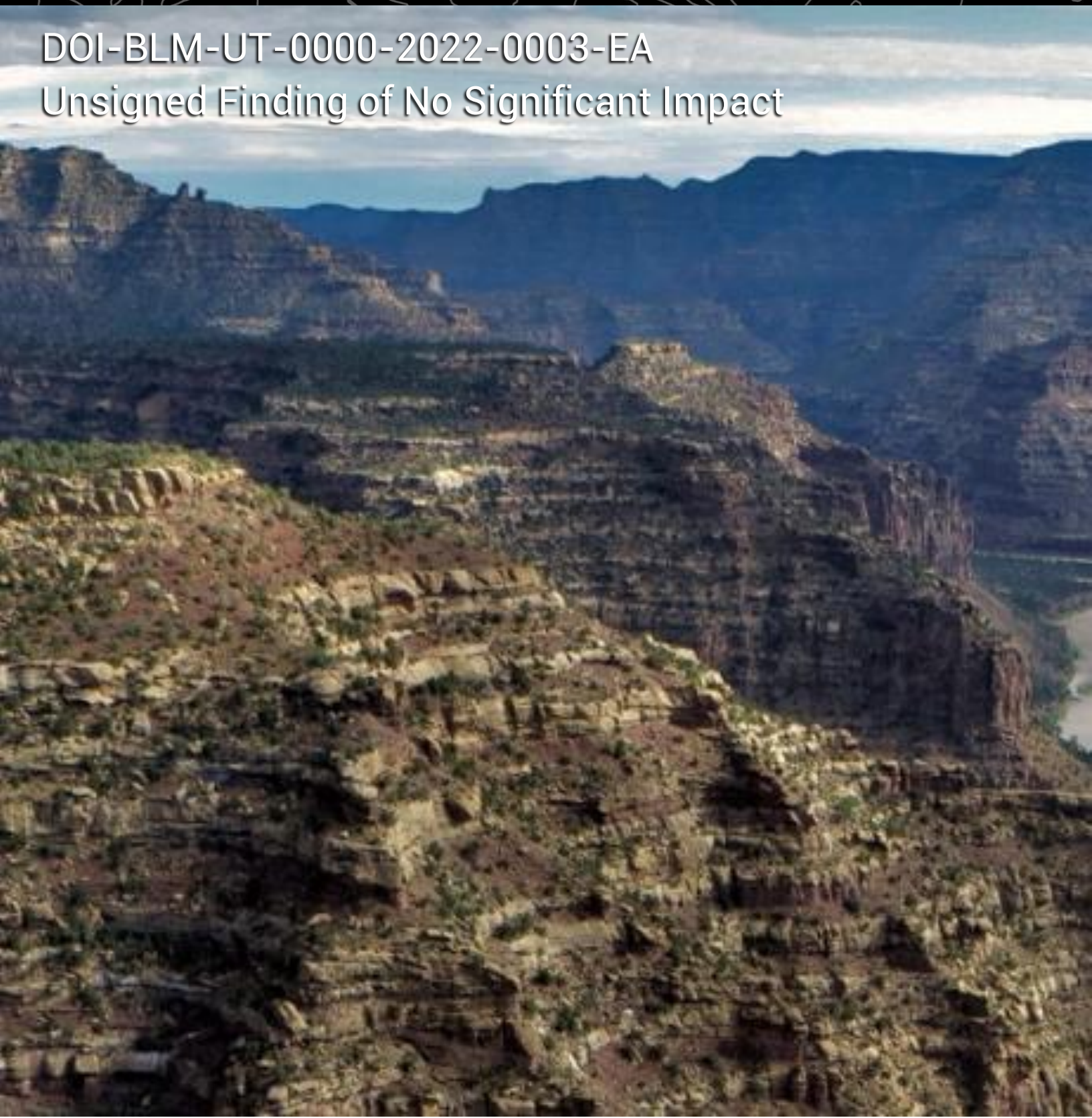
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

# Dingell Act—Emery County Land Exchange

DOI-BLM-UT-0000-2022-0003-EA
Unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact



## BLM Mission

The Bureau of Land Management's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah State Office completed an environmental assessment (DOI-BLM-UT-0000-2022-0003-EA) to analyze and disclose the environmental consequences of implementing an exchange of federal and non-federal land as mandated by Section 1255 of Public Law 116-9, John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 (Dingell Act). The EA is incorporated by reference, per 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1501.12, and findings associated with the EA are summarized in this document.

This land exchange, which is referred to as the Dingell Act—Emery County Land Exchange, would include public and state lands located across up to 18 counties in Utah: Beaver, Carbon, Emery, Grand, Iron, Juab, Kane, Millard, Rich, San Juan, Sevier, Summit, Tooele, Uintah, Utah, Wasatch, Washington, and Wayne Counties. Under the land exchange, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the BLM, would convey to the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (State or SITLA) approximately 92,000 acres of federal lands or interests in land, including approximately 83,000 acres of surface and mineral estate; approximately 4,000 acres of surface-only estate; approximately 5,000 acres of mineral-, oil and gas-, and coal-only estate; and 48 water rights (many of which are pre-1903 diligence claims). For the purposes of this document, federal lands are hereafter referred to as BLM lands or parcels.

In exchange for the above BLM lands or interests, SITLA would convey to the BLM approximately 116,000 acres of non-federal lands or interests therein, including approximately 114,700 acres of surface and mineral estate, approximately 1,100 acres of mineral-only estate, and 60 water rights. The state parcels are located within newly created wilderness areas, the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area, the Green River Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) Corridor in Emery County, and the John Wesley Powell National Conservation Area (NCA) in Uintah County. For the purposes of this document, non-federal lands are hereafter referred to as SITLA lands or parcels. Additional SITLA lands located within wilderness areas or NCAs in Washington County could be included in the land exchange if needed to equalize values (hereafter referred to as equalization parcels).

This finding of no significant impact (FONSI) has been prepared for the Proposed Action.

## FONSI

The Proposed Action and its effects have been evaluated in a manner consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for determining “significance.” Per the 2020 Council on Environmental Quality regulation, 40 CFR 1501.3(b), a determination of significance, as used in the National Environmental Policy Act, requires consideration of both “potentially affected environment” and “degree.” The affected area refers to the setting in which the action would occur (national, regional, or local) and its resources. Significance varies with the setting of the Proposed Action. The degree of the effects refers to the severity of the impact. The degree of the effects relate to four criteria that are outlined in 40 CFR 1501.3 (2) i–iv. This FONSI is based on the affected area and degree of the effects of the Proposed Action.

## Affected Area

Under the Proposed Action, the BLM would complete a land exchange as directed by the Dingell Act and pursuant to Section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The lands identified for exchange encompass approximately 116,000 acres of SITLA land or interests and approximately 92,000 acres of BLM land or interests in land. Sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the EA provide detailed information on the location of BLM, SITLA, and equalization parcels, including county, BLM field office, and acreage.

## Degree of Effects

The following discussion is organized around the four criteria described at 40 CFR 1501.3(2) i–iv.

### SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Both short- and long-term effects related to the Proposed Action are disclosed and analyzed in Chapter 3 of the EA. Table 1 provides a high-level summary of effects by duration for each issue considered in the EA, along with a significance determination. Short-term effects are defined as follows:

- Effects that would occur solely as part of land exchange title conveyance and associated transfer or close out of administrative records (estimated to be up to 5 years, per Section 3.1 of the EA).
- Effects associated with the construction of reasonably foreseeable future land uses that would occur after the land exchange is complete. These effects would cease when construction is complete.

Long-term effects are defined as effects associated with the management, operation, or maintenance of reasonably foreseeable future land uses that would occur after the land exchange is complete.

