

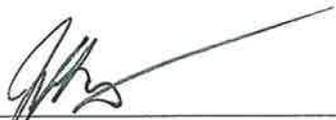
PRO-FONSI-11-

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
And Decision Document**

**Farson/Eden Salinity Control Project Eden Canal, and E-5 and E-6 Laterals
Eden Project
Sweetwater County, Wyoming**

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
Provo Area Office
Provo, Utah**

Recommended by:



Jeffrey D'Agostino
Chief, Environmental Group

1/24/2012
Date

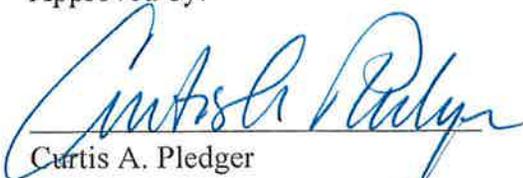
Concur:



Kerry Schwartz
Manager, Water and Environmental
Resources Division

1/24/12
Date

Approved by:



Curtis A. Pledger
Area Manager, Provo Area Office

1/24/2012
Date

FINDING

The Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office, has determined that implementing the proposed action analyzed in the Farson/Eden Salinity Control Project Eden Canal, E-5 and E-6 Laterals Environmental Assessment (EA) would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This decision was based on a thorough review of the EA and on agency correspondence received on the EA. This decision is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-90), as amended, and both the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA (43 CFR 46).

DECISION

Reclamation has decided to provide funding authorized under the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program to implement the Action Alternative described in the EA. The Eden Canal is approximately 6,200 feet long from the Farson Lateral to the Little Sandy Creek Siphon. The proposed lining of the Eden Canal would stay entirely within the existing Eden Canal alignment. The E-5 lateral is approximately 14,850 feet long and the E-6 lateral is approximately 9,520 feet long from the turnouts on the Eden Canal to the end of service. These laterals would be replaced with a single pipeline that would run 16,790 feet in length. This new pipeline would abandon the large majority of the existing E-5 lateral and would completely abandon the existing E-6 lateral. The new pipeline would begin at the existing turnout for the E-5 lateral and would range in size from 34 inches to 12 inches in diameter.

The proposed project would allow the lining of the Eden Canal and replacing of the E-5 and E-6 laterals with a pipeline while protecting environmental resources as described in Chapter 3 of the EA. Open water habitat along the laterals would be lost once the laterals are abandoned and the new pipeline is placed and buried. A habitat replacement plan to compensate for wildlife values foregone must be prepared and finalized by the Eden Valley Irrigation and Drainage District, and approved by Reclamation following coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department prior to project completion and final payment of funds.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The finding of no significant impact and the decision to authorize funding for the project are based on the following:

1. The proposed project would have no significant effect on such unique characteristics as wilderness areas or wetlands.

2. The environmental effects of the proposed action are neither controversial nor do they involve unique or unknown risks.
3. The proposed action would have no effect on species either currently listed or proposed for listing as candidate, endangered or threatened species, and would not affect designated critical habitat for these species.
4. The proposed action does not threaten to violate Federal, state, or local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

Reclamation has analyzed the environmental effects, agency comments, and the Action Alternative in detail. Reclamation believes that the Action Alternative best meets the purpose and need described in the EA.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

On December 12, 2011, Reclamation sent the EA to interested individuals, groups, stakeholders, municipalities, organizations and agencies for review and comment. No comments were received during the comment period.

The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, the Bureau of Land Management, the USFWS, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were contacted pursuant to applicable laws and coordination with those agencies was completed.

Tribal consultation in accordance with 36 CFR 800(c)(2) was also completed.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The expected environmental impacts of the Action Alternative are described in Chapter 3 and summarized on pages 38-39 of the EA. The environmental analysis indicates that under the Action Alternative there would be impacts to riparian resources from the permanent loss of the riparian areas along the existing E-5 and E-6 laterals. The existing unlined laterals would be abandoned and replaced with a buried pipeline.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

The environmental commitments described in Chapter 4 of the EA must be implemented as an integral part of the proposed action. These commitments include:

1. **Standard Reclamation Best Management Practices** - Standard Reclamation Best Management Practices would be applied during construction activities to minimize environmental effects and would be implemented by construction personnel or included in contract specifications.

2. **Additional Analysis** - If the proposed action were to change significantly from the alternative described in this EA, additional environmental analyses would be undertaken as necessary.
3. **Cultural Resources** - Any person who knows or has reason to know that he/she has inadvertently discovered possible human remains on Federal land, must provide immediate telephone notification of the discovery to Reclamation's Provo Area Office archaeologist. Work would stop until the proper authorities are able to assess the situation onsite. This action would promptly be followed by written confirmation to the responsible Federal agency official, with respect to Federal lands. The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office and interested Native American tribal representatives would be promptly notified. Consultation would begin immediately. This requirement is prescribed under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR Part 10); and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470).
4. **Paleontological Resources** - Monitoring is required for all excavation activities associated with the Action Alternative. If bedrock of the Laney Shale Member (lithified layers of *in-situ* and/or sandstone) is encountered anywhere within the area of potential effect during construction and a paleontological monitor is not present, construction activities should cease until a Reclamation-permitted paleontologist arrives on site. In addition, if any subsurface bones or other potential fossils are unearthed during construction and a paleontological monitor is not present, Reclamation must be contacted immediately and work in the area of discovery should cease until a Reclamation-permitted paleontologist can assess the discovery, determine its significance, and make additional recommendations.
5. **Construction Activities Confined to the Surveyed Corridor** - All construction activities would be confined to the 100 foot wide corridor that has been surveyed for cultural, paleontological, and biological resources.
6. **Roads** - Existing roads would be used whenever possible for project activities. New access roads would be necessary along the new E-5 alignment.
7. **Disturbed Areas** - During construction topsoil would be saved and then redistributed after completion of construction activities. Subsequently, disturbed areas resulting from the project would be smoothed, shaped, contoured, and reseeded to as near their pre-project condition as practicable. Seeding and planting would occur at appropriate times with weed-free seed mixes of native plants and agricultural grasses, distributed where appropriate. Blue-bunch wheatgrass would be used to reseed barren areas (outside of agricultural fields), post construction at a dispersal rate of at least 40 pounds per acre.
8. **Air Quality** - Best Management Practices would be implemented to control fugitive dust during construction. The contractor would follow the Environmental Protection Agencies recommended control methods for aggregate storage pile emissions to minimize dust generation, including periodic watering of equipment, staging areas, and dirt/gravel roads. All loads that have the potential of leaving the bed of the truck during

transportation would be covered or watered to prevent the generation of fugitive dust. Construction machinery and operation/maintenance vehicles would be routinely maintained to ensure that engines remain tuned and emission-control equipment is properly functioning as required by law. Additionally, the contractor would comply with all Wyoming State air quality regulations.

9. **Habitat Replacement** - A plan to replace wildlife values foregone will be prepared by the applicant and approved by Reclamation following coordination with the USFWS and Wyoming Department of Game and Fish. Total acreage of wildlife habitat predicted to be lost is 10.19 acres of riparian habitat along the lateral prism.
10. **Sage Grouse Monitoring** – Prior to initiating construction activities, and as the project proceeds, the applicant will ensure that surveys and monitoring would be conducted to ensure that greater sage grouse leks do not exist within the construction area. If there are leks present in the area, the applicant and contractor shall notify the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish and Reclamation’s Provo Area Office biologist. Regardless of the presence of leks, any observation of sage grouse would lead to monitoring by a biologist to ensure that impacts to sage grouse are avoided.