

## **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

### *Adoption of the March 31, 2014 U.S. Forest Service Environmental Assessment: Swan River Stream Restoration*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared this document in accordance with the procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act as it applies to the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts (50 Stat. 916; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 669 et. seq. and 64 Stat. 430; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 777 et. seq.).

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has submitted a grant application entitled *Swan River Restoration – Summit County*, to the Service's Region 6 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) for review and approval and will receive federal grant funds through the Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program. The project will be taking place partly on U. S. Forest Service (USFS) land and, therefore, the USFS prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine the impacts that the work will have on 3,500 linear feet of the Swan River. Consequently, the USFS issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in May 2014.

The Service's approval of the grant application by CPW constitutes a Federal action subject to the requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA). The Service is adopting the USFS EA to meet the NEPA compliance requirement for the grant and to reduce duplication and paperwork.

The proposed action would include a variety of project elements including: 1) stream, riparian and upland restoration activities; 2) road projects including decommissioning, expansion of an existing parking lot, and creation of a new road and trail; 3) fish barrier construction; and 4) a hiking trail near the Swan River. All project elements are within a mixed ownership of private, county, town, and USFS lands. Stream and riparian restoration as well as new trail construction on private lands would be within public access easements granted to the USFS.

The USFS considered Proposed Action and No Action alternatives; each action is summarized starting on page 3 of the EA. While there were other actions considered, they were eventually eliminated from further analysis due to a variety of reasons including: 1) there would be unacceptable visual impacts from building a parallel route; 2) there would be no way of determining if proper snow conditions for snow-mobile use could be maintained in the spring; 3) construction of the route would impact steep slopes and small gullies with potential unstable soils; and 4) tree removal would have led to adverse impacts to lynx habitat. It was determined that the proposed action was the preferred alternative.

Public involvement included outreach to state and local governments and private entities. The collaboration between these organizations lasted three years. A 30-day public comment period was provided in January 2014. During that time, four letters were received. Two of the letters were in support of the project and listed minor concerns. The other two letters addressed issues that were beyond the scope of the project.

Based on review of the final USFS EA, I have determined that the proposed action is not a major Federal action which would significantly impact the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. I also find that all reasonable alternatives were considered in the evaluation of this project, and that this project complies with the intent of Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management," Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands," and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Consequently, I have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The EA is on file in the Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado, 80228, and is available upon request. It is also available online at <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/wsfr/nepa.php>.

APPROVAL:



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Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6

6-10-16

Date

References:

Final Environmental Assessment, Swan River Stream Restoration. United States Forest Service. March 2014.

Fitzwilliams, Scott. Decision Notice & Finding of No Significant Impact. May 2014.