**Table 1. Summary of Duration of Effects by Issues Analyzed in Detail**

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
|---|---|---|---|
| Air Quality (3.2) | • What effects would changes to reasonably foreseeable future land uses have in relation to conformance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards? | All criteria pollutants and hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions are evaluated as long-term effects in the EA, based on the potential for the land exchange to allow for increased oil and gas production or mining production over time. | Development of parcels with oil and gas production or mining production potential would result in long-term, localized impacts to air quality due to criteria pollutants and HAP emissions. Table 3.2-4 of the EA provides average criteria, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and HAP emissions in tons per year assuming a 30-year production life. None of the potential future emissions on parcels within the Uinta Basin Ozone Nonattainment Area [Marginal] would exceed de minimis thresholds for NOx and VOCs. Based on emissions estimates and air quality analysis for similar oil and gas development in the area, and considering the location of parcels relative to population centers and Class I areas, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.2.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases (3.3) | • What effect would changes to reasonably foreseeable future land uses have on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change? | All GHG emissions are evaluated as long-term effects due to the long life span in the atmosphere and their contribution to long-term climate trends. | Development of parcels with oil and gas production or mining production potential would result in long-term climate impacts due to GHG emissions. Per Table 3.3-2 of the EA, future actions associated with the land exchange could result in GHG emissions of 171.4 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt $CO_2e$) (100-year) over the production life of coal parcels and 4.965 Mt $CO_2e$ (100-year) over the production life of future oil and gas wells. For coal, this would be the equivalent to the $CO_2e$ emissions produced in 1 year by 21.6 homes. For oil and gas, it would be the equivalent to the $CO_2e$ emissions produced by driving 1.1 gas-powered passenger vehicles for 1 year. Based on these total estimated emissions, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.3.2). |
| Cultural Resources (3.4) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses result in damage or destruction of cultural resources? | Construction of reasonably foreseeable future land uses, if implemented, could occur in the vicinity of archaeological sites eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); however, SITLA would need to comply with Utah Code 9-8-404, which requires state agencies to likewise consider the effects of their actions on NRHP-eligible properties. Similarly, the BLM would comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on NRHP-eligible historic properties. Therefore, any short-term effects would be avoided or mitigated, and no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.4.2). | No long-term effects to cultural resources were evaluated in the EA as there are adequate and legally enforceable restrictions to ensure long-term preservation of the historic properties' significance in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(2)(vii) (see EA Section 3.4.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Environmental Justice (3.5) | • Would the land exchange disproportionately and adversely affect communities of environmental justice concern? | Construction of reasonably foreseeable future land uses, if implemented, could generate short-term GHG and criteria emissions, increase noise and traffic, temporarily restrict public access, and potentially increase erosion and sedimentation into surface waters from stormwater runoff. Environmental justice communities could be more susceptible to these impacts due to pre-existing health conditions or other factors. However, compliance with state and federal air and water quality regulations would minimize potential impacts, and changes would occur on a small percentage of the total public lands available. Additionally, low-income residents could potentially benefit from economic activity during construction. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.5.2). | Future land uses that permanently convert parcels from public to private ownership could reduce public access long term.<br>However, future solar development could also support a long-term decrease in global GHG emissions if it replaces more traditional energy sources. Likewise, economic activity during operation could benefit low-income populations. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.5.2). |
| Fishes and Aquatic Animals (3.6) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect fish species and habitat potentially present on or downstream of affected parcels?<br>• Would protection of special status fish species and their habitats increase or decrease for BLM and SITLA parcels? | Construction or other surface-disturbing activities from reasonably foreseeable future land uses, if implemented, could increase short-term erosion and potential sedimentation of adjacent fish-bearing waters. However, SITLA would be required to comply with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Endangered Species Act to avoid or minimize water quality and would work cooperatively with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to avoid or minimize species impacts to the extent practicable. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.6.2). | Long term, parcel conveyance to the BLM could provide a benefit to some fish species and habitat by creating a more contiguous ecosystem for fish management and increased management oversight for sensitive fish species. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.6.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Floodplains (3.7) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses alter floodplain function within unmapped floodplains? | Construction or other surface-disturbing activities from reasonably foreseeable future land uses, if implemented, could result in short- to long-term changes in floodplain function or values and flood risk. However, pursuant to EO 11988 Section 3(d)), when properties that contain floodplains are proposed for lease, easement, right-of-way (ROW), or disposal, the BLM must reference in the conveyance that certain uses are restricted under relevant federal, state, or local floodplain regulations, which could ultimately limit disturbance to overall floodplain function. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.7.2). | See short-term effects discussion, at left. |
| Fuels and Fire Management (3.8) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect fire or fuels risk?<br>• How would the land exchange affect fuels and fire management responsibilities between BLM and SITLA jurisdiction? | Soil disturbance caused by reasonably foreseeable future land uses could increase the establishment and spread of fine fuels, which could result in faster rates of wildfire spread. However, the land exchange would not alter current interagency coordination for response and suppression efforts. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.8.2). | Long-term operation of future residential, industrial, and energy projects, if implemented, could increase wildfire ignition potential. Future fuels projects could also cease or resume, depending on BLM and SITLA land management decisions. However, the land exchange would not alter current interagency coordination for response and suppression efforts. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.8.2). |

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| Geology, Mineral Resources, and Energy Production (3.9) | • What effect would the land exchange have on the net gain or loss of mineral resources within BLM and SITLA parcels?<br>• When current encumbrances are up for renewal after the land exchange is complete, how would a change in terms and management conditions (from BLM to SITLA or vice versa) affect mining claimants and energy producers?<br>• How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses alter (increase or decrease) mineral resource development or energy production? | Parcel conveyance would not impact lease and permit holders in the short term because all parcels that are encumbered by mineral leases, mining claims, mineral material claims, permits, and geothermal leases would be conveyed with the encumbrance, and access and use of existing operations would continue under the applicable terms of the encumbrance unless a new contractual arrangement was negotiated. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.9.2). | Long term, the land exchange would decrease potential mineral development and associated revenue on BLM land and increase potential mineral development and associated revenue on SITLA lands. However, the change to the BLM is anticipated to be minimal due to the low number of mineral leases and limited mineral development potential on these parcels.<br>Reasonably foreseeable residential, recreational, water supply, and industrial development could also reduce the acreage of lands that are available for mineral resource development, while other anticipated future energy development activities could potentially increase mineral resource development on SITLA lands, contingent on the confirmation of commercially viable deposits within these parcels, as well as market conditions, pursuant to SITLA's laws, regulations, and policy.<br>Upon renegotiation or future renewal, fees, bond amounts, and other plan or reclamation activities for lease and permit holders could be subject to change per SITLA rules or the BLM's rates, policies, and provisions. However, active mining claims on parcels conveyed to SITLA would be administered per Section 11 of the Agreement for Exchange of Lands West Desert State–Federal Land Consolidation, approved May 30, 2000. This agreement states that the state will recognize the mining claimants' and site holders' interests for all mining claims, mill sites, or tunnel sites located under the Mining Law of 1872, 30 United States Code 22 et seq. and allow them to develop those minerals or use the sites so long as they |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| | | | comply with applicable laws and regulations. As noted above, impacts to mining claims on parcels conveyed to the BLM are anticipated to be minimal due to the low number of mineral leases and limited mineral development potential on these parcels. Therefore, for the above reasons, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.9.2). |
| Lands Access and Realty (3.10) | • How would the land exchange affect access to public land?<br>• How would the land exchange impact water reserves and existing land use authorizations? | Short-term changes to land access would mostly be administrative in nature. Public water reserves would be automatically revoked upon transfer of the land in accordance with Public Land Order (PLO) 5444, as amended by PLO 6527. All current encumbrances would be conveyed with the land exchange until their expiration (if applicable). The BLM would also issue itself perpetual ROWs on existing roads to ensure access to public lands. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.10.2). | Following conveyance, the BLM and SITLA would manage acquired lands and ROWs in a manner consistent with their existing management and regulations. Long term, revocation of public water reserves would allow for future land uses that would have otherwise been incompatible. However, any future mineral and helium exploration would be wholly contingent on the confirmation of commercially viable deposits within these parcels, as well as market conditions, pursuant to SITLA's laws, regulations, and policy.<br>Upon future renewal (if applicable), holders would be subject to the respective agency's policies regarding renewal, at which point, either agency could decide not to renew. However, all lease and permit holders have been notified. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.10.2). |

