

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
POINT FIRE INTERPRETIVE SITE
DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2015-0001-EA**

I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) and have determined the actions analyzed in DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2015-0001-EA would meet the identified Purpose and Need and would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This finding was made by considering both the context and intensity of the potential effects, as described in the attached EA, using the following factors defining significance:

1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

The environmental assessment (EA) considered both beneficial and adverse impacts of the Proposed Action. The short and long-term effects associated with the development and operation of the Point Fire Interpretive site would primarily be associated with disturbance of habitat for Slickspot Peppergrass, a species proposed for listing as a species endangered with extinction under the Endangered Species Act (1973, as amended). The EA also all identified several short-term adverse impacts associated with construction related impacts and loss of native vegetation. However, these impacts would be small, isolated and localized, and within or compliant with all state and federal regulatory thresholds; therefore it would not significantly affect the human environment.

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

The analysis did not find that the Proposed Action would have a significant adverse effect on public health or safety. The Proposed Action and future operations would all be conducted within the parking and trail areas.

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.

While the project location does fall within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA), there were no significant effects to raptors, their habitat, or their associated prey bases associated with the construction or operation of the interpretive site. Ecologically sensitive habitat for slickspot peppergrass (LEPA) is present in the area, however, the project was designed consistent with Land Use Plan and Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Agreement (2014) conservation measures to ensure species protection and habitat enhancement. There were no cultural resources identified within or adjacent to the project area. There were no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, or wild and scenic rivers affected or potentially affected by the proposed action.

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

The internal scoping process indicated that the proposed project was not controversial. Public participation in the development of the proposal was limited to communications between BLM resource and fire managers and local fire officials (Mayor of Kuna, Kuna Fire Commissioners), the Ada County Highway District (ACHD), and state and federal agency partners (Idaho Department of Lands and the U.S. Forest Service). Input was supportive of honoring the fallen firefighters through the development of an interpretive site that identifies the complexities and risks of wildland fire suppression for the protection of lives, property, and resources. There was substantial support from the families of the fallen and agency partners, and the overall effect on the quality of the human environment is not significant.

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

The analysis did not identify any significant effects on the human environment which are highly uncertain or involve unknown risks as a result of this action. Proposed construction activities are similar to those currently being conducted along the Right of Way for Swan Falls Road, and would continue to fall within the existing noise and safety levels.

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 construction and operation of the site analyzed in the EA are standard activities, and are similar to those currently found within the NCA sites developed for public use. This EA does not set a precedent for future actions that have significant effects. Future proposals in the area or associated with the interpretive site will be analyzed on their own merits taking this project into consideration during the cumulative impacts analysis, if warranted. The project design is in accordance with decisions and direction established in the local land use plan and regulations.

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

This EA considered potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action and concluded that implementation will not result in significant cumulative effects on biological, cultural, or social resources, even when considered in relation to other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future actions.

8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect properties 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.

Based on the analysis in the EA, the Proposed Action would not result in loss of destruction of significant scientific, cultural, prehistoric, or historical resources. Identified sites would be protected from loss or destruction through site specific BMPs identified, approved, and implemented prior to any ground disturbance.

