

# United States Department of the Interior

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## Bureau of Land Management

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**June 2016**  
**Decision Record**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0236-EA**

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### **Kings Bottom Campground Walk-in Additions**

*Location:* T. 26 S., R. 21 E., Section 10, *Grand County, Utah*

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Moab Field Office  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
Phone: 435-259-2100  
Fax: 435-259-2158



## DECISION RECORD

### DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0236 EA

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (EA # DOI- BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0236) for the expansion of the existing King's Bottom Campground. An expansion of up to 15 campsites is analyzed in the EA. The campground is within the Colorado Riverway Special Recreation Management Area. Two alternatives were analyzed for their environmental impacts (Proposed Action and No Action).

It is my decision to approve the building of the walk-in campsites immediately adjacent to the King's Bottom Campground. See the Map in the above referenced EA for a diagram of the campground expansion. It is also my decision to decommission campsites 3 – 8 in Moonflower Campground and turn Campsites 1 and 2 into one reservable group campsite. The campsites at the Spring campground on the Kane Creek Road would also be decommissioned. There would be no camping allowed in campsites 3 – 8 in Moonflower (thus removing campground infrastructure from the Behind the Rocks Wilderness Study Area). There would also be no camping allowed at the Spring location on the Kane Creek Road.

**Authorities:** The authority for this decision is in CFR 43 8360- Visitor Services.

**Compliance and Monitoring:** No monitoring is required. The BLM will construct the campground and will ensure that it follows the terms, conditions and stipulations that are outlined below.

**Terms / Conditions / Stipulations:** The BLM commits to the following conservation measures in the construction of the campground:

1. If a raptor nest is identified near the campground, a portion of the campground may be closed to protect nesting and fledging.
2. Construction activities would be avoided during the migratory bird (included ESA species: Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo) and raptor nesting season, typically March 1st through August 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:**

The Proposed Action has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the 2008 Moab BLM Resource Management Plan, which states "Manage the Colorado Riverway as a Destination SRMA to manage camping, boating, river access, trail and interpretive facilities in popular areas along or near the Colorado River."

The proposed action is consistent with the Grand County General Plan (2012), which includes the following strategy: Strategy E - Maintain and enhance the recreational, scenic, and cultural amenities unique to Grand County to attract and sustain economic activity.

**Rationale for Decision:** the Proposed Action meets the purpose and need for the project by providing camping opportunities in an area allocated to this use in the 2008 Moab Resource Management Plan. The walk-in campsites at King's Bottom provide a beneficial substitute for the campsites to be lost at Moonflower and Spring. There are no significant impacts to any resources located within the project area.

Ten individual campsites within streamside riparian areas would be removed and allowed to revegetate (six in Moonflower and four in Spring). This action would also remove recreation infrastructure from the

Behind the Rocks Wilderness Study Area, thus benefitting that resource. Campers would be required to camp closer to toilet facilities, removing a problem that has occurred with the campsite configuration now in place. Traffic near the Spring site would no longer be blocked by inappropriate parking by campers.

Converting campsites 1 and 2 in the Moonflower Campground to a reservable group site would provide an opportunity for organized camping as well as a venue for events such as weddings.

The public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the ePlanning website in August, 2015. A formal scoping period was held in February of 2016. Newspaper stories were placed in the *Moab Times Independent* and the *Moab Sun News* inviting public comment. Three comments were received as a result of this posting. The private landowner adjacent to the proposal objected to the BLM adding campsites and competing with their private campground. (Note: no campsites would be added as a result of this proposal). The second letter was from the National Park Service, requesting that if the group site were reservable, that they be allowed to reserve it for free for their field trips. The third letter was from the Moab Travel Council, supporting the addition of walk-in campsites, and asking that more campsites be added, if possible.

**Protest/Appeal Language:**

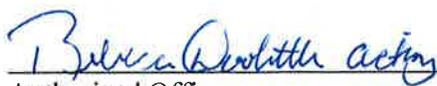
The decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on June 1, 2016. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at Moab Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532. 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, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

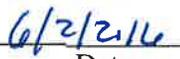
If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b)), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

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.

  
Authorized Officer

  
Date

EA # DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0236, which includes a map of the Proposed Action

# United States Department of the Interior

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## Bureau of Land Management

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**June 2016**

**Finding of No Significant Impact  
Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0236-EA**

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### **King's Bottom Campground Walk In Additions**

*Location:* T. 26 S., R. 21 E., Section 10, *Grand County, Utah*

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Moab Field Office  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
Phone: 435-259-2100  
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## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (DOI BLM UT Y010 2015 0236) for a proposed action to add up to 15 campsites to the already existing King's Bottom Campground. The proposed action is described and diagramed in the EA referenced above. The underlying need for the proposal would be met while providing legal and sustainable campsites in the area along the Kane Creek Road.

The project area is within the Colorado Riverway SRMA. EA#DOI BLM UT Y010 2015-0236 is attached, and is incorporated by reference for this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A no action alternative and the proposed action alternative were analyzed in the EA.

### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the 2008 Moab RMP/FEIS. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed.

This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

**Context:** The project is a site-specific action directly involving approximately 0.6 acres of BLM administered land that by itself does not have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

**Intensity:** The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and incorporated into resources and issues considered (includes supplemental authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1) and supplemental Instruction Memorandum, Acts, regulations and Executive Orders.

The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

- 1. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.** The Proposed Action would impact resources as described in the EA. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the 2008 Moab RMP/FEIS. Beneficial impacts to campers are analyzed within the EA.
- 2. The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety.** The Proposed Action provides additional toilets for campers, thus enhancing public health and safety. It also removes sites that are of some distance to a toilet.
- 3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** The historic and cultural resources of the area have been inventoried and no cultural resources were found. The campground avoids all cultural sites. In addition, mitigation measures will be undertaken to reduce the impacts of past actions. The following components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues are not affected because they are not present in the project area: Areas

of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Natural Areas, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Wastes, Geology and Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species. In addition, the following components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues, although present, would not be affected by this proposed action for the reasons listed in Appendix A of the EA: Air Quality, Environmental Justice, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Water Resources, Migratory Birds, Visual Resources, Native American Religious Concerns, Utah BLM Sensitive Species, Socioeconomics and Threatened and Endangered Animal Species, Fish and Wildlife, Invasive Species, and Woodlands. Six components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues -- Recreation, Floodplains, Soils, Vegetation, Wetland/Riparian and Wilderness Study Areas —were analyzed in detail in Chapter 4. Recreation and Wilderness Study Areas would only be beneficially impacted.

