

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

**Categorical Exclusion
for
Epic Rides Grand Junction Off-Road
Mountain Bike Race 2016-2020**

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

DOI-BLM-CO-N030-2016-0003

APRIL 2016



LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area, 6th PM, T. 12 S., R. 100 W.

APPLICANT:

Mountain Bike America, LLC DbA Epic Rides, Todd Sadow

INTRODUCTION:

Epic Rides has conducted a mountain bike race the past three years in the Bangs Canyon special Recreation Management Area. The 2013 and 2014 events were both held over the Labor Day weekend. The 2015 Event was held May 29-31, 2015. The 2016 Proposal is for the event to be held May 20-22nd, one week before Memorial Day weekend.

This Categorical Exclusion considers whether to issue a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for this proposed event. The BLM issues SRPs to achieve recreation and other resource management objectives. SRPs are issued for commercial, competitive, and certain organized group activities on BLM public lands to enhance the public's opportunity for recreation experiences on BLM lands. These permits include conditions of use (stipulations) that ensure that the permitted recreation use meets the BLM's goals of providing opportunities for recreation experiences, and to help ensure that the use is consistent with other resource management objectives (e.g. wildlife, range, endangered species, cultural resources, etc.). SRPs also ensure that the public receives a fair-value return for commercial activities that take place on BLM public lands by charging fees for permitted activities.

The proposed event would provide an opportunity for mountain bikers of various abilities to participate and compete in an organized race that exposes participants and spectators to the unique trails and landscapes of the Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area. By utilizing a marked and marshaled course on the designated trail network in the area, impacts to other users and resources would be minimized. Thorough monitoring of the event would provide valuable information for evaluation of similar event proposals in the future.

The permit stipulations that were included for the 2015 event are included in Attachment 1 at the end of this document. An updated version of those stipulations would be included in any permit authorized for proposed 2016-2020 events. Stipulation updates would be based on monitoring reports and recommendations from the 2015 event and each subsequent annual event.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The proponent is requesting a three day mountain bike race designed for a variety of skill levels using designated routes within the Bangs Canyon SRMA in May 2016. According to the proponent, the event would target 800 participants in 2016 with the intent to incrementally increase the number of participants to a maximum 1,400 within three years. There were 422 participants for the 2015 event. The proponent had requested a permit from 2016 through 2020. This CX analyzes event participation for 2016, 2017, and 2018. The estimated participants over the 3 day ride in 2016 will be 120 riders on Friday, 560 riders on Saturday, and 120 riders on Sunday. For 2017 estimates for riders are 150 on Friday, 700 on Saturday, and 150 on Sunday. For 2018 estimates for riders are 210 on Friday, 980 on Saturday, and 210 on Sunday.

Staging, parking, and the start/finish of the race would occur in downtown Grand Junction. Participants would travel from downtown to Monument Road and enter the Lunch Loops Trail System at the Tabeguache Trailhead.

Three routes are currently proposed: 15 mile route for beginners on Friday, 30 mile route for intermediates, and 40 mile route for advanced riders on Saturday. A pro race would occur on Sunday using the 40 mile route. Aid stations would provide communications and food, water and medical first aid to event participants. Aid stations would be located at Little Park Trailhead (TH) and at the intersection of Magellan and Butter Knife Loop Trail. The route would be marked by pin flags, coroplast signage (vinyl signage with wire supports to stick in the ground), sponsor banners, and volunteer trail marshals would also be present. The course map is included below.

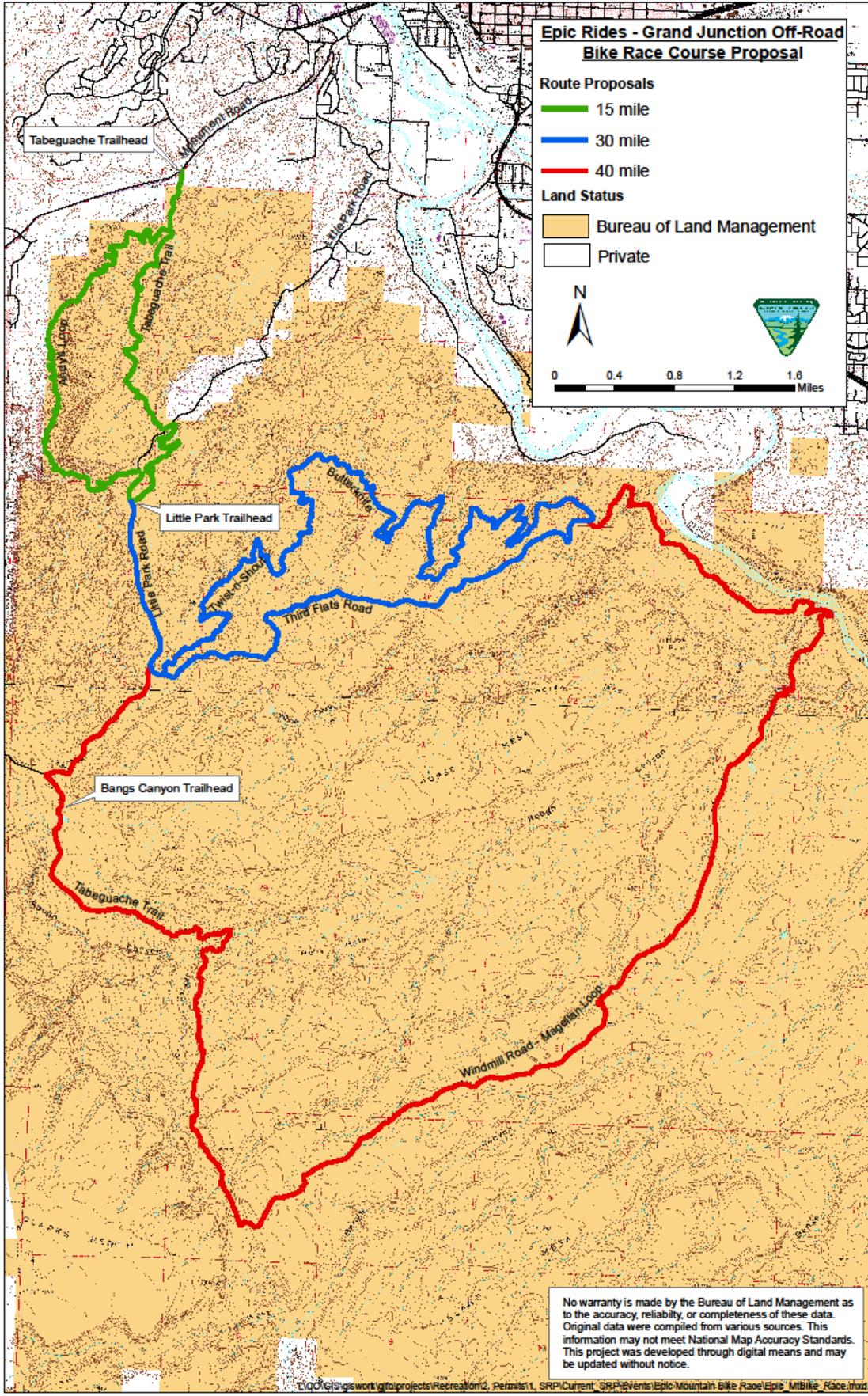
A minimum of one paramedic and EMT would be available each day of the event. One portable toilet would be located at Little Park Trailhead (TH). Trail marshals would be located throughout the course (see map in operations plan). Communications would be conducted with radios and cell phones. A safety plan would be implemented in conjunction with Grand Junction Fire Department. After the event, trail and resource rehabilitation would be conducted by event staff, if necessary.

