and provides access to the Crossman Peak Communication Site located on private property. The Proposed Action would provide access to private property and allow for routine road maintenance for a period of thirty years.

Crossman Peak Communication Site is located on private property on the northwest side of Crossman Peak Scenic Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The road to the private property starts from Paso De Oro Drive in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, continuing up Falls Springs Wash into the Mohave Mountains. The Proposed Action, a road right-of-way, would be 5.98 miles long and 20 feet wide (14.19 acres). There are 5 safety pullouts that would be maintained (0.30 acres). The total proposed right-of-way acreage is 14.49 of public lands administered by BLM LHFO, and is located within Township 14 North, Range 19 West (T. 14 N., R. 19 W.), Gila and Salt River Meridian, approximately 6 miles northeast of Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

The original road was built to access the now patented Sunrise Mine and has been upgraded over time. Land authorizations within and surrounding the project area include Bureau of Reclamation transmission line (AZA 00891), mineral exploration (AZA 34838, AZA 35838), communication site (AZA 34836), weather stations (AZA 35081, AZA 35082), and Lake Havasu City irrigation (AZAR 0-034058).

Intensity

1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

None of the environmental consequences discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant nor do the consequences exceed any known threshold of significance, either beneficial or adverse. The Proposed Action consists of issuing a road right-of-way to private property. Ground disturbing activities are limited to road maintenance actions on existing the existing road. No new disturbance is authorized.

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

The Proposed Action will not result in any impacts to public health and safety. Surface disturbing activities during regular maintenance will be conducted in conformance with all Federal and State requirements to protect health and 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.

The Proposed Action is within the Crossman Peak Scenic ACEC, which is managed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the relevant characteristics. These characteristics include significant places of traditional cultural importance, natural scenic backdrop or mountain preserve for Lake Havasu City, major lambing grounds for bighorn sheep, and large track of public land that exhibits high degree of naturalness with little human modification of the landscape and includes large area that provides the region with high opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of human development. The Proposed Action would allow for routine maintenance on an existing road, therefore limiting potential impacts to the right-of-way. The EA includes design features to prohibit surface disturbing actions outside the right-of-way.

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

The Proposed Action would provide for continued access to a communications site, therefore improving telecommunications throughout the region. Effects on the quality of human environment are not expected to be controversial.

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 or 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 of 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.

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions have been considered in the cumulative impacts analysis within Section 3 of the EA. The cumulative impacts analysis examined all of the other appropriate actions and determined that the Proposed Action will not incrementally contribute to significant impacts on any resources that are present and may be affected by the Proposed Action.

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.

No historic resources have been identified within the project area. Design features within the EA prohibit surface disturbing actions outside of the right-of-way, therefore limiting impacts to potential historic or cultural resources located outside of the project area.

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, are present on, or in the vicinity of, the road right-of-way and therefore would not be impacted by the Proposed Action.

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

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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.

/s/Kimber Liebhauser Authenticated by: S. Ahrens 8/29/2014
Kimber Liebhauser Date
Field Manager,
Lake Havasu Field Office