4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** There is no scientific controversy over the nature of the impacts.
5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.
6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The actions considered in the selected alternative were considered by the interdisciplinary team within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete analysis of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the selected alternative and all other alternatives is described in Chapter 4 of the EA.
7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts – which include connected actions regardless of land ownership.** The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the project is contained in Chapter 4 of the EA.
8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.** The project will not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will it cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. A cultural inventory has been completed for the proposed action, and all cultural resources were avoided.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, or the degree to which the action may adversely affect: 1) a proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or its habitat, or 2) a species on BLM's sensitive species list. There are no Threatened or Endangered species present within the project area.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of a federal, state, local, or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-federal requirements are consistent with federal requirements. The project does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

  
Authorized Officer

  
Date

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

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**Environmental Assessment  
DOI- BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0236- EA**

**May 2016**

**Kings Bottom Campground Walk-in Additions**

*Location: T. 26 S., R. 21 E., Section 10, Grand County, Utah*

*Applicant/Address: BLM, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, UT 84532*

U.S. Department of the Interior  
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82 East Dogwood  
Moab, UT 84532  
Phone: 435-259-2100  
Fax: 435-259-2106



# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Moab Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management proposes to add up fifteen walk in campsites to the existing Kings Bottom Campground, which is located along the Kane Creek Road. In addition, six campsites in Moonflower Campground (sites 3-8) would be closed and all four campsites at the Spring Campground would also be closed. The campsites that are proposed for closure are within riparian areas. The Moonflower and Spring campsites would be replaced by the addition of the campsites in the Kings Bottom Campground, resulting in no net loss of campsites in the Kane Creek corridor. Campsites 1 and 2 at the Moonflower Campground would be repurposed (see Proposed Action, below).

The Kane Creek Road is a very popular recreation corridor. BLM traffic counter data found that 300,000 people used the Kane Creek corridor in 2010. Activities include camping, climbing, jeeping, bicycling, ATV, motorcycle and UTV travel and BASE jumping. BLM currently has five campgrounds (Kings Bottom, Moonflower, Spring, Hunter and the Ledges) along the road, all of which are in the Colorado Riverway Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). In the SRMA, the BLM restricts camping to these designated, fee-based camping areas. Because of the level of visitation, there is a high demand for camping sites along Kane Creek Road. Until 1996, open, dispersed camping was allowed along the Kane Creek Road, resulting in campsite expansion, trash, visual intrusions and human waste problems. In 1996, camping areas with minimal facilities were constructed, and camping was limited to these fee sites. Natural resources and visitor experiences along the Kane Creek Road improved as a result. However, the demand for camping sites exceeds the supply of sites.

The BLM proposes to remove ten riparian campsites at the Spring and Moonflower campgrounds and replace them with up to fifteen walk-in campsites at the Kings Bottom Campground. See Appendix A for a map of the proposed campground addition.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The Kane Creek corridor is a popular recreation destination, as it is located near Moab, Utah. The great majority of the users of the Kane Creek corridor consist of out-of-area tourists who are often interested in camping. There is a need to provide campsites in the area, especially when the 10 riparian-based campsites are closed. The BLM's purpose is to remove the riparian campsites and substitute up to fifteen walk-in campsites within the proposed King's Bottom Campground addition.

### **CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN**

The proposed action described below is in conformance with the 2008 Moab Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Kane Creek corridor is within the Colorado Riverway Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), which is managed as a Destination SRMA (page 87). All camping is restricted to campgrounds within the SRMA.

## **RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS**

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandates multiple use of Public Lands, including recreation use. An objective of BLM's recreation policy is to satisfy recreation demand within allowable use levels in an equitable, safe and enjoyable manner, minimizing adverse resource impacts and user conflicts.

The proposed action specifically implements the Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Recreation Management for BLM Lands in Utah by seeking to repair long-term damage caused by camping. The proposed action "limits or controls activities through specialized management tools such as designated campsites. . . and (places) limitations on number of users."

The proposed action is consistent with the Grand County General Plan (2012), which includes the following strategy: Strategy E - Maintain and enhance the recreational, scenic, and cultural amenities unique to Grand County to attract and sustain economic activity.

## **CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

There are two alternatives: (a) the Proposed Action, which is to construct an up to 15-site campground loop addition and close 10 designated campsites; and (b) No Action, which is to not construct the additional facilities and not to close the riparian campsites in question. The Proposed Action has two alternatives nested within it regarding the disposition of Campsites 1 and 2 at the Moonflower Campground. Subalternative 1 is to manage Moonflower Campsites 1 and 2 as a Day Use Only area and Subalternative 2 is to combine Moonflower Campsites 1 and 2 into a reservable group site. The No Action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action; the No Action alternative maintains Moonflower Campsites 1 and 2 as individual, non-reservable campsites.

### **PROPOSED ACTION**

1. The BLM would construct up to 15 walk-in campsites on land located adjacent to the King's Bottom Campground. All campsites would have picnic tables and fire rings; one extra toilet would be provided for the additional campsites. Two parking areas would be provided for the walk in campsites (see the diagram in Appendix B for an illustration of the proposed King's Bottom campsites). The total permanent disturbance involved in the campground construction is 0.60 acres. An additional 0.43 acres may be temporarily disturbed during construction; rehabilitation of this disturbed area is part of the proposed action.
2. The four campsites at the Spring Campground (approximately five miles down the Kane Creek Road from King's Bottom) would be removed and rehabilitated. This would remove 0.07 acres of disturbance.

3. Six campsites (sites 3 – 8) in Moonflower Campground, which is located slightly downstream and across Kane Creek Road from King's Bottom Campground, would be decommissioned and removed. Campsites 3 – 8 would be rehabilitated. A hiking trail would be delineated up the canyon to the small pool at the end, largely by lining one pathway with rocks. This action would remove 0.36 acres of disturbance.
4. *Subalternative 1*: the two remaining Moonflower Campsites (sites 1 and 2) would be managed as a Day Use Only area. Picnic tables would be installed and fire rings removed.  
*Subalternative 2*: the two remaining Moonflower Campsites (sites 1 and 2) would be combined and managed as a reservable group site.

Conservation Measures:

1. If a raptor nest is identified near the campground, a portion of the campground may be closed to protect nesting and fledging.
2. Construction activities would be avoided during the migratory bird (included ESA species: Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo) and raptor nesting season, typically March 1st through August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**NO ACTION**

The new Kings Bottom sites would not be added to the Kings Bottom Campground. Individual campsites would continue to be located and utilized at the Spring Campground and at Moonflower Campground. Campsites 1 and 2 at the Moonflower Campground would continue to be managed as individual sites.

**ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS**

The private landowner to the west of Moonflower Canyon and Kings Bottom campgrounds requested that no campsites be added to Kings Bottom Campground (while the campsites in Moonflower and Spring continue to be decommissioned). The land owner stated that the BLM campgrounds compete unfairly with the private campground operated by the landowner; her preference would be to have no campgrounds on public land.

The elimination of dispersed camping throughout the Kane Creek corridor benefits the private camppark owner by allowing only a finite number of campers in that corridor. The elimination of dispersed camping in the early 1990's was accompanied by the provision of public land campground sites; the net result was to force more people into private campparks, including the camppark of the adjacent landowner. The BLM chose not to analyze an alternative which eliminated all public land campgrounds on the Kane Creek Road.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

#### **INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING**

The affected environment of the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in Appendix B, the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist. The checklist indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area, or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Critical Elements of the Human Environment are those elements that are subject to the requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order, and must be considered in all EAs (BLM H-1790-1, Appendix 5). Critical Elements of the Human Environment are included in Appendix A. Resources, including Critical Elements, which would be impacted to a level requiring further analysis are described in Chapter 3 and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4 below.