The proponent has secured a commitment from the City of Grand Junction and Mesa County for use of city and county-administered routes and law enforcement support. The proponent would be required to post pre-event notices at local bike shops and other appropriate business locations, as well as at BLM/City trailheads notifying the public about event times and course locations. The proponent would also be responsible for posting race marshals along the race routes to inform and re-direct other trail users while the event is in progress. The proponent will provide public notice alerting other trail users who might not want to recreate in the middle of a race. Marshals would not prohibit public use of the trails, but would encourage the use of alternative routes. During the race, marshals would direct vehicular and recreational traffic to promote public safety.

The proponent requests to film the event via people on the ground, via unmanned aerial and via helicopter. Helicopter staging will not occur on BLM administered lands and the proponent agrees to fly no lower than 500 feet. Use of aircraft would follow no fly zones to protect wildlife.

A final operations plan, including detailed safety, communications, monitoring, and staging plans has been submitted by the proponent. See Attachment 2.

The applicant has been informed that cost recovery could be implemented for the administration of this permit.



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: 105 and 109

Decision Language: (Bangs SRMA Recreation Management Zone (RMZ) 1 and RMZ II) Special Recreation Permits:

- Issue Class I, II, and III Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group SRPs that are consistent with zone objectives.
- Prohibit Class IV SRPs.
- Only issue event permits that support and celebrate Grand Valley communities. Event permits should be coordinated with the local community and should result in minimal displacement of regular recreation use.
- Only issue vending SRPs in conjunction with Competitive Event SRPs.
- Do not issue vending SRPs for alcohol sales in the RMZ.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under (516 DM 11.9) H-1790-1, Appendix 4, Number: H. Recreation Management (1).

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 because the event proponent's operation and safety plan specifies that law enforcement and EMS resources, as well as course marshals will be employed along the course to address potential public health and safety issues.

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:

Previous cultural resource inventories have occurred for 64% of the trails located along the race course, surveyed in the following reports: ME.LM.NR491, ME.LM.R107, ME.LM.R194, MC.LM.R321, ME.LM.R529, ME.LM.R659, ME.LM.R662, ME.LM.R674, ME.LM.R759, ME.LM.NR338, ME.LM.NR434, ME.LM.R139, ME.LM.R140, ME.LM.R265, ME.LM.R452, ME.LM.R480, ME.LM.R483, ME.LM.R648, ME.LM.R816, ME.LM.R848, ME.LM.R848a, ME.LM.R853, ME.LM.R861. These surveys have revealed 25 cultural resource sites (5ME323, 5ME324, 5ME327, 5ME4206, 5ME4208, 5ME4212, 5ME4278, 5ME11922, 5ME12984, 5ME13009, 5ME14287, 5ME16982, 5ME16983, 5ME17567, 5ME17569, 5ME18324, 5ME19697, 5ME19724, 5ME19733, 5ME19846, 5ME19847, 5ME19848, 5ME19988, 5ME20000.1, and 5ME21007) located close to or bisected by the trails.

Of those sites, 5ME4278, 5ME12984, and 5ME14287 are determined needs data for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Ten sites, 5ME324, 5ME327, 5ME13009, 5ME16982, 5ME19724, 5ME19733, 5ME19846, 5ME19847, 5ME19988, and 5ME20000.1, have been determined officially eligible for listing on the NRHP. The remaining 12 sites are not eligible for the NRHP. The BLM Grand Junction Field Office has developed a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office to phase the remaining needed survey over the course of the next four years. It is highly likely that additional survey will reveal additional cultural resources that may be impacted by the race if protections are not in place. Monitoring and appropriate mitigation of features exposed in the trails used for this race would result in minimal impacts to cultural resources.

Although the race would take place entirely on designated trails, the proposed route is in an area of high cultural resource sensitivity, and as such, the proponent would be required to mitigate possible effects to cultural resources from the race. This could include measures to minimize off-trail traffic, such as instructing racers not to pass on single track trail segments, identifying and limiting spectator areas, fencing sites and/or installing monitors or marshals at sensitive locations. The BLM authorized officer would provide technical and procedural guidelines to assist the proponent in conducting protective measures at sensitive cultural resources. Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources would be required of the proponent and all of their subcontractors, employees and volunteers (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh).

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS: The race is proposed in two different zones in the Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (RMA). The Zone 1 of the RMA is managed to protect and enhance cycling, hiking, running and dog walking opportunities. Zone 2 of the RMA is managed to protect motorized OHV opportunities. Since there is not proposed closure of trails in either zone to the public, visitors would not lose the opportunities to participate in trail activities. During the race, the trails may be more crowded. That said, the duration of the impact would be

short-term, during the time racers are on the course. Zone 1 and 2 SRP management calls out permitting events that “celebrate Grand Valley communities”. The proposed race starts and finishes in downtown Grand Junction, and a music festival will take place in the downtown area the same weekend as the race. As such, the event meets the SRP objectives.

A portion of the course goes through the Rough Canyon ACEC. The ACEC is managed to protect geologic, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and plants. The race would cross the ACEC on a route designated as open to bicycling. The stipulations and conservation measures would result in protection for plants and cultural resources. The race would not impact the geologic values. The race activity is short-term (three days) and is not expected to impact wildlife habitat.

