
United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G022-2013-0045EA**

**The Wild Institute Special Recreation Permit Renewal
April 13, 2016**



Applicant/Address:

The Wild Institute
1835 Meadowview Rd.
Bloomington, MN 55425



The Wild Institute Special Recreation Permit Renewal

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This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to disclose and analyze the environmental consequences of the proposed Wild Institute Special Recreation Permit (SRP) renewal. The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with implementation of a proposed action or alternatives to the proposed action. The EA assists the BLM in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any “significant” impacts could result from the analyzed actions.

“Significance” is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a statement of “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI). If the decision maker determines that this project has “significant” impacts following the analysis in the EA, then an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the selected alternative, whether the proposed action or another alternative. A Decision Record (DR), including a FONSI statement, documents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in “significant” environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the Price Field Office Resource Management Plan (October 2008).

Chapter 1 Purpose and Need for Action

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.

Background

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).

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the project is to provide unique opportunities for the recreating public; including private, commercial, and organized group users.

The need for the project is to provide opportunities for a week long canoe trip.

Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan(s)

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)

Decision to Be Made

The BLM will make a decision of whether or not to authorize the recreation activities as proposed by The Wild Institute on public lands administered by the Price Field Office.

Issues

Scoping was completed for this proposal which included public notification through the Utah Environmental Notice Bulletin Board (ENBB) 08/01/2013. No issues were brought forward through the ENBB notification.

BLM interdisciplinary team (IDT) scoping was conducted on July 8, 2013, and documented in the IDT analysis record checklist (Appendix A). Those resources identified as not present (NP) in the proposed project area or not impacted (NI) were not carried forward for analysis into the EA. Resources identified as potentially impacted (PI) are identified below and described further in Chapter 3 of the EA and subsequently carried forward for analysis.

- Hydrologic Conditions: Improper camping locations and methods could negatively impact the streamside floodplain.
- Soils: Riparian soils could be negatively impacted by improper camp placement and methods.
- Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground): Water quality could be impacted due to improper handling of human waste and improper disposal of trash & food waste.

Chapter 2 Alternatives

Introduction

This section describes the range of alternatives to be addressed in the environmental analysis. A range of alternatives were considered and objectively evaluated by the BLM interdisciplinary team. Alternatives determined to be unreasonable were eliminated from further analysis. Federal NEPA regulations state that a decision maker must not consider alternatives beyond the range of alternatives (40 CFR 40 1502.14).

This section will also provide the basis for analyzing the potential impacts of the reasonable alternatives in a comparative form. This will assist in defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision-maker and the public.

The BLM interdisciplinary team identified two alternatives: Alternative 1- Proposed Action and Alternative 2- No Action. These two alternative actions, which were determined to meet the BLM's purpose and need, are reasonable and will be considered for further analysis in this document.

In accordance with 43 CFR 2932.41 Federal Special Recreation permit regulations, BLM may impose stipulations and conditions to meet management goals and objectives, protect lands and resources, and the public interest.

Alternative 1-Proposed Action

Under this action, a SRP for ten years would be issued to The Wild Institute allowing it to operate within approved dispersed camping sites September to June on Price and Moab Field Office managed lands within Labyrinth Canyon (Figure 1). The proposed action is a SRP renewal for a week long canoe trip. The primary activities are canoeing, hiking, and camping in Labyrinth Canyon.

The Wild Institute brings people closer to the deep wisdom of nature. The Wild Institute creates extraordinary trips for women and groups by delivering inspirational speeches for personal and professional growth, coaching people through important transitions in their lives. The Wild Institute facilitates communication and teamwork programs. The Wild Institute stresses Leave No Trace ethics.

The Wild Institute uses the wilderness like setting as the integral part to change lives. The experience of living in the wilderness like setting provides a challenge and opportunity for personal growth.

Campsite and hiking locations are identified on Figure 1.

Alternative 2-No Action

The No Action alternative would result in denying The Wild Institute the SRP.

Presently, the Wild Institute does have a permit to operate on BLM managed public lands within the Price Field Office. Under this alternative the BLM would not reissue the permit.

Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

The Wild Institute included seven camping sites in their proposal. The proposed action was modified because of BLM sensitive animal species concerns.

There is Peregrine Falcon present in one of the camp locations proposed. The Wild Institute agreed to eliminate this camp location from its proposal in order to protect the Peregrine Falcon.

