UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Farmington District
Farmington Field Office
6251 N College Blvd., Ste. A
Farmington, NM 87402

Finding of No Significant Impact

Excavation of Pentaceratops skull and partial skeleton from the Ah-shi-sle-pah/Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Study Area

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-FO10-2014-0071

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.

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 one excavation of Pentaceratops skulls and skeleton's from the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area and one excavation of a Pentaceratops skull from the Ah-shi-sle-pah Wilderness Study Area by Dr. Spencer Lucas and his field crew.

2. The activities included in the proposed action would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (2)).

3. The proposed activities would not significantly affect any unique characteristics of the geographic area such as such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)).

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)).

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)).

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)).

7. The effects of two separate excavations of Pentaceratops skulls and skeleton's in the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area and the Ah-shi-sle-pah Wilderness Study Area 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.

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)). The FFO archeological staff conducted

an In-House Cultural resource survey for this proposed action and they determined that no impact can be expected on significant cultural resources.

9. The proposed actions 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)).

The proposed project area provides potential foraging habitat for falcons, eagles, and hawks but does not provide nesting habitat. There are no recorded SMS raptor nest sites in the proposed action area.

10. The proposed project 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)). The proposed action is in conformance with the FFO RMP and other Statutes and Plans (p. 4).

11. BLM Resources Specialist determined that there would be no new surface disturbance at the two sites utilizing helicopter removal and transport of the jacketed excavated fossils. It was also determined that the helicopter rotor downwash and associated operation noise would be temporary and lasting approximately 1 to 2 hours. This will not require further analysis in this EA and will not be carried forward.

APPROVED:

Maureen Joe
Assistant Field Manager
Farmington Field Office

11/21/14
Date