DRINKING WATER AQUIFERS, WETLANDS, FLOODPLAINS: The proposed action would have no direct effect to drinking water aquifers. Elevated erosion rates from and adjacent to designated routes could occur given the volume of use and potential for trail widening. However, these impacts would be reduced by utilizing trail monitors (specifically on single track routes) and post-race trail maintenance. Viewing areas for spectators need to be clearly defined and appropriately sited to avoid resource impacts. Likewise, additional portable toilets may be necessary in viewing areas and at aid stations.

MIGRATORY BIRDS: The proposed action occurs during peak breeding season of many migratory birds. No new vegetation disturbance is authorized as a result of the proposed action. The increased level of activity in this area over three days is not expected to reach levels that would cause nest abandonment or negatively impact nest success. Helicopter filming has the potential to impact nesting birds including raptors, however the proponent has agreed to stay above 500 feet, this height is expected to minimize impacts from helicopter filming on nesting birds.

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

The event uses roads and trails that have been designated for mountain bicycle use in the Grand Junction Resource Management Plan. Therefore, the environmental effects are not likely to be controversial.

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

Mountain bicycle races have been permitted in the Bangs Canyon SRMA on numerous occasions in the past and pose no unique or unknown risks. Mountain biking is a type of activity for which these trails are designated.

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 issuance of Special Recreation

Permits 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. The permit would be issued for three years, allowing assessment to determine the appropriateness of issuing permits in subsequent years.

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.

Twenty-five cultural resource sites (5ME323, 5ME324, 5ME327, 5ME4206, 5ME4208, 5ME4212, 5ME4278, 5ME11922, 5ME12984, 5ME13009, 5ME14287, 5ME16982, 5ME16983, 5ME17567, 5ME17569, 5ME18324, 5ME19697, 5ME19724, 5ME19733, 5ME19846, 5ME19847, 5ME19848, 5ME19988, 5ME20000.1, and 5ME21007) located close to or bisected by the trails. Of those sites, 5ME4278, 5ME12984, and 5ME14287 are determined needs data for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Ten sites, 5ME324, 5ME327, 5ME13009, 5ME16982, 5ME19724, 5ME19733, 5ME19846, 5ME19847, 5ME19988, and 5ME20000.1, have been determined officially eligible for listing on the NRHP. The remaining 12 sites are not eligible for the NRHP. The BLM Grand Junction Field Office has developed a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office to phase the remaining needed survey over the course of the next four years. It is highly likely that additional survey will reveal additional cultural resources that may be impacted by the race if protections are not in place. Monitoring and appropriate mitigation of features exposed in the trails used for this race would result in minimal impacts to cultural resources.

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.

No listed or proposed fish or wildlife species or their critical habitats occur in this area. Threatened Colorado Hookless Cactus, and the BLM sensitive Grand Junction milkvetch habitat exists. The area has been partially surveyed for these species. Colorado hookless cacti have been located along the race course. Consultation with USFWS during the Grand Junction Resource Management Plan revision process and the associated Travel Management Plan development determined that there was an adverse effect to listed plants that are within 20 meters of a route. Since cacti have been located within 20 meters of the race course, additional consultation with USFWS occurred to address the potential impacts to cacti associated with SRP related events, such as this one (Tails:06E24100-2016-F-0166). The consultation identifies multiple conservation measures to reduce impacts to cacti along the race course. The appropriate conservation measures from the Biological Opinion will be included as

part of the permit stipulations to reduce potential impacts to the cactus. If monitoring or data collection reveals direct impacts to cactus, section 7 consultation with US FWS will be reinitiated, and corrective measures will be taken to reduce or avoid impacts. If monitoring or data collection reveals indirect impacts to the listed species adaptive management will be employed.

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 proposal 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. Temporary disruptions to traffic flow on major roads near the trails on public lands would have a minimal effect on both affluent and low income populations. Potentially displaced trail users during the event would also cross the population spectrum. 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 Bangs Canyon area has been identified as a cultural landscape by an Indian tribe that consults with the BLM – Grand Junction Field Office and the cultural resources located during the field inventories suggest that the project area holds special significance for Native Americans for traditional or religious purposes. It is possible that the temporary trail closures could temporarily alter or limit any access for tribal members if there were traditional uses that are not known to the agency.

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 by using an existing network of trails. The field office weed crew treated one small section of the proposed route for Russian knapweed in 2013 to mitigate the threat of weed seed transport.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
Natalie Clark	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns

Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Fisheries, Special Status Species
Kevin Hyatt	Hydrologist	Hydrology
Sparky Taber	Weed Mgmt. Specialist	Weed Management
Andy Windsor	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Access/Transportation, Visual Resources, Special Designations
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist	Special Status Species (Plants)
Christina Stark	Assistant Field Manager	Planning & Environmental Coordination, and Social/Economic

Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources (From NEPA notification document)

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"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	KEH2/25/16	
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	KEH 2/25/16	Mitigation included in proposed action
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	KEH2/25/16	Mitigation included in proposed action
Geological/Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 2/11/16	
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
Special Status Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	Ale 5/11/16	
Special Status Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HLP 2/23/16	
Migratory Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HLP 2/23/16	Mitigation included in proposed action
Other Important Wildlife Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HLP 2/23/16	
Vegetation, Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JRD 2/14/16	
Invasive, Non-native Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	MT 2/26/16	
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ARL 2/23/16	
HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENV.						
Cultural or Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	NFC 2/26/16	
Paleontological	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 2/11/16	
Tribal & American Indian Religious Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	NFC 2/26/16	
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 2/23/16	
Social/Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CS 2/25/16	
Transportation and Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 2/23/16	

Table 1- Potentially Impacted Resources (From NEPA notification document)

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	Potentially Impacted	Mitigation Necessary?	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date	Comments
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AK 2/29/16	
LAND RESOURCES						
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 2/23/16	
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs, WSR)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 5/19/16	
Wilderness & Wilderness Characteristics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 2/23/16	
Range Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JRD 2/14/16	
Wild Horse and Burros	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JRD 2/14/16	
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	RBL 3/21/16	
Fire/Fuels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JP 2/23/16	

NAME OF PREPARER: Andy Windsor

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Wayne Werkmeister

DATE: 5-17-16

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

DECISION DOCUMENT

EPIC RIDES GRAND JUNCTION OFF-ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE
DOI-BLM-CO-130-2016

DECISION:

I have reviewed this document and have decided to implement the Epic Rides Mountain Bike Race project described above in the proposed action. This project is categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS under (516 DM 11.9) H-1790-1, Appendix 4, Number: H (1). Recreation Management (1), which says "Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan."

RATIONALE:

This action is listed in the National Environmental Policy Act Handbook as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist.

