

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
White River Field Office  
220 E Market St  
Meeker, CO 81641**

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

### **Canyon Pintado Accessibility Renovations and Deferred Maintenance Trail Work DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0056-CX**

#### **Identifying Information**

**Project Title:** Canyon Pintado Accessibility Renovations and Deferred Maintenance Trail Work

**Legal Description:** T1S R101W, Sec. 20 NWSE

T2S R101W, Sec. 33 SENW

**Applicant:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-White River Field Office (WRFO)

#### **Conformance with the Land Use Plan**

The Proposed Action is subject to and is in conformance (43 CFR 1610.5) with the following land use plan:

**Land Use Plan:** White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP)

**Date Approved:** July 1997

**Decision Language:** "Facilities will be provided and maintained to accommodate visitor health and safety and allow use of public lands resources." (pg. 2-43)

#### **Proposed Action**

##### ***Project Components and General Schedule***

This project includes two primary components the Accessibility Concrete Project and the Deferred Trail Maintenance and Bridge Installation Project. All projects are located within the Canyon Pintado National Historic District at two developed recreation sites known as the East Four Mile site and South Orientation site (Figure 1). All areas of ground disturbance that are not surfaced with concrete or that would be used as part of trail tread would be seeded with specified native seed mix in the Design Features.

**Accessibility Concrete Project:** This project includes proposing the installation of concrete parking areas, sidewalks, and platforms in areas that are currently surfaced with compacted

gravel to improve accessibility to these public facilities. The goal of this project is to accommodate the public in using and enjoying existing public facilities such as picnic cabanas, interpretive sites, vault toilets, and parking areas. This project was submitted by the WRFO for funding in fiscal year (FY) 2012 to the BLM Colorado State Office Engineering Program with a work request. This project became a funding priority in FY2015 and the WRFO was recently notified by the BLM Colorado Engineering program that funding for FY2015 will be available to complete approximately half of the initial funding request. This FY2015 funding will complete what is referred to as Phase I which will include a concrete parking area at both recreation sites and a concrete ramp or sidewalk to reach the vault toilets at each site and tie into the existing concrete platform at the vault toilets. A work request has been submitted for FY2016 funding to the BLM Colorado Engineering program to complete the concrete work in FY2016 as Phase II. There are detailed engineered plans for each site included in this document as Figures 3 and 4 that display the Phase I concrete work and the Phase II concrete work areas. All Phase I work is displayed in black text and Phase II work areas are in red text. Phase I is proposed to start in late summer 2015 and be completed within a few weeks. Phase II is proposed to be completed in 2016 during the same time of year as Phase I, but depending on funding priorities may be completed during the same time but in later years. Figure 5 and 6 are photos that display portions of the recreation sites areas that are proposed to have concrete installed.

Activities associated with this portion of the proposal include excavating the existing compacted gravel with an excavator and then compacting the natural surface with mechanical compacting equipment. Next gravel will be hauled to each site with a dump truck and installed to a depth of six inches and compacted. The parking areas will then have a rebar grid installed. Forms will be built to define the concrete edges. A concrete truck will then pour concrete to a depth of six inches which will be surface to provide a surface that is level and smooth with enough texture to prevent slipping.

**Deferred Trail Maintenance and Bridge Installation Project:** This project includes a 20 foot long treated wood bridge proposed to be installed along the East Four Mile Interpretive Trail. This approximately 0.8 mile existing trail includes several interpretive panels displaying the cultural history of the area and two treated wood bridges. The proposed bridge would be constructed at the only remaining drainage crossing without a bridge (see Figures 2 and 7). These drainages are typically dry throughout the majority of the year, but directly after rain events in this area the drainages can run with water three to four feet deep for a day or two and then remain muddy for several days after the rain event. The proposed bridge will be similar to the existing bridges with the only exception being the abutments will be re-designed to improve the long term durability of the bridge (Figure 8). This project would be constructed by BLM staff who were involved in the design and construction of the two existing bridges. This project may involve local volunteers to assist with the installation of the bridge decking.

