

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0194**

July 2015

**Special Recreation Permit for
Colorado Mountain College – Steamboat Springs (Alpine
Campus)**

Location: River trips including hiking and camping in Labyrinth Canyon of the Green River. Hiking in Hell Roaring Canyon and on the Spring Canyon Road.

Applicant/Address: John Saunders, 1275 Crawford Ave. Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

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Worksheet

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

U.S. Department of the Interior
Utah Bureau of Land Management

The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision; however, it constitutes an administrative record to be provided as evidence in protest, appeals and legal procedures.

OFFICE: Moab Field Office

PROJECT NUMBER: MFO-Y010-15-093R

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE: Special Recreation Permit for Colorado Mountain College (Alpine Campus in Steamboat Springs)

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: River trips including hiking and camping in Labyrinth Canyon of the Green River. Hiking in Hell Roaring Canyon and on the Spring Canyon Road.

APPLICANT: John Saunders, 1275 Crawford Ave. Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

A. Description of the Proposed Action and Any Applicable Mitigation Measures

John Saunders, on behalf of Colorado Mountain College, has requested reauthorization through a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to offer river trips in Labyrinth Canyon of the Green River. The trip would include hiking down the Spring Canyon Bottom Road and hiking up Hell Roaring Canyon. Any camping, outside of the Labyrinth Canyon trip, would occur in previously used campsites. The maximum group size would be 25. The College has previously held an SRP with the Moab BLM. Standard stipulations as well as Labyrinth Canyon specific stipulations would apply to the SRP for Colorado Mountain College (Alpine Campus).

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name* Moab Resource Management Plan Date Approved October, 2008

*List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto).

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Page 97 of the Moab RMP reads as follows: "Special Recreation Permits are issued as a discretionary action as a means to: help meet management objectives, provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreational use of public lands, control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors." In addition, on page 98 of the Moab RMP, it states, "All SRPs will contain standard stipulations appropriate for the type of activity and may include stipulations necessary to protect lands or resources, reduce user conflicts, or minimize health and safety concerns....Issue and manage recreation

permits for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts to such uses upon natural and cultural resources.”

The Moab Resource Management Plan (RMP), Final Environmental Impact Statement, signed October 31, 2008, identified lands with wilderness characteristics. The proposed use includes areas within lands with wilderness characteristics some of which are being managed as Natural Areas. Other lands within the proposal, although identified as possessing wilderness characteristics are not being managed as such. The proposed activity would not result in any changes in the impacts that were analyzed in the FEIS for the RMP.

C. Identify the applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Environmental Assessment UT-060-2007-010, *Special Recreation Permit Renewal for The Women's Wilderness Institute*, signed December 1, 2006, analyzed commercial river trips on Labyrinth Canyon of the Green River. Environmental Assessment UT-060-2006-017 *Special Recreation Permit for USART Recreation Event (Primal Quest)*, signed June 16, 2006, analyzed hiking/canyoneering use of the side canyons of the Green River, specifically Hell Roaring Canyon.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

- Yes
 No

Yes; the existing NEPA document addresses the impacts of permitted Labyrinth river trips within the Moab Field Office.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action (or existing proposed action), given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

- Yes
 No

Yes; Environmental Assessment UT-060-2007-010 and UT-060-2006-017 contain analysis of the proposed action and a no action alternative. The environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances have not changed to a degree that warrants broader consideration.

3. Is existing analysis adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standards assessment; recent endangered species listings, updated list of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes
 No

Yes; the existing analysis and conclusions are adequate as there has been no new information or circumstances presented. It can be reasonably concluded that all new information and circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes
 No

Yes; the direct and indirect impacts are substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document. Yes; site-specific impacts analyzed in the existing document are the same as those associated with the current proposed action.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes
 No

Yes; the public was notified of the preparation of Environmental Assessment UT-060-2007-010, *Special Recreation Permit Renewal for The Women's Wilderness Institute* when it was posted on the ENBB on October 23, 2006. The public was notified of the preparation of Environmental Assessment UT-060-2006-017, *Special Recreation Permit for USART Recreation Event (Primal Quest)* by posting on the ENBB on March 2, 2006. In addition, a formal public comment period was held on this EA. This level of involvement and notification is adequate for the current proposed action

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>
Ann Marie Aubry	Hydrologist	Air quality; Water quality; Floodplains, Soils, Wetlands/Riparian
Katie Stevens	Recreation Planner	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Farmlands, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Recreation, Visual Resources
David Pals	Geologist	Wastes (hazardous or solid)
Jordan Davis	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation, Weeds, T&E Plants, RHS, Grazing, Woodlands
Dave Williams	Rangeland Management Specialist	T&E Plants, Vegetation, Weeds, Grazing