The Wild Institute SRP

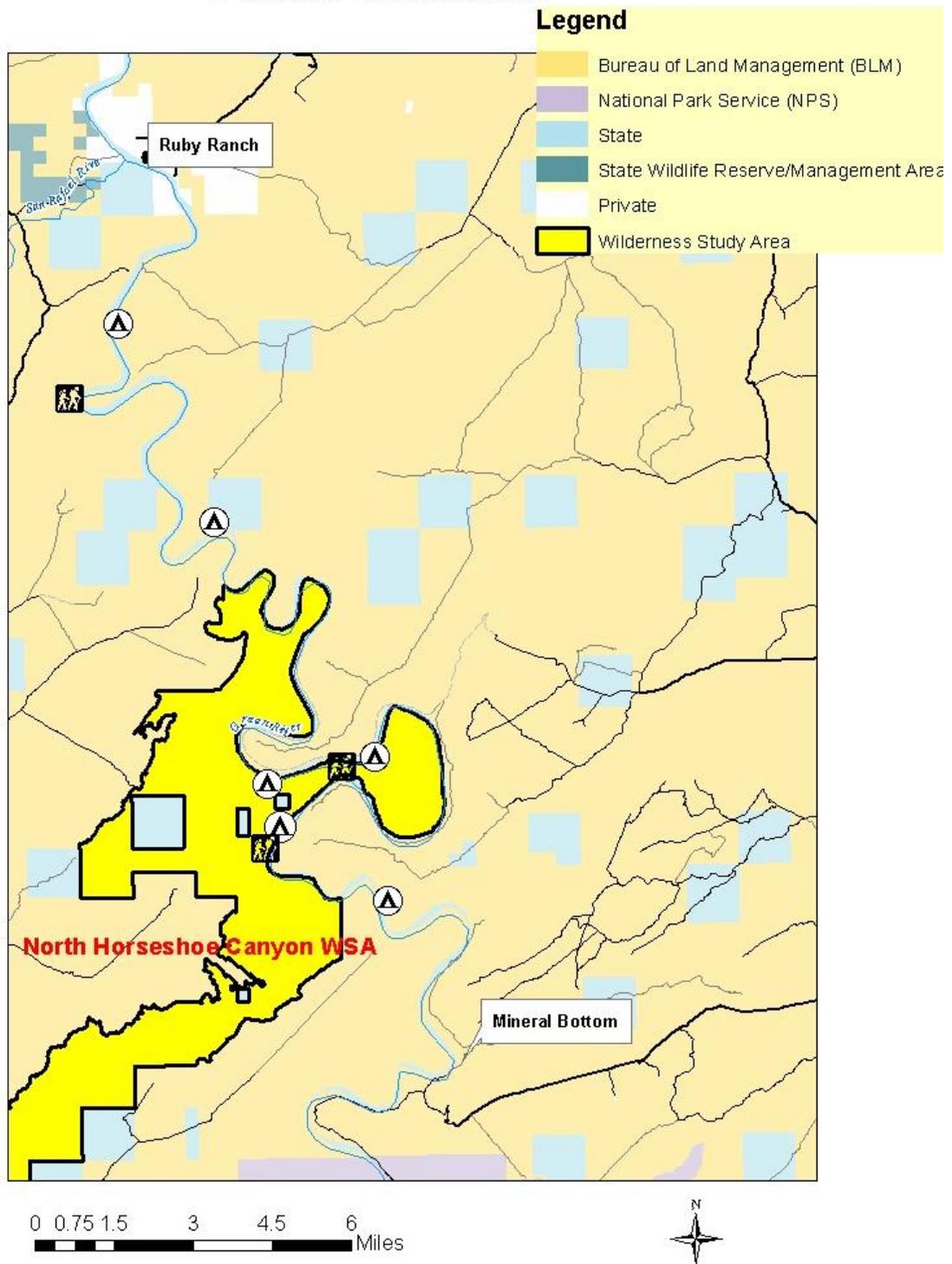


Figure 1

Chapter 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Introduction

This chapter presents the potentially affected existing environment (i.e., the physical, biological, social, and economic values and resources) of the impact area as identified in the IDT Checklist (Appendix A) and presented in Chapter 1 of this assessment. This chapter also provides the potential effects of Alternative 1-Proposed Action and Alternative 2- No Action.

As provided by NEPA regulations, found at 40 CFR 1502.21, the 2008 Price Field Office Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (2008 RMP/FEIS) are hereby incorporated by reference since these documents fully describe the affected environment and the affected resources of the area.

General Setting

Labyrinth Canyon is the longest smoothest section of the Green River; there are no rapids on this portion of the river, only a few riffles. From Green River State Park to Mineral Bottom is 68 river miles. Once you pass the mouth of the San Rafael River the landscape changes into the rising plateaus of the Canyon Country, this is where you enter Labyrinth Canyon. Massive walls of the Wingate Formation rise hundreds of feet on both sides, with narrow side canyons waiting to be explored. The canyons get deeper and deeper as you travel down river through canyons of whites, grays, yellows, and browns, with red buttes, mesas, and spires. The area is rich with mining history. Free private permits are required along this stretch of river. The Powell Expedition first explored and named many features in this area in 1869.