The other component of this project includes the installation of approximately 800 feet of fencing on the south side of the existing trail from an existing gate along to the trailhead (Figures 2 and 9). The gate would be removed and a portion of approximately 400 feet of fencing would be removed from the north side of the trail. Also, a gate near the trailhead would be removed. These actions would result in visitors not having to travel through and

negotiate two gates along an 800 foot stretch of trail. This has resulted in gates being left open and livestock entering an area that they are not supposed to be in. These actions would also better protect cultural resources from any livestock impacts and alleviate the need for visitors to open and close along this portion of the trail. The new fencing wire will be spaced according to the design feature to mitigate wildlife hazards. Other activities associated with project include improving the grade and drainage of the trail near the approaches to the proposed bridge. This work may include the use of a small trail dozer, Utility Terrain Vehicles, and a mechanical wheel barrow, as well as various power tools and hand tools.

**Design Features**

1. Concrete would be dyed a natural color specified by BLM staff as it is mixed in order to blend with the surrounding landscape.
2. Native seed mix to be seeded on any disturbed areas:

Seed Mix	Cultivar	Species	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs PLS/acre)	
1	Rosanna	Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4.5	
	Critana	Thickspike Wheatgrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus ssp. lanceolatus</i>	3.5	
	Toe Jam Creek	Bottlebrush Squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	3	
		Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5	
		Sulphur Flower	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	1.5	
		Winterfat	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	1	
	Alternates:				
	Sodar	Streambank Wheatgrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus ssp. Psammophilus</i>	3.5	
		Annual Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	3	
		Mat Saltbush	<i>Atriplex corrugata</i>	2	

3. All fences will be four-strand barbed wire Type D fence. Recommended wire heights above ground: Top wire - 40 inches, 2<sup>nd</sup> wire – 28 inches, 3<sup>rd</sup> wire – 22 inches, 4<sup>th</sup> wire - 16 inches.
4. All ground disturbing activities outside of existing disturbances within the Canyon Pintado National Register District will be monitored by an approved qualified archaeologist. As such, the WRFO archaeologist is required to be onsite when trail maintenance, bridge installation, and fence installation occurs.

**BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

1. The BLM-WRFO is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM

determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the BLM assigned project inspector or BLM project lead must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The BLM-WRFO is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
5. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the BLM assigned project inspector or BLM project lead must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

### **Categorical Exclusion Review**

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 43 CFR 46.210(f) "Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short term effects)."

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

## Interdisciplinary Review

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 5/12/2015. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional review or remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Brian Yaquinto	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	5/14/2015
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	5/26/2015
Matthew Dupire	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	5/19/2015
Keith Sauter	Hydrologist	Soil Resources and Hydrology/Flood Plains	6/4/2015
Aaron Grimes	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Project Lead	6/3/2015
Heather Sauls	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance	6/15/2015

**Cultural Resources:** The first component of this project entails the installation of concrete parking areas, sidewalks, and platforms in areas that are currently surfaced with compacted gravel at two developed recreation sites: East Four Mile site and South Orientation in CPHD. All concrete installation will occur in previously disturbed areas that have been inventoried for cultural resources at the Class III intensity level when the recreation sites were originally developed in 1997. No further cultural resource fieldwork is required for this component of the project.

The second component of the project, which comprises of deferred trail maintenance, bridge installation, and installation of 800 ft. of fencing, occurs in areas previously surveyed for cultural resources at the Class III intensity level. No new cultural survey will be required for this component of this project, however as required by the WRFO ROD/RMP "All ground disturbing activities outside of existing disturbances within the Canyon Pintado National Register District will be monitored by an approved qualified archaeologist under the following conditions: Activity occurs in the vicinity of known resources" (pg. 2-47). As such, the WRFO archaeologist will be onsite when trail maintenance, bridge installation, and fence installation occurs. The proposed project is designed to better protect those sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) at the East Four Mile recreation site; therefore, this project will have no impact on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

**Native American Religious Concerns:** The Ute have a generalized concept of spiritual significance that is not easily transferred to Western models or definitions. As such, the BLM recognizes that the Ute have identified sites that are of concern because of their association with Ute occupation of the area as part of their traditional lands. This project would not limit access if such properties were not known to the agency. Consultation letters and contact was made with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe for this project. If additional information comes out in consultation, aspects of the project may be changed in response to tribal concerns.

**Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species:** There are no threatened or endangered animal species that are known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area. The project area is located in mule deer winter concentration/severe winter range, a specialized component of winter range that virtually supports an entire herd's population throughout the most extreme winters (extreme cold, heavy snow etc.).

