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L7617 (PWR-P)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pacific West Region
333 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, California 94104-2828



FEB 13 2017

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve

From: Regional Director, Pacific West Region

Subject: Environmental Compliance for Installation of Fiber Optic Cable and Conduit at the Western Edge of Soda Lake

The *Finding of No Significant Impact* for the subject 4.87 mile segment of the larger replacement project previously approved by the Bureau of Land Management (pursuant to the existing AT&T Corporation Right-of-Way pre-dating establishment of the Preserve) is approved.

The efforts of park staff to coordinate with PWR Public Affairs to ensure there is an announcement included in the Weekly Report are much appreciated.

Laura E. Joss

Attachment

Cc:
PWR-LC

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Installation of Fiber Optic Cable & Conduit in AT&T Right-of-Way
in Soda Lake, Mojave National Preserve, San Bernardino County, California
January 2017

INTRODUCTION

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the project, Installation of Fiber Optic Cable & Conduit for AT&T in Soda Lake, Mojave National Preserve, San Bernardino County, California. This document describes the selected action and provides an explanation of why it will have no significant effects on the human environment. The FONSI, environmental assessment (EA) completed in December 2015, and errata prepared for the project constitute a complete record of the environmental impact analysis for the proposal.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by contract for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the lead agency for NEPA compliance and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). The project spans the length of AT&T's fiber optic cable right-of-way across BLM US Forest Service, and NPS lands – almost 4.87 miles in Mojave National Preserve – as well as between 0.02 and 26.08 miles across State, local, and private holdings. The NPS has elected to adopt the EA. This FONSI approves project activities on Mojave National Preserve, and the FONSI does not constrain ancillary project work outside of Mojave National Preserve.

AT&T Corporation holds an existing right-of-way grant, BLM reference #CA-21604, which is valid through 2039. It pre-dates the establishment of Mojave National Preserve and the Mojave Wilderness. Therefore, AT&T has the right to operate and maintain this FOC line for the duration of the ROW grant.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

AT&T Corporation operates and maintains a buried fiber optic cable (FOC) that crosses federal lands from Las Vegas, NV to Victorville, CA. A segment of this line – from Halloran Summit to Victorville, California – needs to be replaced and encased in conduit to protect and extend the life of the FOC. The original right-of-way grant issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) permitted AT&T to install conduit and FOC in the right-of-way. AT&T instead direct buried the FOC with no conduit. It has deteriorated significantly since its installation in 1988-1989, and requires replacement. AT&T has additionally requested permission to install conduit at the same time.

SELECTED ACTION

Alternative 2, as described in the EA and selected in the BLM's Decision Record, is being implemented on lands outside of Mojave National Preserve. The NPS also selects Alternative 2, the Proposed Action in the EA, for implementation. The Selected Action is achieved by replacing the FOC and installing conduit within the same footprint of disturbance – 88 miles from Halloran Summit to Victorville, CA. Within Mojave National Preserve, 4.87 miles will be re-disturbed within AT&T's ROW. One 4" conduit will be installed; replacement FOC will then be pulled through the conduit. A regeneration station is situated outside of the Preserve's boundary south of Baker, California before the line enters the Preserve. There are no buried cable pull boxes, regeneration stations, or staging areas within the Preserve.

The project must be completed in Wilderness, as the segment of FOC line in the Preserve requiring conduit crosses Soda Lake, which is part of the Mojave Wilderness. The Mojave Wilderness was designated under the Wilderness Act by passage of the California Desert Protection Act in 1994. Minimum tools were determined in a Minimum Requirements Decision Guide. They include:

- Use of an 8'-wide trencher to minimize surface impacts (rather than a 16'-wide trencher commonly used in the industry).
- Installation of conduit with innerducts to allow for current and future periodic cable replacement without further trenching.

Mitigations in the EA address general construction practices across lands outside of Mojave National Preserve. The following mitigation measures address issues specific to the National Park Service, Mojave National Preserve.

