Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area
Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2010-149-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

I have determined that the BLM Preferred Alternative (Alternative A), as described in the Environmental Assessment (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. The NEPA handbook (p. 83) indicates that the FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) must succinctly state the reasons for deciding that the action will have no significant environmental effects. It also recommends that the FONSI address the relevant context and intensity factors.

In making this determination, I considered the following factors:

1. The activities described in the BLM Preferred Alternative (Alternative A) 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.

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 or wilderness study areas.

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 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)).

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)).

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)). Page 15 of the EA describes the conformance with land use plans and relationships to statutes, regulations, or other plans.

APPROVED:

Jesse Juen
State Director

8/21/13
Date