

PRO-FONSI-11-004

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

**Ouray Park Canal Salinity Control Project
Uintah County, Utah**

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

Recommended by:

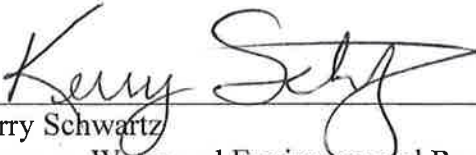


12/15/2011

Jeffrey D'Agostino
Chief, Environmental Group

Date

Concur:

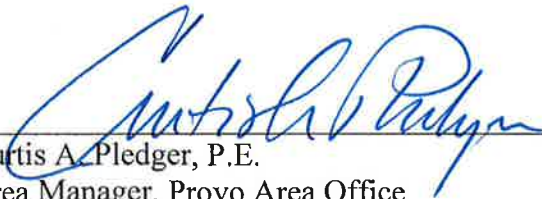


12/16/11

Kerry Schwartz
Manager, Water and Environmental Resources Division

Date

Approved by:



12/19/2011

Curtis A. Pledger, P.E.
Area Manager, Provo Area Office

Date

FINDING

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that implementing the Proposed Action analyzed in the Ouray Park Canal Salinity Control Project Final Environmental Assessment (EA) will 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 public comments received on the draft EA. This decision is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-90), as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508).

DECISION

Reclamation has decided to implement the Proposed Action Alternative as described in the EA. The Proposed Action is to replace the existing approximately five mile long section of unlined earthen Ouray Park Canal with a pipeline and abandon the Ouray Valley Canal to reduce salt load to the Colorado River. This action protects, to the extent possible, environmental aspects mentioned in Chapter 3 of the EA (i.e. recreation; water rights; water resources; water quality; public safety, access, and transportation; visual quality; socioeconomics; cultural resources; paleontological resources; wetlands and vegetation, wildlife resources; threatened, endangered, and sensitive species).

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

A finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

1. The Proposed Action will have no significant effect on such unique characteristics as cultural resources, wilderness areas, wetlands, riparian areas, and wildlife species.
2. The environmental effects of the Proposed Action do not involve unique or unknown risks.
3. The Proposed Action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered species known to occur in the area affected by the Proposed Action nor is it likely to adversely modify designated critical habitat.
4. The Proposed Action does not threaten to violate a Federal, state, or local law, or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

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

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The expected environmental impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative are described in Chapter 3 of the EA. The environmental analysis focused on the resources mentioned above. The environmental analysis indicates that the impacts will be temporary, short term, minor and/or mitigated by environmental commitments outlined in the EA.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

The Ouray Park Irrigation Company will carry out the environmental commitments associated with the Proposed Action, as described in Chapter 4 of the EA. These commitments and measures have been incorporated by reference into this decision, and their completion will be closely monitored by Reclamation. Monitoring will also ensure completion of any and all mitigation requirements in construction contract specifications, as appropriate.