

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

For

SMITH MOUNTAIN PRESCRIBED BURN

DOI-BLM-WY-030-2014-0066-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental effects contained in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office (RFO) has determined that effects are not expected to be significant and that an environmental impact statement is not required. The proposed action will not result in any effects which will have sufficient context and intensity, as defined in section 7.3 of the BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Handbook (Manual H-1790-1; Page 70), to be considered significant.

The considerations listed in 40 CFR 1509.27(b) (1-10) were used to evaluate the intensity of the environmental effects described in the EA:

1. There would not be an offset of potential significant adverse effects as a result of beneficial effects by approving the proposed action.
2. Neither the RFO Resource Management Plan (RMP) review nor interdisciplinary review found unique characteristics in the geographic area which would be adversely affected by prescribed burns or management of unplanned ignitions within the Smith Mountain Prescribed Burn project area.
3. The effects of fire in the ecosystems found within the Smith Mountain project area are well known. There would not be high uncertainty of the effects, nor any unique or unknown risks.
4. There would be no effects to resources with scientific, cultural, or historic value, as they have been cleared and will be completely avoided or described mitigation actions implemented.
5. There would be no effect to habitat for threatened or endangered species. Identified timing restrictions would minimize or prevent adverse effects to other wildlife species and their habitat.
6. Approving either the Proposed Action or the No Action alternative would not violate any federal, state, or local laws or regulations imposed for the protection of the environment.
7. There would be no effect that is likely to be highly controversial by approving the Proposed Action. Unplanned ignitions would be managed for resource benefit so long as

there are no anticipated containment issues, threatened structures, and the BLM is at a National Preparedness Level that supports this activity. Wildland Fire Use: in accordance with the RFO RMP as found in Ch 2.3.3 Fire and Fuels Management pages 2-14, 15; in addition to the High Desert District Fire Management Plan as found in Chapter 3.1.1, page 8.

8. There would be no establishment of precedence for future actions with significant impacts by approving the Proposed Action.
9. To the BLM's knowledge there are no other actions related to the Proposed Action with cumulatively significant impacts in the Proposed Project Area.
10. Health and safety would not be adversely affected. Solid wastes would be disposed of properly; while air and water quality would not be adversely affected (monitoring would continue and would identify if any standards are exceeded.)

Authorized Official: _____


Rawlins Field Manager

Date: _____

4/3/14