

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

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2014-0182 EA**

July, 2014

**Special Recreation Permit Amendment for Chile Pepper
Shop, Inc.**

Location: designated mountain bike trails in the Amasa Back area

Applicant/Address: Tracy Reed, 702 S. Main St., Moab, UT 84532

Moab Field Office
82 East Dogwood
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-2100



Special Recreation Permit for Chile Pepper Bike Shop, Inc.
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2014-0182

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

INTRODUCTION

Tracy Reed, on behalf of Chile Pepper Bike Shop, Inc., seeks authorization through an amendment to the current Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct a competitive mountain bike race on designated trails within the Amasa Back area, which is managed by the Moab Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Reed has held permits with the Moab BLM since 2008.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

Tracy Reed, on behalf of Chile Pepper Bike Shop, Inc., seeks authorization through an amendment to the current Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct a competitive mountain bike race on designated roads and trails managed by the Moab BLM. The start, finish and main staging area would all be located on BLM lands along the Kane Creek Road. As required by 43 CFR 2930, Reed is required to obtain a competitive event SRP to host this event.

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)

The proposed action has been determined to be in conformance with the terms and conditions of the Moab Resource Management Plan (approved in October, 2008) as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

Moab's RMP states the following:

- **REC-46** "Special Recreation Permits are issued as a discretionary action as a means to: help meet management objectives, provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreational use of public lands, control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors." (page 97)
and
- **REC-47** "All SRPs will contain standard stipulations appropriate for the type of activity and may include stipulations necessary to protect lands or resources, reduce user conflicts, or minimize health and safety concerns....Issue and manage recreation permits for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts to such uses upon natural and cultural resources." (page 98).
- The Moab Resource Management Plan (RMP), Final Environmental Impact Statement, signed October 31, 2008, identified lands with wilderness characteristics. The proposed use does not include any areas determined to have wilderness characteristics. The proposed activity would not result in any changes in the impacts that were analyzed in the FEIS for the RMP.

RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS

The proposed action is consistent with page 48 of the Grand County General Plan Update (2004), which states: "The public lands of Grand County should be managed for the enjoyment and benefit of people of Grand County and the nation so as to maintain the integrity and value of natural and cultural resources. Furthermore the Grand County General Plan Update states under the category "Economic use of public lands: Grand County encourages the expeditious processing of use permits for economic uses of public lands consistent with the policies of the Plan, and specifically, film, mineral extraction, and recreation, for the benefit of Grand County

CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This EA focuses on the Proposed and No Action alternatives. No other alternatives were considered. The No Action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action.

PROPOSED ACTION

Tracy Reed, on behalf of Chile Pepper Bike Shop Inc., has requested authorization through an amendment to the current competitive event Special Recreation Permit (SRP). The current permit was issued in 2010 prior to the construction and designation of new mountain bike trails in the Amasa Back area. Reed is requesting authorization to utilize two new trails, Hymasa and Captain Ahab, as part of the fall race course. The maximum number of participants would not exceed 100 racers. The proposed action would include course marking and delineation two days prior to the event in October annually. There would be two portable toilets placed at the parking/staging area, Amasa back trailhead. No aid stations will be provided along the course. Race course flagging and event related trash will be removed within twenty-four hours after the event.

NO ACTION

The No Action Alternative is to deny the amendment to the current competitive event SRP.

CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team 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, see appendix A. Resources which could be impacted to a level requiring further analysis are described in Chapter 3 and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4 below.

Recreation

Competitive races are an increasingly popular recreation activity. The Amasa Back trails are utilized by many types of recreationists, including jeepers, ATVers, motorcyclists and mountain bikers. The number of cyclists on the Amasa Back bike trails is not known with precision, but it has proven to be a very popular bicycling location.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

PROPOSED ACTION

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action to those potentially impacting resources described in the affected environment, Chapter 3, above.

Recreation

The proposed competitive event would provide a recreation benefit to participants. It would provide an opportunity to engage in competitive riding in a very scenic venue and at a time of year when the weather is conducive to this type of activity.

Although the routes would not be closed to non-competitors, the race could displace other recreation visitors. Although the race would start early, other recreationists are to be expected on the jeep and bike routes in the area. Some of these recreationists might be forced to look elsewhere for opportunities to recreate. Conflicts among recreationists might be created among those who get up and out on the trails early.

