

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Teddy Creek Forest Management

DOI-BLM-WY-030-EA15-59



BLM

Rawlins Field Office



The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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Introduction

Based on the analysis of potential environmental effects contained in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-WY-030-EA15-59), and conforms with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office (RFO) Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), approved December 24, 2008. I have determined that effects are not expected to be significant and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. The Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action with significant effects on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a supplement to the existing EIS is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council of Environmental Quality's criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of impacts described in the EA and supporting documents.

Context

The project area is located 6 miles West of Encampment, Wyoming, and North of State Highway 70 (Battle Creek Highway), Township 14N Range 84W Sections 6, 7, 17, 18 and Township 14N Range 85W Sections 1, 2, 11, 12 (see EA). The proposed project, consisting of 685 acres, lies entirely within Carbon County, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office (RFO), boundary. The specific project area is North of Green Mountain and East of Vulcan Mountain, in the Sierra Madres.

The Rawlins Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to treat approximately 685 acres of forest vegetation within the Upper North Platte watershed. The proposed action currently includes forest management treatments for removal of forest products materials through sanitation/salvage actions, pre-commercial thinning, prescribed burning and mechanical treatments as defined during the analysis. The access will use existing roads and re-open temporarily closed roads, with a maximum of one mile of temporary road development.

Intensity

The following discussion is organized around the 10 Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1509.27(b) (I-10), and were used to evaluate the intensity of the effects described in the EA. The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial.

There would be no significant effects as a result of approving the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would result in both beneficial and adverse impacts to resources.

- 2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.**
Public health and safety would not be adversely affected as a result of selecting the Proposed Action. The proposed action would reduce hazard trees in the area and the wildfire hazard associated with high fuel loading, contiguous fuel arrangement, and stand density this would benefit public health and safety in the project area.
- 3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.**
Neither the Rawlins Resource Management Plan review nor interdisciplinary review found any new unique characteristics in the geographical area which would be adversely affected.
- 4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.**
Interdisciplinary review found no indication of effects on the quality of the human environment that would likely be highly controversial
- 5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.**
The effects of forest management practices as described in the Proposed Action are well known. There would not be a high degree of uncertainty of the effects nor any new unique or unknown risks as a result of the Proposed Action.
- 6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.**
The Proposed Action would not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects and would not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.
- 7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.**
The Proposed Action is not related to other actions resulting in cumulatively significant impact.
- 8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.**
There would be no adverse effects to resources with scientific, cultural, or historic value as a result of the Proposed Action.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

There would be no significant effects to threatened or endangered species or their habitats as a result of the Proposed Action. The implementation of timing restrictions during construction activities would minimize or prevent adverse effects to threatened or endangered species and their habitat.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, Tribal, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

The Project does not violate any known federal, state, local, or tribal law requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. In addition, the project is consistent and in compliance with the BLM, RFO RMP.



Dennis J. Carpenter
Field Manager, RFO

MAR 02 2015

Date