Number	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Party
General Measures		
GM-1	The existing right-of-way corridor for AT&T's fiber optic cable has a width of 10 feet. The ROW grant (BLM CA-21604) allowed an additional 10' width for construction. Therefore, all conduit installation activities shall be confined to the existing ROW corridor plus an addition 10 feet, for a total of 20' width. Construction boundaries shall be clearly delineated with fencing, stakes, or flagging. Disturbance beyond the 20' width shall not be allowed. The additional 10' disturbed width shall be restored before AT&T work crews vacate the project site.	AT&T Project Manager to implement; NPS Monitor to verify compliance
GM-2	Leftover excavated material shall be disposed of only in areas approved by NPS.	NPS Monitor to approve
GM-4	All tools, equipment, barricades, signs, surplus materials, demolition debris and rubbish will be removed from the project work limits upon project completion.	AT&T Project Manager to implement; NPS Monitor to verify
GM-5	All equipment and vehicles on the project shall be in good working order upon each entry into Mojave National Preserve.	NPS Monitor to verify
GM-6	All trash shall be removed from the project site by the end of each work day.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
GM-7	A hazardous materials plan shall be approved by the NPS prior to construction. This plan shall state what actions will be taken in the case of a spill, notification measures, and preventive measures to be implemented, such as the placement of vehicles and generators.	AT&T Project Manager to provide and implement; NPS Hazardous Materials Specialist to review

Number	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Party
GM-8	Project vehicles shall be restricted to the AT&T ROW or on existing roads. Off-road or cross-country travel is prohibited.	NPS Monitor to verify
GM-9	Vehicles shall be spaced far enough apart to keep dust emissions down and allow visibility up to four car lengths in front.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
GM-10	If left overnight or unattended, open trenches must be covered and secured.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
GM-11	Watering down for dust emissions must be monitored by the NPS.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Soil Erosion and Vegetation Loss		
Soils-1	Work crews shall minimize vegetation clearing and soils disturbance to the extent possible to complete the project.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Soils-2	The project manager shall schedule construction in phases to minimize the extent of disturbed soils.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Soils-3	All access to the AT&T fiber optic cable ROW shall be contained within the existing right-of-way corridor. No new roads shall be constructed. AT&T is responsible for repairing its access road to contain all construction equipment and project vehicles. No new disturbance shall be created during either the construction or monitoring and maintenance phases of the project.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Soils-4	Backhoe(s) shall be equipped with soft, wide tires reduce surface disturbance. Tire pressure shall be reduced for navigation through soft, deep sand.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Soils-5	Following work activities, all work areas, including access roads within wilderness, shall be brushed or broomed to remove tire tracks.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Soils-6	All staging areas must be established outside of Mojave National Preserve.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Vegetation		
Veg-1	All vehicles and heavy equipment shall be cleaned of plant and soil debris outside of, and prior to each entry, into Mojave National Preserve. Wash stations must be located outside of the Preserve.	AT&T Project Manager to complete; NPS Monitor to verify
Visitor Experience		

Number	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Party
VE-1	Mechanized and motorized equipment shall be equipped to reduce noise to the extent possible (e.g., mufflers) and reduce intrusions to the soundscape.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
VE-2	All tire tracks shall be brushed or broomed to remove all evidence of motorized vehicles in wilderness.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Wildlife and Special Status Species		
WL-1	At the Zzyzx exit on interstate highway 15, construction to install cable line and associated supporting structures under this bridge must not block passage of desert bighorn sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>) between each side of the highway.	AT&T Project Manager; MOJA Wildlife Biologist to approve
WL-2	Due to the project site's low elevation and low vegetative diversity, any construction between March 1 and June 15 requires pre-construction nesting bird surveys, and additional protective measures for active nests.	AT&T Project Manager; MOJA Wildlife Biologist to approve
Wilderness		
Wild-1	The NPS requires buried ROWs in wilderness be digitally located with a series of GPS coordinates. If AT&T requires physical markers, they must be installed flush to the ground similar to Cadastral survey markers.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Wild-2	AT&T is to perform site restoration activities following construction to remove evidence of human activities and restore the natural conditions at the site to the extent possible. Use mitigation measures provided above under 'Soil Erosion and Vegetation Loss.'	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Wild-3	AT&T is to keep construction equipment and crew vehicles on existing right-of-way access road.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify
Wild-4	AT&T is to minimize wilderness access and vehicle trips into and out of the site by maximizing personnel per vehicle and minimizing vehicle trips per day.	AT&T Project Manager; NPS Monitor to verify

DECISION RATIONALE FOR SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

The NPS finds the Selected Action will be implemented within AT&T's existing ROW corridor; construction will be limited to previously disturbed lands, and will not create any new disturbance. Therefore, the Selected Alternative has the least impact to the natural and cultural resources of the Preserve.

