

DECISION NOTICE  
AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

LEVAN PEAK ELECTRONICS SITE EXPANSION

The Bureau of Land Management has requested a telecommunication site on Levan Peak. An Environmental Assessment was prepared that evaluated the following alternatives:

1. No action.
2. Require future users to share an existing facility within the designated Levan Peak Electronic Site.
3. Prohibit future development at Levan Peak, but develop other sites.
4. Permit development of the existing site to its maximum as shown on the site plans.

Expansion of Levan Peak is within the general direction of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Manti-LaSal National Forest. The proposal is located in the General Big Game Winter Range Emphasis Unit which states that proposals such as this can be permitted if they do not conflict with big game wintering. During the analysis process of this proposal, no such conflicts were identified. Owing to development the Plan should be amended and the Levan Peak Electronic Site should be designated in a Special Land Designation Emphasis Unit, whereby lands become available for existing and potential uses.

Based on the analysis and evaluation described in the Environmental Assessment, it is my decision to adopt Alternative "4" and to amend the Forest Plan. The alternative allows for development of the existing site to its maximum on a planned basis.

Various publics were initially involved in the development of Levan Peak as an electronics site. Recently, newspaper articles explained the proposal and requested input and comments. A meeting was held with existing Levan Peak special use permittees or their representative. A meeting was held with personnel from the Bureau of Land Management concerning their proposal to develop a site on Levan Peak. In addition, various personnel from the U.S. Forest Service were consulted. The results of this and ID Team meetings led to six issues and concerns discussed in the Environmental Assessment. They are adequately mitigated so no significant consequences will result from implementing the proposal. See Attachment A.

The anticipated effects of implementation of this alternative will not significantly affect the following and will not reduce the quality of the human environment which would make the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement necessary:

1. There will be no adverse cumulative secondary effects from this alternative.

2. There will be no disturbance to archeological or paleontological values.
3. This project will have no effect on threatened or endangered plants or animals.
4. There will be no disturbance to prime or unique rangelands, farm lands, timber lands, alluvial valley floors, flood plains or wet lands.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 authorizes occupancy and use of National Forest System lands in a manner consistent with the purposes of the Forest Plan. A Special Use Permit will document land use authorization for the Bureau of Land Management. Occupancy of Levan Peak for electronic communication purposes cannot be authorized until a Special Use Permit is issued.

The development of electronic sites on Levan Peak will require the following monitoring:

1. Inspection during construction phase for compliance to specifications and plans.
2. Review and followup on mitigating requirement accomplishments.
3. Maintain contact with permittees to resolve frequency conflicts if such were to occur.
4. Keep a network open with public and permittees for input and comments concerning management of Levan Peak.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 211.18. Notice of appeal must be in writing and submitted to:

Reed C. Christensen, Forest Supervisor  
 Manti-LaSal National Forest  
 599 West Price River Drive  
 Price, Utah 84501

Notice of appeal must be submitted within 45 days from the date of this decision. A statement of reasons to support the appeal and any request for oral presentation must be filed within the prescribed 45-day period.



Reed C. Christensen, Forest Supervisor



Date