This event will provide an opportunity for mountain bikers of various abilities to participate and/or compete in an organized ride/race that exposes participants and spectators to the unique trails and landscapes of the Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area. By utilizing a marked and marshaled course on the area's designated trail network, impacts to other users and resources should be minimal. Plans for thorough monitoring of the event will provide valuable information for evaluation of similar event proposals in the future.



for
Field Manager
Grand Junction Field Office

5-17-16

Date

ATTACHMENTS:

Stipulations, Operating Plan

Attachment 1: SRP Stipulations for 2015 Grand Junction Off-Road Mountain Bike Event



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Rd
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506
www.co.blm.gov/gjra/gjra.html



8372 (LLCON03000)

**Special Recreation Permit (SRP) Stipulations
Grand Junction Off Road
CO-130-15-016**

In addition to the Standard Terms, Conditions, and Stipulations attached to this permit on file at the Grand Junction Field Office and the General Terms attached to the permit document, the following special stipulations apply to this permit.

1. All advertising for the event shall be accurate and not misrepresent in any way the services or accommodations provided, or the area authorized for use.
2. Permittee will contact the BLM Public Affairs Specialist by May 13, 2016 to coordinate a media release regarding the event.
3. Permittee will be responsible for posting event information including trail use times and locations in information kiosks at Tabeguache Trailhead, Little Park Trailhead, and Bangs Canyon Trailhead by Friday, April 1 (3 weeks prior to event).
4. Prior to event, trail maintenance will be completed on any portions of the course identified by the BLM and event organizers as needing maintenance to facilitate participant safety and/or trail sustainability. All pre-race trail maintenance must be approved by the BLM.
5. Permittee will provide funding for BLM-approved cultural monitors to monitor predetermined cultural sites during and after the race. Monitoring results will guide future cultural monitoring and mitigation needs for the event, as the number of bicyclists participating will increase each year with the potential to cause impacts not otherwise occurring from regular use of the trails. Permittee shall ensure adequate communication between the cultural monitors and event personnel during the event. In 2016 two sites require monitoring, with one monitor per site. One site on the 30 and 40 Grand courses

requires monitoring on both Saturday and Sunday of the event weekend. A second site on the 30 Grand course requires monitoring on Saturday only. Following the event (either on the day of, or day after the event), monitors will re-record the site and complete a monitoring results report for submission to the BLM.

6. Permittee will provide funding for BLM-approved special status species plant monitors to delineate, monitor and protect inventoried special status plants and their habitat during the event.
7. The permittee will conduct the event according to the Operating Plan on file with the BLM Grand Junction Field Office which includes specifications on managing safety, law enforcement, communications, staging, parking, spectators, race course and course marshals and other event details.
8. Permittee will provide one portable toilet at Little Park Trailhead (noted as aid station 1/4 on the operating plan map).
9. Permittee will instruct racers not to pass other riders on the singletrack portions of the course unless the slower rider stops at the edge of the trail to allow the faster rider to pass. No off-trail travel is allowed.
10. Course marshals will be stationed, according to operating plan map, to inform the public of event times and locations, direct race participants, discourage passing on single-track trails and provide public safety.
11. Spectator viewing areas, specified in the operating plan map, will be marked on the ground and on maps in the event newsletter to help spectators find acceptable areas for viewing the race.
12. Race will follow route identified on the maps included in the event operating plan.
13. The race course will be marked clearly with a selection of pin flags, barrier flagging/race tape, large coroplast signage, sponsor banners and course marshals.
14. All vehicles must remain on designated roads and parking areas.
15. Permittee is responsible for containing and removing all trash/litter associated with event participants, spectators and personnel.
16. In the event of wet weather/muddy trail conditions, permittee will implement weather contingency plans in consultation with the BLM to decide if the race should be postponed, modified or canceled.
17. Course will be swept immediately following the race to collect all course markings, pick up any litter left on the course and ensure all participants are off the course.

18. Post-race trail conditions will be reviewed jointly by BLM and Event Director. Epic Rides will conduct any trail rehabilitation needed to restore trails to pre-race conditions within 3 weeks of the event's conclusion.
19. All event filming will be from the ground or from helicopters flown no lower than 500 feet. All helicopter staging, i.e., landing zones will not be located on public lands.
20. Permittee will not conduct non-emergency helicopter landings on BLM managed lands
21. Permittee will acquire an Annual Operating Authorization (AOA) from the BLM for years 2017 and 2018. Operations on BLM administered lands will not take place without an Annual Operating Authorization (AOA).

Standard Cultural Resource Protection Stipulations

22. All persons in the area who are associated with this project shall be informed that any person who, without a permit, injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law (16 USC 433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361). Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources would be required of the proponent and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh)
23. Inadvertent Discovery: The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) [16 USC 470s., 36 CFR 800.13], as amended, requires that if newly discovered historic or archaeological materials or other cultural resources are identified during the Proposed Action implementation, work in that area must stop and the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) must be notified immediately. Within five working days the AO will determine the actions that will likely have to be completed before the site can be used (assuming in place preservation is not necessary).
24. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) [25 USC 3001 et seq., 43 CFR 10.4] requires that if inadvertent discovery of Native American Human Remains or Objects of Cultural Patrimony occurs, any activity must cease in the area of discovery, a reasonable effort made to protect the item(s) discovered, and immediate notice be made to the BLM Authorized Officer, as well as the appropriate Native American group(s) (IV.C.2). Notice may be followed by a 30-day delay (NAGPRA Section 3(d)).
25. The operator may relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and delays associated with this process, as long as the new area has been appropriately inventoried and has no resource concerns, and the exposed materials are recorded and stabilized. Otherwise, the operator shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The BLM authorized officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for relocation and/or to conduct mitigation. Upon verification from the BLM authorized officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will be allowed to resume construction.

26. Antiquities, historic ruins, prehistoric ruins, and other cultural or paleontological objects of scientific interest that are outside the authorization boundaries but potentially affected, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed action shall also be included in this evaluation or mitigation. Impacts that occur to such resources as a result of the authorized activities shall be mitigated at the operator's cost, including the cost of consultation with Native American groups.

Colorado Hookless Cactus Protection Stipulations

These stipulations are to be used in conjunction with all stipulations within this permit.