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| Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health (3.11) | • What effect would the land exchange have on the net gain or loss of animal unit months (AUMs) within BLM and SITLA parcels?<br>• When permits are up for renewal after the land exchange is complete, how would a change in permit terms, grazing fees, and/or management conditions (from BLM to SITLA or vice-\ versa) affect livestock grazing permittees?<br>• What effect would the land exchange have on the transfer or exchange of ownership of existing range improvements?<br>• How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect livestock grazing, via changes to water development or other range improvements or other restrictions on livestock grazing, such as fencing? | The land exchange would not impact grazing operations for permittees in the short term because the changes would mostly be administrative in nature. Range improvements and grazing would continue where conveyed with existing encumbrances. No short-term impacts associated with reasonably foreseeable changes to future land uses were identified.<br>Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.11.2). | Long term, upon future permit renewal, continuance of grazing and range improvements would be subject to Dingell Act stipulations and agency rates, policies, and provisions. Permittees that graze on parcels conveyed to SITLA would likely experience increased grazing fees, whereas the opposite would occur for permittees that graze on parcels conveyed to the BLM.<br>Reasonably foreseeable future land uses could result in removal of rangeland improvements, installation of new fencing, restrictions or adjustments of permit components such as season of use and AUMs, or cancellation of permits. This change would decrease long-term livestock grazing revenue obtained by SITLA, but this loss would be replaced by other revenue sources and would impact only a small percentage of AUMs. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.11.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| National Historic Trails (3.12) | • How would the land exchange impact the nature and purpose of National Historic Trail (NHT) segments that intersect or are within the viewshed of BLM or SITLA parcels? | Construction of reasonably foreseeable future land uses would increase potential for visual and auditory impacts to NHT users; however, the presence of any topographic or vegetative screening could help avoid or mitigate these impacts. SITLA would comply with Utah Code 9-8-404, which requires state agencies to consider the effects of their actions on NRHP-eligible properties that potentially include segments of NHTs. Similarly, the BLM would comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, which requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on NRHP-eligible historic properties. Therefore, any short-term effects would be avoided or mitigated, and no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.12.2). | Long term, the BLM's net gain in land that is within the viewshed of NHTs would provide an overall benefit to the management of NHTs. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.12.2). |
| Paleontology (3.13) | • How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect known paleontological localities or geologic units with potential (e.g., Potential Fossil Yield Classification Classes 3, 4, 5, and U) to contain paleontological resources?<br>• How would the land exchange affect opportunities for casual paleontological resource or petrified wood collection? | Any reasonably foreseeable future ground-disturbing activities associated with construction could cause damage to, or loss of, scientifically important fossil resources through physical impact (e.g., crushing or breaking), as well as increased potential for unauthorized collection. However, both SITLA and the BLM would consider paleontological resources prior to authorizing a proposed future action. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.13.2). | Future ground disturbance could subject fossils to long-term damage or destruction from erosion if they are not collected prior to being fully eroded. Indirectly, future ground disturbance could create improved long-term access to the public and increased visibility, potentially resulting in unauthorized collection or destruction of paleontological resources. Conversely, any discovered fossils that are collected properly, curated into the collections of a repository that meets federal agency standards, and made available for scientific study and education could be beneficial to scientific study. Since both SITLA and the BLM would consider paleontological resources prior to authorizing a proposed future action, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.13.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Recreation (3.14) | • How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses or changes in management alter existing recreational access or opportunities available to the public, such as vehicle exploration, off-highway vehicle riding, hunting and shooting sports, mountain biking, equestrian, and non-motorized (backcountry, primitive, wilderness) activities?<br>• What effect would the land exchange have on existing motorized use area designations and cherry-stemmed roads? | Construction activities associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses, if implemented, could temporarily reduce or eliminate lands available for recreation or alter the quality of recreation opportunities, such as through increases in noise or changes to the viewshed; however, impacts would be minimized due to the availability of other public lands and access roads that are contiguous with or adjacent to these parcels and which could continue to provide recreation opportunities. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.14.2). | Long term, dispersed recreational activities would continue to be allowed on parcels located in or on the boundary of extensive recreation management areas (ERMAs), the South Moab Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), the Upper Spanish Valley Mountain Bike Focus Area, the Fivemile Pass Recreation Area, and the Sheeprock/Tintic Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Area. Other undesignated BLM lands transferred to SITLA would continue to allow for motorized access, and the BLM has issued road ROWs to itself in order to preserve access to adjacent public lands. Similarly, Emery County has applied to SITLA for numerous road ROWs in order to preserve motorized access after the land exchange is complete, including Little Wildhorse Mesa, Red Canyon, and the Devil's Racetrack ORV route.<br>The land exchange would allow for more contiguous land units to manage for desired recreation outcomes and could lead to some increase in user experience within the SRMAs. Consolidation would also allow for more contiguous designated wilderness areas and increase opportunities for primitive recreation opportunities. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.14.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Socioeconomics (3.15) | • How would the land exchange contribute to changes in socioeconomic market and non-market conditions, including employment, government revenue, community sense of place, and ecosystem services?<br>• How would the land exchange affect economic conditions due to long-term changes in grazing levels upon permit renewal, mineral lease payments, or changes to recreation (market) or non-market values? | All socioeconomic concerns are evaluated as long-term effects in the EA, based on the potential for the land exchange to promote longer term shifts to economic activity and community conditions. | Long term, the land exchange would likely increase recreational value and non-use value by increasing the continuity of designated wilderness areas and/or increasing the level of revenue provided to SITLA's designated beneficiaries because of the land exchange.<br>Parcels conveyed to the BLM and fully within a wilderness boundary will be withdrawn from mineral leasing and closed to other forms of mineral development. Therefore, revenue to the BLM would likely decrease relative to the revenue that would be realized if the land exchange did not occur. Conversely, SITLA-generated revenue would likely increase to a level greater than would be realized had the land exchange not occurred. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.15.2). |
| Soils and Farmlands (3.16) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect the structure, health, and function of soil resources?<br>• How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect the conversion of prime farmland to nonagricultural uses? | Construction associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses could result in short-term soil disturbance and increased soil erosion potential, as well as affect soil productivity due to loss or mixing of organic matter or soil compaction during site preparation. Spills could also occur during construction from earth-moving and other heavy equipment. However, implementation of stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs) would help to minimize or avoid impacts. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.16.2). | Long-term conversion of prime farmland could occur if future land use activities remove farmland (directly or indirectly) for nonagricultural uses. However, this conversion would be negligible compared to remaining available Utah farmlands. Conveyance of SITLA parcels to the BLM could also provide a benefit by creating a more contiguous ecosystem for management and oversight for soil resources. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.16.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Special Designation Lands (3.17) | • How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses or changes in management affect lands designated as wilderness, lands with wilderness characteristics (LWCs), NCAs, WSRs, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), or special areas, and the resource values and characteristics associated with these special designations? | Potential future uses associated with the one BLM parcel (28) located in an ACEC are anticipated to be consistent with other permitted ACEC uses in the Price resource management plan (RMP). SITLA would also comply with Utah Code 9-8-404 for cultural resources protection.<br>BLM parcels in seven LWCs and one special use area could experience a change in future land use. Conveyance of these parcels to SITLA could permit future actions that otherwise would not in be allowed and that could adversely affect these values; however, these future actions would be wholly contingent on the confirmation of commercially viable deposits within these parcels, as well as market conditions, pursuant to SITLA's laws, regulations, and policy. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.17.2). | Long term, the land exchange would result in a net gain of special designation lands managed by the BLM, thus enhancing the unique values and characteristics associated with each category, resulting in a benefit to the public. Additionally, as a result of creating larger units, the land exchange would provide opportunities for more cohesive BLM management across contiguous lands and would increase acreage with opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation. The land exchange would also reduce SITLA's management burden for parcels surrounded by conservation lands managed by the BLM. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.17.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Vegetation (3.18) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect the distribution or composition of vegetation resources?<br>• How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect potential introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds?<br>• How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect designated plant species (and/or habitat suitable for designated plant species)?<br>• After the conveyance is complete, how would a change in management conditions alter protection of designated plant species? | Reasonably foreseeable future land uses could result in short-term vegetation disturbance, degradation, or complete removal; increase the risk of invasive species and noxious weeds introduction or spread; as well as increase indirect effects on plant productivity associated with soil compaction, erosion, accidental spills, or fugitive dust. Impacts to any current or future threatened, endangered, and candidate plant species could occur on BLM parcels, if present, because SITLA is not obligated to apply protective management for sensitive, threatened, endangered, and candidate plant species on state trust lands.<br>However, these actions are not anticipated to result in measurable changes to overall abundance or distribution of vegetation communities, based on a comparison of land exchange–related impacts relative to overall vegetation availability across the state of Utah. Additionally, UDWR and other applicable state agencies could suggest voluntary conservation measures, including mitigation, with respect to future projects and development actions on lands managed by SITLA. Both the BLM and SITLA manage weeds similarly and participate in Utah's Cooperative Weed Management Areas to effectively manage weeds across the state. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.18.2). | Long term, conveyance of SITLA and equalization parcels to the BLM could provide a benefit by creating a more contiguous ecosystem for management and increased management oversight for sensitive species, as established in BLM RMPs and other relevant guidance. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.18.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Visual Resources (3.19) | • How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect scenery and views?<br>• After the conveyance is complete, how would a change in management conditions alter protection of visual resources? | All visual resource concerns are evaluated as long-term effects in the EA, based on the potential for the land exchange to result in reasonably foreseeable future land uses that change scenery or views over time. | Reasonably foreseeable future land uses, including residential and industrial development, mineral exploration, and solar development, would contrast with the existing landscape character. Because these anticipated future land uses would not be required to meet BLM VRM Class objectives under SITLA management, these projects would likely result in long-term effects to high-quality and highly sensitive landscapes.<br>Conversely, the transfer of SITLA parcels to the BLM would, in general, result in decreased potential long-term visual impacts because each future project or management action would be required to conduct a visual contrast rating analysis to assess conformance with assigned BLM VRM Classes. Parcels assigned a more restrictive VRM class (VRM Class I, II, or III) by the BLM, through future land use planning efforts, would afford further protection for these high-quality and highly sensitive landscapes. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.19.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Water Resources (3.20) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect the flow regime, water quality, or water quantity (including drinking water sources)?<br>• What effect would the land exchange have on water rights? | Reasonably foreseeable future land uses could increase erosion and sedimentation into surface waters from stormwater runoff, cause a reduction in streamflow, or potentially introduce contaminants into surface water resources through accidental spills or releases. Engineering controls (e.g., spill containment) and SWPPPs, if applied, would help minimize these impacts.<br>The land exchange would have minimal short-term effects on water right holders because the change would mostly be administrative in nature. The BLM would relinquish any federally reserved water rights associated with public water reserves that are revoked upon land transfer.<br>Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.20.2). | Long term, if SITLA were required to alter water rights to support any future land use changes, the agency would follow the change application process that is governed by Utah state law and implemented by UDWR. Since the BLM is limited in applying for new water rights for livestock watering (Utah Code 73-3-31), the conveyance of BLM water rights for livestock watering to SITLA could impact the BLM's ability to provide water for livestock grazing operations long term.<br>However, protections afforded to federally managed wilderness areas, as described and defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and BLM Handbook 6340, would likely result in a long-term benefit to watershed health.<br>Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.20.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Wetlands and Riparian Areas (3.21) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect wetland fill or dredging?<br>• How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect riparian habitat?<br>• After the conveyance is complete, how would a change in management conditions affect protection of non-jurisdictional wetland areas not covered by the CWA? | Any future ground-disturbing activities could result in short-term wetland and riparian habitat loss and changes to wetland quality or result in alteration of drainage patterns, removal of vegetation, and soil disturbance in riparian areas. CWA 404 compliance would ensure that impacts to all jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, would be avoided or properly permitted through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Any non-jurisdictional waters that may be present and conveyed to SITLA would not be covered by the CWA; these parcels would also no longer be subject to BLM RMP goals, objectives, and decisions for water resource protection. However, Executive Order (EO) 11990 requires that the BLM reference in the conveyance that, in the event that wetlands are identified, certain uses are restricted under the applicable federal, state, or local wetland regulations. This could help minimize potential adverse impacts to any wetlands that could be present on the parcels to be exchanged to SITLA. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.21.2). | Long term, conveyance of SITLA and equalization parcels to the BLM could provide a benefit by creating a more contiguous ecosystem and increased management oversight for wetlands and riparian areas, as established in BLM RMPs and other relevant guidance. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.21.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
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| Wild Horses and Burros (3.22) | • How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect wild horse and burro herd management areas (HMAs)? | Reasonably foreseeable future land uses consisting of livestock grazing, hunting, and wildlife habitat, are not expected to result in alteration of existing wild horse and burro use patterns or impede herd management activities within the Range Creek HMA unless additional fencing was installed. Mining activities, if undertaken, could result in a loss of up to 2,905 acres of habitat and forage for burros in the Frisco HMA due to removal of vegetation, soil disturbance, noise, and habitat fragmentation; however, this impact only represents 5% of the total acreage available within the HMA. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.22.2). | Long term, the transfer of SITLA parcels to the BLM would result in an increase in available forage and habitat on BLM lands, which would help assure the long-term sustainability of these herds. Acquired parcels that intersect with these HMAs would be managed in accordance with the applicable RMPs. The increased acreage and continuity of BLM-administered lands within these HMAs would be beneficial to the BLM's ability to conduct herd management activities over a more cohesive and contiguous landscape. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.22.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wildlife (3.23) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect habitat or influence potential occurrence of non-designated wildlife species, migratory birds, big game species, sensitive species, greater sage-grouse (GRSG) (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), or threatened and endangered species?<br>• After the conveyance is complete, how would a change in management conditions affect protection of special status wildlife species or GRSG and their habitat? | Reasonably foreseeable future land uses could result in varied short-term impacts to wildlife, including the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of breeding, feeding, and sheltering habitats; collisions with or crushing by construction vehicles or equipment; loss of nesting, roosting, or burrowing animals; or increased invasive species' establishment and spread. In addition, future land use activities could alter individual movement and dispersal due to noise, light pollution, human activity, and vibration. Impacts could have more intensified effects on sensitive species due to the reduced viability of sensitive species.<br>However, overall abundance and availability of suitable habitat for wildlife would not measurably change and could continue to provide cover, food, and other wildlife needs. Additionally, SITLA would manage species in compliance with State of Utah wildlife management codes and would seek input from UDWR and work cooperatively to address wildlife management issues.<br>All GRSG habitat transferred from the BLM to SITLA that falls within the state of Utah's Sage Grouse Management Area boundaries would remain protected under Utah state laws and guidelines. Although federal protections could decrease, conservation measures established in the *Utah Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse* would be employed, although requirements for GRSG conservation are not as stringent. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.23.2). | Long term, conveyance of SITLA parcels to the BLM could provide a benefit to wildlife species and habitat by creating a more contiguous ecosystem for wildlife management and increased management oversight for species. The land exchange would add protection for BLM sensitive species and migratory birds as compared to their current management on SITLA lands, due to implementation of BLM management guidance established in BLM RMPs and other relevant guidance. The conveyance of the equalization parcels (if needed for value equalization purposes) would also add habitat into BLM's management for sensitive species, in particular, habitat for the federally threatened Mojave desert tortoise. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.23.2). |

