

Finding of No Significant Impact

Twentyone Creek Pipeline

JULY 2014

BLM

Worland Field Office, Wind River/Bighorn Basin District, Wyoming



The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2013-0069-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2013-0069-EA
Twentyone Creek Pipeline

INTRODUCTION:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2013-0069-EA) for a proposed action to address a livestock watering pipeline, located in Hot Springs County, Wyoming. The project would give a Cooperative Range Improvement Agreement to the applicant and allow the applicant to install 7.8 miles of pipeline with 10 associated watering tanks, 8 new tanks and 2 tanks replacing old dilapidated tanks. The project would take place in the Dickie 21 pasture of the Upper Pastures Allotment, the Bear Creek and Horse Pastures of the Lower Pastures Allotment, and the 21 Creek Allotment.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively, with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the Twentyone Creek Pipeline EA. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed.

This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

Context: The Action would occur within various sections of Township 44N Range 100W and would have local impacts on the resources similar to and within the scope of those described and considered within the Twentyone Creek Pipeline EA. The project is a site-specific action directly involving approximately 6,703 acres of BLM administered land that by itself does not have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

Intensity: The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and incorporated into resources and issues considered (includes supplemental authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1) and supplemental Instruction Memorandum, Acts, regulations and Executive Orders.

The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

- 1. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.** The proposed action would impact resources as described in the EA. Mitigating measures to reduce impacts to the various resources were incorporated in the design of the action alternatives and are applied to the Cooperative Range Improvement Agreement as terms and conditions. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA and associated appendices are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the EA.
- 2. The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety.** No aspect of the Action/Alternatives would have an effect on public health and safety.
- 3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** The following components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues are not affected because they are not present in the project area: Air Quality/Climate Change, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Areas with Wilderness Characteristics, BLM Natural Areas, Geology, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Environmental Justice, Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Fluid Mineral Resources (Surface), Energy Production (Subsurface), Lands/Access, Native American Religious Concerns, Public Health and Safety, Socio-Economics, Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or BLM Sensitive Plant Species, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness/Wilderness Study Area, Woodland/Forestry, and Wild Horses and Burros. Components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues were analyzed in detail in Chapter 3 of the EA. None of these would be significantly impacted because of the design features.
- 4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** There is no scientific controversy over the nature of the impacts.

5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing the same action in allotments adjacent to the proposed project area. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly 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 actions considered in the selected alternative were considered by the interdisciplinary team within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete analysis of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the selected alternative and all other alternatives is described in Chapter 3 of the EA.
7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts – which include connected actions regardless of land ownership.** The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the project is contained in Chapter 3 of the EA.
8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other 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 project would not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, nor would it cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. The effects to known listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is discussed and analyzed in Chapter 3 of the EA.
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, or the degree to which the action may adversely affect: 1) a proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or its habitat, or 2) a species on BLM's sensitive species list.** There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of plants within the project area. Effects to known threatened, endangered, or sensitive animals were analyzed in Chapter 3 of the EA. The proposed actions design features reduce impacts to wildlife through timing, installation of escape ramps, and rangeland management to protect riparian habitat.
10. **Whether the action threatens a violation of a federal, state, local, or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-federal requirements are consistent with federal requirements.** The project does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.


Authorized Officer

JUL 08 2014

Date