

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene District, Cottonwood Field Office**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS**

**Project Name:** Old Powerline Road ATV Trail

**BLM Office:** Cottonwood Field Office, 1 Butte Drive, Cottonwood ID 83522

**NEPA Register No:** DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2013-0012-EA

**Project Location:** T. 29 N., R. 8 E., Section 25, in Idaho County, Idaho

**Contact:** Judy Culver, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 208-962-3276

Based upon review of the environmental assessment (EA), I have determined that the Proposed Action for the Old Powerline Road ATV Trail will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. As described and analyzed in the EA, the project proposes to construct 118 feet of motorized trail located southeast of Elk City, Idaho, creating a 55" wide trail and designate the trail as Limited to motorized vehicles less than 50" in width. This designation would be incorporated into the Cottonwood Field Office Travel Management Plan. The Proposed Action would be limited to the portion of the road on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed lands. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance as defined by regulations to implement NEPA found at 40 CFR 1508.27. This finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is based on my consideration of both the context and intensity of the project, as described below.

*Context.* Significance varies with the setting of the Proposed Action. The setting of the project is along 143 feet of the American Fork River drainage. The project has been planned to rehabilitate the pioneered route that runs parallel to American Fork and leads to multiple routes in trespass on private lands including one that fords American Fork and open 118 feet of trail that is located higher up on the slope while protecting riparian habitat and aquatic habitat. The Proposed Action would decrease sediment, emissions and dust upon completion of the project. The BLM identified issues through the scoping process that are addressed in the development and analysis of the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative. The resources affected by the Proposed Action, and compared to the No Action alternative, are described in chapter 3 of the EA. The project area is limited in size and effects of the project activities would be limited to less than one week. The EA identifies no effects discernable beyond local context, and none of those identified would be significant at this scale.

*Intensity.* This requirement refers to the severity of impact. The following factors are considered in evaluating intensity.

**1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.**

Effects of authorizing the Old Powerline Road ATV Trail within the project area will provide positive or neutral short and long-term effects on vegetation, wildlife, aquatic species, riparian habitat, recreation, and the protection of cultural resources. Beneficial impacts include designated the ATV trail as limited to motorized vehicles less than 50" in width, with connectivity to legal access across private property. The Proposed Action would reduce the number and length of routes used decreasing the potential for soil erosion and reducing adverse riparian and aquatic impacts associated with the unauthorized trail adjacent to American River. Adverse impacts would include short-term (one week) disturbance to soils and vegetation from construction of the new trail and restoration of the unauthorized trail; however, such effects would be discountable to terrestrial or aquatic species or habitats. Design measures will

minimize short-term adverse effects during the trail and restoration work. In addition, the local community will aid the BLM in monitoring the area for trail damage, erosion, weed infestation and other issues that may lead to resource impacts.

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

Public health and safety would have long-term benefits as the proposal would include creating a safer trail, designated as limited to motorized vehicles less than 50” in width. The trail would provide a secondary fire evacuation route for local American River drainage residents. Implementing the Proposed Action would restrict use of the unauthorized trail occurring on private lands; which includes a steep and erosive trail segment and ford of American River.

**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 would occur in the American River Historic District Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the American River Riparian Conservation Area (RCA). The ACEC and RCA are managed by the BLM in accordance with the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 2009). None of the resource values of these areas would be adversely affected.

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

Implementation of the Proposed Action is not expected to be highly controversial as shown by the comments received from the public and interface with the local community prior to the completion of DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2013-0012-EA.

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

The Proposed Action involves no highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks. The outcomes of completing the project are expected to be similar to projects completed in the past within the Elk City area, Pacific Northwest and intermountain area.

**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 is consistent with the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan and BLM policies. Designation of the 118 feet of previously decommissioned road, known as the Old Powerline Road, as limited to motorized vehicles less than 50” in width, is discretionary on the part of the BLM and does not establish a precedent or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (BLM Handbook 2930).

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

Implementation of the Proposed Action would meet the goals of the BLM to manage public lands and water, to provide a broad spectrum of recreation experiences and benefits, and provide high value recreation opportunities. The Proposed Action will protect riparian and aquatic resources and should enhance community outreach and support of future trail projects.

There would be no adverse cumulatively significant effects to recreation, socio-economics, invasive vegetation establishment, special status species, wildlife and fisheries resources, or the RCA. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not impede achievement of South Fork Clearwater River temperature and sediment TMDLs and no measurable effects to American River beneficial uses is expected to occur, therefore the Proposed Action would not contribute to cumulatively significant impacts.

**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.**

The Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in adverse effects to cultural resources. As such, the Proposed Action is expected to have no effect on cultural resources and would therefore there would be no cumulative significant impacts anticipated.

**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.**

The Proposed Action would restrict use of unauthorized trails which are erosive and occur within the American River RCA. There would be no adverse effect to ESA-listed, proposed or candidate species; or designated critical habitats. In addition, no adverse modification of Chinook salmon *Essential Fish Habitat* (Section 305(b) (2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act) would occur from implementation of 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 consistent and compatible with all known Federal, State and local laws, regulations, or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

**Signature**

---

Will Runnoe  
Field Manager

---

Date