

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0008-EA
(DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2015-0140-EA)
May 17, 2016

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

**BICKERDYKE PIPELINE
Range Improvement Project**

Location:

**Carter County Montana
T. 5 S., R. 61 E., Sec. 29
T. 5 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 35**

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**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0008-EA**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the information contained in the EA (DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-08), 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 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 2015, Miles City Field Office (MCFO), Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS).
- (2) The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Record of Decision for the BLM 2015, MCFO Approved Resource Management Plan (ARMP); 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 Council on Environmental Quality's (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.

Context:

This range improvement project will facilitate management which provides a net conservation benefit to GRSG, as an improvement in residual cover and plant vigor would be expected in these areas. Greater residual cover is known to lead to increased nesting success of ground nesting upland game birds.

The proposed action is to authorize the installation of a half mile of pipeline across BLM administered land and to place tanks on private land away from BLM. The pipeline will be supplied by an existing well on private land. See map for specific locations. Work will be paid for and completed by the permittee and will be in accordance with BLM specification where the pipeline crosses BLM administered lands.

The pipeline is approximately 2,640 feet in length on BLM lands and will be constructed with 2 inch HDPE SDR 11 pipe. The pipeline will be plowed (ripped) in at the depth of 3 feet. Permittee will rip the line, then come back and lay the pipe in the trench. After pipe is set in the ground, the Permittee will then dig holes with the backhoe, to assemble curb stop valves, hydrants assemblies, air relief valves and stop and waste valves on private lands where water tanks will be located. No backhoe work is expected to occur on BLM land, only ripping and laying of pipe. Total disturbance along pipeline route on BLM will be approximately 4 feet wide. Pipelines are identified below and specifics are described:

The pipeline routes will follow existing path laid out and GPSed by the BLM. Where possible the pipeline will follow two-track roads, natural contours and cow trails to provide minimal disturbance to the natural landscape. The pipeline will be ripped to a depth of 1 to 3 feet. High density pipe will be laid in the trench and will then be backfilled.

Tanks: Hydrants will be installed at the locations identified on the attached map and will provide water to the tank locations identified on the map. Once authorization for this project is completed the permittee will install the pipeline and hydrants as described above. The grazing permittee will be required to set up the pump at the existing well and install tanks on private land.

All work should be completed within 2016.

Intensity

I have considered the potential intensity/severity of the impacts anticipated from the proposed action and all alternatives relative to each of the ten areas suggested for consideration by the CEQ.

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. The analysis documented in EA DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0008-EA did not identify any individual significant adverse short-term or long-term impacts. In the long-term, under the proposed grazing management practices, maintenance in the overall rangeland health within the Bickerdyke Allotment will occur.

2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety. No aspects of the proposed action have been identified as having the potential to significantly and adversely impact 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 known historic or cultural resource sites or paleontological localities that would be affected by the proposed action. A review of BLM and SHPO Cultural Resource Records databases indicates that no cultural resource sites and no paleontological localities have been recorded on public lands within this allotment. No cultural or scientifically important paleontological resources were observed in the inventory of the pipeline route across public lands. No cultural resource considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or paleontological resources would be impacted or affected by this undertaking (see report number listed in the environmental assessment). There are no parks, prime farmlands, or wild and scenic rivers in the planning area.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial. The effects of the actions planned under the Proposed Action are similar to many other grazing permit actions implemented within the scope of the BLM 2015 MCFO ARMP. No unique or appreciable scientific controversy has been identified regarding the effects of the Proposed Action.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. The analysis has not shown that there would be any unique or unknown risks to the human environment not previously considered and analyzed in EISs to which this EA is tiered.

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 proposed action neither establishes a precedent nor represents a decision in principle about future actions. The proposed action is consistent with actions appropriate for the area as designated by the BLM 2015 MCFO ARMP.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. The environmental analysis did not reveal any cumulative effects beyond those already analyzed in the EISs which accompanied the BLM 2015 MCFO ARMP.

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.* The proposed action will not adversely affect any district, site, highway, structure, or object listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or 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.* There are no threatened or endangered species or habitat in the area of the proposed action.

10. *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.* The proposed action does not threaten to violate any Federal, State, or local law.

/s/ **Wendy M Warren**
Wendy M. Warren
Acting Field Manager
Miles City Field Office

5/18/2016