

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

**Categorical Exclusion
for
Hunter Canyon Kiosk**

Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

DOI-BLM-CO-N030-2015-0032-CX

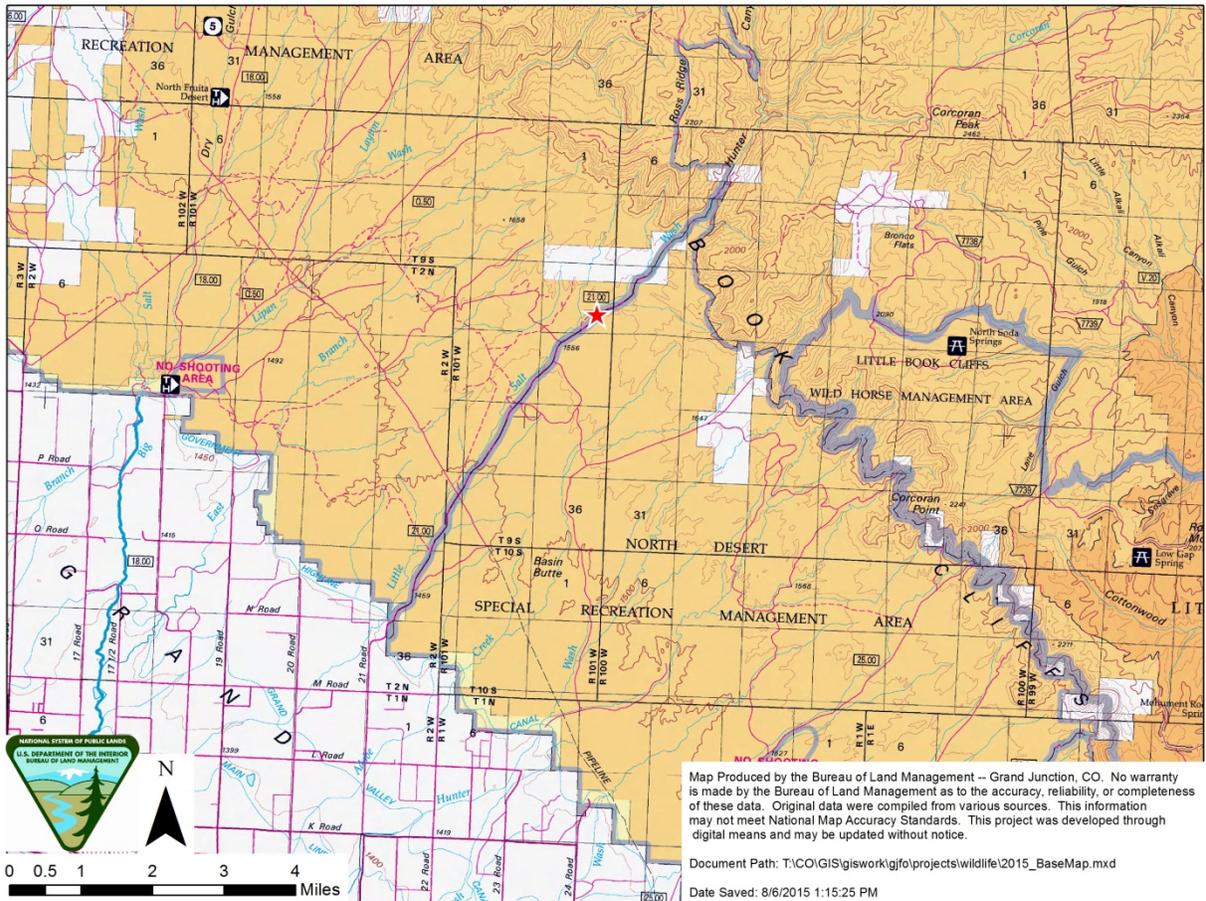
SEPTEMBER 2015



LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

6th PM, T. 9 S., R. 101 W., sec. 13, SE¼

Figure 1: The red star indicates the Kiosk location



APPLICANT:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in partnership with Grand Valley Jeep Club.

INTRODUCTION:

In order to provide information to recreational users on the Great Basin Spadefoot toad in Hunter Canyon, the BLM in partnership with the Grand Valley Jeep club would like to install a Kiosk along 21 Road, in an area typically utilized for staging by jeep drivers who recreate in the canyon. The goal of the project is to inform recreational users of the presence of the toad and what they can do to help protect it. The kiosk is needed to provide a central location where this information can be distributed to the public lands users.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is to construct an informational kiosk to inform recreational users of the potential for Great Basin Spadefoot toad in Hunter Canyon, and to let them know how they can help to minimize impacts to the toad through their actions. The proposed action is to install a

kiosk in an area that is currently used as a parking area and is heavily disturbed. Two to three posts will be placed in the ground to install the Kiosk.

Figure 2: Kiosk location photo



PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Grand Junction Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: August, 2015

Decision Number/Page: SSS-R&A-MA-01 Page 43

Decision Language: Identify important areas for key species such as canyon tree frog, great basinspadefoot (*Spea intermontana*), northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*), boreal toad (*Anaxyrus boreas boreas*), long-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia wislizenii*), and midget faded rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus concolor*). Protect habitat by avoiding impacts during critical seasons and maintain integrity and species accessibility of these areas.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under H-1790-1, Appendix 4, Number G. Transportation (4). When no extraordinary circumstances apply, the following types of Bureau actions do not require the preparation of an EA or EIS: “Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices”.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

There are no extraordinary circumstances having effects, which may significantly affect the environment. I considered the following resource conditions in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action warranted further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS (516 DM 2, Appendix 2):

1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.

