

**United States Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Boise District  
Point Fire Interpretive Site  
DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2015-0001-EA  
Decision Record**

**Proposed Action:** The proposed Point Fire interpretive site access and trail would be located adjacent to Swan Falls Road in Ada County; T. 1 N., R. 1 W., Sect. 26, SENE (Map 1). From Swan Falls road, two approaches with culverts, a parking area, signage, rock barriers, and a native vegetation planting area (approximately 6000 sq. feet.) would be installed within an approximate area of 150 feet by 130 feet (19,500 sq. feet or 0.46 Acres). Additionally, from the parking area and interpretive signage, a trail would be constructed with a fence crossing. The trail would be routed to avoid all slickspots, would be constructed along a route approximately 750 feet in length, and to a width of approximately 4 feet. After construction, disturbance adjacent to the trail would be seeded and/or planted with a mix of native shrubs, forbs, and grasses. The total area of disturbance would be approximately less than 1 acre.

**Decision:** It is my decision to approve the construction of the Point Fire Interpretive Site described in Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) of DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2015-0001-EA. Public lands addressed per this decision lie within the following area:

Boise Meridian, Ada County, Idaho

T. 1 N., R. 1 W., section 26, SENE.

**Rationale for Decision:** The purpose of the action is to honor the fallen firefighter's memory and to document what was learned so that other firefighters and the public can learn from this tragic event. The wayside would provide the public a place to remember the fallen firefighters and to educate the public on the hazards of wildland fires in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. Because the action was developed to also improve slickspot peppergrass habitat through native vegetation community enhancement and education materials placed on site, the action minimizes the impacts of the parking area and trail while still meeting the purpose and need.

**Compliance with applicable land use plans:** The proposed action is in conformance with the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) that was signed in September of 2008. The plan specifically addresses increasing Recreational use opportunities for the public between Kuna Butte, Initial Point and Dedication Point. The transportation plan also identifies increasing opportunities for non-motorized trails.

The RMP identifies management actions and conservations measures based on the Slickspot Peppergrass Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) and Conservation Agreement (CA) signed by BLM and USFWS in August 2006 (updated in 2014) which were designed to minimize adverse effects to the species.

The RMP states that all BLM authorizations permitting surface disturbing activities (non-grazing), require that (1) affected areas be reseeded with a perennial vegetative cover, and (2)

surface disturbing activities be located at least 0.5 mile from occupied sensitive plant habitat. The proposed action would to locate the wayside interpretive site within 0.5 mile of sensitive habitat. By locating the wayside on a slight hill to the south of the crosses, it pulls the public and traffic away from the slickspots associated with slickspot peppergrass, thereby minimizing impacts from visitors walking through slickspots. By also constructing a trail around existing slickspots, trampling from visitors to the crosses will be mitigated. The trail also will provide an opportunity to educate the public on slickspot peppergrass habitat and why it's important.

As required by the RMP, inventories will be conducted prior to building the wayside and trail to ensure that no SSP's are impacted by this project.

**Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, and Other Requirements:** This document was prepared in conformance with the policy guidance provided in BLM's NEPA Handbook H 1790-1 (BLM 2008); Department of the Interior National Environmental Policy Act Procedures (Department Manual 516, Environmental Quality 516 DM 1-7) (USDOJ 2005); BLM is responsible for ensuring that use of public lands occurs in a manner consistent with The Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, and the applicable RMP (discussed above). The decision is also subject to the requirements of the ESA, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the CWA, and the Clean Air Act (CAA). As the lead agency, BLM is responsible for analyses and documents that conform to NEPA, CEQ, and other pertinent federal laws and regulations.

This EA is also in compliance with CEQ Regulations 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and 32 CFR Part 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions).

The action was provided to the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office to comply with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (1973, as amended), with a request for a Letter of Concurrence (LOC) based upon the agency determination that the action "May Affect," and was "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" Slickspot Peppergrass or proposed critical habitat for slickspot peppergrass. The LOC was received on June 12, 2015, effectively concluding consultation.

**Public Involvement:** 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.

In addition to meeting with local, state, and federal contacts, the BLM consulted with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe through the Wings and Roots process. The consultation was initiated and completed on May 21, 2015. Comments and concerns were shared as part of the consultation with the Tribe, and included that the Tribe would not like a toilet to be installed in the future and they would like to be invited to the ribbon cutting or staff-ride in the future.