NO ACTION

The No Action alternative would not meet the need for the proposed action; the benefits of issuing an SRP to Chile Pepper Bike Shop, Inc. would be foregone. There would be no environmental impacts from the proposed action because the action would be denied.

Recreation

The recreation benefit of the event would be foregone because it would not occur. Recreationists would not be disturbed because the event would not occur. Competitive bike riders would not have the opportunity to engage in the event in Moab in October.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The proposed action is not expected to have a cumulative impact on past, present or future actions in the affected areas within the Moab Field Office,

CHAPTER 5

PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the ENBB on May 20, 2014. No one has contacted the BLM in response to the notice. A public comment period was not offered because very little interest in the proposal has been expressed.

List of BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s)
Ann Marie Aubry	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Floodplains, Soils, Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Water Resources
Katie Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Areas of Critical Environmental concern, Visual Resources, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recreation
Don Montoya	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Becky Doolittle	Geologist	Wastes, Geology
Jan Denney	Realty Specialist	Lands/Access
Bill Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	BLM Natural Areas, Socioeconomics, Wilderness/WSA, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Environmental Justice
Pam Riddle	Biologist	Fish and Wildlife, T&E Animal Species, Migratory Birds, Utah Sensitive Species
Jordan Davis	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive Species, Woodland/Forestry, Rangeland Health Standards, Livestock Grazing, Vegetation
ReBecca Hunt Foster	Paleontologist	Paleontology
Dave Williams	Rangeland Management Specialist	T&E Plants

Appendix A: Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: Special Recreation Permit Amendment for Chile Pepper Bike Shop, Inc.

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2014-0182 EA

File/Serial Number: MFO-Y010-10-090R

Project Leader: Jennifer Jones

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

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

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
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX I H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Am Arby	6-24-14
NI	Floodplains	all on existing trails	Am Arby	6-24-14
NI	Soils	"	Am Arby	6-24-14
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	"	Am Arby	6-24-14
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	"	Am Arby	6-24-14
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	see 2008 RMP	K Stevens	6-10-14
PI	Recreation	would provide benefit for participants	K Stevens	6-10-14
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	see 2008 RMP	K Stevens	6-10-14
NI	Visual Resources		K Stevens	6-10-14
NP	BLM Natural Areas		J Stevens	6-10-14
NI	Socio-Economics		J Stevens	6-10-14
NP	Wilderness/WSA		J Stevens	6-10-14
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics		J Stevens	6-10-14

