United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Albuquerque District
Socorro Field Office
901 S Highway 85
Socorro, New Mexico 87801
www.blm.gov/nm/st/en.html

Decision Record

DOI-BLM-NM-A020-2016-0015-DNA
Merriman Playa Core Samples 2016

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts discussed in the attached Determination of NEPA Adequacy, a Finding of No Significant Impact was reached and signed on March 21, 2016. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Compliance with Statutes, Regulations, and Land Use Plans

The proposed action is in conformance with the terms and the conditions of the *Socorro Field Office Resource Management Plan*, approved in August of 2010 (BLM/NM/PL-10-03-1617), as required by 43 CFR 1610.6.

The proposed action is also in compliance with the following statutes and regulations:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
- Executive Order (EO) 13112, Invasive weeds
- New Mexico Noxious Weeds Management Act of 1978

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the proposed action which is to authorize the collection of core soil samples in 5 playas and in the Chupadero Arroyo. Collection locations are in Township 4 South, Range 4 East; Township 5 South, Range 4 East; and Township 8 South, Range 1 East. Specific geographic locations of the core samples are proprietary.

Rationale for Decision

The Socorro Field Office is directed by its Resource Management Plan and guided by its goals: "within the capability of the Planning Area's natural and cultural resources, provide tourism, recreational, educational, and research opportunities".

Protest and Appeal

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at:

Socorro Field Office
901 S. Highway 85
Socorro, NM 87801

If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

Interior Board of Land Appeals
Office of Hearings and Appeals
U.S. Department of the Interior
801 North Quincy St., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

Mark Matthews 3/21/16

Field Manager Date