

**PRO-FONSI-14-001
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Environmental Assessment

**Jensen Unit Block Notice
Uintah County, Utah**

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

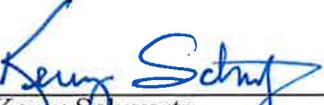
Recommended by:



Peter Crookston
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Oct 7, 2014
Date

Concur:



Kerry Schwartz
Manager, Water and Environmental
Resources Division

10 / 7 / 14
Date

Approved by:



Wayne G. Pullan
Area Manager, Provo Area Office

07 OCT 2014
Date

FINDING

The Bureau of Reclamation's Provo Area Office has determined that implementing the proposed action analyzed in the Jensen Unit Block Notice Environmental Assessment (EA) would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and an environmental impact statement is not required. This decision was based on a thorough review of 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 of 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 Part 46).

DECISION

Reclamation has decided to issue the Block Notice for the sale of 3,300 acre-feet (AF) of Jensen Unit water to the Uintah Water Conservancy District (District). As part of this decision Reclamation will continue to convey up to 780 AF of water into Stewart Lake when the water is called for.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and decision to authorize this project is based on the following:

1. Public health and safety was evaluated and no significant effects were identified.
2. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial because there is no known scientific controversy over the impacts of the project.
3. No past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions are expected to result in cumulative effects (EA, Section 3.4.17)
4. The action will not adversely affect cultural resources.
5. 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, as described in the EA Table 3.4 (EA, section 3.4.8).
6. The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered.
7. The proposed action will have no significant effect on unique characteristics such as wilderness areas and wetlands.

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

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

Reclamation coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for possible endangered species issues. A meeting between Reclamation and FWS was held on September 29, 2014. At the meeting the FWS agreed with Reclamation's determination that no consultation was needed for the proposed project.

Reclamation coordinated with the District throughout the NEPA process.

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION COMMITMENTS

The expected environmental impacts of the Action Alternative are described in Chapter 3 of the EA. The environmental analysis indicates that there will be no significant adverse effect to environmental resources from the Action Alternative. The following environmental commitments will be implemented as an integral part of the proposed action for the sale of 3,300 AF of Central Utah Project, Jensen Unit Water.

1. Reclamation will continue to convey up to 780 AF of water to Stewart Lake when water is requested in the same manner in which it is being provided presently (from Red Fleet Reservoir). When this method is no longer a viable option (the District has sold/subscribed all of the 3,300 AF of water) Reclamation will use 780 AF of its water rights on the Green River. That water would be pumped by the Burns Bench Canal Company's Brush Creek Water Users Pump Station through Burns Bench Pipeline to Stewart Lake.