FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Richardson Flat Tailings Site, Park City, Summit County, Utah

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has determined no additional response and restoration activities are necessary at the Richardson Flat Tailings Site (Site). The Service anticipates that on-Site resources will recover over time through enhanced habitat availability due to restoration projects already completed and natural attenuation. Biological and chemical characteristics of the site will continue to be monitored and reported to the Service to ensure habitat resources recover at the rate and to the degree anticipated.

The Service issued a scoping notice for public comment on November 6, 2012, and issued a draft EA for 30-day public review on the web at http://www.fws.gov/utahfieldoffice/ and http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/ and in two Utah newspapers, the Salt Lake Tribune and Park Record. A final EA was issued by the Service on February 8, 2013. The final EA responds to the public comments we received on the draft. The final EA is available by request from the Utah Ecological Services Field Office by contacting Larry Crist at 801-975-3330.

The EA analyzed No Action (i.e., the preferred action) and two action alternatives:

- On-Site wetland enhancement and construction of additional wetlands that would restore, enhance, or create valuable natural resources, including perennial and seasonal wetlands. The purpose of this alternative is to increase the quantity and quality of on-Site habitats, primarily wetland habitats and services.
- Wetland enhancement and construction of public recreational facilities at the Site that would enhance pre-existing wetland services and increase public recreational activities, respectively.

The No Action proposal was selected over the other alternatives because a habitat equivalency analysis conducted by the Service for Richardson Flat Tailings Site determined that no additional restoration projects are necessary to restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resources (DOI 2012). Restoration activities, which were completed previously by United Park City Mines Company with oversight from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and natural recovery are expected to return services at the Site to levels above their assumed baseline values (i.e., the natural conditions prior to tailings contamination).

Implementation of the agency's proposal will have no significant environmental, social, and economic impacts since it is the "No Action" alternative.

The proposal is not expected to have any significant adverse effects on wetlands and floodplains, pursuant to Executive Orders 11990 and 11988, or the human environment because no additional response and restoration activities are being proposed beyond those completed previously on-Site through other regulatory oversight.

The proposal has been coordinated with all interested and/or affected parties. Parties contacted include:

- Utah State Historical Preservation Office
- Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation
- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians
- Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Nation of Utah
- Uintah and Ouray Tribes
- United Park City Mines Company

Therefore, it is my determination that the proposal does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment under the meaning of section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (as amended). As such, an environmental impact statement is not required. An environmental assessment has been prepared in support of this finding and is available upon request to the Service facility identified in the Environmental Assessment.

References:

RMC, Inc. 2013. Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Richardson Flat Tailings Site, Park City, Summit County, Utah. Prepared for U.S. Department of Interior – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

U.S. Department of Interior (DOI). 2012. Habitat Equivalency Analysis, Richardson Flat Tailings Site.

I concur with the terms, provisions and findings of this Environmental Assessment and its Findings of No Significant Impact.

Noreen Walsh, Regional Director, USFWS Region 6
DOI Authorized Official

3·6·13
Date