**Threatened and Endangered Plant Species:** There are no special status plants or plant habitat within the area of the proposed action.

### **Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted**

Consultation letters and contact was made with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe for this project.

## Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR 46.210(f). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

Hunt E. Walter

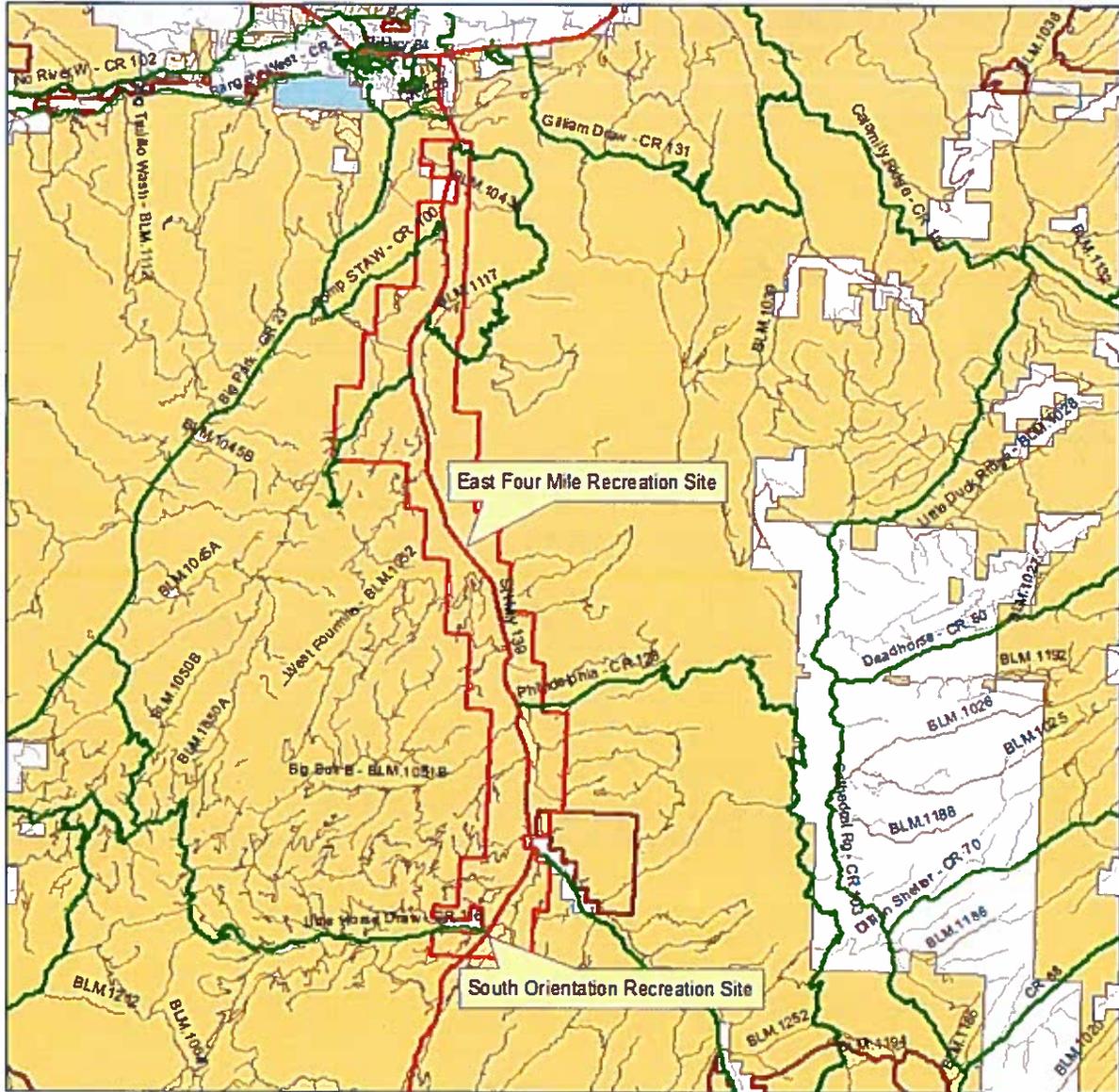
Field Manager

6/17/15

Date

# Appendix A. Figures

## Figure 1-East Four Mile and South Orientation Recreation Site Locations



-  Canyon Pintado NHD
-  Field Office Boundary
-  BLM
-  CDW
-  PRI
-  STA

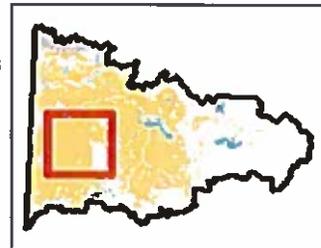


0 325 6.5 Miles

Sources: BLM, USGS, CDDW, etc.