#### **Floodplains**

Three of the four campsites at the Spring Campground are located within the floodplain of the lowest reach of Kane Creek (Reach 14030005000105 in the USGS National Hydrography Database). The floodplain is 30-50 m (100-165') wide, relatively level, and generally well-connected to the stream channel in the vicinity of the campsites. Its geomorphology makes the campsites vulnerable to inundation in shallow water during periods of unusually high stream discharge. Moderate and localized erosion of the floodplain soil is evident at the campsites, one of which is currently closed to allow for restoration of soil and vegetation. The fourth campsite is located on a roadside knoll adjacent to the floodplain of a stream channel that joins Kane Creek from Gatherer Canyon.

Campsites 3-8 at the Moonflower Campground are each located within or adjacent to a narrow floodplain associated with an ephemeral to intermittent stream channel in a cliff-bound canyon. The floodplain begins near the head of the canyon where the drainage from the canyon rim drops more than 140 m (460') into a rocky plunge pool upstream from the campsites and extends roughly 600 m (1970') downstream to the floodplain of the Colorado River on the opposite (NW) side of Kane Creek Road. The fact that run-off tends to be funneled into the lower canyon from the canyon rim, combined with the confined nature of the floodplain, makes the Moonflower campsites particularly vulnerable to flash flooding. Denuding and erosion of floodplain soil is evident in the vicinity of campsites and along the network of trails adjacent to the stream channel and between the campsites. Recent downcutting of the portion of the channel downstream from the campground, between the culvert under Kane Creek Road and the confluence with the Colorado River, has resulted in the channel becoming deeply incised, unstable, and disconnected from the floodplain.

The proposed area for expansion of the Kings Bottom Campground is within the 100-year floodplain of the Colorado River (along NHD Reach 14030005000170, which begins at the upstream confluence with Mill Creek). The floodplain tends to be terraced

or sloping in this area, spanning about 3 m (10') in elevation and ranging in width from roughly 40 to 70 m (130-230'). Consequently, lower portions of the floodplain bordering the river channel are inundated on a relatively frequent basis, whereas the higher portions are rarely inundated. This also results in a well-defined gradient in soil moisture from the edge of the river channel to the periphery of the floodplain.

### **Recreation**

The Kane Creek corridor has been a popular recreation destination for many years; it has been heavily utilized by recreationists since the early 1980's. Recreation activities in the area include hiking, motorized use of all types, bicycling, camping, rock art viewing and sightseeing. People also choose to drive up the Kane Creek road to enjoy the beauty of the area. BLM traffic counters have shown that the corridor consistently hosts about 300,000 visitors per year, with the heaviest use in spring and in fall.

Camping in the corridor was restricted to campgrounds in 1996, as part of the publication of special rules restricting dispersed camping within the Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area (of which the Kane Creek corridor is a part). King's Bottom, Moonflower and Spring campgrounds were constructed in 1996, largely to restrict the dispersed camping that had been occurring throughout the corridor. During the camping season (March – October), these three campgrounds are full almost every evening. Moonflower Campground in particular is prized for its shade, distance from the road and scenery. Moonflower Campground has also had some demand as a wedding location. Since the campground is not reservable, several incidents involving conflicts between campers and wedding groups have been reported to BLM.

Moonflower Campground is difficult to clean and maintain, as the campsites are somewhat removed from the parking area. Moonflower Canyon is also a fairly popular hiking location; many people come from town to walk (often with dogs) up the canyon to the pool at the end.

The parking at the Spring sites is less than ideal, because campers must park along the road at the bottom of a switchback. In addition, the Spring sites are located 0.8 miles from the nearest toilet facility (at Hunter Campground).

Both Moonflower and Spring campsites can flash flood during rain events. Moonflower Canyon is a short drainage, but surrounded by rock slopes; a great deal of water can gather in the canyon. Spring campsites flood when Kane Creek flashes. Neither of these flood events are predictable. Flash floods have occurred at both locations, and although no one was injured, tents and vehicles did get wet. The King's Bottom location is along the Colorado River. Although the Colorado River can flood its banks, the river's rise is predictable, slow and controlled.

### **Soils**

The proposed new camp sites and parking areas at King's Bottom Campground and the potential decommissioned sites at Moonflower Campground are found within the Typic Ustifluvents, which are derived from alluvium of sandstone and shale. The permeability

of the soils is moderately well drained. The potential for water erosion is slight and the hazard of soil blowing is severe. The rooting depth of plants is greater than 60 inches with the water table being 40-60 inches in depth. These soils can be subject to frequent, long periods of flooding in May and June (USDA, 1980).

The decommissioned sites at Spring Campground are found within the Lithic Torriorthents. These soils have formed in residuum and alluvium derived from sandstone and shale. The permeability is moderately rapid. The potential for runoff is high, water erosion is moderate, and wind erosion is high. The effective rooting depth is four to 20 inches (USDA, 1980).

### **Vegetation**

Vegetation in the two canyons (Moonflower and along Kane Creek at the Spring site) is largely riparian. The campsites in the two canyons have denuded some areas that could support riparian vegetation. The vegetation in the area of the proposed campsite additions (King's Bottom) is characterized by large cottonwood trees as well as some shrubs and grasses.

### **Wetland/Riparian**

Riparian zones in the vicinity of the Spring Campground are found along Kane Creek and a small spring that flows into the channel of an intermittent stream at the mouth of Gatherer Canyon before joining Kane Creek from the ESE. The spring emerges at a small hanging garden dominated by yellow columbine (*Aquilegia chrysantha*) and fringed by birchleaf buckthorn (*Rhamnus betulaeifolia*), before joining the intermittent stream channel and dropping over a rock ledge into a small riparian wetland on the east side of Kane Creek Road. This wetland borders one of the four campsites and supports a dense stand of Fremont cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*), Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*), three-leaf sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), and single-leaf ash (*Fraxinus anomala*), along with understory vegetation consisting of a mix of grasses, horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*), New Mexico raspberry (*Rubus neomexicana*), and common reed (*Phragmites australis*). Prominent pools supporting emergent aquatic vegetation, including narrow-leaf cattails (*Typha angustifolia*), are present in the spring channel on the west side of Kane Creek Road, upstream from the confluence with Kane Creek.

Three campsites (including one that is currently closed for restoration purposes) are located on the west side of Kane Creek Road in the riparian zone of Kane Creek. Vegetation in the riparian zone of this area is dominated by Fremont cottonwoods, rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), scattered willows (*Salix* spp.) and tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), as well as a mix of nonnative and native grasses, with cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) being most abundant. Upland shrubs, such as four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) and greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), are found growing among mature cottonwoods in the riparian zone as well.