27. Before the event, temporary fencing/barriers will be placed along the route where it is in close proximity to listed plants to deter users from leaving the route. The BLM will install any necessary protective materials and remove materials immediately following the event.
28. Staging areas associated with the event will be designated to previously disturbed sites, such as trail heads and parking lots. In situations where a previously disturbed area is unavailable or fails to meet the needs of the SRP event, staging areas will be located 20 meters away from known cactus or be within 20 meters if terrain or topology renders impacts to listed plants insignificant or discountable. Staging areas include, but are not limited to parking areas, concessions, spectator viewing areas, and restroom facilities. (Operating Plan on file with the Grand Junction Field Office addresses this stipulation.)
29. Event will be monitored to document impacts to listed plants and their habitat. Monitoring will consist of: evaluating identified individual plants in close proximity to routes during an SRP event and evaluating surrounding habitat for impacts associated with event. Monitoring may include the use of electronic devices (i.e. game camera). Epic is not responsible for electronic devices.

Grand Junction Off-Road

2016 Operations Plan



Epic Rides
Dave Grossman, Event Director

About Epic Rides

Epic Rides has over 16 years of experience producing internationally recognized, annual, fundraising mountain bike events. Events are permitted on USDA Forest Service Land (Special Use Permits) through the Bradshaw Ranger District in Prescott, Arizona, and through the Lakeside Ranger District in Show Low, Arizona. Epic Rides also has a multi-year permitted event on State Trust Land in Pinal County, Oracle, Arizona, and has received special event permits for public lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the BLM for the past two years.

Epic Rides has a commitment to the environment and follows **Leave No Trace** principles by executing impact mitigation techniques through our proprietary event model with careful pre-planning, event design, and post-event action. With close coordination between land managers, trails organizations, event communities, and event participants, Epic Rides has a proven record of land stewardship and returning trail systems in better condition than prior to the event.

Participation

The 4th Annual event will be permitted for 800 participants. Each event day will consist of the following estimated percentages of participation: Friday: 10% (80 participants), Saturday: 77% (620 participants), Sunday: 12% (100 participants).

Registration

Registration for the 2016 Grand Junction Off-Road and the Epic Rides Off-Road Series opens December 31st, 2015 at 6 a.m.

Epic Rides will conduct a Grand Community Discount registration opportunity on January 6, 2016.

Course Objectives & Information

Overview

The proposed event course intends to provide a challenging, yet attainable experience for event participants. While serving as a platform for competitive mountain biking, the course will also serve as a mechanism to forge an emotional bond with the community, the area trails, and the event, held annually. The network of trails making up each route, are intended to provide an authentic mountain bike experience unique to the Grand Valley. Each route features scenic views and technical challenges specific to rider level that will build confidence, nurture success, and cultivate camaraderie among all event participants and attendees.

The event routes are designed to focus event trail use on trails that will best support the event, will have the lowest event closure impact on the public Lunch Loops trail system, and offer all participants a world-class experience while highlighting Mesa County's natural and community resources. Trails and sections have been selected that allow for rider traffic of different speeds to safely and responsibly pass. The most constricted

singletrack sections on the courses occur several miles after the start, allowing participants to experience significant ability and fitness stratification, resulting in decreased potential trail impacts from passing.

The Course: Please see Course Maps

This course proposal identifies three routes for participants to choose from; 15 Grand (short course, ~15 miles), 30 Grand (medium course, ~30 miles) and 40 Grand (long course, ~40 miles). Each distance serves as the event venue for the classes of participants in the three day event. Beginners will ride the shorter course Friday afternoon. The medium and long courses will be ridden by intermediate and advanced "weekend warrior" type participants on Saturday morning in two separate starts staggered by approximately one hour. The long course will be utilized again on Sunday for the professional race. All courses share the start of the route and the end of the route with the short course splitting off at the Little Park Aid Station, the middle course splitting off at the Third Flats Aid Station and the long course completing the entire route.

All proposed routes start on Main Street in downtown Grand Junction, travel out Monument Road and enter the Lunch Loops trail system at the Lunch Loops Parking Lot (with the exception of the Fat Tire Criterium on Friday and the Kids Ride on Sunday).

15 Grand (Short Course, ~15 miles)

Friday, May 20, 2016: Start Time - 3:00 pm, End Time - 6:00 pm

The 15 Grand begins West on Main Street and cross 1st Street → Spruce Street → W. White Avenue → Rice Street → Broadway → Monument Road → Lunch Loops trailhead. The courses climb up the Tabeguache Road doubletrack trail, up Widomaker Hill to Little Park Road. The courses cross Little Park Road and take a section of the Gunny Loop singletrack trail splitting off to the Little Park trailhead and the Little Park Aid Station.

The 15 Grand then crosses Little Park Road and takes Andy's Loop singletrack trail to the end of the Eagle's Tail singletrack trail.

The course reenters the trail system at Andy's Loop singletrack trail, connects to the end of the Eagle's Tail, and exits the Lunch Loops trail system onto Monument Road. The 15 Grand then returns to the Start/Finish line in downtown Grand Junction via Broadway → Rice Street → W. White Avenue → Spruce Street → W. Main Street.

30 Grand (Medium Course, ~30 miles)

Saturday, May 21, 2016: Start Time - 8:00 am, End Time - 4:00 pm

The 30 Grand begins West on Main Street and cross 1st Street → Spruce Street → W. White Avenue → Rice Street → Broadway → Monument Road → Lunch Loops trailhead. The courses climb up the Tabeguache Road doubletrack trail, up Widomaker Hill to Little Park Road. The courses cross Little Park Road and take a section of the Gunny

Loop singletrack trail splitting off to the Little Park trailhead and the Little Park Aid Station.

The 30 Grand continues on Little Park Road to Third Flats and Third Flats Road. The course quickly enters left onto Twist-n-Shout 50" Trail and connects to Butterknife singletrack trail. At the end of Butterknife trail, participants arrive at Third Flats Aid Station. Participants return on the doubletrack Third Flats Road to Little Park Road and descend Little Park Road back to Little Park Aid Station.

The course reenters the trail system at Andy's Loop singletrack trail, connects to the end of the Eagle's Tail, and exits the Lunch Loops trail system onto Monument Road. The 30 Grand then returns to the Start/Finish line in downtown Grand Junction via Broadway → Rice Street → W. White Avenue → Spruce Street → W. Main Street.

40 Grand (Long Course, ~40 miles)

Saturday, May 21, 2016: Start Time - 7:00 am, End Time - 4:00 pm

Sunday, May 22, 2016: Start Time - 7:30 am, End Time - 2:00 pm

The 40 Grand begins West on Main Street and cross 1st Street → Spruce Street → W. White Avenue → Rice Street → Broadway → Monument Road → Lunch Loops trailhead. The courses climb up the Tabeguache Road doubletrack trail, up Widowmaker Hill to Little Park Road. The courses cross Little Park Road and take a section of the Gunny Loop singletrack trail splitting off to the Little Park trailhead and the Little Park Aid Station.

