

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Carnes Point Reservoir and Trail**

**DOI-BLM-CO-N030 2015-0027-EA**

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment (EA), and considering the significance criteria in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §1508.27, I have determined that the proposed livestock reservoir and trail located in the Carnes Point allotment will not have significant effects on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

**BACKGROUND**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared an EA which analyzed the effects of constructing a mid-sized reservoir and short trail for livestock with the Carnes Point allotment on Glade Park within the Grand Junction Field Office. Construction of the dam and trail along with associated impacts from livestock use in the area were analyzed. The EA considered the No Action alternative and the Proposed Action alternative, which includes constructing of the proposed pond and trail.

**INTENSITY**

I have considered the potential intensity and severity of the impacts anticipated from the Carnes Point Reservoir and Trail relative to each of the ten areas suggested for consideration by the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ). The following findings have been made with regard to each of the ten CEQ considerations:

***1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.***

The reservoir and trail will benefit the grazing permittee by providing water within the grazing allotment and a trail to access and adjacent area to be grazed. The reservoir may also provide water for wildlife in the area. Adverse impacts would include removal of vegetation and soil during construction, short-term displacement of wildlife, as well as an increase in compaction of soils in the area of use; however they are not significant and occur in a small area over a short duration of time.

***2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety.***

The proposed action should have no impact to public health or safety.

***3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.***

There are no significant impacts to riparian vegetation, parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, or wild and scenic rivers within the project area. The project has been modified to avoid impacts to cultural and historic resources. There are no municipal water supplies 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 impacts of construction of livestock reservoirs and trails and the impacts of increased use of the area are generally well known and documented in the academic and practicing communities. Therefore the environmental effects are not likely to be controversial.

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

The construction of livestock reservoirs and trails has a long history in the region and pose no 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.***

This decision is like one of many that have previously been made and will continue to be made by the BLM regarding livestock grazing on public lands. The proposal is within the scope of the Resource Management Plan and is not expected to establish a precedent for future actions. The proposal does establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

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

The proposal does not result in any significant cumulative effects on the environment, either when combined with the effects created by past and concurrent projects, or when combined with the effects from natural changes taking place in the environment or from reasonably foreseeable future projects. Livestock grazing has historically occurred in the area as well as trailing activities with no significant impacts. All Land Health Standards are being met in the area and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

***8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or 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 historic resources.***

A Class II inventory was conducted in the project area. There would be no adverse impacts to the above resources as there are no historic properties present in the area of potential extent. If inadvertent discoveries are found during construction, then the project would be modified to avoid impacts to cultural and historic resources.

***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.***

The projects are located in unoccupied Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat Sage-grouse have not been documented to occur here. The sagebrush habitat type required to support sage-grouse does not

occur in the project area. The allotment consists of steep hillsides of pinyon, juniper, and mountain shrubs with only a small flat area containing grasses. The allotment is meeting Land Health Standards for threatened and endangered species, but does not contain the primary constituent elements needed for Gunnison sage-grouse habitat.

***10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.***

This decision complies with other Federal, State, or local laws and requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: 1) the implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the "Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan," August 2015. 2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Resource Management Plan; and 3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the CEQ criteria for significance (40 CFR §1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA.

  
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Field Manager  
Grand Junction Field Office

11-10-15  
Date