

Ludwig Mine Access Right-of-Way Project

Finding of No Significant Impact

DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2014-0012-EA

November 2014



Background

The Art Wilson Company proposes to develop a mine for the extraction and sale of gypsum, anhydrite, and limestone at the site of former Ludwig copper and gypsum mine, located in Lyon County, Nevada. The Proposed Action would connect two privately held parcels to allow material to be transported for processing and sale. The Ludwig Mine Access Haul Road (Project) would connect to Delphi Road on the west (Figure 1 of the Final EA). In order to evaluate this Proposed Action, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this final environmental assessment (EA) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act.

Determination

On the basis of the information contained in the *Ludwig Mine Access Right-of-Way Project Final Environmental Assessment* (EA) (DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2014-0012-EA), I have determined that the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore an environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be 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 final EA, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Context

The Project area is located on the west side of the Singatse Range at 5,000 feet in elevation, approximately six air miles southwest of Yerington. The vegetation is a typical upland salt desert shrub community with relatively few grasses and forbs, and no noxious weeds.

Intensity

1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

The analysis contained in the final EA describes effects in terms of short-term and long-term, beneficial and adverse. During construction of the mine access road, there would be displacement of wildlife, if present. Approximately 8.4 acres of vegetation would be removed (0.8 acres on public lands). This vegetation type and wildlife habitat is common locally. A reduced speed limit (20 mph) and enclosure of the road within fencing would limit opportunities for wildlife collisions with motorized vehicles.

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

The road would be used exclusively for mine related traffic; a reduced speed limit (20 mph) would be maintained.

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 have no effect to prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas (such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern) because these resources are not present in the Project area.

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

The effects of constructing a mine access road described in the Proposed Action is well understood and are not highly 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 known effects of the Proposed Action which are considered uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

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 does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects and does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. Any future actions within the Project area, if they were to occur, would be subject to separate environmental review and decision-making.

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

The Project is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but 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 NRHP or may cause loss of destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

The BLM has determined that the Project would have no effect to sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (CRR 3-2689).

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 ESA or 1973.*

No federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or its critical habitat for such species occurs within the Project area.

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 Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001). Implementation of the Proposed Action would not violate or threaten to violate any federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.



Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

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Date