| Resource (EA section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Short-term Effects | Long-term Effects |
|---|---|---|---|
| Woodlands and Forest (3.24) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect opportunities for harvest of woodland and forest products (e.g., timber, fuel wood, posts, Christmas trees)? | Reasonably foreseeable future land uses could directly remove forest cover or potentially preclude short-term access for harvest of woodland and forest products, if implemented. Conversely, conveyance of parcels 1–5, 2S, 3S, and 5S to SITLA for potential future acquisition by Deseret Land & Livestock could allow for commercial timber activity that is not currently permitted under the Randolph management framework plan. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.24.2). | Long term, Christmas tree harvest would no longer be permitted on lands transferred to SITLA, and SITLA would not be required to manage lands per the BLM's multiple use mandate. However, most existing harvest opportunities would not be affected because both the BLM and SITLA allow for commercial and individual harvest. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.24.2). |

## BENEFICIAL AND ADVERSE EFFECTS

Both beneficial and adverse effects related to the Proposed Action are disclosed and analyzed in Chapter 3 of the EA. Table 2 provides a high-level summary of effects by type of impact for each issue considered in the EA, along with significance determination.

**Table 2. Summary of Beneficial and Adverse Impacts of Issues Analyzed in Detail**

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
|---|---|---|
| Air Quality (3.2) | • What effects would changes to reasonably foreseeable future land uses have in relation to conformance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards? | Table 3.2-4 of the EA provides average criteria and hazardous air pollutant emissions in tons per year, assuming a 30-year production life. Substantial adverse air resource impacts are not anticipated from the development of the lease parcels based on the emissions estimates and air quality analysis for similar oil and gas development in the area, and considering the location of parcels relative to population centers and Class I areas. None of the potential future emissions on parcels within the Uinta Basin Ozone Nonattainment Area [Marginal] would exceed de minimis thresholds for nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.2.2). |
| Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases (3.3) | • What effect would changes to reasonably foreseeable future land uses have on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change? | Potential GHG emissions from future actions associated with the land exchange could result in GHG emissions of 171.4 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt $CO_2e$) (100-year) over the production life of coal parcels and 4.965 Mt $CO_2e$ (100-year) over the production life of the potential oil and gas wells. For coal, this would be the equivalent to the $CO_2e$ emissions produced in 1 year by 21.6 homes. For oil and gas, it would be the equivalent to the $CO_2e$ emissions produced by driving 1.1 gas-powered passenger vehicles for 1 year. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.3.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Cultural Resources (3.4) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses result in damage or destruction of cultural resources? | Three hundred thirty-four known archaeological properties would be transferred from BLM to SITLA management. Of these, 146 are eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), 183 are not eligible for the NRHP, and five are unevaluated for NRHP eligibility. Future land use changes associated with BLM parcels, if implemented, could occur in the vicinity of these cultural resources; however, SITLA would need to comply with Utah Code 9-8-404, which requires state agencies to likewise consider the effects of their actions on NRHP-eligible properties.<br>Similarly, 105 known archaeological properties would be transferred from SITLA to BLM management. Of these, 59 are eligible for the NRHP, 38 are not eligible for the NRHP, six are unevaluated for the NRHP, and no eligibility information is available for two localities. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on NRHP-eligible historic properties. Since these legal requirements would ensure the long-term preservation of the historic properties, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.4.2). |
| Environmental Justice (3.5) | • Would the land exchange disproportionately and adversely affect communities of environmental justice concern? | Reasonably foreseeable future land uses would generate GHG and criteria emissions, increase noise and traffic, eliminate public access to these lands, and potentially increase erosion and sedimentation into surface waters from stormwater runoff during construction. Environmental justice communities could be more susceptible to these adverse impacts due to pre-existing health conditions or other factors. However, solar development could also support a long-term decrease in global GHG emissions if it replaces more traditional energy sources. Compliance with state and federal air and water quality regulations would also minimize potential adverse impacts, and changes would occur on a small proportion of the total public lands available.<br>Area economic activity during construction or operation could also benefit low-income populations. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.5.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
|---|---|---|
| Fishes and Aquatic Animals (3.6) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect fish species and habitat potentially present on or downstream of affected parcels?<br>• Would protection of special status fish species and their habitats increase or decrease for BLM and SITLA parcels? | Although no in-water work is anticipated, fish habitat present on or adjacent to BLM parcels 24, 25, and 26 could be indirectly impacted via increased erosion and potential sedimentation of adjacent fish-bearing waters, which could adversely affect designated and non-designated fish health for downstream individuals. However, these effects would cease when construction ends, and SITLA would be required to comply with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Endangered Species Act to avoid or minimize water quality and would work cooperatively with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to avoid or minimize species impacts to the extent practicable. Conveyance of the six SITLA parcels to the BLM could provide a benefit to some fish species and habitat by creating a more contiguous ecosystem for fish management and increased management oversight for sensitive fish species, as established in BLM resource management plans (RMPs) and other BLM guidance. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.6.2). |
| Floodplains (3.7) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses alter floodplain function within unmapped floodplains? | Approximately 144 total acres of 100-year Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplains would be conveyed to SITLA. Additional unmapped floodplains, based on their association to existing rivers and creeks, would be present on parcels transferred both to and from the BLM. Reasonably foreseeable changes in future land uses on three BLM parcels (23, 26, and 53) could result in changes in floodplain function or values and flood risk. Regardless of the type of development, however, pursuant to EO 11988 Section 3(d)), when properties that contain floodplains are proposed for lease, easement, right-of-way (ROW), or disposal, the BLM must reference in the conveyance that certain uses are restricted under relevant federal, state, or local floodplain regulations, which could ultimately limit disturbance to overall floodplain function. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.7.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Fuels and Fire Management (3.8) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect fire or fuels risk?<br>• How would the land exchange affect fuels and fire management responsibilities between BLM and SITLA jurisdiction? | Reasonably foreseeable future land uses could result in increased wildfire ignition potential, change fuel characteristics, or increase the loading of fine fuels from invasive weeds due to ground disturbance, which could result in faster rates of wildfire spread. Future fuels projects could cease or resume, depending on agency management decisions. However, the land exchange would not alter current interagency coordination for response and suppression efforts. Fire response would still be coordinated by a parcel's current interagency dispatch center. Additionally, the BLM would maintain access through public lands by issuing a perpetual road ROW on BLM parcels transferred to SITLA. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.8.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Geology, Mineral Resources, and Energy Production (3.9) | • What effect would the land exchange have on the net gain or loss of mineral resources within BLM and SITLA parcels?<br>• When current encumbrances are up for renewal after the land exchange is complete, how would a change in terms and management conditions (from BLM to SITLA or vice versa) affect mining claimants and energy producers?<br>• How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses alter (increase or decrease) mineral resource development or energy production? | Implementation of the land exchange would decrease potential mineral development and associated revenue on federal land and increase potential mineral development and associated revenue on SITLA lands because SITLA would gain more parcels with mineral occurrence or development potential overall. Although the land exchange could contribute to a decrease in federal mineral development potential if leases are not renewed indefinitely, the change is anticipated to be minimal due to the low number of mineral leases and limited mineral development potential on these parcels.<br>Reasonably foreseeable residential, recreational, water supply, and industrial development could reduce the acreage of lands that are available for mineral resource development. Other anticipated future energy development activities could potentially increase mineral resource development on SITLA lands; however, any future mineral and coal activities would be wholly contingent on the confirmation of commercially viable deposits within these parcels, as well as market conditions, pursuant to SITLA's laws, regulations, and policy.<br>The conveyance of parcels would not impact lease and permit holders in the short term because all parcels that are encumbered by mineral leases, mining claims, mineral material claims, permits, and geothermal leases would be conveyed with the encumbrance, and access and use of existing operations would continue under the applicable terms of the encumbrance unless a new contractual arrangement was negotiated. Upon renegotiation or future renewal, however, fees, bond amounts, and other plan or reclamation activities could be subject to change per SITLA rules or the BLM's rates, policies, and provisions. However, all lease and permit holders have been notified. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.9.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Lands Access and Realty (3.10) | • How would the land exchange affect access to public land?<br>• How would the land exchange impact water reserves and existing land use authorizations? | The land exchange would have minimal effect on land access because the changes would mostly be administrative in nature. All current encumbrances would be conveyed with the land exchange until their expiration (if applicable), which then would be subject to the respective agency's policies regarding renewal, at which point, either agency could decide not to renew. However, all lease and permit holders have been notified.