

**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**

**Visual Resource Management  
Resource Management Plan Amendment  
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-FO-2013-0047-EA**

**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 designating Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes and providing mitigation measures primarily for mineral extraction activities.
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 (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 Farmington Field Office does not contain prime and unique farmlands, caves, or wild and scenic rivers. Designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, and areas of critical environmental concern were assigned VRM Classes that protect appropriate wilderness or relevant and important values.
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 the designation of VRM Classes and associated mitigation measures 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)). Nearly all (95%) of Cultural ACECs would be managed to retain their existing visual character under a VRM I or II designation. Only 5% of Cultural ACECs would be managed to partially retain their existing visual character under a VRM III designation. No Cultural ACECs would be managed as VRM IV, which would allow for major modification of the existing character of the landscape (EA at 31).

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)). The EA does not propose any changes to existing management for endangered or threatened species. Proposed projects will continue to comply with all Federal regulations for these species.

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:**

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Gary Torres  
Field Manager  
Farmington Field Office

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Date