

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Summer Creek Drift Fence
EA #ID-110-2009-EA-3757

The Proposed Action would result in construction of a 1.25-mile fence on federal land, and separate the Upper Salt Creek and Lower Salt Creek pastures of the Oxbow Allotment 3 miles south of the Oxbow Dam in Adams County, Idaho. Impacts were described at the local (Sections 3.1-3.8, ID-110-2009-EA-3757) and regional (Section 4.1, ID-110-2009-EA-3757) levels over the short and long term. The impacts were not significant for the following:

- *Type and degree of impacts.* The project would have minimal to slight direct or indirect impacts to soils, vegetation, cultural resources, and the human environment over the short and long term (Sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, and 3.7, ID-110-2009-EA-3757). The Proposed Action would directly improve long-term grazing management, livestock distribution, and would not impact any threatened, endangered, or sensitive species (Sections 3.2, 3.3, and 3.8, ID-110-2009-EA-3757). Minor to moderate improvements in vegetation conditions would occur over the long term here and across the Snake River Breaks Brownlee Management Area. (Section 4.1.1, ID-110-2009-EA-3757).
- *Controversial or unknown risks.* Constructing the proposed drift fence would have minimal impact on the human environment (Sections 3.5-3.7, and 4.0, ID-110-2009-EA-3757); therefore, it is not expected to be controversial. The BLM has completed numerous fence projects in southwest Idaho and is aware of the potential impacts associated with fences. With appropriate design standards (Section 2.2.2, ID-110-2009-EA-3757), the fence would have minimal known impacts to wildlife and humans (Section 3, ID-110-2009-EA-3757).
- *Unique characteristics of the area.* There are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, or other unique features present.
- *Potential to violate laws or regulations or to set a precedent.* The project is in conformance with the 1988 Cascade Resource Management Plan and federal, state, and local regulations (Sections 1.4 and 1.5, ID-110-2009-EA-3757). The project does not set any precedent for future actions that could have significant effects.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment (ID-110-2009-EA-3757), and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the action would not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

/s/ Terry Humphrey

9/29/2010

Terry A. Humphrey
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Date