Campsites 3-8 at the Moonflower Campground are located along an ephemeral to intermittent stream at the bottom of a steep-walled canyon. During periods of high runoff, water flows down the canyon rim into a broad plunge pool upstream from the

campsites. A well-established riparian zone is present around the plunge pool and along the downstream channel. The dominant trees and shrubs in the riparian zone are mature Fremont cottonwoods, Gambel oak, three-leaf sumac, and single-leaf ash. A few scattered willows, tamarisk, Russian olives (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), New Mexico privet (*Forestiera neomexicana*), and netleaf hackberry trees (*Celtis reticulata*) are also present. The understory is characterized by a variety of grasses and forbs, as well as scattered upland shrubs and narrow-leaf yucca (*Yucca angustifolia*) interspersed with bare patches of sand. Young cottonwoods are scarce in the riparian zone, indicating that there has been a recent trend of poor recruitment.

The proposed area for expansion of the Kings Bottom Campground falls primarily within the riparian zone of the Colorado River. The sloping to terraced nature of the floodplain in this area results in a gradation of riparian vegetation ranging from dense willows along the river bank to a mixture of cottonwoods, patches of willows, upland shrubs, and grasses at the outer edge of the riparian zone. A few scattered tamarisk and Russian olive trees are also present, but recent riparian restoration work has substantially reduced the distribution and abundance of these invasive species in the vicinity of the campground.

#### **Wilderness Study Area**

Sites 3 – 8 in Moonflower Canyon are located in the Behind the Rocks Wilderness Study Area. Moonflower campsites 1 and 2 are not within the Wilderness Study Area boundaries. Campsites were installed in the Wilderness Study Area in 1996 in order to restrict the heavy dispersed camping (and seasonal living) that was occurring in Moonflower Canyon.

Neither the King's Bottom nor Spring locations are within Wilderness Study Areas.

## **CHAPTER 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### **DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS**

#### **PROPOSED ACTION**

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action to those resources described in the Affected Environment, Chapter 3, above.

#### **Floodplains**

Closure of the four campsites at the Spring Campground would reduce localized soil erosion and compaction associated with the campsites and the trails to the campsites. Three of the four campsites are within the floodplain of Kane Creek, where camping poses a potential public safety issue due to periodic flooding.

The closure of Campsites 3-8 at the Moonflower Campground is expected to improve the integrity of floodplains by reducing soil erosion and increasing vegetative cover. Enhanced soil stability and vegetative cover are especially critical during periods of high stream discharge, which can cause extensive sediment transport and gulley formation in

areas where the integrity of the floodplain has been compromised. Trails to campsites will be decommissioned and a single well-defined trail leading up the canyon will be maintained.

The proposed expansion of the Kings Bottom Campground will result in the creation of two additional parking areas, a toilet facility, and 10 new walk-in campsites covering a total of 0.6 acres of the floodplain. The resultant loss of vegetation and compaction of soil at the newly developed sites will likely interfere with infiltration of water into floodplain soil and occasionally increase run-off onto adjacent portions of the floodplain. Small-scale soil erosion is likely to occur at campsites and associated trails as well. To minimize these impacts, the proposed locations of the parking lots are in previously disturbed areas dominated by nonnative vegetation and the extent of the area impacted by the construction of the campsites and the trails to the campsites will be kept at a minimum.

### **Recreation**

Removing 10 campsites from Moonflower and Spring Camps would negatively impact those seeking campsites in the Kane Creek Corridor. Those campers who prize the unique Moonflower campsites would not be able to camp in the canyon. Replacing these 10 campsites with walk-in sites at King's Bottom would help mitigate the loss of the camping experience. The walk-in design of the newly installed Kings Bottom campsites would provide an excellent recreational experience for those campers who chose to use them.

The loss of the Moonflower campsites would mean that Moonflower Campground would be easier to clean and maintain. In addition, those who enjoy walking up Moonflower Canyon would not be required to walk past campers. Removal of the Spring sites would help the traffic flow on Kane Creek Road by removing the parked vehicles from the bottom of the switchback. In addition, all designated campers in the Kane Creek corridor would be in close proximity to a toilet facility.

Removing campsites in Moonflower and Spring campgrounds would mean that campers would not be subject to flash floods. Should the Colorado River be predicted to top its banks, King's Bottom campground would be closed and the toilets pumped. When the possibility of a Colorado River flood is over, the campground would be reopened.

### *Subalternative 1: Moonflower Sites 1 and 2 as Day Use Area*

Converting Moonflower Sites 1 and 2 to a Day Use Area would provide the recreating public with a pleasant picnic spot close to Moab. However, it is likely that the Day Use Site would be used as an illegal campsite every night for much of the camping season. This would create a conflict with day users, promote inappropriate behavior (illegal camping is oftentimes more raucous than controlled fee-based camping) and lead to resource degradation.

### Subalternative 2: Moonflower Sites 1 and 2 as Reservable Group Site

Converting Moonflower Sites 1 and 2 to a Reservable Group Site would provide the camping public with a pleasant group campsite close to Moab. It is likely that the occupancy rate would be very high, lessening the likelihood of its use as an illegal campsite. Those seeking to host weddings or other events in Moonflower Campground could reserve the venue and have a guaranteed location for their wedding or other such event. Conflicts between the general camping public and the wedding group would be eliminated.

#### **Soils**

The proposed new camp sites at King's Bottom have the potential to increase foot traffic within the soil type. The increased foot traffic would potentially increase wind erosion of the soils at King's Bottom. It is difficult to quantify the amount of increase in wind erosion as a result of the new camping areas. The potential is lessened as the majority of the sites were planned to be in and among existing native vegetation that would block the wind, thus reducing the potential for wind erosion. The potential for water erosion would not be expected to change as the soils are well drained.

The decommissioning and rehabilitation of the camping sites at Moonflower and Spring Campgrounds would be expected to have a positive impact to the soils. The disturbance would be decreased and allow the vegetation to become established further stabilizing the soils.

The creation of a single hiking trail up Moonflower to the pool would also have a positive impact on the soils. This would eliminate the braided trail system that is currently being used and designating a single trail reducing the amount of surface disturbance by allowing the vegetation to become established further stabilizing the soils.

The change in designation of Moonflower camping sites 1 and 2 would not change the condition of the soils within the sites. They would continue to have the potential for wind erosion and that would continue to lose the soils at the same rate. The soils are changed with every flood as new materials are deposited after every flood event as the soils have formed in alluvium from sandstone and shale.

#### **Vegetation**

Some vegetation would be removed during the construction of the King's Bottom additions. However, the campground was designed to minimize the removal of vegetation. For instance, one of the parking areas was designed to cover an area infested with koschia. No cottonwood trees would be removed. The maximum acreage of surface disturbance would be 0.60 acres.

The removal of the ten campsites in Moonflower and Spring campsites would mean that the two canyons could rehabilitate. It is expected that vegetation would recover quickly in these two riparian areas. There would be no net loss of vegetation as a result of the Proposed Action.

### **Wetland/Riparian**

Closure of the four campsites at the Spring Campground is expected to reduce trampling of understory riparian vegetation and promote revegetation of eroded and partially denuded areas near campsites and along the trails to the campsites. The reduction in disturbance levels at these campsites is also expected to facilitate the spread of native riparian vegetation in areas currently dominated by cheatgrass and other invasive plants.

