

Decision Record – Memorandum

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Proposed Scenic Loop Drive and Parking Areas Improvements Project

DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2015-0002-EA

Compliance

The Proposed Action is in compliance with the following:

- Clean Air Act of 1970 (as amended in 1977 and 1990). 42 USC 7401 et seq. PL 91-604; 42-USC 1857h-7 et seq.
- Clean Water Act of 1977 (as amended). 33 USC 1251-1387. PL 92-500.
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended). 16 USC 1531 et seq. PL 93-205.
- Executive Order 13112. 1999. Invasive Species. February 3.
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. §§ 1701 et seq.).
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (16 USC 703 et seq.).
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended. Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347, Public Law 94-52, July 3, 1975, Public Law 94-83, August 9, 1975, and Public Law 97-258, § 4(b), Sept. 13, 1982.
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. 16 USC 470a et seq. 80 Stat. 915; PL 89-665.
- Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1975. Public Law 93-629. 7 USC 2801 et seq.; 88 Stat. 2148. January 3.
- Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. PL 92-195
- Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-282).
- Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan, 2005.

Selected Action

It is my decision to approve the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA) Proposed Scenic Loop Drive and Parking Areas Improvements Project.

The selected action is the Proposed Action as described in Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2015-0002-EA, dated 08/19/2015.

I have determined that the action will not result in significant impacts based on the analysis in the EA and attached Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). This action was selected over no action as it will address the safety needs identified in the project area in accordance with any mitigating measures in the EA. It is my decision to authorize the RRCNCA Proposed Scenic Loop Drive and Parking Areas Improvements Project.

The project includes the following improvements:

- A return route on a new alignment connecting Sandstone Quarry to the Visitor Center, thereby allowing visitors accessing RRCNCA amenities along the first 3 miles of Scenic Loop Drive to exit the area without having to travel the remaining 10 miles of Scenic Loop Drive.
- Twelve parking areas would be expanded or improved to better accommodate visitors.
- Pavement rehabilitation along the existing Scenic Loop Drive would consist of pulverizing the existing pavement and recycling the pulverized material for a new roadway surface.
- Signage would be added along Scenic Loop Drive to improve vehicle and bicycle movements in and out of parking areas, and to deter on-street parking. In addition, signage and bike lane striping would be added to SR 159 to better facilitate vehicle and bicycle movement from SR 159 onto Scenic Loop Drive.
- Improvements to secondary roads would include pavement rehabilitation on Moenkopi Road and Rocky Gap Road, and a paving/ditch grading/grade raise combination on White Rock Road and Oak Creek Road.

The project has been designed to improve safety for vehicles, bicyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians, reduce operations and maintenance costs, protect and conserve recreation resources, and improve visitors experience in the RRCNCA.

Implementation of the Proposed Action may occur at anytime, provided that all minimization and mitigation measures described in the EA, and incorporated herein, are completed.

Compliance with NEPA:

The action has been analyzed within EA DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2015-0002-EA, dated 08/19/2015 and FONSI incorporated herein by this reference, will not have any significant impact on the human environment and the action does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Public Involvement:

An internal review of this EA was conducted by BLM Southern Nevada District resource specialists. Public involvement was conducted for the project. In addition to a December 10, 2014 public meeting, a public hearing was held June 30, 2015 to coincide with the 30-day public review and comment period, in accordance with 40 CFR §1506.6(b). The completed document will be posted to the NEPA register web page.

Rationale:

The Project will improve safety for vehicles, bicyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians within the RRCNCA through improved traffic flow and signage and reduce operations and maintenance costs by improving the roadway surface. The Project will also protect and conserve the resources by increasing parking capacity and improve the overall visitor experience in the RRCNCA.

The project is in conformance with the BLM RRCNCA Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved May 20, 2005. The RRCNCA RMP discusses road paving and improvements at several locations along Scenic Loop Drive. The RMP Environmental Consequences section discusses paved roads, and states, "The proposed paving projects will benefit the recreating public by providing approximately 75 additional parking spaces around the Scenic Loop Drive, reducing

particulate matter in the air, providing smoother surfaces for highway design vehicles, and offering a shorter loop drive opportunity." The Proposed Action supports the Preferred Alternative identified in the RRCNCA RMP by improving facilities that accommodate increasing visitor use in the Scenic Loop Drive vicinity.

The proposed action and its potential effects on the quality of the human environment are neither controversial nor do they involve unique or unknown results. In addition, no threatened or endangered species within the project area will be impacted by the authorized use. The decision to allow the proposed action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.

Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations at Title 43 of the code of Federal regulations (CFR), Part 4, and the information provided in BLM Form 1842-1.

If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the Las Vegas Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130, within 30 days from receipt of this decision, the appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

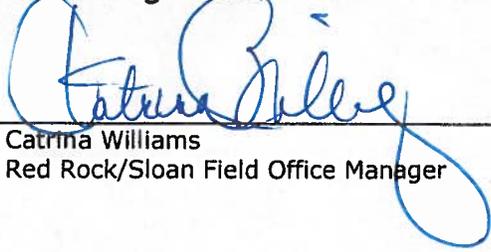
If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, pursuant to Title 43 of the code of Federal Regulations, Part 4, Subpart E, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal, a petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. the relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. the likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. the likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
4. the likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
5. whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Authorizing Official:



Catrina Williams
Red Rock/Sloan Field Office Manager

8/19/15
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Finding, contact:

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