<br>Following conveyance, the BLM and SITLA would manage acquired lands and ROWs in a manner consistent with their existing management and regulations. The BLM has issued itself perpetual ROWs to ensure access to public lands.<br>Public water reserves would be automatically revoked upon transfer of the land in accordance with Public Land Order (PLO) 5444, as amended by PLO 6527. The revocation would allow for future land uses (which are anticipated to consist of mineral and helium exploration) that would have otherwise been incompatible with designated public water reserve uses, but any future development would be wholly contingent on the confirmation of commercially viable deposits within these parcels, as well as market conditions, pursuant to SITLA's laws, regulations, and policy.<br>Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.10.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health (3.11) | • What effect would the land exchange have on the net gain or loss of animal unit months (AUMs) within BLM and SITLA parcels?<br>• When permits are up for renewal after the land exchange is complete, how would a change in permit terms, grazing fees, and/or management conditions (from BLM to SITLA or vice versa) affect livestock grazing permittees?<br>• What effect would the land exchange have on the transfer or exchange of ownership of existing range improvements?<br>• How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect livestock grazing via changes to water development or other range improvements or other restrictions on livestock grazing, such as fencing? | The BLM would relinquish 7,920 AUMs due to the transfer of BLM parcels to SITLA; however, the BLM would acquire 4,034 AUMs due to the receipt of SITLA parcels.<br>The land exchange would not impact grazing operations for permittees in the short term because the changes would mostly be administrative in nature. Grazing would continue where conveyed with existing encumbrances. Upon permit renewal, continuance of grazing and range improvements would be subject to Dingell Act stipulations and agency rates, policies, and provisions. As described in the Dingell Act, lessees would be "entitled to a preference to renew the lease, permit, or contract"; however, the Dingell Act also indicates that a grazing permit, lease, or contract could be cancelled or modified if the land is sold, conveyed, transferred, or leased for non-grazing purposes. Permittees that graze on BLM parcels that would be conveyed to SITLA would likely experience increased grazing fees in the long term, whereas the opposite would occur for permittees that graze on SITLA parcels that would be conveyed to the BLM.<br>Reasonably foreseeable changes to future land uses could result in removal of rangeland improvements, installation of new fencing, restrictions or adjustments of permit components such as season of use and AUMs, or cancellation of permits. This change would decrease long-term livestock grazing revenue obtained by SITLA (although this loss would be replaced by other revenue sources). For most land use categories, however, the number of AUMs potentially affected represents no more than 5% of total AUMs conveyed to SITLA. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.11.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| National Historic Trails (3.12) | • How would the land exchange impact the nature and purpose of National Historic Trail (NHT) segments that intersect or are within the viewshed of BLM or SITLA parcels? | Segments of the mapped Old Spanish Trail alignment would intersect five BLM parcels (23, 25, 33, 49, 50) with potential future land use changes associated with solar energy development and expansion of underground coal mining. If future development of these parcels occurs, there is increased potential for visual and auditory impacts to NHT users; however, the presence of any topographic or vegetative screening could help avoid or mitigate these impacts. SITLA would need to comply with Utah Code 9-8-404, which requires state agencies to likewise consider the effects of their actions on NRHP-eligible properties that potentially include segments of NHTs. Similarly, Section 106 of the NRHP requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on NRHP-eligible historic properties that could include segments of NHTs.<br>Overall, there would be a net gain in land acquired by the BLM that is within the viewshed of NHTs, which would provide an overall benefit to the management of NHTs. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.12.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Paleontology (3.13) | • How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect known paleontological localities or geologic units with potential (e.g., Potential Fossil Yield Classification Classes 3, 4, 5, and U) to contain paleontological resources?<br>• How would the land exchange affect opportunities for casual paleontological resource or petrified wood collection? | Approximately 20,011 acres of PFYC Class 3, 33,167 acres of PFYC Class 4, 1,666 acres of PFYC Class 5, and 17,248 acres of PFYC Class U, consisting of 14 locations with previously documented fossils, would be present on BLM parcels transferred to SITLA. Approximately 31,231 acres of PFYC Class 3, 55,918 acres of PFYC Class 4, 5,655 acres of PFYC Class 5, and 3,137 acres of PFYC Class U, consisting of 17 locations with previously documented fossils, would be present on SITLA parcels transferred to the BLM.<br>Any future ground-disturbing activities could cause damage to, or loss of, scientifically important fossil resources through physical impact (e.g., crushing or breaking) and could cause the erosion of fossils from exposed bedrock in areas of cleared vegetation or graded slopes. Ground disturbance could also subject fossils to long-term damage or destruction from erosion if they are not collected prior to being fully eroded. Indirectly, future ground disturbance could create improved access for the public and increased visibility, potentially resulting in unauthorized collection or destruction of paleontological resources. Conversely, scientifically important fossils that would otherwise remain buried or undiscovered and unavailable for scientific study could be revealed. Such fossils would be a beneficial effect if collected properly, curated into the collections of a repository that meets federal agency standards, and made available for scientific study and education.<br>Permitted access to areas for paleontological resources or petrified wood collection is not anticipated to change, except in instances where the parcels could be sold or exchanged to private landowners in the future. In addition, all lands conveyed to the BLM would be open for casual fossil collection.<br>Both SITLA and the BLM would consider paleontological resources prior to authorizing a proposed future action. Since paleontological resources would be protected through the implementation of federal laws, regulations, and policies, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.13.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Recreation (3.14) | • How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses or changes in management alter existing recreational access or opportunities available to the public, such as vehicle exploration, off-highway vehicle riding, hunting and shooting sports, mountain biking, equestrian, and non-motorized (backcountry, primitive, wilderness) activities?<br>• What effect would the land exchange have on existing motorized use area designations and cherry-stemmed roads? | Reasonably foreseeable future land use, if implemented, could reduce or eliminate lands available for recreation or alter the quality of recreation opportunities, such as through increases in noise or changes to the viewshed; however, impacts would be minimized due to the availability of other public lands and access roads that are contiguous with or adjacent to these parcels and which could continue to provide recreation opportunities.<br>Dispersed recreational activities would be allowed to continue for BLM parcels transferred to SITLA located in or on the management areas (ERMAs), the South Moab Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), the Upper Spanish Valley Mountain Bike Focus Area, the Fivemile Pass Recreation Area, and the Sheeprock/Tintic Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Area. Other undesignated BLM lands transferred to SITLA would continue to allow for motorized access. However, e-bike usage would no longer be permitted once parcels are conveyed to the BLM if those areas are designated for non-motorized use.<br>The BLM has issued road ROWs to itself in order to preserve access to adjacent public lands, and Emery County has applied to SITLA for numerous road ROWs to preserve motorized access after the land exchange is complete. The BLM generally supports these ROWs, including Little Wildhorse Mesa, Red Canyon, and the Devil's Racetrack ORV route.<br>SITLA and equalization parcels (if needed for value equalization purposes) that are within or near existing SRMAs (Range Creek, Desolation Canyon, San Rafael Swell, Red Cliffs) would allow for more contiguous land units to manage for desired recreation outcomes. This conveyance would allow for more comprehensive management of recreation areas and could lead to some increase in user experience within the SRMAs. Similar outcomes would occur for SITLA parcels being transferred to the BLM that are fully within designated wilderness. This consolidation would allow for more contiguous designated wilderness areas and increase opportunities for primitive recreation opportunities. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.14.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Socioeconomics (3.15) | • How would the land exchange contribute to changes in socioeconomic market and non-market conditions, including employment, government revenue, community sense of place, and ecosystem services?<br>• How would the land exchange affect economic conditions due to long-term changes in grazing levels upon permit renewal, mineral lease payments, or changes to recreation (market) or non-market values? | SITLA parcels fully within a wilderness boundary will be added to, and administered as part of, the wilderness. This consolidation would allow for more contiguous designated wilderness areas and would likely increase recreational value associated with wilderness activities once the exchange is complete. Non-use value would also increase if the well-being of individuals not planning to use or directly benefit from the parcels increases due to 1) increasing the continuity of designated wilderness areas and/or 2) increasing the level of revenue provided to SITLA's designated beneficiaries.<br>The BLM would forego mineral and grazing revenue that might otherwise have been earned from the designated land and land interest on parcels transferred to SITLA. In the short term, these losses are expected to be at least partially offset by the revenue from leases present on parcels conveyed to the BLM. In the long term, revenue to the BLM would likely decrease relative to the revenue that would be realized if the land exchange did not occur.<br>SITLA would also forego revenue that might otherwise have been earned from the designated land and land interest on parcels transferred to the BLM; however, because the BLM parcels that SITLA would receive in exchange are characterized as 1) having revenue-producing potential and 2) being located outside of special management areas, which can limit revenue-generating enterprises, SITLA-generated revenue would likely increase to a level greater than would be realized had the land exchange not occurred.<br>Under the land exchange, changes to Payments in Lieu of Taxes payments to counties would be nominal or potentially unchanged. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.15.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Soils and Farmlands (3.16) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect the structure, health, and function of soil resources?