

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

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

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2016-006 DNA

December 2015

**Cedar Mesa Hiking and Backpacking SRPs
4st Quarter 2015**

Location: Cedar Mesa SRMA, San Juan County, Utah

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Cedar Mesa Hiking and Backpacking Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached determination of NEPA adequacy and considering 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 disclosed and considered in the 2008 RMPs/RODs, I have determined that issuing these SRPs will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

It is my decision to issue Special Recreation Permits for day hiking and backpacking on Cedar Mesa SRMA for educational and commercial operations as described in DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2016-006 DNA. A one-year probationary permit would be issued to Aperture Academy The Link School, and Virginia Commonwealth University, with potential for a five-year renewal after they have demonstrated one year of satisfactory performance including compliance with all terms and stipulations of the permit. Backwoods Adventures, Canyonlands Field Institute, Community School, Museum of Northern Arizona, and Wild Rockies Field Institute would be issued five-year term renewal permits when their existing permits expire 12/31/2015.

This decision is contingent upon the applicants providing all documents required for processing the respective SRPs and the permit holder's agreement to abide by all relevant terms, conditions, stipulations, and monitoring requirements described below.

Authorities: The authority for this decision is contained in the Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the Federal Lands Recreation and Enhancement act of 2004 (REA).

Compliance and Monitoring: SRPs are periodically monitored for compliance with terms, conditions, and stipulations in accordance with BLM Handbook H-2930-1 (2006). In addition, each permit holder is required to submit an annual post-use report documenting all trips on BLM.

Terms / Conditions / Stipulations: All hiking and backpacking Special Recreation Permits issued for the Cedar Mesa SRMZ are subject to the following terms, conditions, and stipulations:

- SRP General Terms and Conditions (Form 2930-2, page 2)
- BLM National Terms and Stipulations for Commercial Land-Based SRPs
- BLM Utah Terms and Stipulations for SRPs
- BLM Monticello Terms and Stipulations for Commercial SRPs
- Commercial Cedar Mesa Use Stipulations (Including Grand Gulch Primitive Area)

PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:

The proposed action and alternatives have been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM Land Use Plans and the associated decision(s):

LUP Name: Monticello Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved: November 17, 2008.

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

RECREATION

Management Actions - *Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)* (pg.91):

REC-17: “Special Recreations Permits will be issued as a discretionary action as a means to help meet management objectives, control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors”.

REC-18: “Special Recreations Permits will contain standard stipulations appropriate for the type of activity and may include additional stipulations necessary to protect lands or resources, reduce user conflicts, or minimize health and safety concerns”.

REC-19: “Special Recreations Permits will be used to manage different types of recreation associated with commercial uses, competitive events, organized groups, vending, and special services. These recreation uses can include, for example, large group events, river guide services, and commercial recreation activities”.

Management Actions - *Cedar Mesa SRMA:*

Goals and Objectives, (pg. 98)

- “Cedar Mesa SRMA, Goals and Objectives (pg. 98): Provide outstanding recreational opportunities and visitor experiences while protecting, natural and cultural resource values with integrated management between the BLM and NPS.”
- “Provide a safe natural well-designed accessible recreation experience for all visitors to enjoy the world renowned cultural resources and scenic values. Use visitor information and interpretation as a primary tool to protect sensitive resources, discourage vandalism and encourage visitor appreciation of public lands.”

REC-105 (pg. 101-2): “Commercial use is limited to a group size of 12, one commercial group per day per trailhead and advanced permit required.”

REC-109 (pg. 102): “Trailhead allocations, total overnight visitors per day:

- Kane – 20
- Bullet – 20
- Government – 20
- Collins – 20
- Fish/Owl – 20
- Road Canyon – 20
- Lime Canyon – 20
- Mule Canyon – 20
- Slickhorn – 20

REC-108 (pg.102): “Commercial group size limited to 12 people per day per trailhead. One commercial group per trailhead per day. Commercial guides are required to meet all pertinent state guidelines.”

Management Actions - *Cedar Mesa SRMA Mcloyd Canyon*,
REC-117 (pg. 104): “One commercial group per day.”

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Management Actions -

TM-22 (pg. 144): “Manage the following trails for non-mechanized use: Kane Gulch, Todie Canyon, Bullet Canyon, Shieks Canyon, Government Trail, Collins Canyon, Grand Gulch (from junction to San Juan River), Fish Canyon, Owl Canyon, Road Canyon, Mcloyd Canyon, Lime Canyon.”

Rationale for Decision: The decision to issue permits, renewals, and amendments for guided hiking and backpacking to educational and commercial organizations creates structured opportunities for students and clients to explore the outstanding scenic and archeological resources of Cedar Mesa SRMA. The presence of experienced guides maximizes protection of resources through consistent application of Leave No Trace principals and archeological site etiquette. SRPs result in socio-economic benefits to individual companies and guides, as well as to any surrounding communities where clients may acquire food and lodging immediately before or after a trip.

Protest/Appeal Language: This 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. If an appeal is taken, notice of appeal must be filed in the Monticello Field Office within 30 days from receipt of the decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. Should they wish to file a petition for stay of the effectiveness of this decision during appeal review, instructions are outlined on Form 1842-1 which would be enclosed with the grant offer.

 /s/Donald K Hoffheins
Authorized Officer

 12/17/2015
Date

Attachment: Determination of NEPA Adequacy DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2016-006 DNA