

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
and
Proposed Decision Record**

DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2011-57-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

After studying the potential impacts of the proposed action as described in the Candidate Conservation Agreement Environmental Assessment I do not anticipate any significant impacts on the quality of the human environment. I base my finding of no significant impacts on the factors related to context and intensity of impacts as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) at 40 CFR, parts 1500-1508. I have determined that this action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Specifically, although effects to soils; vegetation; wildlife; listed, proposed, or candidate species; and Land use and Ownership are identified in the EA, all are beneficial. I conclude that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

/s/ Douglas J. Burger
Douglas J. Burger
Pecos District Manager

12/20/2010
Date

PROPOSED DECISION

It is my decision to approve the Candidate Conservation Agreement Environmental Assessment as described in the proposed action and execute the procedure for issuing certificates of participation. The measures identified in the attached EA along with specific project design features relative to protecting lesser prairie-chicken and sand dune lizard habitat on public lands will be formulated into the certificates of participation. This decision incorporates, by reference, those measures identified in the attached Environmental Assessment.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

Approval of the Proposed Action offers the widest range of opportunities to protect the habitats of the lesser prairie-chicken and sand dune lizard while involving the individuals businesses who would be most affected if either species were listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The proposed action will involve the approval and implementation of the Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CEHMM), and Participating Cooperators to address the conservation needs of the LPC and SDL in southeastern New Mexico.

The ultimate goal of the conservation agreement will be to facilitate conservation of habitat for the lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) and sand dune lizard (SDL) in southeastern New Mexico. Conservation measures that benefit the LPC will include, but not be limited to, improving habitat and increasing populations by coordinating vegetation treatments with ongoing activities, decreasing habitat fragmentation, propagating and releasing and/or translocating individuals, and conducting research conducive to adaptive management of the LPC. Measures that benefit the SDL will include, but not be limited to, maintaining existing habitat, preventing further habitat fragmentation, and conducting research conducive to adaptive management of the SDL.

The proposed action is in conformance with the 1997 Roswell Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the 2008 Special Status Species RMP Amendment.

If you wish to protest this proposed decision, you are allowed 15 days from receipt of this notice within which to file a protest with the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2909 West 2nd, Roswell, NM 88201. This protest should specify, clearly and concisely, why you think the proposed action is in error.

If a protest is filed within the time allowed, the protest statement of reasons and other pertinent information will be considered and a final decision will be issued with the right to appeal (43 CFR 4.21 and 4.410).

If you wish to appeal this decision, you are allowed 30 days from receipt of this notice within which to file an appeal for the purpose of a hearing before the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and to petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on the appeal (43 CFR 4.21 and 4.410). If a petition for stay is not requested and granted, the decision will be put into effect following the 30-day appeal period. The appeal and petition for stay should be filed with the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2909 West 2nd, Roswell, NM 88201. The appeal should specify, clearly and concisely, why you think the decision is in error. The petition for stay should specify how you will be harmed if the stay is not granted.