<br>• How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect the conversion of prime farmland to nonagricultural uses? | Approximately 92,000 acres of soils and 10,200 acres of prime farmland or farmland of state or local importance would be conveyed to SITLA and up to approximately 116,000 acres of soils and 275 acres of prime farmland would be conveyed to the BLM. Of this total, potential changes in future land uses could disturb soils and increase soil erosion potential. Future land actions could also affect soil productivity due to loss or mixing of organic matter or soil compaction during site preparation. Spills could also occur during construction from earth-moving and other heavy equipment. However, implementation of stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs) would help to minimize or avoid soil impacts.<br>Conversion of prime farmland could occur if future land use activities remove farmland (directly or indirectly) and replace it with nonagricultural uses. However, this conversion would be negligible compared to the remaining available Utah farmlands. Conveyance of SITLA parcels to the BLM could also provide a benefit by creating a more contiguous ecosystem for management and oversight for soil resources. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.16.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Special Designation Lands (3.17) | • How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses or changes in management affect lands designated as wilderness, lands with wilderness characteristics (LWCs), NCAs, WSRs, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), or special areas, and the resource values and characteristics associated with these special designations? | A total of approximately 12,213 acres of special designation lands would be conveyed to SITLA, and a total of up to 79,178 acres of special designation lands would be conveyed to the BLM. BLM parcels would include lands that the BLM has designated as an ACEC, LWC, or special area. Potential future uses associated with the one BLM parcel (28) located in the ACEC are anticipated to be consistent with other permitted ACEC uses. SITLA would also comply with Utah Code 9-8-404 for cultural resources protection; therefore, no change to the ACEC value is anticipated. BLM parcels in seven LWCs and one special area would be conveyed to SITLA and could permit future actions that otherwise would not be allowed and that could adversely affect these values; however, these future actions would be wholly contingent on the confirmation of commercially viable deposits within these parcels, as well as market conditions, pursuant to SITLA's laws, regulations, and policy.<br>Overall, this exchange of lands would result in a net gain within special designation lands, thus enhancing the unique values and characteristics associated with each category, resulting in a benefit to the public. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.17.2) |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Vegetation (3.18) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect the distribution or composition of vegetation resources?<br>• How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect potential introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds?<br>• How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect designated plant species (and/or habitat suitable for designated plant species)?<br>• After the conveyance is complete, how would a change in management conditions alter protection of designated plant species? | Potential changes in future land uses on 39 BLM parcels (67,453 total acres of mapped vegetation) conveyed to SITLA could result in vegetation disturbance, degradation, or complete removal or invasive species and noxious weed introduction or spread, as well as indirect effects on plant productivity associated with soil compaction, erosion, accidental spills, or fugitive dust. Impacts to any current or future threatened, endangered, and candidate or sensitive plant species could occur on BLM parcels, if present, because SITLA is not obligated to apply protective management of these plant species on state trust lands. However, these actions are not anticipated to result in measurable changes to overall abundance or distribution of vegetation communities. Additionally, UDWR and other applicable state agencies could suggest voluntary conservation measures, including mitigation, with respect to future projects and development actions on lands managed by SITLA.<br>Conveyance of SITLA and equalization parcels could provide a benefit due to the net gain of potential habitat by the BLM and increased management oversight for sensitive species, as established in BLM RMPs and other relevant guidance. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.18.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Visual Resources (3.19) | • How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect scenery and views?<br>• After the conveyance is complete, how would a change in management conditions alter protection of visual resources? | Any future land uses on parcels transferred to SITLA would not be required to meet VRM Class objectives and could result in impacts to high-quality and highly sensitive landscapes (VRI Class II, Class A scenic quality, and high sensitivity level areas), especially where more restrictive VRM Classes are currently assigned by the BLM (VRM Class II or III). Development could also attract additional attention and potentially dominate views from sensitive viewing locations.<br>Conversely, SITLA parcels to be transferred to the BLM would increase the acres under BLM management. Many of the parcels to be transferred to the BLM are located within wilderness areas or other specially designated areas, which would likely be assigned VRM Class I, to preserve the existing character of the landscape and would only allow very limited management activity. Beneficial impacts are anticipated for these parcels, especially where located within high-quality and highly sensitive landscapes, or within the viewshed of highly sensitive viewing locations. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.19.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Water Resources (3.20) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect the flow regime, water quality, or water quantity (including drinking water sources)?<br>• What effect would the land exchange have on water rights? | Approximately 265 miles of mapped surface waters would be conveyed to SITLA, and a total of approximately 501 miles of mapped surface waters (of which equalization parcels if needed for value equalization purposes would account for 6 miles) would be conveyed to the BLM. Of this total, potential changes in future land uses on 49 BLM parcels could increase erosion and sedimentation into surface waters from stormwater runoff, cause a reduction in streamflow, or potentially introduce contaminants into surface water resources through accidental spills or releases. Engineering controls (e.g., spill containment) and SWPPPs, if applied, would help minimize these impacts.<br>Protections afforded to federally managed wilderness areas, as described and defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and BLM Handbook 6340, would likely result in a benefit to watershed health on SITLA parcels.<br>The land exchange would have minimal effect on water right holders because the change would mostly be administrative in nature; however, because the BLM is limited in applying for new water rights for livestock watering (Utah Code 73-3-31), the conveyance of BLM water rights for livestock watering to SITLA could impact the BLM's ability to provide water for livestock grazing operations in the future. The BLM would also relinquish any federally reserved water rights associated with public water reserves that are revoked upon land transfer.<br>If SITLA were required to alter water rights to support any future land use changes, the agency would follow the change application process that is governed by Utah state law and implemented by the Utah Division of Water Rights.<br>Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.20.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Wetlands and Riparian Areas (3.21) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect wetland fill or dredging?<br>• How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect riparian habitat?<br>• After the conveyance is complete, how would a change in management conditions affect protection of non-jurisdictional wetland areas not covered by the CWA? | Potential changes in reasonably foreseeable future land uses on 36 BLM parcels conveyed to SITLA could result in wetland and riparian habitat loss and changes to wetland quality or result in alteration of drainage patterns, removal of vegetation, and soil disturbance in riparian areas. However, if the activity were to occur in an area with jurisdictional waters, a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) would be required for the development to proceed. CWA 404 compliance would ensure that impacts to all jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, would be avoided or properly permitted through the USACE.<br>Any non-jurisdictional waters, including wetlands and riparian areas, that may be present on BLM parcels being transferred to SITLA would not be covered by the CWA; these parcels would also no longer be subject to BLM RMP goals, objectives, and decisions for water resource protection; however, Executive Order (EO) 11990 requires that the BLM reference in the conveyance that, in the event that wetlands are identified, certain uses are restricted under the applicable federal, state, or local wetland regulations. This could help minimize potential adverse impacts to any wetlands that could be present on the parcels to be exchanged to SITLA. Utah Code would protect "natural streams" as defined by the state and would require a stream alteration permit to impact the "natural stream." Additional local ordinances or potential future state wetland protection requirements could also apply.<br>Conveyance of SITLA and equalization parcels to the BLM could provide a benefit by creating a more contiguous ecosystem and increased management oversight for wetlands and riparian areas, as established in BLM RMPs and other relevant guidance. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.21.2). |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| Wild Horses and Burros (3.22) | • How would reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect wild horse and burro herd management areas (HMAs)? | Approximately 28,781 acres (66 parcels) of SITLA lands within the Canyonlands, Sinbad, and Muddy Creek HMAs would be conveyed to the BLM. Approximately 3,265 acres of BLM-administered lands within the Range Creek and Frisco HMAs would be conveyed to SITLA (parcels 21 and 42).<br>Reasonably foreseeable land uses for parcel 21 would be livestock grazing, hunting, and wildlife habitat, which are not expected to alter existing wild horse and burro use patterns or impede herd management activities within the Range Creek HMA unless additional fencing was installed. Parcel 42 within the Frisco HMA could be evaluated for potential mining activities in the future. Mining operations, if undertaken, could result in a loss of up to 2,905 acres of habitat and forage for burros; however, this impact only represents 5% of the total acreage available within the HMA.<br>Overall, the land exchange would result in a net gain of BLM-administered lands within HMAs. The transfer of SITLA parcels to the BLM would result in an increase in available forage and habitat for the wild horses and burros in the HMAs, which would help assure the long-term sustainability of these herds. The increased acreage and continuity of BLM-administered lands within these HMAs would also be beneficial to the BLM's ability to conduct herd management activities over a more cohesive and contiguous landscape. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.22.2). |

