
MITIGATION MEASURES

There are no significant impacts; therefore no mitigation measures are required under NEPA.

4.13 SUMMARY OF SECONDARY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Secondary impacts are those that are caused by a Proposed Action, but may occur later in time or farther removed in distance, relative to the primary impacts of the Proposed Action. "Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impact of the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions" (40 CFR Section 1508.7).

This Site-Wide EA considers past, present and reasonable foreseeable short-term and long-term future actions on the site. In addition, it considers off-site factors and reasonably foreseeable off-site projects.

Reasonably foreseeable off-site projects considered in the cumulative impacts analysis include ongoing aggregate mining in the site vicinity and a wide range of land development in the communities east of the site and along Highway 93.

Cumulative and secondary impacts are discussed in Sections 4.1 through 4.12, as appropriate. The most important examples of secondary and cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Action are as follows:

- Traffic congestion at the Highway 93/128 intersection;
- Regional and local air pollutant emissions;
- Front range development intensification and changing landscapes;
- Habitat conversion and increased mortality risk for wildlife and plant habitats;
- Demand for energy; and
- Beneficial impacts from improved alternative energy sources.

As stated in Chapter 4, the Proposed Action's incremental impact on these secondary and cumulative impacts would be insignificant and the No Action alternative would not contribute to these impacts. Cumulative impacts are important to identify, but characterizing their significance is difficult because to some degree these impacts are speculative and may or may not be addressed or mitigated by entities with discretionary authority over reasonably foreseeable projects or efforts that are not foreseeable today. One example would be interim and long-term measures to address congestion issues at the Highway 93/128 intersection. Future plans call for an interchange at this location, but no funding or schedule commitments are currently in place.

4.14 IRREVERSIBLE/IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

An irreversible commitment of resources is defined as the loss of future options. The term applies primarily to the effects of use of nonrenewable resources such as minerals or cultural resources, or to those factors such as soil productivity that are renewable only over long periods. It could also apply to the loss of an experience as an indirect effect of a "permanent" change in the nature or character of the land. An irretrievable commitment of resources is defined as the loss of production, harvest, or use of natural resources. The amount of