The 40 Grand continues on Little Park Road to Third Flats and Third Flats Road. The course quickly enters left into Twist and Shout 50" Trail and connects to Butterknife singletrack trail. At the end of Butterknife trail, participants arrive at Third Flats Aid Station.

The 40 Grand Course takes the Magellan Loop down Third Flats Road to the Gunnison River and then climbs North on Windmill Road to the Tabeguache Road intersection. A descent takes participants to the Rough Canyon crossing and Rough Canyon Aid Station. 40 Grand participants return to the Tabeguache Road and exit the Magellan Loop at the Bangs Canyon staging area parking lot and Bangs Canyon Aid Station to descend Little Park Road back to Little Park Aid Station.

The course reenters the trail system at Andy's Loop singletrack trail, connects to the end of the Eagle's Tail, and exits the Lunch Loops trail system onto Monument Road. The 40 Grand then returns to the Start/Finish line in downtown Grand Junction via Broadway → Rice Street → W. White Avenue → Spruce Street → W. Main Street.

Passing Zones

The three routes are structured to provide a high quality riding and racing experience for participants and to protect the trails and surrounding lands by providing suitable and appropriate passing opportunities. Passing zones include:

1. Tabeguache Trail: as a doubletrack trail early and late in the course, this trail provides significant and important passing opportunities along its length.
2. Little Park Road: the climb and the descent of Little Park Road allows for passing opportunities with the understanding that riders must obey county road laws.
3. Third Flats Road: this short section of the course allows for multiple passing opportunities for 30 Grand (medium course) participants.
4. Twist-n-Shout: this doubletrack trail affords riders and racers the opportunity to pass with little or no impact on the trail or surrounding lands for 30 and 40 Grand (medium and long courses) participants.
5. Windmill Road: this full-sized dirt road allows for seven miles of passing opportunities for 40 Grand (long course) participants.

For safety and trail impact considerations passing on the singletrack is strongly discouraged. "Keep the singletrack single" message will be conveyed and reiterated by a variety of methods including:

1. On the event website (Ride Rules and Expectations)
2. Published in the event newspaper (Ride Rules and Expectations)
3. Stated at the pre-ride meeting for all riders
4. Signage on the course

Course Marshals

Course marshals at key locations along the route provide on-course route and safety information, monitor the progress of the event, and keep spectators and the general public off the course. Course marshals will be positioned at the following locations:

1. Lunch Loops trailhead: assist riders to enter and exit the trail system.
2. Tabeguache Trail fork: direct participants onto the correct trail and provide a safe event environment for participants and other trail users.
3. Widowmaker Hill: facilitate rider information, event participant safety and participant flow at this significant course feature.
4. Tabeguache Trail and Little Park Road crossing West: facilitate participant and general public safety in crossing Little Park Road.
5. Tabeguache Trail/Little Park Road crossing East: facilitate participants entering into the first section of singletrack trail.
6. Little Park Aid Station (Aid 1 and 5) turnout onto Little Park Road: facilitate participant and general public safety as riders turn up or down Little Park Road.
7. Third Flats Road: facilitate participant and general public safety as riders turn either up or down Little Park Road.
8. Butterknife Trailhead: facilitate riders' entrance onto Butterknife singletrack trail.
9. Third Flats Aid Station (Aid 2): direct participants in the proper direction at this course split.
10. Windmill Road intersection with Tabeguache Road: provide safety information to participants descending down a technical section of trail.
11. Tabeguache slickrock overlook: provide safety direction to riders on the overlook.

12. Little Park Road top: facilitate participants entering Little Park Road from the trail.
13. Andy's Loop drop: provide safety and course information to participants on a technical section of trail.
14. Andy's Loop climb: provide safety and course information to participants before the fall hazard on the Andy's Loop climb.
15. Andy's Loop intersection with Eagle's Tail trail: provide route information to participants.
16. Eagle's Tail trail intersection with Pet-e-kis Trail: provide route information to participants.

Course Marking

The course will be marked with a selection of pin flags, large coroplast signage, sponsor banners, and volunteers. Pin flags will mark trail intersections and straight-aways as "confidence markers". Each pin flag will have a label stating that it is a course marker and include the removal date and a phone number for people to contact the event directly if they have questions about the marker or its purpose on the trail.

Large coroplast signage will be positioned at key intersections to instruct riders of major turns. For example, the area where the shorter course branches off from the longer course will have signage, "All 40 Grand riders turn left. All 30 Grand riders turn right". Additionally, coroplast signs will be used to communicate technical areas on course and entrance/exit points for general public to create awareness of "Mt. Bike Event in Progress" throughout the area.

Sponsor banners will be utilized as high profile markings in areas where riders need a larger visual to identify trail continuity (in areas of less pronounced trails) and to boost rider moral.

Volunteers will be stationed at critical points on the route to direct traffic at intersections of trails, trails and roads, or tricky turns on the course that could be missed due to distractions (views, high speed descents, etc).

Visual Impact

Epic Rides will work with specialists from the Grand Junction Field Office of the BLM to minimize visual impacts of the course during the event when possible. Course marking resources will be strategically placed for safety and event operation and visual impact will be closely considered.

Spectator Zones: Please see Spectator Zone Map

The event recommends that spectators observe from these five spectator zones:

1. Zone 1: Located along the fence in the bike park outside the trail. Accessed via the Lunch Loops Parking Lot.
2. Zone 2: Located at the flat rock below Widowmaker Hill. Accessed by a variety of routes including Pet-e-kis, High Noon, Curt's Lane or Prenup Trails.

3. Zone 3: Located off Little Park Road above the Gunny Loop at the large dirt pullout. Accessed via Little Park Road. Bus turn-around will remain clear of parked vehicles on Friday May 29.
4. Zone 4: Located on the slickrock section of the Tabeguache Trail North of the Bangs Canyon Staging Area. Accessed via the Bangs Canyon parking lot.
5. Zone 5: Located on the Eagle's Tail ridge on Eagle's Tail trail overlooking Andy's Loop trail and the intersection with Eagle's Tail. Accessed via Pet-e-kis, High Noon, or Eagle's Nest trails.

Public Use

None of the trail used by the event will be officially closed to the public. To avoid conflict and ensure safety, the public will be notified of the event location and times through press release, flyers posted at trailheads and key sites, BLM web site, Epic Rides web site and trail marshals.

