

## PART B: ESR FONSI/DECISION RECORD

### Finding Of No Significant Impact

Environmental Assessment No. **OR-030-02-032** for the **Pinto Horse Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) Plan** adequately analyzes the impacts of the proposed action and indicates there will be no significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, no Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. The Proposed Action would not create any irretrievable or irreversible commitment of resources, as the seeding proposed would merely augment existing native perennials plants in an attempt to fill open niches left by the loss of dense sagebrush cover. This action would meet the ESR objectives as follows: help to preclude the invasion of cheatgrass; maintain normal fire frequencies; maintain or improve rangeland, soil and watershed health and function; maintain wildlife habitat; maintain or improve Wilderness Study Area naturalness; maintain recreational opportunities; and ensure a more stable forage base. If the proposed seeding fails there will be no greater long term impact than if the no action alternative was followed and no seeding occurred.

Following the No Action alternative would result in significant negative impacts, as cheatgrass and associated weeds would quickly dominate the understory of areas to be seeded under the proposed action. This would allow fire frequencies, fire hazards and fire suppression costs to increase. Rangeland, soil, and watershed health and function would be degraded. Wildlife habitat would be degraded. Recreational opportunities would be impaired. Permitted livestock grazing would be interrupted more frequently by the loss of forage to more frequent wildfire, and drought impacts would be greater as the forage base would be dominated by annual plants rather than more stable perennials.

The direct impacts of drilling, under the Proposed Action, would be short term and not significant. Cultural sites would be inventoried and protected by mitigation measures to avoid any surface resources encountered needing protection (such as rock structures, historic dump sites, etc.). The drilling activity itself would not significantly impact site integrity of buried sites, as the drills would not cut below the 10 cm "zone of disturbance".

All fencing actions proposed would have minimal, short term impacts to the human environment with no lasting effects once removed.

s/Jerry L. Taylor  
Authorized Official

September 10, 2002  
Date