
DECISION NOTICE AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

[PROJECT NAME]

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

[PROJECT LOCATION]

[ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT]

[COUNTY, STATE]

DECISION

Based upon my review of the [project name] Environmental Assessment (EA), I have decided to implement Alternative [X], which [insert description of selected alternative].

DECISION RATIONALE

[Describe the purpose and need for the proposed action and how it will be met by the selected alternative. Discuss the following, where appropriate:

How alternatives and environmental effects were considered. (Why was the selected alternative selected? Why were the other alternatives not selected?).

Any factors other than environmental effects considered in making the decision.

How considerations were weighed and balanced in arriving at the decision (are some more important than others?).]

The [Project Name] EA documents the environmental analysis and conclusions upon which this decision is based.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This action was originally listed as a proposal on the [your forest] National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions and updated periodically during the analysis. People were invited to review and comment on the proposal through [insert public notice methods such as mailings, news releases, phone calls, etc. Briefly describe any other public involvement methods used, such as circulating the EA for comment.] The EA lists agencies and people consulted on pages [X-X].

[Optional discussion (not required): explain how comments were considered and used in the EA. This is important if not discussed in the EA document.]

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This decision is consistent with the [your forest] National Forest Land Management Plan. The project was designed in conformance with [land management plan direction relevant to project activities].

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and EA were considered. I determined these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

[Insert any findings for other applicable laws not already covered in the FONSI. These findings should be supported in your project record.]

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The significance of environmental impacts must be considered in terms of context and intensity. This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human and national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. In the case of a site-specific action, significance usually depends upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Intensity refers to the severity or degree of impact. (40 CFR 1508.27)

CONTEXT

[Describe the geographic area in which effects would occur – keeping in mind that some effects might occur off-site or at a later time. Consider who will experience effects from the proposed action.]

INTENSITY

The intensity of effects was considered in terms of the following:

1. **Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that, on balance, the effect will be beneficial.**
Consideration of the intensity of environmental effects is not biased by beneficial effects of the action.
2. **The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.** There will be no significant effects on public health and safety because [Insert conclusion. If the EA is not included, summarize the relevant analysis and conclusions.] (See EA page [X])
3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area, such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because [Insert conclusion. This might be as simple as stating that there are no such areas to be affected. If the EA is not included, summarize the relevant analysis and conclusions.] (See EA page [X])

4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial. There is no known credible scientific controversy over the impacts of the proposed action. [Remember, this is about controversy over the effects – not whether people are for or against the action. Insert conclusion. If the EA is not included, summarize the relevant analysis and conclusions.] (See EA page [X])
5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The Agency has considerable experience with actions like the one proposed. The analysis shows the effects are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk [If the EA is not included, summarize the relevant analysis and conclusions.] (See EA page [X])
6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, because [Insert conclusion. If the EA is not included, summarize the relevant analysis and conclusions.] (See EA page [X])
7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.** The cumulative impacts are not significant. [Insert any conclusion concerning any other effects that would be additive to the effects of the proposed action.] [If no cumulative effects, state that the effects of the action are limited to the local area and there are no other effects that would be additive to the effects of the proposed action.] [If the EA is not included, summarize the relevant analysis and conclusions.] (See EA page [X])
8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed , or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.** The action will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, because [Insert conclusion. If the EA is not included, summarize the relevant analysis and conclusions. This is a good place to mention State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence if it is not covered in the EA.] (See EA page [X]) The action will also not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources because [Insert conclusion. If the EA is not included, summarize the relevant analysis and conclusions. This is a good place to mention State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence if it is not covered in the EA.] (See EA page [X])
9. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.** The action will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species act of 1973, because [Insert conclusion. If the EA is not included, summarize the relevant analysis and conclusions. This is a good place to mention Fish and Wildlife and/or

National Marine Fisheries concurrence if applicable and not already covered in the EA.]
(See EA page [X])

10. **Whether the action threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.** The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the EA (see EA pages [X-X]). The action is consistent with the [insert forest/grassland name] Land and Resource Management Plan. [Insert conclusion. If the EA is not included, summarize the relevant analysis and conclusions.] (See EA page [X])

After considering the effects of the actions analyzed, in terms of context and intensity, I have determined that these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: [contact name, title, unit name, mailing address, and phone number].

[Deciding Official's Name]

Date

[Deciding Official's Title]

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