The closure of Campsites 3-8 at the Moonflower Campground is expected to benefit native riparian vegetation by reducing soil compaction and erosion and allowing revegetated areas at campsites and along trails to gradually recover. Unrestrained and heavy foot traffic in the riparian zone has likely contributed to the scarcity of young Fremont cottonwoods, a situation that is expected to improve after campsites are closed and hikers are encouraged to use a single well-defined trail.

The proposed expansion of the Kings Bottom Campground will result in the loss of riparian vegetation in parking lots and campsites. Most of the campsites will be located in stands of willows, which will result in pockets of bare or partially denuded soil connected by trails to the parking lots. Impacts resulting from the small-scale revegetation of these sites will be partially buffered by the surrounding willows. The parking lots have been carefully placed to avoid cottonwoods and minimize loss of native vegetation. One of the parking lots, at the northeast end of the project area, will use an existing dirt road and campsite for access and will be located primarily in a previously disturbed area dominated by nonnative vegetation (i.e., *Kochia scoparia*). The other parking lot, which will be located in the southwest portion of the project area, will occupy a portion of the riparian zone that has been subject to recent restoration efforts. It will be situated in a manner that avoids the loss of any cottonwood trees and minimizes the loss of willows. Most of the vegetation that will be impacted by this parking lot consists of cheatgrass and nonnative forbs in a previously disturbed area. Native grasses and shrubs, including some recently planted vegetation, will be impacted to a lesser extent.

### **Wilderness Study Area**

Removal of sites 3-8 in Moonflower Canyon would benefit wilderness values. The metal fire rings and site posts that delineate these sites would be removed, leading to a greater sense of naturalness.

### **NO ACTION**

The No Action alternative would not meet the need for the proposed action and would not provide a recreation resource for the traveling public interested in recreating in the Kane Creek area.

### **Floodplains**

Failure to permanently close the four campsites at the Spring Campground would result in continued soil erosion and compaction in the vicinity of the campsites and along the trails to the campsites. The continuation of these impacts into the future would likely necessitate periodic closure and restoration of campsites to protect the integrity of the

floodplain and associated vegetation. One of the four campsites is currently closed to camping for this reason.

If Campsites 3-8 at the Moonflower Campground remain open to camping, impacts to floodplain soil and vegetation will likely continue in a manner that could contribute to increased rates of erosion and decreased connectivity between the floodplain and channel. Continued destabilization of the floodplain would likely reduce vegetative cover and increase impacts associated with flooding as well. These trends could reduce the diversity and integrity of riparian vegetation and increase threats to public safety. The floodplain in this area is especially sensitive due to the morphology of the drainage into the canyon and its susceptibility to flash flooding.

The No Action alternative would have no direct impact on the floodplain in the area proposed for expansion of the Kings Bottom Campground.

### **Recreation**

Campsites in Moonflower and Spring would not be removed; those who value camping at these locations would still be able to enjoy their experience. New campsites would not be provided at King's Bottom. Maintenance issues at Moonflower and Spring campgrounds would continue; visitors would continue to camp relatively far from toilet facilities. Those wishing to hike up Moonflower Canyon would continue to be required to walk through campsites on their way to the pool. Campers in both Moonflower and Spring sites would continue to be subject to the possibility of a flash flood.

Campsites 1 and 2 would continue to be operated as individual, first come first served campsites. The opportunity for either a Day Use Site or Reservable Group Site would be foregone. Conflicts among campers and those using Moonflower as a wedding site would continue.

### **Soils**

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to the camping sites and it would not be expected to change the condition of the soils. The campsites would continue to have the potential for wind erosion and would continue to lose the soils at the same rate. The soils are changed with every flood as new materials are deposited after every flood event because the soils have formed in alluvium from sandstone and shale. The potential benefits of having a designated trail would not be realized, nor would the potential benefits outlined in the discussion under the Proposed Action of this chapter.

### **Vegetation**

No vegetation would be removed in constructing the King's Bottom campsites; however, vegetation would not be able to recover in the area of the closed sites.

### **Wetland/Riparian**

Continued use of the four campsites at the Spring Campground will result in continued impacts to native riparian vegetation in the vicinity of campsites and access trails. These impacts are mostly localized and have not significantly reduced the diversity or integrity

of native riparian vegetation. In addition, restoration efforts have reduced the distribution of invasive trees and shrubs in the area. However, nonnative grasses and forbs are prevalent in the understory of the riparian zone in the vicinity of the campground, and will likely remain so unless levels of disturbance associated with camping are reduced.

If Campsites 3-8 at the Moonflower Campground remain open to camping, impacts to the riparian zone will likely continue in a manner that could ultimately lead to a loss of diversity and integrity of riparian vegetation. Soil compaction and erosion at campsites and along the network of trails between the campsites would continue and would likely result in a long-term decline in the abundance of desirable trees and shrubs, such as Fremont cottonwoods. Gully formation and downcutting of the stream channel would be a continuing threat, which could ultimately disconnect portions of the floodplain from the channel and result in the conversion of riparian habitat to upland habitat.

The No Action alternative would have no direct impact on the riparian vegetation in the area proposed for expansion of the Kings Bottom Campground.

#### **Wilderness Study Area**

Campsites 3 – 8 in Moonflower Canyon would not be removed and would stay in the WSA. The fire ring and site post would not be removed and wilderness values would not be improved.

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

#### **Floodplains**

The existing camping facilities, access road, and parking areas at the Kings Bottom Campground cover approximately 2.5 acres of floodplain along the SE side of the Colorado River. Expansion of the campground facilities to accommodate the addition of 10 walk-in sites is expected to impact an additional 1 acre of floodplain, of which 0.6 acres will be impacted on a permanent basis. The walk-in campsites will be scattered and embedded within a larger area of non-impacted floodplain and riparian vegetation, which will help to minimize large-scale impacts to the floodplain. Continued negative impacts to the floodplain of the Colorado River, including soil compaction and moderate erosion, will occur at the existing campground facilities due to vehicular and foot traffic.

More severe impacts to the nearby floodplain have occurred on private land to the SW of Kings Bottom Campground, where roughly 45 acres have been leveled and cleared of understory vegetation, although scattered cottonwoods and riparian willows have been left intact. By contrast, floodplains on the opposite (NW) side of this reach of the Colorado River have been minimally impacted by development.

The Moonflower camping area is located about 275 m (0.17 miles) down Kane Creek Road from the Kings Bottom Campground. The floodplain associated with the stream

channel in Moonflower Canyon covers approximately 4.5 acres. An estimated 1.35 acres have been impacted by soil erosion, compaction, and loss of vegetation associated with camping and hiking activities in the canyon. Campsites 1 and 2 and the roadside parking area cover about 0.25 acres of this impacted area, and will remain impacted under the proposed action. Roughly 500 m (1640') of hiking trail, covering approximately 0.1 acres, will also remain impacted. Impacts to the remaining floodplain habitat will be greatly reduced, ultimately facilitating the restoration of about an acre of floodplain habitat that has been denuded or partially denuded of vegetation and subject to soil erosion. Hiking and day use activities will continue in the future, but the network of official and unofficial trails between campsites will be reduced to a single well-defined trail lined with rocks, which is expected to play a major role in reducing impacts to the floodplain. Natural recovery of denuded areas of the floodplain in Moonflower Canyon following the closure of Campsites 3-8 and associated trails is also expected to reduce negative impacts to the floodplain of the Colorado River by reducing sediment transport and downcutting of the lower portion of the channel from Moonflower Canyon in the highly impaired area where it cuts across the floodplain of the Colorado River on the NW side of Kane Creek Road.

