

Fishtrap Loop Trail

Finding of No Significant Impact

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Spokane District
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Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon review of the environmental assessment (EA), I have determined that the Fishtrap Loop Trail project will not have a significant effect, individually or cumulatively, on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required. The environmental effects of the proposed project are analyzed and described in the EA. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance as defined by the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; see 40 CFR 1508.27).

In making this finding, I considered both the context and intensity of the environmental effect, as described below.

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

Designating, constructing, and maintain a loop trail will increase visitor use and enjoyment of the area. Constructing the trail will result in some compaction and displacement of soils along with the removal of vegetation on an estimated 5 acres. Recreational use of the trail may have some minor impacts to wildlife species using the area. Impacts are disclosed in Chapter 3 of the Environmental Assessment (EA).

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

The activities included in the proposed action would not significantly affect public health or safety. All herbicide applications will comply with label restrictions and will only be applied by a certified applicator; these design features will minimize impacts to public health.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.



An intensive on-the-ground cultural resource inventory was conducted for the proposed trail route. Cultural resources will be avoided during construction and maintenance activities. Design features have been incorporated into the project to minimize impacts to wetlands. The project area does not contain any park lands, prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. See Tables 4 and 5 in Chapter 3 of the EA.

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

The effects of trail construction and maintenance are well understood and are not likely to be highly controversial. Coordination with potentially affected interests, including the grazing lessee, Society for Historic Preservation Office, Colville and Spokane Tribes, did not identify any controversy.

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

The effects of establishing the proposed trail are not highly uncertain or unique. Constructing a trail as described in the proposed action does not involve unknown risks. The EA identified potential benefits that would be realized by BLM's construction and management of public access across BLM lands for recreational purposes.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

Construction of the trail system in the Fishtrap Recreation Area will not establish any precedent for future actions with significant effects.

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

As described in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Effects of Alternatives) of the EA, the Fishtrap Loop Trail will result in some direct and indirect impacts related to construction and recreational uses. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions such as road maintenance; recreational pursuits; agricultural use, and livestock grazing were considered. Maintenance and public use of a trail may temporarily disturb wildlife in the project area, but would help meet the demand for non-motorized recreational opportunities. There is no potential for cumulatively significant adverse impacts when the impacts of the proposed trail are added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

An intensive on-the-ground cultural resource inventory was conducted for the proposed trail route. There are no known historic properties in the area of potential effect and therefore no anticipated adverse effects to properties eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat that has been determined under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

As described in the EA, the proposed loop trail will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat.

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

The proposed action is consistent and compatible with Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. Monitoring will be performed in accordance with applicable requirements.

Signature

/s/ Lindsey Babcock

07-14-2015

Lindsey Babcock
Field Manager

Date