

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office, Idaho**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Project Name:** Crystal Lake WSA Trail Restoration Environmental Assessment

**BLM Office:** Coeur d'Alene Field Office, 3815 N. Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

**NEPA Register No.:** DOI- BLM-ID-C010-2011-0001-EA

**Project Location:** Shoshone County, Idaho. Boise Meridian

Project Areas #1 and #5

T. 47 N., R. 1 W.,

Section 36, Lot 2, S1/2SE1/4

Project Area #2

T. 47 N., R. 1 E.,

Section 17, SW1/4SE1/4

Project Areas #3 and #4

T. 47 N., R. 1 E.,

Section 20, E1/2NW1/4

**Contact:** Kurt Pindel (Natural Resource Specialist-Recreation, 208-769-5015)

The BLM prepared the attached environmental assessment (EA) for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based upon my review of the EA, I have determined the proposed Crystal Lake WSA Trail Restoration is not a major federal action that may have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. As analyzed in the EA, no environmental effects of the proposed action meet the definition of significance as defined by regulations to implement NEPA found at 40 CFR 1508.27. This finding is based on my consideration of both the context and intensity of the project, as described below.

**Context**

The BLM, Coeur d'Alene Field Office is proposing to restore and rehabilitate trails within and adjacent to the Crystal Lake Wilderness Study Area (WSA) that have been widened from single track to two-track width due to unauthorized all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use. The Crystal Lake WSA is in Shoshone County on the mountainous divide south of Cataldo, ID and northeast of St. Maries, ID.

## **Intensity**

This requirement refers to the severity of the proposed impacts. The following factors are considered in evaluating intensity.

***(1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.***

The EA documents that the proposed action will make public land management more efficient and cost effective, and will benefit vegetation, soils, wildlife and cultural resources by precluding impacts associated with unauthorized ATV/UTV use. There may be some short-term adverse impacts due to soil disturbance such as providing sites for invasive/noxious weeds to establish and soil erosion. However, these will be overcome by the long-term benefits of the proposed action.

***(2) The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.***

There were no major concerns associated with this environmental assessment.

***(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 trails that will be improved as part of this environmental assessment are within and adjacent to the Crystal Lake Wilderness Study Area. The trail restoration is designed to keep with the intention of preserving these land's wilderness characteristics.

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

As summarized in chapter 3 of the EA, there are no known impacts to the human environment. This should be a non-controversial action.

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

The proposed trail restoration has few identified potential adverse environmental effects on scenic, natural and cultural resources. These potential adverse environmental effects are short term in nature and generally improve the WSA by maintaining the wilderness characteristics outlined in the wilderness study area policy.

***(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 trail restoration project does not establish a precedent or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

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

As summarized in Chapter 3 of the EA, the trail restoration will result in some short term impacts, but provide greater beneficial direct and indirect effects to visual, recreational, natural, cultural and socio-economic resources. There is no potential for cumulatively

significant adverse impacts when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

***(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 historical resources.***

The proposed trail restoration project would not impact highways, structures or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

***(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.***

As summarized in the EA, the easement acquisition will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat.

***(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 is consistent and compatible with all known Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

## **Conclusion**

Based upon review of the EA, I have determined that the Crystal Lake WSA Trail Restoration Project will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

\S\ Kurt Pavlat  
Kurt Pavlat, Field Manager

July 30, 2012  
Date