

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CENTRAL COAST FIELD OFFICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
DOI-BLM-CA-C090-2016-0025-EA
FLPMA Lands Sale (Smith Mountain)

BACKGROUND

The private land owner that shares a boundary with the BLM-administered lands on Smith Mountain expressed interest in purchasing the 40-acre parcel of public lands to consolidate ownership and reduce conflicts associated with trespass and other illegal activities on the BLM lands. Environmental assessment DOI-BLM-CA-C090-2016-0025-EA addresses the proposed sale of 40 acres located atop Smith Mountain (T.21S., R.13 E., Sec. 29, NE¼NW¼, Mount Diablo Meridian).

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 direct sale of the 40-acre parcel of public land will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for the Southern Diablo Mountain Range and Central Coast of California (BLM 2006); (2) the proposed action is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved RMP (BLM 2007); 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 or as articulated in the letters of comment.

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

The sale of public lands may result in minor indirect impacts on aesthetics that would occur as a result of potential upgrades to the existing communication site. The proposed action would have a long-term beneficial effect on management of lands and resources because it would reduce conflicts with private lands and promote a more logical ownership pattern in the Central Coast Field Office.

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

No aspects of the project have been identified as having the potential to 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.

The project will not affect these resources because there are none on the parcel and it's not in a geographic area with any unique characteristics that should be considered in a decision to approve or disapprove the proposed sale.

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

No anticipated effects have been identified that are scientifically controversial.

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

The analysis does not show that this action would involve any 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.

BLM may in the future consider conducting additional sales of public lands in Monterey County, but any future sales would be considered separately. The approval of this sale does not set a precedent for future sales of public land or represent a decision in principle about future sales.

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

No significant site specific or cumulative impacts have been identified. The project is consistent with the actions and impacts anticipated in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for the Southern Diablo Mountain Range and Central Coast of California (BLM 2006).

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 project area does not include any sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places or sites known to be eligible.

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 BLM determined the sale would have "no effect" on special status species because the existing resources conditions would be maintained.

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

There is no indication that this decision will result in actions that will threaten such a violation.


Rick Cooper, Central Coast Field Manager

8/16/2016
Date