An estimated 0.23 acres of floodplain at the Spring Campground has been subject to soil compaction, moderate erosion, and devegetation resulting from camping activities at the three campsites located along Kane Creek. A larger area of the floodplain has been impacted to a lesser extent and is currently dominated by nonnative grasses and forbs. The fourth campsite is outside of the floodplain on the other side of Kane Creek Road. Closure of these sites to camping will allow soils and vegetation to recover and will augment ongoing restoration work in the area. Visitation rates will likely decline significantly after the campsites are closed, but minor impacts resulting from vehicular traffic along Kane Creek Road and hiking and climbing activities upstream from the springs in Gatherer Canyon will continue in the future.

### **Recreation**

The Cumulative Impact Area is defined as the Kane Creek corridor. Past or ongoing actions that affect the same components of the environment as the proposed action are:

1. Camping (camping limited to designated sites within this area)
2. Motorized and mechanized recreation activity on designated roads

The Reasonably Foreseeable Action Scenario identifies reasonably foreseeable future actions that would cumulatively affect the same resources in the cumulative impact area as the proposed action and alternatives.

1. Increased demand for camp sites
2. Continued motorized and mechanized recreation activity

### Cumulative Impact Analysis

By removing campsites in Moonflower and Spring and constructing toilet facilities and installing fire rings adjacent to the Kings Bottom Campground, the cumulative impacts of camping are expected to be lessened.

### **Soils**

The Cumulative Impact Area is defined as the Kane Creek corridor. Past or ongoing actions that affect the same components of the environment as the proposed action are:

1. Camping (camping limited to designated sites within this area)
2. Motorized and mechanized recreation activity on designated roads

The Reasonably Foreseeable Action Scenario identifies reasonably foreseeable future actions that would cumulatively affect the same resources in the cumulative impact area as the proposed action and alternatives.

1. Increased demand for camp sites
2. Continued motorized and mechanized recreation activity

### Cumulative Impact Analysis

The impacts to soils will be negligible as there is a one to one change in the amount of disturbance and rehabbed campsites. The parking areas are already quite disturbed and would likely have gravel added to the sites for a more stable parking area.

### **Vegetation**

The Cumulative Impact Area is defined as the Kane Creek corridor. Past or ongoing actions that affect the same components of the environment as the proposed action are:

3. Camping (camping limited to designated sites within this area)
4. Motorized and mechanized recreation activity on designated roads

The Reasonably Foreseeable Action Scenario identifies reasonably foreseeable future actions that would cumulatively affect the same resources in the cumulative impact area as the proposed action and alternatives.

3. Increased demand for camp sites
4. Continued motorized and mechanized recreation activity

### Cumulative Impact Analysis

The removal of up to 0.60 acres of vegetation in the Kane Creek Corridor would not cumulatively add to its devegetation. By removing campsites in Moonflower and Spring and constructing toilet facilities and installing fire rings adjacent to the Kings Bottom

Campground, the cumulative impacts of camping to vegetation overall are expected to be lessened.

### **Wetland/Riparian**

The existing camping facilities, access road, and parking areas at the Kings Bottom Campground cover approximately 2.5 acres. Most of this area has been cleared of riparian vegetation, although a strip of willow grows along the Colorado River and several young cottonwoods have been planted at campsites. The expansion of the campground would impact a less disturbed patch of riparian vegetation to the southwest of the existing campground. This patch of riparian vegetation includes stands of cottonwoods and willows of multiple age classes and covers approximately 4.1 acres, including 0.6 acres that would be impacted by the campground expansion on a permanent basis and an additional 0.4 acres that would be temporarily impacted during construction, leaving roughly 3.1 acres essentially undisturbed. Additional impacts may occur during camping activities, such as wood gathering and trampling of understory vegetation. Kiosks and signage emphasizing the ecological importance of riparian vegetation and indicating that cutting and removal of riparian vegetation is prohibited will be placed at each of the two parking areas in an effort to minimize these additional impacts.

As discussed above under Floodplains, the closure of Campsites 3-8 at the nearby Moonflower walk-in camping area will help to mitigate the loss of riparian habitat associated with the expansion of the Kings Bottom Campground. Intensive foot traffic throughout much of the riparian area in Moonflower Canyon has reduced vegetative cover and likely limited successful reproduction and recruitment by Fremont cottonwood trees. The proposed action will include efforts to restrict hiking to a single trail, which is expected to improve the integrity of riparian vegetation and favor the spread of native species into sites that are currently disturbed.

Camping activities have not had obvious major impacts to the riparian zones near the Spring Campground area, but closure of the four campsites in the campground will augment existing efforts to reduce localized erosion, reverse the spread of invasive vegetation, and restore native understory vegetation to the area.

### **Wilderness Study Area**

The Cumulative Impact Area is the Behind the Rocks WSA. Past or ongoing actions that affect the same components of the environment as the proposed action are: camping and recreation. The Reasonably Foreseeable Action Scenario identifies foreseeable future actions that would cumulatively affect the same resources in the cumulative impact area. These include increased demand for camp sites and continued recreation activity.

### Cumulative Impact Analysis

By removing campsites 3 – 8 in Moonflower Canyon, the cumulative impacts of camping within the Behind the Rocks WSA are expected to be lessened.

## CHAPTER 5 PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During preparation of this EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the ePlanning website in August, 2015. A formal scoping period was held in February of 2016. Newspaper stories were placed in the Moab Times Independent and the Moab Sun News inviting public comment. Three comments were received as a result of this posting. The private landowner adjacent to the proposal objected to the BLM adding campsites and competing with their private campground. (Note: no campsites would be added as a result of this proposal). The second letter was from the National Park Service, requesting that if the group site were reservable, that they be allowed to reserve it for free for their field trips. The third letter was from the Moab Travel Council, supporting the addition of walk-in campsites, and asking that more campsites be added, if possible.