“July 15 1869- There is an exquisite charm in our ride down the beautiful canyon. We are all in fine spirits. Now and then we whistle or shout or discharge a pistol, to listen to the reverberations among the cliffs. We name this Labyrinth Canyon.” Powell Report 1869

As discussed in Chapter 1, only those issues/resources that were deemed potentially affected are analyzed in this Chapter. In many cases, impacts are assessed qualitatively but, when possible, quantitative impacts are evaluated. Evaluation focuses on direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of both Alternative 1-Proposed Action and Alternative 2- No Action Alternative.

Hydrology/ Soils/ Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)

Affected Environment

The Green River streamside and shoreline are in a dynamic equilibrium. Sand and silt are deposited and removed, depending on stream flow. This equilibrium maintains sand bars and gravel bars throughout the length of the stream. Larger bars are used as camping locations by groups floating the stream. These locations tend to be refreshed by the next high flows scour the location smooth and receding flows redeposit scoured sands.

The streamside soils are mostly silty sands deposited on a rock foundation or Aridisols developed over time. These soils are ephemeral, lasting several seasons until a large event scours and replaces once again.

Water quality meets State of Utah standards for the designated use of the stream as defined in the 303d list and R317-2-13, Classification of Waters of the State.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action:

Using the six identified authorized camping sites would not likely have any negative impacts to the streamside floodplain, soils, and hydrologic conditions by changing runoff patterns into the riparian area. Water quality could be impacted due to improper handling of human waste and improper disposal of trash and food waste. However, if stipulations are complied with, there would be no negative effects to these resources.

Cumulative Effects:

There are no cumulative impacts from the proposed action on the hydrology, soils and water quality resources.

Recommended Mitigation:

Camping would be allowed only in designated areas using low impact camping practices. All human waste and trash will be carried out and disposed of in a proper manner.

Alternative 2-No Action:

There would be no environmental effects to soils and water quality under the No Action alternative.

Mitigation Measures

Federal NEPA regulations at 40 CFR 1502.16 (h) defines mitigation as:

- a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.

This section will list mitigation measures proposed by the applicant and recommended by BLM ID Team, as outlined in this document.

These measures are designed to minimize and reduce any residual impacts that could result from implementation of Alternative 1-Proposed Action.

In accordance with 43 CFR 2932.41 Federal Special Recreation Permit regulations, BLM may impose stipulations and conditions to meet management goals and objectives and to protect lands and resources and the public interest.

The following are required mitigation measures:

Practice Leave No Trace Principals:

- 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 Visitors

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

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

Chapter 4 Consultation and Coordination

The issue identification section of Chapter 1 identifies those issues analyzed in detail in Chapter 3. The IDT Checklist (Appendix A) provides the rationale for issues that were considered but not analyzed further. The issues were identified through the public and agency involvement process and are described in this section.

Persons, Groups, and Agencies Consulted

BLM staff from adjacent offices with experience processing similar recreation permits; EWP representatives.

Summary of Public Participation

Scoping was completed for this proposal which included public notification through the Utah Environmental Notice Bulletin Board (ENBB) August 1, 2013. No issues were brought forward through the ENBB notification.

List of Preparers

Matt Blocker-Outdoor Recreation Planner
Jared Reese-Wildlife Biologist
Jeffery Brower-Hydrologist
Ahmed Mohsen--NEPA Coordinator

Chapter 5 References

Emery County General Plan Update (1996)

Grand County General Plan Update (2004)

USDI-BLM - Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, October, 2008.

USDI-BLM – Special Recreation Permit Manual

Utah 2010 303d list and R317-2-13, Classification of Waters of the State

Appendix A- Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

Project Title: The Wild Institute Program SRP Renewal

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UTG022-2013-0045-EA

File/Serial Number: PFO- UTG022-13-02

Project Leader: Matt Blocker

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.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
Resources And Issues Considered (Includes Supplemental Authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality	Overall, air quality in the project area is considered to be in attainment of the NAAQS. There are no regulatory monitoring data for the project area. Dust emissions currently occur from vehicles utilizing the subject roads. It is anticipated that the incremental change from this project's alternatives would be so small as to be undetectable by both models and monitors.	Jeffrey Brower	07/09/13
NI	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	The Bowknot Bend ACEC is located in the proposed action. The level of impact is present, but not affected to a degree that more detailed analysis is required. The proposed action contains similar impacts a common tourist, hunter, or visitor in the area would do on their own exploration, yet we have restricted the proposed actions to conform to a far more stringent compliance by implementing mitigation measures along with rules and requirements for the group's actions.	Josh Winkler	7/17/13

