

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

*Adoption of*

*U.S. Bureau of Land Management Environmental Assessment for  
Managing Wildland Fire for Resource Benefit  
DOI-BLM-CO-SO80 -2017-0025-EA*

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 Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act as amended (50 Stat. 917, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 669 et seq.).

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has submitted a grant amendment to the grant entitled *Colorado West Slope Mule Deer Strategy – Logan Mountain/Roan Creek Landscape Improvements & State Highway 9 Monitoring* to the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) for review and approval to receive federal grant funds through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (PR) Grant Program. The Service's decision to approve the proposed grant amendment constitutes a Federal action subject to the requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for preparation of an Environmental Assessment. To meet NEPA requirements, the Service is adopting the *U.S. Bureau of Land Management Environmental Assessment for Managing Wildland Fire for Resource Benefit* (EA) which covers the area and actions proposed in the CPW grant amendment.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is written to cover landscape scale management actions caused by naturally ignited wildland fires on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to allow the BLM to manage unplanned ignitions in a way that uses fire suppression techniques and the use of fire to protect life, property, and natural resources. More specifically, the Post-fire Rehabilitation Strategy WEED-87 calls for a determination whether revegetation is necessary to speed recovery of a native plant community soon after a fire or whether desirable plants will recover naturally in the burned area. CPW has partnered with BLM for this segment of the project and has determined that reseeded in the project area is necessary to improve vegetation recovery in big game and greater sage-grouse habitats. WSFR's approval of the grant amendment will allow CPW to use PR grant funds for this purpose.

The BLM posted the EA for a 30-day public comment period. No public comments were received during that time. After the public comment period, the BLM issued a Decision Record (DR) and FONSI for the EA on August 23, 2017. The Service is adopting the BLM EA and subsequent documents to meet NEPA compliance requirements for the grant amendment and to reduce duplication and paperwork.

Based on review of the BLM EA, DR and FONSI, 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 the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management" and Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands." Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the project will have no effect on any listed species or critical habitat. Consequently, I have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The EA is on file at the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado, 80228, and is available upon request.

APPROVAL:

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Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior Regions 5 and 7

Date