### BLM Preparers

| Name                | Title                       | Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Ann Marie Aubry     | Hydrologist                 | Air Quality   |
| Mark Grover         | Ecologist                   | Floodplains, Wetlands/Riparian  |
| Bill Stevens        | Outdoor Recreation Planner  | Wilderness, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Socioeconomics, BLM Natural Areas, Environmental Justice |
| David Pals          | Geologist                   | Wastes, Geology, Water Resources  |
| Pamela Riddle       | Wildlife Biologist          | T&E Animals, Fish and Wildlife, Migratory Birds, Utah BLM Sensitive Species                                 |
| Jared Lundell       | Archeologist                | Cultural, Native American Consultation  |
| Katie Stevens       | Outdoor Recreation Planner  | Team Leader, Recreation, VRM, ACECs, Wild and Scenic Rivers   |
| Dave Williams       | Range Management Specialist | T&E Plants, Livestock Grazing, RHS, Vegetation  |
| Jordan Davis        | Range Management Specialist | Invasive Species, Soils, Woodlands  |
| Josh Relph          | Fuels Specialist            | Fuels   |
| Jan Denney          | Realty Specialist           | Lands/Access  |
| ReBecca Hunt-Foster | Paleontologist              | Paleontology  |

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist

### Appendix B: Diagram of the Proposed Kane Creek Campground Addition

# INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

**Project Title:** Kings Bottom Campground Walk-in Additions  
**NEPA Log Number:** DOI BLM UT Y010-2015-0236 EA

**Project Leader:** Katie Stevens

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**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

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    |
|--|--|---|------------------|---------|
| <b>RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)</b> |  |   |                  |         |
| NI   | Air Quality<br>Greenhouse Gas<br>Emissions           |   |                  |         |
| PI   | Floodplains  |   | M. Grover        | 4/1/16  |
| PI   | Soils  |   | Jordan Davis     | 4/1/16  |
| NI   | Water Resources/Quality<br>(drinking/surface/ground) | Utilized best engineering practices in accordance with Bureau of Land Management Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment, Chapter 6, Environment, Design Guidelines, p. 104 for Campgrounds.   | David Pals       | 4/1/16  |
| PI   | Wetlands/Riparian Zones                              |   | Mark Grover      | 1/27/16 |
| NP   | Areas of Critical<br>Environmental Concern           | See 2008 Moab RMP   | K. Stevens       | 9/1/15  |
| PI   | Recreation   | Would provide recreation benefit. Would close marginal campsites  | K. Stevens       | 9/1/15  |
| NI   | Wild and Scenic Rivers                               | Adjoining Colorado River is suitable with a "Recreational" classification. This level of development is allowed   | K. Stevens       | 9/1/15  |
| NI   | Visual Resources                                     | Would improve visuals by removing campsites at the Spring recreation site, which is directly along the Kane Creek Road.   | K. Stevens       | 9/1/15  |
| NP   | BLM Natural Areas                                    | See 2008 Moab RMP   | W.P. Stevens     | 9/1/15  |
| NI   | Socio-Economics                                      |   | W.P. Stevens     | 9/1/15  |
| PI   | Wilderness/WSA                                       | Wilderness values would be improved by the removal of sites 3 – 8 in Moonflower Campground  | W.P. Stevens     | 9/1/15  |
| NP   | Lands with Wilderness<br>Characteristics             | See 2008 Moab RMP   | W.P. Stevens     | 9/1/15  |
| NI   | Cultural Resources                                   | BLM conducted a literature search and a Class III archaeological inventory of the project area. The BLM found no properties eligible to the National Register of Historic Places in the Area of Potential Effects (APE). The BLM, therefore, made a determination of No Historic Properties | M. Jared Lundell | 2/25/16 |

| Determination | Resource   | Rationale for Determination*   | Signature        | Date    |
|---------------|--|--|------------------|---------|
|               |  | Affected. Details of these finds are discussed in the Cultural Resource Inventory Report (U-15-BL-0761). Should any cultural resources be unearthed, surface-disturbing activities will be halted until BLM can evaluate the cultural sites or objects for significance, and develop a plan in accordance with 36 CFR 800.13. BLM has consulted with the Utah SHPO in accordance with 36 CFR 800 with a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected." The Utah SHPO concurred with BLM's determinations of effect and eligibility on February 25, 2016. The BLM will include the report and letter to the Utah SHPO in the final EA/FONSI.   |                  |         |
| NI            | Native American Religious Concerns                 | No known sites of religious or cultural significance to Native American tribes are within the project area. The BLM will consult with the Paiute Indian Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the Northern Ute tribe.  | M. Jared Lundell | 2/25/16 |
| NI            | Environmental Justice                              |  | W.P. Stevens     | 9/1/15  |
| NI            | Wastes (hazardous or solid)                        |  | Dave Pals        | 1/17/16 |
| NI            | Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species | <p>There is no suitable Mexican spotted owl or yellow-billed Cuckoo habitats in the project area. No construction activities or alteration to the 100-year flood plain will occur; therefore impacts to ESA fish species are not expected to occur. Because of the reasons outlined below no further discussion on Mexican spotted owl, yellow-billed Cuckoo and ESA fish species is needed within the Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>There are suitable southwest willow flycatcher habitats within the project area, but construction activities will not impact or alter habitat suitability. All construction activities will occur outside southwest willow flycatcher nesting; therefore no impacts will occur to migratory or nesting flycatchers, if occupancy occurs, from construction activities. No cottonwoods or other larger native trees or dense willows will be removed. Currently no dense stands of tamarisk occur on the site due to past vegetation removal projects. Camp sites, trails and parking areas would be located in open patches and previously cleared areas where weeds and dead vegetation occur and would target the removal of weedy forbs and dead brush. No heavy equipment will be used to clear vegetation; therefore minimal habitat alteration will occur to native vegetation and weedy species will be removed. Future facility use is not expected to increase human disturbances to a substantially greater level of recreational and vehicle use than that is already occurring in the adjacent Kings Bottom Campground, Moonflower Campground (which is directly across from the proposed site), on adjacent private lands, along the river and on the road. The area currently is used by hiking and camping recreationists. Because of the reasons outlined above, no further discussion on southwest willow flycatcher is needed within the Environmental Assessment.</p> | Pam Riddle       | 9/1/15  |
| NI            | Migratory Birds                                    | All construction activities will occur outside the migratory bird and raptor nesting period; therefore no impacts will occur to nesting migratory birds and raptors from construction. No cottonwoods or other larger native trees   | Pam Riddle       | 9/1/15  |

