

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

**Decision Record
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-0215-0028 EA**

September, 2015

Sand Island Group Campsite

Location: T.40 S., R.21 E., Section 33; within the Sand Island Campground

Applicant/Address: BLM, Monticello Field Office, 365 N. Main St., Monticello, Utah

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DECISION RECORD
Environmental Assessment
SAND ISLAND GROUP CAMPSITE
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The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Monticello Field Office proposes to construct a group campsite at the Sand Island Campground located about 2.3 miles west of Bluff, Utah. The project consists of the construction of a group campsite that would accommodate a maximum of 40 people and would be located about mid-way between existing campsites 9 and 24. The project will consist of sage brush removal, establishment of a gravel entry way and a gravel parking area designed to hold 8-10 regular vehicles and 3-5 oversized vehicles. One single vault toilet and a shade shelter with picnic tables and a fire ring would be installed. There is already an existing water hydrant and valve at the proposed location. The site plus the entry will cover approximately 0.5 acres.

It is my decision to approve the construction of the group site at Sand Island Campground as analyzed under the Proposed Action alternative in the Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2015-0028). Maps are available in the EA.

Plan Conformance and Consistency:

The proposed action and no action alternatives are in conformance with the terms and conditions of the Monticello Resource Management Plan (RMP) (November, 2008) as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. The specific RMP decisions that apply are:

REC-5 (pg.89)

Existing developed recreation sites will be maintained. New sites/facilities/trails will be developed in response to user demand, amenity value, and critical resource protection needs.

REC-15 (pg.90)

Develop or improve development of recreation sites as prioritized below:

- Kane Gulch Ranger Station (40 acres)
- Sand Island Campground (21 acres)
- Mexican Hat Launch site (20 acres)
- Hamburger Rock Campground (20 acres)
- Comb Wash Campground (10 acres)
- Butler Wash Ruin (60 acres)
- Mule Canyon Ruin (10 acres)
- Three Kiva Pueblo (10 acres)
- Shay Mountain Vista Campground (20 acres)
- Indian Creek Recreational and Camping Facilities as outlined in the Indian Creek Recreation Corridor Plan (BLM 2005).

Alternatives Considered:

The EA analyzed the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives. Because of the limited scope of the project and lack of issues needing addressed, no other alternatives were identified for analysis in the EA. The Proposed Action analyzed the impacts to recreation within the Sand Island Campground as this was the only resource raised as an issue to carry forward for analysis.

Sand Island Campground currently has 24 sites available to campers on a first come, first serve basis. Due to the lack of a designated group site, larger groups have been able to reserve sites 1-5 to use as a group site. These sites are located on the eastern-most end of the campground and are small. When these sites are full with a group, it limits the access to a trail that exits this end of the campground. These sites are generally reserved by groups as they stage for their permitted trip to run the San Juan River. Several years ago site 24 was improved by adding a shade structure and additional tables with the intent that this would be the new group site to eliminate group use in sites 1-5. However this site has a 20 person group limit while river-permits have a 33 person group limit. This combined with the increased popularity and additional other uses in the area have caused the need for a second large group site. Sites 1-5 are still needed for larger groups and the original intent of improving site 24 was so to eliminate group use in sites 1-5. No other issues were identified for analysis in the EA.

Under the No Action alternative sites 1-5 would continue to be used as a group site.

Rationale for Decision: The Proposed Action was selected because the construction and designation a group site would provide large groups of visitors the opportunity to camp in one large area with picnic tables, a metal fire grate and adequate space to park several vehicles. Recreational opportunities would improve with the designation of a group site by freeing up other individual sites for other campers. Therefore, there would be a beneficial impact by the adding a group site to the Sand Island Campground. Impacts on other resources such as threatened and endangered species, aquatic resources and vegetation are not expected as presented in the interdisciplinary team checklist, identified as Appendix A of the EA.

The EA was made available to the public for a 15 day comment period. No comments were received.

Protest/Appeal Language: The decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on September 30, 2010. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at Monticello Field Office, P.O. Box 7, Monticello, Utah 84535. 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, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

<u>/s/ <i>Donald K Hoffheins</i></u>	<u>9/8/2015</u>
Donald K. Hoffheins	Date
Monticello Field Manager	