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| Wildlife (3.23) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect habitat or influence potential occurrence of non-designated wildlife species, migratory birds, big game species, sensitive species, greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), or threatened and endangered species?<br>• After the conveyance is complete, how would a change in management conditions affect protection of special-status wildlife species or greater sage-grouse (GRSG) and its habitat? | Wildlife species and habitat present on 59 BLM parcels conveying surface rights (84,973 total acres) could be directly or indirectly impacted by reasonably foreseeable future land uses. If implemented, construction or vegetation management–related activities could result in varied impacts, including the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of habitats; collisions with or crushing by construction vehicles or equipment; loss of nesting, roosting, or burrowing animals; or increased invasive species establishment and spread. Noise, light pollution, human activity, and vibration associated with construction or operation activities could also change how wildlife uses these lands. Impacts could have more intensified effects on sensitive species due to the reduced viability of sensitive species.<br>While reasonably foreseeable actions could result in site-specific impacts, overall abundance and availability of suitable habitat for wildlife would not measurably change and could continue to provide cover, food, and other wildlife needs. SITLA would manage species in compliance with State of Utah wildlife management codes and would seek input from UDWR and work cooperatively to address wildlife management issues on SITLA lands to the extent they align with the best interest of the trust beneficiaries.<br>Mapped GRSG general and priority habitat present on 23 BLM parcels conveying surface rights to SITLA (50,858 total acres) could also potentially be directly or indirectly impacted by potential future land uses; however, all GRSG habitat transferred from the BLM to SITLA that falls within the state of Utah's Sage Grouse Management Area boundaries would remain protected under Utah state laws and guidelines. Although federal protections could decrease, conservation measures established in the *Utah Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse* would be employed, although requirements for GRSG conservation are not as stringent.<br>Conveyance of SITLA parcels to the BLM could provide a benefit to wildlife species and habitat by creating a more contiguous ecosystem for wildlife management and added protection for BLM sensitive species and migratory birds as compared to their current management on SITLA lands, due to implementation of BLM management guidance and memoranda |

| Resource (EA Section) | Issue Analyzed in Detail | Impact Summary (both beneficial and adverse) and Significance Conclusions |
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| | | of understanding. The conveyance of the equalization parcels (if needed for value equalization purposes) would also add habitat into the BLM's management for sensitive species, in particular, habitat for the federally threatened Mojave desert tortoise. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.23.2). |
| Woodlands and Forest (3.24) | • How would development associated with reasonably foreseeable future land uses affect opportunities for harvest of woodland and forest products (e.g., timber, fuel wood, posts, and Christmas trees)? | Approximately 17,831 acres of mapped woodland and forest cover would be conveyed to SITLA and approximately 13,249 acres of mapped woodland and forest cover would be conveyed to the BLM. Of this total, potential changes in future land uses on 37 BLM parcels (15,704 total acres of mapped forest cover) could directly remove forest cover or potentially preclude access for harvest of woodland and forest products, if implemented. Conversely, conveyance of parcels 1–5, 2S, 3S, and 5S to SITLA could allow for commercial timber activity that is not currently permitted under the Randolph management framework plan.<br>Christmas tree harvest would no longer be permitted on lands transferred to SITLA, and SITLA would not be required to manage lands per the BLM's multiple use mandate. However, most existing harvest opportunities would not be affected because both the BLM and SITLA allow for commercial and individual harvest. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur (see EA Section 3.24.2). |

## EFFECTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

In the EA, public health and safety–related effects are described and analyzed in air quality (Section 3.2), climate change (Section 3.3) floodplains (Section 3.7), fire and fuels management (Section 3.8), and water resources (Section 3.20). There are no known waste (hazardous or solid) issues located on exchange parcels. A comprehensive Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of all exchange parcels would be conducted, in accordance with ASTM International standards, in order to comply with Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Section 120(h) and BLM policy. All BLM lands that would be conveyed to SITLA would include the federal notice requirements, as detailed in 40 CFR 373, if hazardous substances were stored for 1 year or more or are known to have been released or disposed of on-site.

Reasonably foreseeable future land uses would generate criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. However, substantial air resource impacts are not anticipated, based on emissions estimates (see Section 3.2.3 in the EA). Additionally, regulatory agencies would require various measures for oil and gas well permits to reduce air emissions under any alternative. Coal combustion facilities are subject to local, state, and federal air quality regulations and emissions restrictions required in air quality permits, which are intended to prevent adverse impacts. Any future activities on BLM parcels to be conveyed to SITLA would be subject to air quality regulation by the Utah Division of Air Quality. State air quality permit rule requirements are also identified in Utah Administrative Code R307-504-511.

Potential future construction and operation activities on BLM parcels with mapped surface waters could increase erosion and sedimentation into surface waters from stormwater runoff, cause a reduction in streamflow, or potentially introduce contaminants into surface water resources through accidental spills or releases. Reasonably foreseeable future land use changes on BLM parcels could also result in changes in floodplain function or values and flood risk. Engineering controls (e.g., spill containment) and stormwater pollution prevention plans, if applied, would help minimize these impacts. Additionally, pursuant to Executive Order 11988, Section 3(d)), when properties that contain floodplains are proposed for lease, easement, right-of-way, or disposal to non-federal ownership, the BLM must reference in the conveyance that certain uses are restricted under relevant federal, state, or local floodplain regulations, and the BLM must also attach other appropriate restrictions to the uses of properties, except where prohibited by law.

Changes in land use and management have the potential to impact the fire environment; however, the land exchange would not alter current interagency coordination for response and suppression efforts. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not result in significant public health and safety–related effects.

## EFFECTS THAT WOULD VIOLATE FEDERAL, STATE, TRIBAL, OR LOCAL LAWS PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

No federal, state, local or Tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment would be violated as a result of implementation of the Dingell Act—Emery County Land Exchange. The Proposed Action is compliant with Section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 United States Code 1716) and other applicable law. The public

was given the opportunity to participate in the land exchange and environmental analysis process during

- a 45-day public comment period for the notice of exchange proposal from November 18, 2021, to January 1, 2022;
- a 30-day public scoping period from July 13, 2022, to August 12, 2022; and
- a 30-day Draft EA public review and comment period from May 25, 2023, to June 24, 2023.

**National Historic Preservation Act**

The Proposed Action would be in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (for details, see EA Section 3.4). The BLM conducted a literature review of the exchange parcels to identify all previously documented cultural resources. The literature review identified 428 previously recorded cultural resource sites within BLM and SITLA parcels and 11 sites within the equalization parcels. Of the 439 documented sites, 205 are considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (i.e. historic properties).

In consultation with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the BLM determined that this undertaking would have "no adverse effect" to historic properties. The BLM and the SHPO recognized that the future management of the exchange parcels will be subject to the State of Utah's Annotated Code 9-8-404, which serves as an equivalent to Section 106 for state lands and future actions approved by the state on these lands. Furthermore, the state must comply with the Governor's Executive Order EO/2014/005: Executive Agency Consultation with Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes, which will require Tribal consultation when a proposed state action may impact Tribal cultural practices, Tribal lands, Tribal resources, or access to traditional areas of Tribal cultural or religious importance. Therefore, this undertaking will not result in significant effects as there are adequate and legally enforceable restrictions to ensure long-term preservation of the historic properties' significance in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(2)(vii).

Impacts on Native American traditional cultural and religious concerns have also been addressed through Tribal consultation (see EA Sections 1.6 and 4.1). In November 2021, the BLM mailed notification letters to Tribal governments within Utah and the surrounding region. In September 2022, the BLM sent follow-up project notification letters and letters inviting Tribes to participate as cooperating agencies for the EA. From this second letter, the Southern Ute Tribe responded with a letter on October 24, 2022. In this letter, the Southern Ute Tribe requested additional information on the proposed undertaking to evaluate potential impacts on properties of religious or cultural significance to the Tribe. The BLM responded by email on October 25, 2022, by sending a copy of the literature review to Tribal leaders along with an explanation of the BLM's proposed finding of effect under Section 106 of the NHPA. The BLM followed up by email on November 15, 2022, but did not receive a response. Currently, consultation is ongoing.

**Endangered Species Act**

The Proposed Action would be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (see EA Sections 3.18 and 3.23). The analysis in the EA indicates that potential suitable habitat is present on BLM parcels for seven listed, proposed, or candidate wildlife species (California condor,

North American wolverine, Mexican spotted owl, yellow-billed cuckoo, monarch butterfly, Canada lynx, and Utah prairie dog) and six plant species (Jones cycladenia, Last Chance Townsendia, Navajo sedge, San Rafael cactus, Ute ladies'-tresses, and Wright fishhook cactus). Potential suitable habitat is present on SITLA parcels for 12 listed, proposed, or candidate fish and wildlife species (California condor, Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker, monarch butterfly, Canada lynx, Utah prairie dog, and desert tortoise) and eight plant species (Barneby reed-mustard, Jones cycladenia, Last Chance Townsendia, Navajo sedge, San Rafael cactus, Ute ladies'-tresses, Winkler cactus, and Wright fishhook cactus).

Any future construction or vegetation management–related activities on BLM parcels could result in varied impacts to federally listed species, including the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of habitats; injury or death of individual animals; or changes to how federally listed species use these lands. However, SITLA would be required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to comply with the ESA, which establishes protections to reduce or avoid adverse impacts.

No designated critical habitat would be conveyed to SITLA, per the Dingell Act, which mandates that

> *The Secretary shall exclude from any conveyance of a parcel of Federal land under paragraph (1) any Federal land that contains critical habitat designated for a species listed as an endangered species or a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).*

Species and critical habitat protections on SITLA or equalization parcels would remain the same or potentially increase through the establishment of a more contiguous ecosystem for wildlife management and increased management oversight for species, as established in BLM resource management plans and other relevant guidance. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not result in significant effects to listed, proposed, or candidate plant and wildlife species.

## Conclusion

On the basis of the information contained in the EA (DOI-BLM-UT-0000-2022-0003-EA) and all other information available to me at this time, it is my determination that 1) individually, each of the resources analyzed in the EA do not rise to the level of significance requiring preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS); and 2) when considered collectively, the resources analyzed in the EA also do not rise to the level of significance requiring preparation of an EIS. This determination is based on the findings discussed above, in criteria 1–4, as well as the analysis provided in the EA. The EA and FONSI consider the degree of effects in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.3(b) and demonstrate that the Proposed Action would result in both short-term and long-term beneficial and adverse effects, including effects on public health and safety, and would not violate federal, state, Tribal, or local laws protecting the environment. Based on the analysis presented in the EA and summary of those effects above, therefore, no significant effects would occur.

**Approval**

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**Greg Sheehan, Utah State Director**