

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District
Burley Field Office
15 East 200 South
Burley, ID 83318

Finding of No Significant Impact

**Stone Mountain Quarries, Inc. / Charcoal Quarry
NEPA No. ID-220-2007-EA-3573**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

I have determined that the proposed action, as described in the EA will not have any significant impact, individually or cumulatively, on the quality of the human environment. Because there would not be any significant impact, an environmental impact statement is not required. The disclosure of effects in the EA found the actions are limited in context. The project area is limited in size and the activities are limited in potential. Effects are local in nature and are not likely to significantly affect local, regional, or national resources.

In making this determination, I considered the following factors:

1. The activities described in the proposed action do not include any significant beneficial or adverse impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)). The EA includes a description of the expected environmental consequences of the proposed quarrying activities.
2. The activities included in the proposed action would not significantly affect public health or safety (40CFR 1508.27(b)(2)). Similar quarrying activities in the area (Middle Mountain) have not significantly affected public health or safety.
3. The proposed activities would not significantly affect any unique characteristics (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)) of the geographic area such as prime and unique farmlands, caves, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or areas of critical concern. The project area for the proposed quarrying activities does not contain any of the unique characteristics listed.
4. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects on the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)). Many similar stone quarries have operated in the Middle Mountain area for many years and the effects of those operations, though not significant, are well understood.
5. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)). Similar Mining Plans of

Operations, previously approved by the BLM, have not resulted in effects that are highly uncertain or have involved unique or unknown risks.

6. My decision to implement these activities does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)). Each Plan of Operations submitted to this office is individually analyzed for conformance with existing Land Use Plans and individually assessed for environmental impacts.

7. The effects of the proposed Oakley Stone quarrying activities would not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the effects of other actions (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)). The EA discloses that there are no other connected or cumulative actions that would cause significant cumulative impacts. Section 2.1.5 in the EA addresses BLM requirements upon approval that would mitigate: 1) impacts to sensitive/migratory birds; 2) impacts to cultural, historical, or archaeological resource or vertebrate paleontological resources if identified in the project area; and 3) infestation of non-native invasive noxious weeds in the project area.

8. I have determined that the activities described in the proposed action will not adversely affect or cause loss or destruction of scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)). Cultural resource surveys have been completed. There are no known Cultural Resources within the project area. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Concurrence was signed by the SHPO officer on November 20, 2007 and is included in Appendix D in the EA.

9. The proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)). Appendix A in the EA contains a table that shows the listed BLM sensitive, federally protected and state sensitive species potentially present within the general proposed project area.

10. The proposed activities will not threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).

APPROVED:

/s/Michael Courtney

July 16, 2008

Michael Courtney
Acting Field Office Manager
Burley Field Office

Date