

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625-1129

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2016-0006-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): n/a

PROJECT NAME: Emerald Mountain SRMA Trail Benches

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Routt County, Sixth P. M., T.6N., R.85W. Sec. 24

APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

This Eagle Scout project is to provide three benches that would be installed along trails within the Emerald Mountain Special Recreation Management Area located approximately 7 miles from Steamboat Springs. Benches would be located at: 1) scenic overlook on the Wild Rose Trail, 2) trail intersection of Ridge, Beall and Wild Rose Trails, and 3) scenic overlook on the Beall Trail.

Site preparation and excavation would be one square meter or less into the soil or bedrock at each site. The color of the benches would be cedar with steel beam legs painted black to blend in with the natural surroundings.

The bench sites would be accessed by the existing trails and Blackmere Drive. The Eagle Scout project would be supervised by Routt County Riders (RCR) under a Memorandum of Understanding between RCR and the BLM, which addresses trail maintenance and projects, and authorizes motorized use for administrative access. Because of a seasonal closure from December 1 to June 30, to protect wintering and calving elk, placement of benches would occur no sooner than July 1.

LAND USE PLAN (LUP) CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action was reviewed for conformance (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) with the following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan as amended by the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment

Date Approved: October 2011 and September 2015

Results: The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP goals, objectives, and management decisions:

Section/Page: RMP-42

Decision Language: Goal A: Provide a diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities, activities, and experiences for various user groups, unorganized visitors and affected communities, their residences, economies, and the environment. Objectives for achieving these goals include:

- Increase managed motorized and non-motorized use trails.
- Focus the development of non-motorized and non-mechanized trails in backcountry areas or where public demand warrants.
- Provide legal public access opportunities for recreational uses.
- Manage for special recreation permit services.
- Identify strategies and decisions that may be applied to protect or preserve primitive and semi-primitive areas so as to provide solitude and backcountry opportunities.
- Manage motorized recreation to reduce impacts on big game hunt quality and harvest success on BLM lands.

Goal B: Provide visitor services including interpretive and educational information.

Objectives for achieving this goal include:

- Provide developed facilities in heavy-use areas where such use is impacting resources and experiences.
- Use education as a means to further resource protection.
- Enhance recreational experiences by such actions as providing boundary signing and information and managing campsites and access.
- Continue coordination with organized interpretive associations.

Goal C: Support tourism efforts for local economic diversification associated with public land resources. Objectives for achieving this goal include:

- Maintain cooperative agreements with Colorado State Parks, Moffat County, and the Moffat County Sheriff for management of the Yampa River.
- Continue coordination with local and regional recreation economic development organizations, such as BLM community partners and community organizations.
- Pursue cooperative agreements with other agencies and governments.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR Part 46.210 and qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9(G)

Transportation 4. *“Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks and portable sanitation devices.”*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46.215 applies:

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
2. Have significant impacts 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
12. 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 (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Title	Resource	Date
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	12/31/2015
Rangeland Mgmt Spec	T&E Plants	12/3/2015
Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animals	12/18/2015

NAME OF PREPARER: Gina Robison

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Kathryn McKinstry

DATE: 1/5/16

Kathy McKinstry

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

This action is listed in the Department Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 11) as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria

listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

DECISION

I considered the proposal to install a kiosk at the above listed location and it is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as described in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2016-0006.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

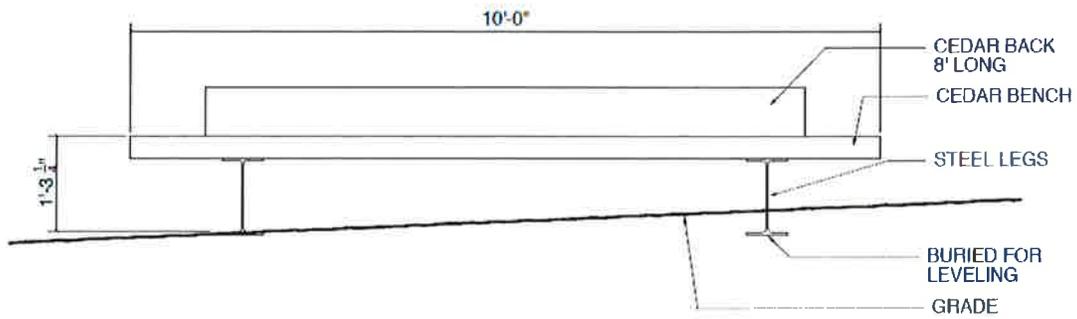
William Colt Mortenson
William Colt Mortenson, Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

1/6/16

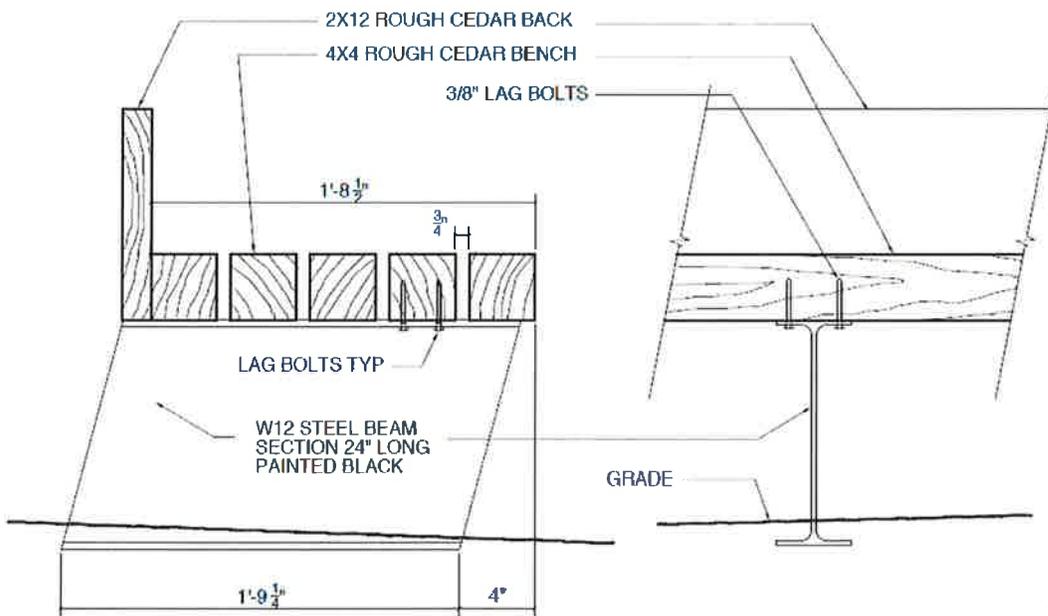
Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Kathy McKinstry, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, CO 81625, Phone (970) 826-5080.



1 FRONT ELEVATION

1/2" = 1'-0"



2 SIDE SECTION

1 1/2" = 1'-0"

3 LEG SECTION

1 1/2" = 1'-0"

scott myller. architect 652 Ruby Square P. O. Box 771854 Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 970.846.1700	Project:		<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> 1 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> 1 </div>
	STEAMBOAT EAGLE SCOUT BENCH		
	Rev:	Issued:	
	11/04/15	1 1/2" = 1'-0"	