The EA analyzed the impacts of one possible action alternative, compared with no action, to the cultural and natural resources of the Preserve. The Selected Alternative is the single option that allows AT&T to exercise its rights under BLM ROW grant CACA-20105, the action alternative analyzed in the EA, and the only option available to AT&T for continued operation and maintenance of its FOC line. The project site in Mojave National Preserve lies on Soda Lake, an area of sparse visitation. There are no sensitive or protected species as defined in the Endangered Species Act or California Endangered Species Act. The project is outside of critical habitat for both the Federal and State listed Mohave tui chub (*Siphateles bicolor mohavensis*) and desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii mohavensis*). Moreover, tortoises are not known to utilize the wildlife habitat on the dry playa. Impacts to the natural and cultural resources of the Preserve are minimal and insignificant; measures to avoid minimal or insignificant impacts to wilderness are addressed in the minimum requirements analysis and determination of the minimum tool necessary to accomplish the project in wilderness (Appendix B).

AT&T Corporation has a legal right – in one right-of-way grant issued by the Bureau of Land Management – to construct, operate, and decommission the FOC cable. The purpose and need for this project, to replace buried FOC in Soda Lake, will allow AT&T to continue to provide communication transmission service to its customers. Adverse impacts to the natural and cultural resources of the Preserve are short-term – for the duration of construction – and shall be avoided or minimized. With regard to the terms and conditions of BLM ROW grant CA-21604:

- Biological resources (Mojave ground squirrel, desert tortoise) identified in the grant are not found in the Soda Lake playa habitat;
- Impacts to water resources are specific to livestock grazing, which does not affect the project site;
- Impacts to visual resources are to be mitigated by utilizing earth-tone paint colors to reduce visual contrast, and existing vegetation and terrain to screen above-ground structures; and
- Impacts to archaeological sites are to be avoided and work will be halted upon the discovery of subsurface cultural materials until an archaeologist can assess their significance.

The NPS requires the replacement of the 7' pole markers with GPS points and, at most, markers flush with the ground will benefit the scenic landscape of Soda Lake and, in doing so, the visitor experience. The right-of-way for AT&T's buried fiber optic cable line lies in designated wilderness on Soda Lake. The use of motorized vehicles and mechanized equipment is typically prohibited in wilderness lands in MOJA, which are designated as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Nonetheless, their use is essential to complete the project within a reasonable timeframe and budget. Soda Lake is visible to park visitors on Zzyzx Road and from Interstate Highway 15 but is, itself, infrequently visited. Most human presence in the general vicinity of the right-of-way is attributed to employees or contractors for AT&T, Sprint, and Kinder Morgan Energy Partners/Calnev Pipe Line LLC, all of whom operate and maintain buried linear utilities within the same vicinity.

It is noted that AT&T's commitment to achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities, is reflected in their continued operation of its FOC line to provide telecommunication services to their customers, with the least possible negative effect to the natural and cultural resources of Mojave National Preserve and to the character of the Mojave Wilderness at Soda Lake.

No Action

The No Action Alternative (referred to in the EA as Alternative 1) provides a basis for comparing Preserve operations with the action alternative. Under this scenario, the bed of Soda Lake would not sustain new disturbance, but AT&T would not be allowed to exercise its rights under CACA-20105. Buried FOC would continue to deteriorate, eventually resulting in the line ceasing to function. No Action was determined to not meet the purpose and need for the project.

ALTERNATIVES AND ACTIONS CONSIDERED BUT DISMISSED

The EA dismissed from further consideration the option to reroute the FOC line. Alternate alignments would require a new right-of-way corridor, new and significant ground disturbance, and significantly higher costs compared with the proposed action. This option was determined to be infeasible and not environmentally preferred. Routing the replacement FOC system in a new or existing utility corridor would entail significant impacts to undisturbed habitat, and was, therefore, eliminated from consideration.

A Minimum Requirements Decision Guide analyzed trenching and cable plowing, compared with no action, to determine the minimum tool necessary for contributing to the wilderness character. Non-motorized installation was not considered due to prohibitive costs and logistical constraints.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The CEQ Regulations implementing NEPA and the NPS NEPA guidelines require that "the alternative or alternatives which were considered to be environmentally preferable" be identified (Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, Section 1505.2). The environmentally preferred alternative results in the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it is also the alternative that best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources.

The Council on Environmental Quality defines the environmentally preferred alternative as "...the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in the National Environmental Policy Act's §101." Section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act states that "... it is the continuing responsibility of the Federal Government to ...

- 1) fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- 2) assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- 3) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- 4) preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity, and variety of individual choice;

- 5) achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- 6) enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources."