Disclaimer: Although the data presented in this map and the map user have been processed successfully on computers of BLM, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by BLM regarding the use of this map or the data represented, nor does the fact of a screenshot constitute or imply any such warranty.

05/06/2015  
Scale: 1:3,320,000



**Figure 2-East Four Mile bridge and trail work map**

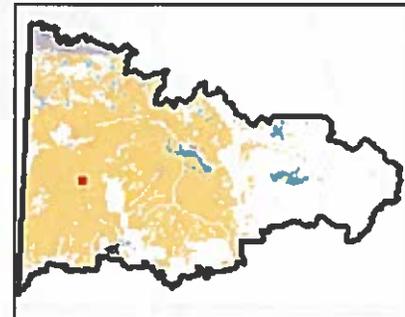


- Existing East Four fence
- Proposed East Four fence

0 0.04 0.08 Miles



05/06/2015  
Scale: 1:2,300



Source:  
BLM USGS CDO W. et al.

Disclaimer:  
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Figure 4-South Orientation Site: concrete work plans

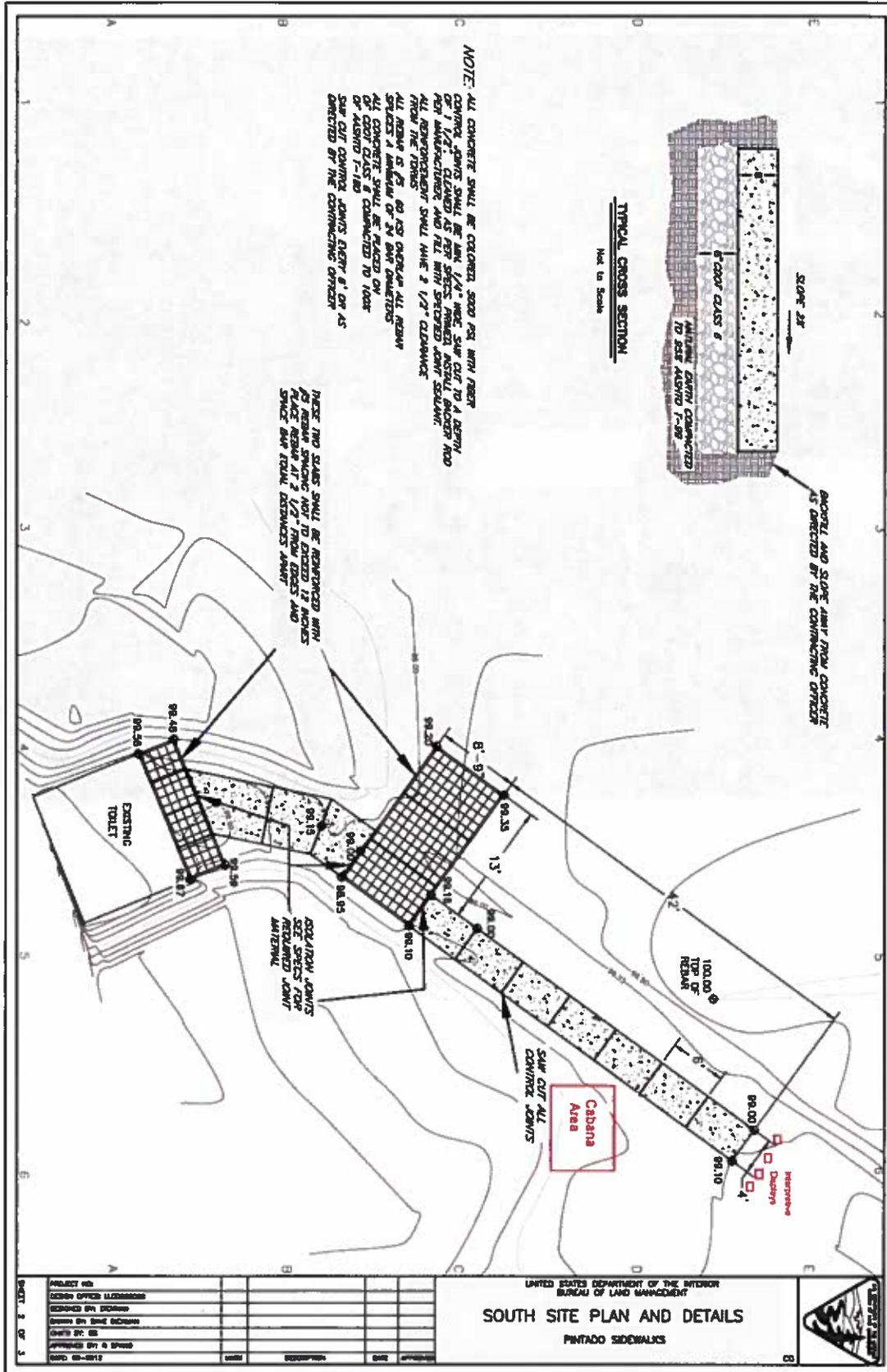


Figure 5- East Four Site: concrete is proposed to replace compacted gravel



Figure 6- South Orientation Site: concrete is proposed to replace compacted gravel



Figure 7-proposed new bridge location



Figure 8-existing bridge at East Four Mile site



Figure 9- East Four Site: photo of existing gate and fencing



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 220 E Market St  
 Meeker, CO 81641

## DECISION RECORD

### Canyon Pintado Accessibility Renovations and Deferred Maintenance Trail Work

#### DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0056-CX

#### Decision

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as described in DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0058-CX, authorizing the Accessibility Concrete Project and the Deferred Trail Maintenance and Bridge Installation Project. This decision specifically includes installing a concrete parking space, a sidewalk ramp near the vault toilets, a sidewalk to the cabana, and a concrete pad at the cabana at both the East Four Mile Recreation Site and the South Orientation Site. This decision also includes the installation of a 20 foot wooden pedestrian bridge, the installation of 800 feet of fencing, the removal of a gate and 400 feet of fencing, and trail drainage improvements along the East Four Mile Trail.

#### Design Features

1. Concrete will be dyed a natural color specified by BLM staff as it is mixed in order to blend with the surrounding landscape.
2. Native seed mix to be seeded on any disturbed areas:

Seed Mix	Cultivar	Species	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs PLS/acre)	
1	Rosanna	Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4.5	
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	Toe Jam Creek	Bottlebrush Squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	3	
		Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5	
		Sulphur Flower	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	1.5	
		Winterfat	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	1	
	Alternates:				