Resource Protection

Event participants will be informed of the fragile nature of the public lands along the event course and informed of the importance of protecting resources along the course including "keeping singletrack single", not littering, proper passing technique, and trail stewardship.

The event team, under the direction of the Event Director and in coordination with the BLM and local partner organizations, will conduct course preparations to address sections of trail in the course that exhibit subpar conditions and could be significantly impacted by event use. After the conclusion of the event, the event team, under the direction of the Event Director and with oversight and coordination with the BLM, will conduct trail rehabilitation and impact remediation to restore the courses to pre-event conditions or better, where necessary.

Watershed Protection

Use of existing, authorized trails within the Bangs SRMA provides an existing framework for protecting the watershed. These trails utilize existing erosion management features to help minimize sedimentation and salinization impacts in the watershed. Epic Rides will work with local trails organizations and the BLM to ensure these trail features are prepared before the event and maintained afterward.

Threatened and Listed Species Protection

Epic Rides will support the efforts of specialists from the Grand Junction Field Office of the BLM to identify threatened and listed species along the event courses and participate in reasonable and appropriate protection efforts including use of course markings, signs, and protective structures if all other measures are deemed insufficient.

Wildlife Protection

Epic Rides will support the efforts of specialists from the Grand Junction Field Office of the BLM to identify threatened and listed wildlife species in proximity to the event

courses and participate in reasonable and appropriate protection efforts including the use of course markings, signs, and no-fly zones as deemed necessary.

Cultural Resource Protection

Epic Rides will support the efforts of specialists from the Grand Junction Field Office of the BLM to identify cultural resources along the event courses and participate in reasonable and appropriate protection efforts including use of course markings, signs, and protective structures if all other measures are deemed insufficient.

Course Contingency Plan

In the event of significant weather conditions that create dangerous or damaging conditions before or during the Grand Junction Off-Road mountain bike event, Epic Rides will work with permitting agencies to develop contingency plans to operate the event. All assessments of trail conditions, weather forecasting, time changes, and route modifications will be conducted in cooperation with representatives of the Grand Junction Field Office of the BLM, City of Grand Junction, Mesa County and EMS providers.

Any changes to the event will seek to ensure the safety of riders, avoid significant damage to trails and preserve the event experience for participants. Epic Rides requests modifications be considered in the following order:

1. Time delay or course modification.
2. Course reroute or course modification.
3. Race cancellation.

In order to facilitate the most effective decision making process when contingency plans are being considered, Epic Rides has identified trails and roads that could be used to allow for modified routes and allow the event to proceed.

- A. Little Park Road
- B. Tabeguache Trail
- C. 3rd Flats Road
- D. Windmill Road
- E. Little Park Road
- F. Gunny Loop (permitted section)

Event Hours of Operation

Friday: 12p –p9p

Saturday: 7a – 9p

Sunday: 7a - 3p

Event trails that are passed through earlier in the day can be re-opened after the entire area is cleared of event participants. Course sweeps will verify an area is cleared as the event progresses throughout the day.

Safety Plan

Participant, volunteer, spectator, and general public safety before, during, and after the event is a priority. Epic Rides, the City of Grand Junction, and Mesa County in

cooperation with the BLM and local partner organizations, will work to prevent safety issues, will react effectively through a planned response to safety issues that occur, and will appropriately address safety issues that arise.

Extreme weather conditions that will result in safety issues for participants, or significant damage to trails may result in a cancellation of the event.

Epic Rides will employ a defined system of communications and protocols that are coordinated with local emergency personnel. All safety incidents will be documented and reported.

EMS Staff

Epic Rides, in coordination with the City of Grand Junction Fire Department, Mesa County Search and Rescue, and Event Medical Solutions Unlimited, LLC, will provide medical response to event participants. There will be a minimum of 5 EMTs covering the event.

Emergency medical will be strategically located throughout the route. One EMT will be located at the Start/Finish event hub, and another crew comprised of (2) EMTs and a Basic Life Support Ambulance will be located at the Little Park trailhead (mid course). Additionally, mobile EMTs will be stationed at Third Flats and Rough Canyon Aid Stations (Aid 2 and 3).

EMS Response will report via emergency dispatch and coordinated through SARC following established community protocols. Additional EMS response resources will be posted on need by dispatch.

All EMS Staff operating in Mesa County are certified and permitted and on record with their respective organizations.

Grand Junction Fire Department

GJFD will staff the event with three (3) EMTs and one (1) Basic Life Support Ambulance for the duration of the event. Two (2) EMTs will be stationed with the BLS rig at Third Flats Aid Station (Aid 2), the Little Park trailhead, and support the emergency medical needs of the event on the course.

Date	Location	Time
Friday, May 20	Event Hub	14:30 -21:00 at Hub
	Little Park Aid Station (Aid 1)	15:00 - 18:00 at Aid 1*
Saturday, May 21	Event Hub	06:30 -21:00 at Hub
	Little Park Aid Station (Aid 1)	07:00 - 16:00 at Aid 1*
Sunday, May 22	Event Hub	06:30 -15:00 at Hub
	Little Park Aid Station (Aid 1)	07:00 - 13:00 at Aid 1*

* Aid Stations will be released by the Course Sweep team.

Event Medical Solutions Unlimited, LLC

EMS Unlimited will staff the event with three (3) bike-equipped EMTs for the event. Two (2) EMTs will be stationed at the remote medial locations on course. One will be initially positioned on Butterknife Trail, and another initially on Andy's Loop trail. Both will rove to provide the best medical response possible during the event. One (1) EMT will help staff the Start/Finish event hub in downtown Grand Junction and will provide on-site Emergency Management coordination for the event.

Date	Location	Time
Friday, May 20	Event Hub	14:30 -21:00 at Hub
Saturday, May 21	Third Flats Aid Station (Aid 2)	06:30 -21:00 at Hub
	Rough Canyon Aid Station (Aid 3)	07:00 - 16:00 at Aid 2*
	Event Hub	07:00 - 16:00 at Aid 3*
Sunday, May 22	Third Flats Aid Station (Aid 2)	06:30 -15:00 at Hub
	Rough Canyon Aid Station (Aid 3)	07:00 - 13:00 at Aid 2*
	Event Hub	07:00 - 13:00 at Aid 3*

- Aid Stations will be released by the Course Sweep team.

Mesa County Search and Rescue

MCSAR will provide logistics support, communications lead, and extraction lead for the event. Should an extraction need to occur, MCSAR will contact a BLM law enforcement officer. They will provide members from their Communications Team, ATV Team, and Ground Team in support of the event and will make them available for the duration of the event knowing that it is possible that they could be called out for their regular SAR needs.

