

**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**

**Jicarilla Wild Horse Management  
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-F010-2012-0272-EA**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:**

I have determined that Alternative A, the proposed action, as described in Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NM-F010 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 the proposed action, no action, and action alternatives on wild horses, soil resources, upland vegetation, riparian areas, non-native invasive and noxious species, wildlife, special status species, cultural resources and Native American concerns, livestock grazing, recreation, and human health and safety.
2. The activities included in the proposed action would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)). Public observation sites will be established in locations that reduce safety risks to the public, such as those that avoid helicopter-related debris, crash landing areas, or the path of the horses. These observation areas must limit risks to the wild horses, which will be helped by ensuring observers will not be in the line of vision of horses being moved to the gather site, as well as reduce risks to contractors and BLM employees by allowing them to remain focused on the gather operations and the health and well-being of the wild horses. Visitor protocol and ground rules for public observation will be established to provide the public with the opportunity to safely observe the gather operations.
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. Neither the project area, nor the analysis area, contain such unique characteristics.
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)). While the action alternatives are controversial, the analysis did not identify any scientific controversy or disagreement concerning effects on the quality of the human environment.
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)). Wild horse gathers have been conducted for the Jicarilla Wild Horse Herd since 1977. Helicopter use is the primary method the BLM uses to gather horses through the West.

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)). The proposed action represents a continuum of actions associated with wild horse management. Gathers have occurred periodically in the past and will continue periodically in the future.

7. The effects of the proposed action 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 placement of all temporary corrals, affiliated facilities, and parking areas will avoid cultural resources to prevent adverse effects to any properties potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. The Proposed action will decrease the potential for soil erosion due to impacts to soil and vegetation resources. This decrease in erosion reduces the potential for the exposure of cultural resources and the loss and movement of those artifacts. The Proposed action is not known to physically threaten any TCPs, prevent access to sacred sites, prevent the possession of sacred objects, or interfere or otherwise hinder the performance of traditional ceremonies and rituals pursuant to AIRFA or EO 13007. There are currently no known remains that fall within the purview of NAGPRA or ARPA.

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)). No federally or state listed threatened or endangered species habitat, exists on or near the 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)). Section 1.5 of the EA discusses the relationship of the proposed action with statutes, regulations, and other plans.

**APPROVED:**

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Gary Torres  
Field Manager  
Farmington Field Office

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Date