

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G022-2013-0045EA

September 2013

The Wild Institute
Special Recreation Permit Renewal

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DECISION RECORD
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INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Price Field Office (PFO) received a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) renewal application from The Wild Institute for requested use in Labyrinth Canyon. The location of the proposed use is:

T.23S R.17E, T.23S R.16E, T.24S R.17E, T.24S R.16E, T.25S R.17E, T.26S R.17E

The Wild Institute guides clients through Labyrinth Canyon on a weeklong canoe trip that involves hiking and camping. Proposed use would include one group with no more than fourteen people. Camping would occur on sand bars and previously dispersed disturbed campsites.

The Wild Institute has held a SRP with the Price Field Office since 2001 with good standing. The Wild Institute proposes to conduct a guided canoe trip that brings groups closer to wilderness through a SRP with six potential dispersed camp sites located along the Green River (See Figure 1).

An Environmental Assessment (BLM-UT-G022-2013-045 EA) was completed by the Price Field Office interdisciplinary team that analyzed the proposed action.

PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY

The proposed SRP is consistent and is in conformance with the Price Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved October 31, 2008.

Price RMP, REC-72, states on page 112:

“The BLM will issue a SRP as a discretionary action subject to NEPA analysis (Appendix R-10). Additionally, commercial SRPs will also be issued to provide a fair return for the commercial use of public lands.” and

REC-73, states on page 113:

“SRPs will be issued according to established evaluation factors described in Appendix R-10. The factors identified will primarily examine the sensitivity of the proposed site and the nature of the proposed use.”

According to Table I Appendix R-10 page 2 in the Price Field Office RMP this SRP would be permit Class I. It has been determined that Alternative 1- proposed action and alternatives would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.

The proposed SRP is consistent with both the Grand County and Emery County General Plans. The following excerpts from that plans relating to the proposed action are reproduced below:

Emery County General Plan Update (1996)

“Emery County feels that public land should be managed under the "multiple-use and sustained yield" concept. Emery County's definition of multiple-use includes, but is not limited to, traditional consumptive and non-consumptive uses such as grazing, all-season recreation, timber harvest, wilderness, mining, oil/gas exploration and development, agriculture, wildlife, hunting, fishing, camping, historic and prehistoric cultural resources, and watershed.” (p.32)

Grand County General Plan (2004)

"At the current time, Grand County's economy is driven by seasonal tourism. It's important that we continue to invest in and develop that part our economy." (p. 45)

"Grand County will continue to participate in developing a plan that accommodates non-motorized users including hikers, backpackers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, and road cyclists.” (p.50)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The proposed recreation activity was posted on BLM Utah Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (ENBB) on 8/01/2013 to assist in identifying issues and concerns regarding the proposal. No comments were received.

DECISION

It is my decision to authorize the recreation activities for The Wild Institute as outlined in the proposed action in BLM-UT-G022-2013-045 EA, subject to the below terms/conditions/stipulations:

1. Practice Leave No Trace Principles:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly (Pack It In, Pack It Out)
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitor

2. The six authorized camping locations and hiking routes authorized are shown on Figure 1.

The Wild Institute SRP

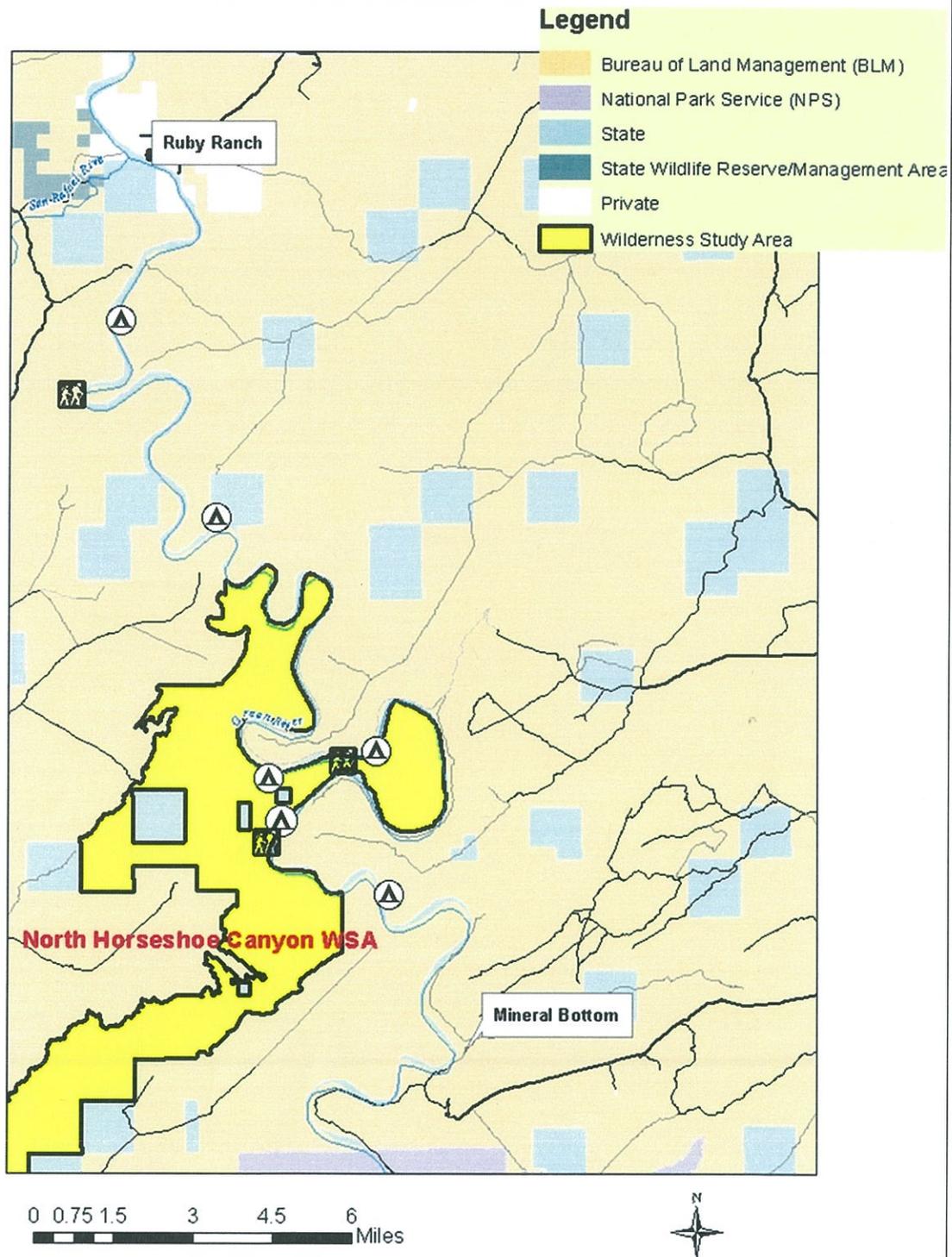


Figure 1

AUTHORITIES

The authorities for this decision are contained in Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, as amended (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761); and -Recreation Authority 43 CFR 2932.41 federal special recreation permits regulations

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

The primary resource identified for monitoring is hydrologic resources within the proposed project area. Existing sites will be monitored and compared to the baseline site inventory to help the BLM track potential changes and impacts to the resource.

Monitoring may be accomplished through:

- Law enforcement field contacts
- Qualified contractors
- Recreational Staff field/office contacts
- Other field office staff field contacts as available
- State licensing officer field/office contacts

PROTEST/APPEAL LANGUAGE

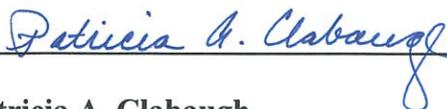
This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

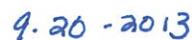
STANDARDS FOR OBTAINING A STAY

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.



Patricia A. Clabaugh
Field Manager/Authorized Officer



Date