

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

**Trailhead adjacent to the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness
DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2016-0020-EA**

Finding of No Significant Impact

I, the undersigned authorized officer, considering the criteria provided by 40 CFR 1508.27 and the information contained in the Trailhead adjacent to the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2016-0020-EA), and as explained further below, find that the proposed action and alternative will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared.

Context

The Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness is located approximately 16 miles northeast of Wickenburg, Arizona via Constellation Road. Visitors to the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness Area have been using an informal trailhead area outside of the wilderness as a staging area, causing the area to increase in size. This trailhead borders private lands and some wilderness users have been trespassing onto the adjacent private property. To limit the footprint of the trailhead and the amount of trespass, the BLM proposes to provide up to five picnic tables with optional ramadas; install fencing and signs to limit the footprint and prevent trespass; level the parking area to increase safety for visitors; and use mechanical or manual means to control vegetation at the trailhead. In addition, a restroom may be installed to contain human waste and provide for visitor health and safety.

Intensity

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse

Impacts to both vegetation and wildlife would be minimal as documented in Sections 3.3.2 and 3.4.2 of the EA. Long term effects would be beneficial due to limiting the unmanaged expansion of disturbance associated with the parking area.

2. Degree of effect on public health and safety

The proposed action is likely to increase public health and safety due to leveling the parking surface and eventually installing a restroom if needed.

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

The proposed action is located adjacent to a wilderness area and is compatible with the conditions of the Congressional designation.

4. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial

The EA was distributed for public comment between February 10-26, 2016 and only three comment letters were received. All of the comments have been addressed, as documented in Appendix A of the EA, and no controversy is anticipated.

5. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk

Similar facilities are frequently constructed on public lands and the effects are well understood.

6. 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 does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects and does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. All future actions will be subject to individual analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act as necessary.

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

There are no significant cumulative impacts identified, as documented in Section 4.3 of the EA.

8. Degree to which the action may adversely affect district, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources

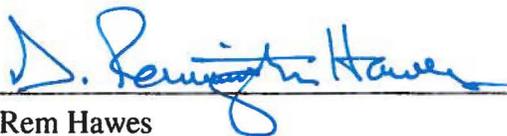
A Class III Cultural Pedestrian Survey was conducted and no sites were found within the project area.

9. Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat

No threatened or endangered species reside within the project area. Design features have been included to avoid impacts to Sonoran desert tortoise during construction.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local environmental protection law

The proposed action will not violate or threaten to violate any federal, state, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.



Rem Hawes
Field Manager
Hassayampa Field Office



Date