The environmentally preferred alternative is the No Action. It requires no ground disturbance, no operation motorized or mechanized vehicles or equipment in wilderness, and best preserves the habitat, vegetation, and soils of Soda Lake. It is, nonetheless, not selected due to AT&T's existing right to operate and maintain a buried fiber optic cable in Mojave National Preserve.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY AND TRIBAL CONSULTATION

The majority of the project site, 88 miles from Halloran Summit to the Slash X Café, lies on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM took the lead for the NEPA process, with the National Park Service signing on as a cooperating agency. The project applicant initiated discussions with the NPS-Mojave National Preserve, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the State of California, Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Public Scoping

The BLM did not hold a public scoping period for this project but posted a notice of the project on its NEPA lister website, <http://www.blm.gov/ca/forms/nepa/search.php?fo=Barstow>. (As of 01/06/2017, the website is no longer available.) The NPS was not aware of the BLM's NEPA process and did not conduct separate public scoping.

Public Review of the EA

The BLM issued the EA on December 24, 2015 for a 30-day public comment period, making it available on its NEPA lister website, <http://www.blm.gov/ca/forms/nepa/search.php?fo=Barstow>. (As of 01/06/2017, the website is no longer available.) Substantive comments were submitted by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. The preparer of the EA, Chambers Group, responded to their comments (December 4, 2015), and the LRWQCB issued Board Order, No. R6T-2003-0004, for General Waste Discharge Requirements to AT&T on July 19, 2016.

Agency Coordination

The NPS agreed to serve as a cooperating agency on this project by a March 19, 2014 memorandum from the superintendent of Mojave National Preserve to the field manager of the BLM Barstow Field Office. No memorandum of understanding was signed by the NPS and BLM for this project. The NPS was not notified by the BLM of the release of the EA for public review. No coordination was made between the two agencies.

The NPS Mojave National Preserve completed an Assessment of Effect (National Historic Preservation Act), concluding under the Streamlined Review (Programmatic Agreement) that No Historic Properties would be affected (9. Maintenance or Replacement of Non-Historic Utility Lines, Transmission Lines, and Fences).

The BLM Barstow Field Office initiated consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. USFWS Ventura Field Office issued a biological opinion for AT&T's project on March 11, 2014 (8-8-13-F-35).

WHY THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Impacts that may have both beneficial and adverse aspects and which on balance may be beneficial, but that may still have significant adverse impacts that require analysis in an EIS. Impacts to the natural and cultural resources of the Preserve were adequately analyzed in the EA. The project has no significant adverse impacts requiring further analysis.

Degree of effect on Public Health or Safety. Public health and safety is not directly affected by the Selected Alternative. Interruption of service to AT&T customers could affect communications necessary to ensure public safety in indirect ways in the short term. Over the long run, AT&T would find alternate routes to compensate for the loss of service.

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. Soda Lake is a dry playa and sits above the terminus of the Mojave River. The installation of conduit under the Selected Alternative will temporarily disturb the playa at the project site but will not have enduring, long-term effects.

Degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial. No controversial issues were identified during the public comment period, and public response was minimal.

Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. There is a very low likelihood of uncertainty, unique or unknown risks. The Selected Alternative has been described in enough detail to identify and mitigate most risks to the human environment.

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 Selected Alternative is a one-time action to install conduit. The conduit will extend the life of the replacement fiber optic cable, greatly reducing the frequency of repair or replacement. It will also facilitate future cable replacement without trenching.

Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

The Selected Alternative is not related to other actions by AT&T. The potential for cumulatively significant impacts due to construction activity on the nearby Calnev Pipe Line LLC is greatly reduced by staggering the work schedules of each project to avoid overlap.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

The location of the project site is not adjacent to or within the vicinity of any properties listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Mojave Road is eligible for and Zzyzx is nominated for the National Register but both are situated several miles from AT&T's right-of-way.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat.

The habitat on Soda Lake is unsuitable for desert tortoise. The Preserve has no records of tortoises being observed within the vicinity of the project site.

Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, state, or local environmental protection law

The Selected Alternative does not violate any Federal, state, or local environmental protection laws.

As defined in 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27, significance is determined by examining the following criteria:

Installation of conduit to encase AT&T's FOC does not negatively or positively affect public health and safety. The project area is in wilderness lands in Mojave National Preserve, which are designated as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It is infrequently visited and does not pose a risk to visitors during construction. Once complete, the conduit and FOC will be buried underground and will not be visible at the ground surface.