Don Montoya	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources; Native American Religious Concerns
Pam Riddle	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Animal Species, Wildlife, Migratory Birds, Utah Sensitive Species
Bill Stevens	Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Natural Areas, WSA, Lands with Wilderness Characteristic, Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice
ReBecca Hunt_Foster	Paleontologist	Paleontology

CONCLUSION

Plan Conformance:

- This proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan.
- This proposal does not conform to the applicable land use plan

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

- Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.
- The existing NEPA documentation does not fully cover the proposed action. Additional NEPA documentation is needed if the project is to be further considered.

KC Stevens
Signature of Project Lead

7/7/15
Date

KC Stevens
Signature of NEPA Coordinator

7/7/15
Date

J. Michael Riddle
Signature of the Responsible Official

7/7/15
Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

ATTACHMENTS:
ID Team Checklist

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

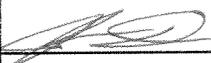
Project Title: Special Recreation Permit renewal for Colorado Mountain College – Steamboat Springs Alpine Campus
NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2014-0194 DNA
File/Serial Number: MFO-Y010-15-093R
Project Leader: Katie Stevens

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

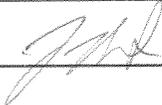
NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions
 NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required
 PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA
 NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

The following elements are not present in the Moab Field Office and have been removed from the checklist:
 Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Wild Horses and Burros.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NC	Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions		A. Aubry <i>AMA</i>	6/30/15
NC	Floodplains		A. Aubry <i>AMA</i>	6/30/15
NC	Soils		A. Aubry <i>AMA</i>	6/30/15
NC	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)		A. Aubry <i>AMA</i>	6/30/15
NC	Wetlands/Riparian Zones		A. Aubry <i>AMA</i>	6/30/15
NC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern		K. Stevens <i>KS</i>	6/30/15
NC	Recreation		K. Stevens <i>KS</i>	6/30/15
NC	Wild and Scenic Rivers		K. Stevens <i>KS</i>	6/30/15
NC	Visual Resources		K. Stevens <i>KS</i>	6/30/15
NC	BLM Natural Areas		K. Stevens <i>KS</i>	6/30/15
NC	Socio-Economics		B. Stevens <i>BS</i>	6/30/15
NC	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics		B. Stevens <i>BS</i>	6/30/15
NC	Wilderness/WSA		B. Stevens <i>BS</i>	6/30/15
NC	Cultural Resources		<i>D. Matson</i> Jared Lundell	6/30/15
NC	Native American Religious Concerns		<i>D. Matson</i> Jared Lundell	6/30/15
NC	Environmental Justice		B. Stevens <i>BS</i>	6/30/15

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NC	Wastes (hazardous or solid)		D. Pals 	6/30/15
NC	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species		P. Riddle 	6/30/15
NC	Migratory Birds		P. Riddle 	6/30/15
NC	Utah BLM Sensitive Species		P. Riddle 	6/30/15
NC	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species		P. Riddle 	6/30/15
NC	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds		J. Davis 	6/30/15
NC	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species		D. Williams 	6/30/15
NC	Livestock Grazing		DN 	6/30/15
NC	Rangeland Health Standards		D. Williams 	6/30/15
NC	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species		D. Williams 	6/30/15
NC	Woodland / Forestry			6/30/15
NC	Fuels/Fire Management		J. Relph 	6/30/15
NC	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production		D. Pals 	6/30/15
NC	Lands/Access		J. Denney	
NC	Paleontology		R. Hunt-Foster	

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	Katie Stevens 	7/6/15	
Authorized Officer	Beth Ransel 	7/7/15	

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND
DECISION RECORD**

Colorado Mountain College – Steamboat Springs Alpine Campus (Commercial Labyrinth Tours)
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0194 DNA

FONSI: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the present document, I have determined that the action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and an environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION: It is my decision to issue this Special Recreation Permit to Colorado Mountain College – Steamboat Springs (Alpine Campus) for commercial river trips through Labyrinth Canyon as listed under the Proposed Action. This decision is contingent upon meeting all stipulations and monitoring requirements attached.

RATIONALE: The decision to authorize the Special Recreation Permit for Colorado Mountain College – Steamboat Spring (Alpine Campus) has been made in consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed action. The action is in conformance with the Moab Resource Management Plan, which allows for recreation use permits for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts to such uses upon natural and cultural resources.



Authorized Officer

7/7/15

Date