

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### Disposal of the Roosevelt Upland Bird Management Unit Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Duchesne County, Utah

#### Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Project (W-42-L)

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared this document in accordance with the procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act as it applies to the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts (64 Stat. 430; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 777 et. seq. and 50 State 916; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 669 et. seq.).

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Division) and the Service prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled *Disposal of the Roosevelt Upland Bird Management Unit Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Duchesne County, Utah*. In the EA, the Service analyzed the potential impacts of a proposal for the Division to dispose of a total of 117.38 acres of land known as the Roosevelt Upland Bird Management Unit (Roosevelt Unit), owned by the Division. Disposal of this land is being pursued to eliminate land with minimal wildlife habitat value and isolated holdings, and reduce administrative costs. The proposed disposal requires approval by the Service of an amendment to the original grant for purchase of Wetland Management Area lands under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937.

In 1948, the 117.38-acre tract and 46.5 shares of irrigation stock were acquired by the Division through Federal Aid Grant Agreement W-42-L with the Service. Federal funds provided 75 percent of the cost of the land and water share purchase.

The property and water were purchased to provide habitat for ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) and California quail (*Callipepla californica*) production. Hunting was expressly prohibited on the property. Under the terms of the original agreement, The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources had to manage the property as “an inviolate sanctuary.” In the early 1950s, this management approach was re-examined, the property was re-identified as a “management unit,” and open hunting seasons were established. The Roosevelt Unit continued to function as an easily-accessible hunting area in an increasingly residential patchwork of agricultural lands and homes. Over time, many homes were constructed near the property, and a substantial portion of the parcel could no longer provide hunting opportunities since Utah law stipulates that firearms may not be discharged within 600 feet of homes or other buildings without the written consent of the owner. Eventually the Division decided that the Roosevelt property should be disposed due to its limited wildlife value and inability to serve as a hunting area.

Currently, construction of residential homes is again increasing near Roosevelt City and the Roosevelt Unit. This continues to degrade any value of the parcel as wildlife habitat and diminish hunting opportunities. Therefore, the Division has decided to pursue disposal of the property.

The Preferred Alternative is to sell the 117.38-acre property on the basis of appraised value. The revenue from the sale would be credited to the Division's current Wildlife Restoration Act Grant #W-65-M for use in other wildlife management projects.

This action would proceed based on the appraised value determined by a professional appraiser supplying a complete appraisal report complying with the provisions of the Federal appraisal standards. The appraisal report would be reviewed by an independent review appraiser. Once the original appraiser and the reviewer reached concurrence on the appraised value, the Service would issue a grant amendment allowing the Division to sell the parcel based on that established value.

Under the No Action alternative, the Division would not dispose of the 117.38-acre tract, and the parcel would continue to be managed in its current condition and would provide minimum habitat resources to wildlife and no hunting opportunity for the public.

No Federally-listed species or candidate species for Federal listing that occur in Duchesne County are likely to be affected by the project activities. No listed species are found on the site and the site does not provide any habitat needs for listed species. The sale of the parcel would not have any effect on the listed species.

A cultural resources database search did not disclose any features eligible for the National Register on the Roosevelt Unit, although one lithic scatter was recorded within a mile to the south.

Prior to selling the Roosevelt Unit, a cultural and historic resource survey will be carried out by a Utah State Historic Preservation Office permitted archaeologist to locate and record historic features that might exist on the property. If any historic artifacts eligible for listing on the National Historic Register are located, they will be protected by covenants to the deed which would run with the property in perpetuity. Consequently, any impacts to potentially occurring historic resources would be mitigated or avoided.

The EA was released for a 15-day public review period via a statewide news release and was also available on the Service's Region 6 website. The comment period ended on March 15, 2008, and no comments were received. The FONSI will be made available to the public through a statewide public news release and will be posted on the Service's Region 6 website. The EA is on file at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado, 80228, and is available for public review upon request.

Based on review of the EA, I have determined that the proposed action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Consequently, we will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

APPROVAL

**Signed by Jay Slack: Deputy Regional Director**

**3/21/08**

---

Regional Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6

Date