



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Gore Canyon Whitewater Park at Pumphouse
DOI-BLM-LLCONO2000-2014-020**

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

BACKGROUND

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the BLM to analyze granting of a Right of Way to provide access to Grand County to construct a whitewater park and indirectly protect stream flows on the Upper Colorado River in Grand County. The project is intended to provide a reasonable recreational experience as allowed by Colorado law; and in doing so: 1). Implement an important part of the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA) among Denver Water and over thirty west slope entities that provides for the development of a Recreational In-Channel Diversion (RICD) below Gore Canyon; and 2). Provide permanent protection for flows in support of the Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORV) for Recreational Float boating in the Upper Colorado River as part of the BLM Resource Management Plan in support of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Stakeholders Group Alternative Management Plan. The BLM’s eligibility determination for this segment of the Colorado River included scenic, recreational (fishing, float boating, and scenic driving), geological, wildlife, and historic ORVs.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: 1) the implementation of the Proposed Action will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the “Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan,” (1984/1999); (2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Resource Management Plan; and (3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major Federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA.

/s/ Stephanie Odell

8/15/14

Stephanie Odell
Field Manager, BLM Kremmling Field Office

Date



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE



DECISION RECORD

Gore Canyon Whitewater Park at Pumphouse
DOI-BLM-LLCONO2000-2014-020

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA. This decision is contingent on meeting all monitoring requirements listed below.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Scoping was the primary mechanism used by the BLM to initially identify issues. Internal and external scoping were initiated in January of 2014 (see EA Chapter 1.5). Press releases and articles were also printed the local newspapers in February of 2014. More than 20 comments were received mostly in support of the proposed project (see Appendix 6: Scoping Comments).

RATIONALE: Analysis of the Proposed Action has demonstrated that there are no significant negative impacts and that it meets Colorado Standards for Public Land Health. Based on information in the EA, the project record, and consultation with my staff, I have decided to approve for implementation the Proposed Action as described in the EA. The proposed action to authorize the Right Of Way to construct a whitewater park will allow a reasonable recreation experience as allowed by Colorado law; and in doing so: 1). Implement an important part of the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA) among Denver Water and over thirty west slope entities that provides for the development of a Recreational In-Channel Diversion (RICD) below Gore Canyon; and 2). Provide permanent protection for flows in support of the Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORV) for Recreational Float boating in the Upper Colorado River as part of the BLM Resource Management Plan in support of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Stakeholders Group Alternative Management Plan.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: The right-of-way will be inspected and monitored periodically during terms of the grant to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant. The right-of-way will also be inspected after any maintenance activities to determine compliance with and effectiveness of reclamation measures.

NAME OF PREPARER:
Annie Sperandio

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:
Susan Valente

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

8/15/14

/s/ Stephanie Odell

DATE: _____

Stephanie Odell
Field Manager, BLM Kremmling Field Office