The proposed action is not expected to impact public health and safety. The kiosk will only provide information for recreational users that come to the area.

2. Have adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES: The location for the proposed kiosk is heavily disturbed, as well as in an area with low expected cultural site density. A BLM archaeologist examined the area in December of 2014 and confirmed that there are no cultural resources located in the proposed kiosk area. No historic properties will be affected.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS: The proposed kiosk is outside areas the BLM identified as lands with wilderness characteristics. The proposed kiosk is also outside areas the public identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

MIGRATORY BIRDS: The kiosk location does not provide suitable habitat for nesting migratory birds, therefore no impacts are anticipated.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

The Grand Junction field office has installed many kiosks without controversial or unknown environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources, therefore the environmental effects are known are not expected to have scientific controversy.

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

The Grand Junction field office has installed many kiosks. This project poses no unique or unknown risks.

5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

This decision is like one of many that have previously been made and will continue to be made by BLM responsible officials regarding kiosk placement on public lands. The decision is within the scope of the Resource Management Plan and is not expected to establish a precedent for future actions. The decision does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

This is a stand-alone project. There are no projects with significant environmental impacts known to BLM that would result directly or indirectly from implementation of this project.

7. Have adverse effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.

The location for the proposed kiosk is heavily disturbed, as well as in an area with low expected cultural site density. A BLM archaeologist examined the area in December of 2014 and confirmed that there are no cultural resources located in the proposed kiosk area. No historic properties will be affected.

8. Have adverse effects on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

There are no listed or proposed species or critical habitat impacted by this project.

9. Have the potential to violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

This decision complies with other Federal, State, or local laws and requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.

The minority and low-income populations of the county are small relative to state-wide averages and such populations are dispersed throughout the county. There are no low income or minority populations within the immediate project area. Therefore, no minority or low-income populations would suffer disproportionately high and adverse effects as a result of the Proposed Action.

11. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

The proposed action is not known to physically threaten the integrity of any Traditional Cultural Properties, prevent access to sacred sites, prevent the possession of sacred objects, or interfere or otherwise hinder the performance of traditional ceremonies and rituals pursuant to AIRFA or EO 13007. There are currently no known threats to remains that fall within the purview of NAGPRA or ARPA.

12. Significantly, contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.

This project is designed to minimize disturbance to avoid new infestation of noxious weeds. Due to the very small footprint of this project, we do not expect any contribution to invasive species infestations.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
Natalie Clark	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist	Special Status Species/Riparian
Kevin Hyatt	Hydrologist	Soil/Water/Air
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Fisheries, Special Status Species
John Windsor	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation/Wilderness
Mark Taber	Weed Mgt Spec.	Weeds

Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources (double click on boxes to check)

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	Potentially Impacted	Mitigation Necessary?	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date	Comments
PHYSICAL RESOURCES						
Air and Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PLB 1/14/15	
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KEH 8/27/15	
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KEH 8/27/15	
Geological/Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 3/3/14	
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
Special Status Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ARL 12/15/14	
Special Status Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HLP 8/6/15	
Migratory Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HLP 8/6/15	
Other Important Wildlife Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HLP 8/6/15	
Vegetation, Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SC 12/9/14	
Invasive, Non-native Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MT 1/24/15	
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ARL 8/11/15	
HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENV.						
Cultural or Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NFC 8/20/15	
Paleontological	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 3/3/14	
Tribal& American Indian Religious Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NFC 8/20/15	
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AW 1/15/15	
Social/Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CS 1/2/14	
Transportation and Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AK 2/10/14	
LAND RESOURCES						
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs, WSR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AW 1/15/15	
Wilderness & Wilderness Characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Range Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SC 8/24/15	
Wild Horse and Burros	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SC 12/9/14	
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RBL 8/7/14	
Fire/Fuels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JP 1/6/14	

NAME OF PREPARER: Heidi Plank

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE: 9/18/15

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE**

DECISION DOCUMENT

**Hunter Canyon Kiosk
DOI-BLM-CO-NO30-2015-0032-CX**

INTRODUCTION:

In order to provide information to recreational users on the Great Basin Spadefoot toad in Hunter Canyon, the Bureau of Land Management in partnership with the Grand Valley Jeep club would like to install a Kiosk along 21 Road, in an area typically utilized for staging by Jeep drivers who recreate in the canyon.

DECISION:

I have reviewed this document and have decided to implement the Hunter Canyon Kiosk project and described above that the proposed action. This project is categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS under H-1790-1, Appendix 4, Number G. Transportation (4).

RATIONALE:

This action is listed in the NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria in the Categorical Exclusion (CX) and have determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist.

This project is being implemented to inform recreational users of the presence of the toad and what they can do to help protect it.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Public scoping was conducted by posting the project information on the Grand Junction Field Office NEPA website, this was the primary mechanism used by the BLM to initially identify issues from the public. Internal scoping for the project included presentation and discussion of the project at BLM interdisciplinary meetings (IDT).

PLAN CONSISTENCY:

Based on information in the CX, the project record, and recommendations from BLM specialists, I conclude that this decision is consistent with the 2015 Grand Junction Resource Management Plan as amended, the Endangered Species Act; the Native American Religious Freedom Act; other cultural resource management laws and regulations; the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; the Clean Water Act; the Clean Air Act; the National Historic Preservation Act; Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice; and Executive Order 13212 regarding potential adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES:

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary,

U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.


Field Manager
Grand Junction Field Office

Acting
FM


Date