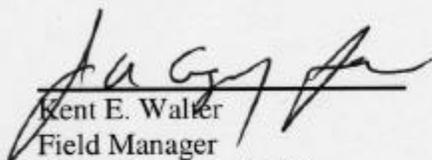


**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS (FONSI)
CO-WRFO-03-049-FONSI**

REFERENCE: Environmental Assessment Record CO-WRFO-03-049-EA, White River Fuels Reduction, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, May 15, 2003

FONSI: After considering the environmental effects described in the environmental assessment (CO-WRFO-03-049-EA), I have determined that, with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the environmental assessment, these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be prepared.


Kent E. Walker
Field Manager
White River Field Office

7-21-03
Date

This determination is based on the following:

Factors Considered	Potential Impact	Reasons the Impact is not Adversely Significant
Public Health and Safety	The proposed project will greatly improve safety for firefighters who may have to suppress wildfire in the vicinity of the high voltage powerlines. The project will also reduce the potential of wildfire damage to this powerline, which services a number of mineral development facilities in the area.	The impact is beneficial, not adverse.
Cultural Resources	The environmental assessment identifies only one potentially important cultural site (an open Native American camp site) near the proposed project area. However, the proposed project will avoid this site, as well as any other cultural resources that may be encountered.	The project will not impact cultural resources.
Sensitive Species	BLM Biologists identified a goshawk nest located near the proposed project area. The biologists will mark and monitor the site, and ensure that the project avoids impacting any nesting hawks.	The proposed action will not impact nesting goshawks.

Factors Considered	Potential Impact	Reasons the Impact is not Adversely Significant
Wildlife	BLM Biologists identified a sharp-shinned hawk nest near the proposed project area. BLM biologists will determine whether this nest is occupied prior to thinning operations, and if necessary, make provisions to avoid nest disruption	The proposed action will not impact nesting sharp-shinned hawks
Noxious Weeds	There are several species of noxious weeds found in the vicinity of the proposed project that could potentially be spread by vehicles and equipment used in the project. However, BLM range specialists have identified specific areas where noxious weed problems exist, and project equipment operators will avoid these sites. Thus, the potential for spread of noxious weeds by the proposed project will be minimal.	The potential for spread of noxious weeds by the proposed project will be minimized by mitigation measures.
Visual Resources	The proposed project will result in minor changes to the viewshed. However, these changes should blend in with the natural environment surrounding the project area. The existing detractions from the natural viewshed (the powerline, well pads, pipelines, access roads, and other mineral development facilities) render the minor modification from the proposed project insignificant.	The impact of the proposed action on visual resources will be very minor, and will be insignificant in relation to existing visual detractions that are the result of mineral developments in the area.
Noise	Noise from the proposed project will be temporary and localized. It will not adversely impact any people or resources.	The noise from the project will not adversely impact people or resources.
Air Quality	Smoke from the burning of slash piles may slightly diminish air quality for a short time period. This impact will be localized and not affect people or other resources.	This impact will not adversely affect people or resources.