Ingress and Egress Routes

EMS transportation from the upper section of the course(s) utilized on Friday, Saturday and Sunday will take Little Park Road back to town.

EMS transportation from the lower section of the course(s) utilized on Friday, Saturday and Sunday will utilize Monument Road back to town.

EMS transportation from the Event Hub utilized on Friday, Saturday and Sunday will use the city streets with primary routes North on 7th Street, but avoiding 1st Street as possible.

Evacuation Plans

Evacuations will be coordinated and conducted by Mesa County Search and Rescue and will involve any and all resources required and available in the County.

Contact point – SARC Representative Ken Sanders, 970-434-5827

Emergency Helicopter Landing Zones

Landing Zones are identified as following, or determined by Mesa County Search and Rescue at the time of need:

Staging Area

The primary event staging area is on Main Street in downtown Grand Junction. Secondary staging area is the Little Park Aid Station (Aid 1), which will be used for safety and operations personnel only, hosting communications and medical. The impact of these areas will be carefully managed, contained, and all trash will be removed after the event.

Operations

Event operations and coordination will be conducted out of the Operations Tent located Downtown off Main Street, adjacent to the Communications and EMS locations. The Operations Tent will be the hub for all logistics and coordination and will be the primary meeting point for volunteers, response teams, or any event logistics efforts. The Start/Finish line and timing booth will be located on Main Street in downtown Grand Junction.

Facilities

One port-o-let will be located at Little Park Aid Station (Aid 1). Restroom facilities currently exist at the Lunch Loops trailhead, the Little Park trailhead, and the Bangs Canyon trailhead along the course.

Trash receptacles will be located at all aid stations and positioned on the course immediately following aid stations to avoid litter from event participants.

Law Enforcement

The event will receive law enforcement support from the City of Grand Junction. In particular, law enforcement will help with event related traffic control where the course crosses paved roads and/or sections of the route on trafficked streets near downtown. Additionally, riders will receive a police escort from Downtown to the Lunch Loops trailhead.

Race operations will work closely with BLM law enforcement officers when necessary.

Public Communications

Epic Rides engages in communications with the public regarding the event utilizing a variety of different channels and methods. These may include press releases, television, radio, social media, email, signs, meetings, newspaper, magazines, and the event newspaper.

Event Promotion

In advance, during, and after the event, Epic Rides will conduct marketing and promotion activities in support of the Grand Junction Off-Road. These may include the use of photos, course descriptions, testimonials, video, or other content, or activities from the event, the trails, the community, the weather, and the region. Some of these activities may include BLM-managed lands including the Bangs SRMA. Generally, Epic Rides recommends event participants ride the trails and courses included in the event in advance of the event weekend so that individuals are prepared. These recommendations will be promoted in advance of the event and year-round.

LZ1: 39° 01.947, 108° 36.642 (big triangle opening)
LZ2: 39° 00.181, 108° 36.456 (gravel lot West side of Little Park Rd)
LZ3: 38° 58.154, 108° 35.974 (intersection of 3 dirt trails)
LZ4: 39° 01.000, 108° 33.543

Operational Communications

Epic Rides will employ communications systems and protocols for internal and external purposes. Internal communications will apply to Epic Rides event production team in particular. External communications will interface with select members of the operations team, coordinated by Mesa County Search and Rescue Communications, plus include amateur radio net control and Grand Junction Fire Department as dedicated conduit to course communications, City Police Department and County Sheriff's Department. Epic Rides will have communications with the BLM throughout the event.

Event communications will be handled by volunteers from Mesa County Search and Rescue Communications, the Grand Valley Amateur Radio Club, and the Montrose Amateur Radio Club, as well as through event staff and volunteers equipped with radios. Mesa County Search and Rescue will provide their Comm 1 Vehicle and communications volunteers will be deployed at all aid stations as well as other key locations on the course.

Key volunteers and members of the operations team will utilize the operations radios with the repeater on the Grand Mesa that allows for nearly seamless communications along the entire course. Epic Rides will utilize a Ham radio communications network created and operated for the event utilizing the volunteer assistance of local Amateur Radio clubs and volunteers from Mesa County Search and Rescue.

Amateur radio operators creating the communications network will utilize the optimum frequencies appropriate for use in coordination with communications control operated with oversight by SARC out of Comm 1.

Key contact phone numbers and communications radio channels will be distributed to all appropriate entities, committee members, and external organizations in advance of the event.

- Event Director Dave Grossman (970) 270-3133
- Media Contact Todd Sadow (520) 623-1584
- BLM Recreation Planner Chris Pipkin (970) 589-5188
- BLM Ranger Mike Jones (970) 250-0073
- BLM Law Enforcement Officer Bryce Stewart (970) 712-2127

Content Acquisition

Epic Rides will document the event with a variety of content acquisition types for event production, marketing, and promotion. All content will be acquired following leave-no-trace standards, primarily handheld and foot- or bike-based.

Aerial Video and Photography

Epic Rides may utilize aerial content acquisition provider(s) to highlight the event, the local landscape and community. If engaged in the event, helicopter use will be staged outside BLM-managed lands and operated within all regulatory compliance. This will include observing minimum flight ceilings and no-fly zones determined to protect wildlife. Unmanned aerial devices will be used by experienced content producers only, with participant, general public, and resource safety as their primary consideration, and in compliance with guidance from the Grand Junction Field Office of the BLM. This will include observing maximum flight ceilings and no-fly zones to protect wildlife.

Event Photo Service

Epic Rides may contract an event photography service provider during the event to provide event participants photos for purchase during the event. Epic Rides will work with the Grand Junction Field Office of the BLM to ensure that event photography is conducted in a manner that is consistent with the leave no trace ethic of the event and is conducted in areas that will minimized off-trail impacts, while also avoiding trail conflicts with event participants and the general public.

Post-Event Debrief

Upon conclusion of each event year, Epic Rides organizes "de-briefing" meetings to receive feedback, review event conduct, and assess the event from a variety of event partners in order to assure effective event operation and improve year to year.

Permits

Permits are requested of the Grand Junction Field Office of the BLM, Colorado State Patrol (CDOT), Mesa County, and the City of Grand Junction.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information given by me in this proposed Operating Plan is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that I (we) am (are) required to comply with the requirements and stipulations on Form 8310-1 and any additional stipulations which the Field Manager may deem necessary. I further understand that providing false information, or failure to keep this Operating Plan or other permit requirements up to date are grounds for probation, suspension or revocation of the permit.

Signature  _____

Date 11/11/15