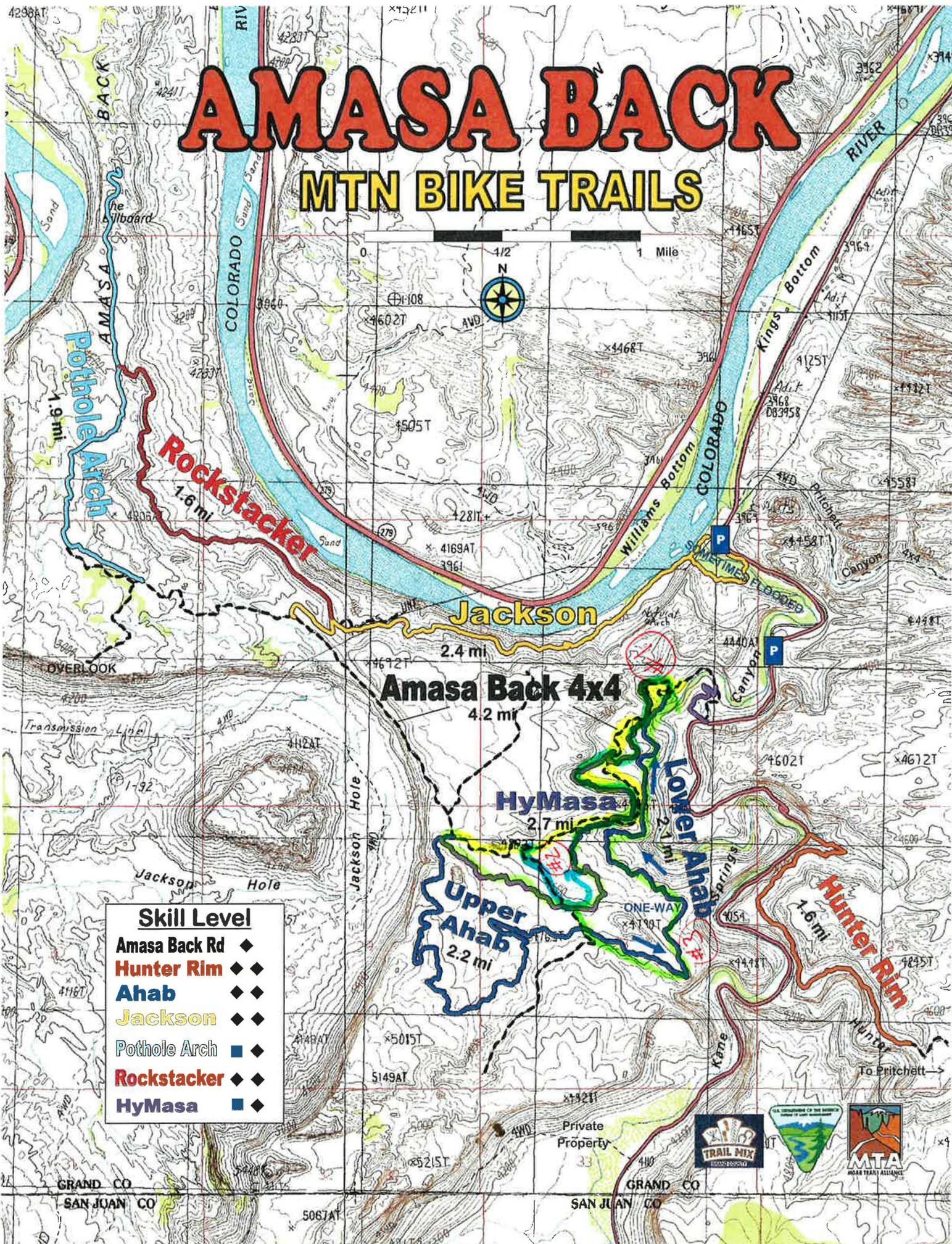
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NC	Cultural Resources	Meets Waiver Criteria	Don Martyn	6/10/14
NC	Native American Religious Concerns	Meets Waiver Criteria	Don Martyn	6/10/14
NI	Environmental Justice		John Stevens	6-10-14
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid)		R. Dwyette	6/10/2014
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	All actn. p.will occur on designated routes - no additional	John Stevens	6/10/14
NI	Migratory Birds	Impact expected to	John Stevens	6/10/14
NI	Utah BLM Sensitive Species	habitat	John Stevens	6/10/14
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	" "	John Stevens	6/10/14
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds		[Signature]	6/10/14
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species		Kim Allen	6/10/14
NI	Livestock Grazing		Kim Allen	6/10/14
NI	Rangeland Health Standards		Kim Allen	6/10/14
NI	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species		Kim Allen	6/10/14
NI	Woodland / Forestry		[Signature]	6/10/14
	Fuels/Fire Management			
NP	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production		R. Dwyette	6/10/2014
	Lands/Access			
NI	Paleontology		Robert Fester	6/10/14

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	RC Stevens	8/11/14	
Authorized Officer	John Ransel	9/3/14	

AMASA BACK

MTN BIKE TRAILS



Skill Level	
Amasa Back Rd	◆
Hunter Rim	◆◆
Ahab	◆◆
Jackson	◆◆
Pothole Arch	■◆
Rockstacker	◆◆
HyMasa	■◆



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

Chile Pepper Bike Shop, Inc. (Competitive Mountain Bike Event)

DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2014-0182

FONSI: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the present document, I have determined that the action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and an environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION: It is my decision to amend the current Special Recreation Permit in the areas listed under the Proposed Action. This decision is contingent upon meeting all stipulations and monitoring requirements attached.

RATIONALE: The decision to amend the Special Recreation Permits for Chile Pepper Bike Shop, Inc. has been made in consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed action. The action is in conformance with the Moab Resource Management Plan, which allows for recreation use permits for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts to such uses upon natural and cultural resources.


Authorized Officer


Date