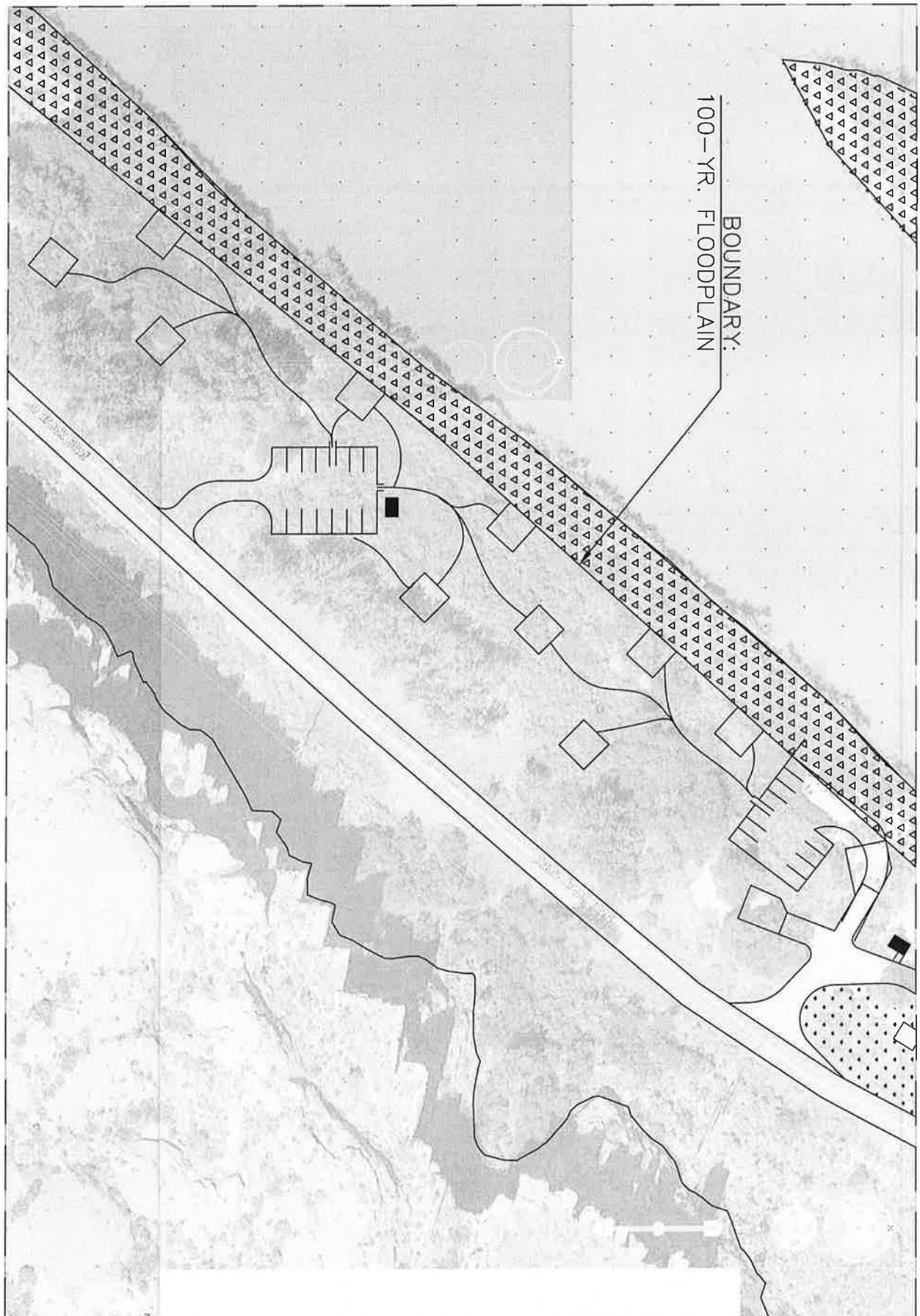
| Determination | Resource  | Rationale for Determination*  | Signature     | Date    |
|---------------|---|---|---------------|---------|
|               |   | will be removed, construction activities will target the removal of tamarisk, and therefore minimal habitat alteration will occur to native vegetation. Future facility use is not expected to increase human disturbances to a substantially greater level of recreational and vehicle use than that is already occurring in the current campgrounds on adjacent private lands, along the river, and on the road. Because of the reasons outlined above, no further discussion of Migratory Birds is needed within the Environmental Assessment.   |               |         |
| NI            | Utah BLM Sensitive Species                          | Construction activities will not occur during the migratory bird or raptor nesting season 3/1 thru 8/31; therefore impacts to Utah BLM Sensitive bird and raptor species are not expected. No construction activities or alteration to the 100-year floodplain will occur; therefore impacts to Utah BLM Sensitive fish or amphibian species are not expected to occur. Utah BLM Sensitive bat species may use the area to feed at night but construction and most facility use is expected to occur during the day; therefore no impacts to resident bats are expected. Because of the reasons outlined above, no further discussion on Utah BLM Sensitive Species is needed within the Environmental Assessment.  | Pam Riddle    | 9/1/15  |
| NI            | Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species | Construction activities will not occur from 3/1 thru 8/31 resulting in the avoidance of all wildlife nesting and birthing seasons. General wildlife residing in this area during the fall and winter months can readily move into other areas to avoid construction activities. Year-round use of the facility is not expected to be greater than current vehicle and recreation use in this area therefore impacts to local resident wildlife populations is expected to be minimal. Because of the reasons outlined above no further discussion on Fish and Wildlife is needed within the Environmental Assessment.   | Pam Riddle    | 9/1/15  |
| NI            | Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds                      | It is expected that the closure of campsites would fill in with the surrounding vegetation. It may take a while for the camping spots to re-vegetate as there is likely compaction component to the soil. Increase species would likely fill in in the interim until the more vigorous riparian vegetation occupies the space. If noxious weeds were to establish on the site the Moab Field Office has an intensive weed management program where the weeds would be treated with an approved method. There is Russian knapweed at the Kings Bottom Campground that is being managed for eradication to prevent further spread of the noxious weed. The new walk in sites would also undergo the same intensive weed management and the plants would be treated the same as the rest of the campground | Jordan Davis  | 3/30/16 |
|               | Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species   |   | Dave Williams |         |
| NP            | Livestock Grazing                                   |   | Dave Williams | 9/1/15  |
| NI            | Rangeland Health Standards                          |   | Dave Williams | 9/1/15  |
| PI            | Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species        | Less than an acre of total disturbance in a previously disturbed area.  | Dave Williams | 9/1/15  |
| NI            | Woodland / Forestry                                 |   | Jordan Davis  | 9/1/15  |

| Determination | Resource                                      | Rationale for Determination*  | Signature           | Date    |
|---------------|---|---|---------------------|---------|
| NI            | Fuels   |   | Josh Relph          | 1/27/16 |
| NI            | Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production |   | David Pals          | 1/17/16 |
| NI            | Lands/Access                                  | Subject to valid existing rights  | J Denney            | 9/11/15 |
| NI            | Paleontology                                  | Fossils will likely not be encountered, but if they were, work would be halted and the BLM paleontologist would be contacted. | ReBecca Hunt Foster | 1/27/16 |

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**FINAL REVIEW:**

| Reviewer Title            | Signature               | Date            | Comments |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Environmental Coordinator | <i>KC Stevens</i>       | <i>3/31/16</i>  |          |
| Authorized Officer        | <i>Rebecca Washburn</i> | <i>6/2/2016</i> |          |



SHEET 1 OF 1

|                |                   |      |             |      |                         |
|----------------|-------------------|------|-------------|------|-------------------------|
| PROJECT NO:    |                   |      |             |      |                         |
| DESIGN OFFICE: | MOAB FIELD OFFICE |      |             |      |                         |
| DESIGNED BY:   | M. McMANON        |      |             |      |                         |
| DRAWN BY:      | M. McMANON        |      |             |      |                         |
| CHK'D BY:      |                   |      |             |      |                         |
| APPROVED BY:   |                   |      |             |      |                         |
| DATE:          | MAY 11, 2018      | MARK | DESCRIPTION | DATE | APPROVED CANYON COUNTRY |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
**PROPOSED WALK-IN CAMPSITES**  
 KINGS BOTTOM CAMPGROUND EXPANSION



UTAH