There are no prime farmlands or wild and scenic rivers in the project area. Within the project area, there are no issues regarding negative effects to traffic flow, air quality, climate change, environmental justice, ethnographic resources, geohazards/natural hazards, historic resources, museum collections, park operations, urban quality/gateway communities, socioeconomics, soundscapes, or visual resources.

The project area lies within Soda Lake, which is the federal land within Mojave National Preserve. Soda Lake is a desert playa under which lies the terminus of the Mojave River, the largest drainage system in the Mojave Desert. The lake surface comprises puffy, salt-caked soils fringed by bare, dry mud flats. Within the past two decades, a herd of desert bighorn sheep, a California species of special concern, have come to occupy the adjacent Soda Mountains to the west, and utilize emergent wetlands on the playa. The wetlands on Soda Lake lie south of the project area along the westernmost edge of the playa and would not be affected by the Selected Alternative. Soda Lake is not known to be occupied by desert tortoise, a threatened reptile protected by the Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act. Nonetheless, tortoises have been sighted beyond the boundaries of desert tortoise critical habitat; therefore, the National Park Service manages all public lands within Mojave National Preserve for desert tortoise protection and conservation.

The Selected Alternative will continue AT&T's FOC line through public lands, specifically in wilderness within a unit of the national park system. The Selected Alternative will negatively affect the scenic resources of Soda Lake and visitor experience for a temporary duration; over the long term, the scenic resources will not be affected by the conduit or FOC, and will improve from removal of the existing 7' wooden markers. The construction phase of the Selected Alternative will negatively affect the natural soundscapes; these effects are temporary and will be reversed at the completion of the installation.

The public review of the EA resulted in no dispute regarding the environmental consequences of the project. On this basis, implementation of the Selected Alternative is not likely to provoke controversy.

The project location, on Soda Dry Lake, is remote from areas of concentrated human activity. AT&T's fiber optic line is buried in close proximity to another fiber optic line owned and operated by Sprint Corporation. In accordance with the Selected Alternative, AT&T Corporation has designed and scheduled project construction to avoid impacts to Sprint's FOC and disruption of service to Sprint customers.

The Selected Alternative accommodates the rights of AT&T Corporation which pre-date the establishment of Mojave National Preserve and the designation of the Mojave Wilderness. It does not set precedent for any activities outside of AT&T's existing right-of-way grant.

The project site for the Selected Alternative lies in close proximity to another buried fiber optic cable owned and operated by Sprint Corporation, and to two buried petroleum transport pipelines owned and operated by Calnev Pipe Line LLC and its parent company, Kinder Morgan Energy Partners. Calnev Pipe Line LLC has recently installed a solar impressed current cathodic protection system on its pipe lines; major construction was completed October 25, 2016. Calnev also plans to conduct integrity testing and anomaly repairs on its pipe lines; this construction has not yet been scheduled. Mojave National Preserve intends to permit these projects without overlap, to avoid cumulative impacts associated with two buried linear utilities which lie between 0.1 and 0.35 miles from each other, and within the same vicinity to a third buried linear utility.

The project site and surrounding lands do not have districts, sites, highways, structures or objects listed on the National Historic Register. Archaeological surveys were completed for the EA process. Mojave National Preserve archaeologists surveyed the project site, and made a determination of No Historic Properties Affected (04/25/2015).

Within the project area in Mojave National Preserve, the Selected Alternative will have negligible to minor potential impacts to the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii mohavensis*, Federal and State threatened species), American badger (*Taxidea taxus*, California species of concern), and desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*, California species of concern). These wildlife species may be found within the greater vicinity of AT&T's ROW but are not at risk within the project site. The one federally listed species, desert tortoise, has not been observed on Soda Lake, which has habitat generally unsuited to tortoise.

A review of all applicable laws was completed as part of the planning process. The Selected Alternative violates no federal, state, or local environmental protection laws.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the selected action will not have significant impacts on the human environment. The determination is sustained by the analysis in the environmental assessment, agency consultations, the inclusion of public review, and the capability of mitigations to reduce or avoid impacts. No highly uncertain or controversial impacts, unique or unknown risks, significant cumulative effects, or elements of precedence were identified. Implementation of the selected alternative will not violate any federal, state, or local environmental law. Therefore, it has been determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for these actions, and the project will be implemented as soon as practicable.

Recommended:

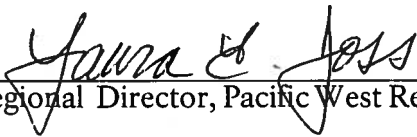


Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve

1-26-17

Date

Approved:



Regional Director, Pacific West Region

2/13/17

Date