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3. All fences will be four-strand barbed wire Type D fence. Recommended wire heights above ground: Top wire - 40 inches, 2<sup>nd</sup> wire – 28 inches, 3<sup>rd</sup> wire – 22 inches, 4<sup>th</sup> wire - 16 inches.
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2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the BLM assigned project inspector or BLM project lead must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The BLM-WRFO is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
5. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the BLM assigned project inspector or BLM project lead must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take

action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

## **Compliance with Laws & Conformance with the Land Use Plan**

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

## **Public Involvement**

This project was posted on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 5/18/2015. No comments or inquiries have been received as of 6/12/2015.

## **Rationale**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR 46.210(f). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

The Accessibility Concrete Project provides facilities that are readily accessible and useable by individuals with disabilities by installing concrete parking spaces and adjacent concrete ramps and walkways to the vault toilets located at two developed recreation sites. The Deferred Trail Maintenance and Bridge Installation Project improves the recreational experience of hiking along the existing East Four Trail by installing a foot bridge across a drainage and removing a panel gate that currently must be opened and closed when traveling on that portion of trail. By building 800 feet of fence and removing a different 400 foot section of fence and a stock gate, this project also decreases the likelihood of livestock of potentially damaging rock art sites or other cultural resources in this area and provides increased protection to cultural resources.

## **Monitoring and Compliance**

On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific design features developed in this document will be followed.

## **Administrative Remedies**

Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a Notice of Appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at White River Field Office, 220 East Market St., Meeker, CO 81641 with copies sent to the

Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and to the Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS300-QC, Arlington, VA, 22203. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals at the above address within 30 days after the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

**Signature of Authorized Official**

Hunt E. Walter  
Field Manager

06/17/15  
Date