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	BLM Natural Areas	There are no BLM Natural Areas within the project area as per review of RMP/GIS maps.	Matt Blocker	7/15/13
NI	BLM Sensitive Animal Species	The proposed action will occur on the Green River. The Green River provides habitat for three (3) BLM sensitive fish species, the flannelmouth and bluehead sucker, and the roundtail chub. The presence of people floating on the river might cause these species to be temporarily displaced into other parts of the river, but this would only be a short-term, minor impact. The Leave No Trace policy would also ensure that trash and debris brought in by the action would not end up in the river and reduce the quality of available fish habitat.	Jared Reese	7/17/2013
NI	BLM Sensitive Plant Species	According to BLM records, there are no known BLM sensitive species present at the camping sites. The small group size, the Leave No Trace policy of the group, and the expectation to use a site only a few times a year is expected to reduce or eliminate potential impacts to surrounding vegetation.	Dana Truman	7/15/2013
NI	Cultural Resources	The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for cultural resources include those areas located and administered by the BLM Price Field Office. Camp locations shall be located on previously disturbed ground surface where disturbance has occurred in the last fifty years. Pursuant to 36CFR800, a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" is made pending the following stipulations; camp sites will be located more than 300 feet from any known, or visible cultural resources.	Amber Koski	08/17/2013
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	There are currently no regulatory standards for controlling GHG emissions or accepted analytical methods for evaluating project specific impacts related to GHG emissions. As a consequence, the impacts of site-specific proposals cannot be determined. Based on the nature of the action, GHG emissions are expected to be minimal.	Jeffrey Brower	07/09/13

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Environmental Justice	There are no minority or low income populations that would be adversely affected by implementation of the proposed action or alternatives.	Ahmed Mohsen	7/15/13
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	According to the NRCS soils surveys and knowledge of the soils, there are no prime and unique soils within the project area that would be affected.	Jeffrey Brower	07/09/13
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFWS Designated Species	<p>Portions of the proposed action are located within crucial year-long habitat for Desert Bighorn Sheep and Pronghorn. Activities such as backpacking and camping can have the potential to displace these species. However, because activities will be localized and only for a short period of time at each location, once the human presence is removed these species should return back to the area. As a result, there shouldn't be any major impacts to these species as a result of authorizing the permit.</p> <p>In addition, there are known nest locations for Peregrine Falcons located along the cliffs around Bowknot Bend. Activities such as backpacking and camping can have the potential to displace these species for a time. However, because of the timing and short duration of the proposed action no anticipated impacts are expected to affect this species. Therefore, there is no effect on wildlife.</p>	Jared Reese	7/17/2013
NI	Floodplains	After an inspection of USGS 7.5 minute maps of the area, it is determined no floodplains as defined by EO 11988, FEMA, or Corps of Engineers are found on or near the project area. These areas are associated with human population centers where the interaction could influence the floodplain.	Jeffrey Brower	07/09/13
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	Implementation of the proposed action would have no significant impact on Fuels/Fire Management because the project is small in scope, and fuel source is minimal. Insure any seasonal fire restrictions are followed.	Kevin Cahill	07/16/13

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Geology/Mineral Resources/Energy Production	The geologic and mineral resources will not be negatively affected by this proposal. This proposal will not restrict access to any mining claims or mineral resource that is otherwise open to entry and would be compatible with mineral/energy production.	Greg Gochmour	7/15/2013
PI	Hydrologic Conditions	Improper camping locations and methods could negatively impact the streamside floodplain. Camp only in designated areas using low impact camping practices.	Jeffrey Brower	07/09/13
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	Ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed action is minimal, therefore impacts to invasive species/noxious weeds will be negligible. There is still the risk of introducing noxious weeds or invasive species carried on equipment, vehicles, or clothing, but generally not a significant addition to existing risks of impacts. It is recommended that permit stipulations include weed prevention measures such as inspecting and cleaning equipment and vehicles and inspecting clothing and other animals for vegetation matter and seeds prior to entering BLM administered lands.	Stephanie Bauer	7/22/13
NI	Lands/Access	A review of LR2000 and the Master Title Plats showed that the proposed action is compatible with the existing land use and authorized rights-of-way. There are no conflicts with other land use authorizations.	Connie Leschin	7/9/13
NI	Livestock Grazing	The proposed action is dispersed over a large area. Therefore, livestock grazing is expected to remain unchanged after implementation of the proposed action. Livestock grazing does not occur in the project area in September. Livestock grazing is only permitted in the project area from November through April.	Karl Ivory	07/15/2013

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Migratory Birds	Issuing the permit could result in a low intensity, minor disturbance for migratory birds. The presence of people backpacking and camping might cause birds to move away from the disturbance but this would only be a short-term, minor impact. Therefore, approval of the proposed action will not have a significant effect on migratory birds.	Jared Reese	7/17/2013
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Consultation for Special Recreation Permits occurred during the RMP (2008) development process. The Tribes have expressed no concerns with projects that are limited in scope, and likely to cause no adverse effect to cultural resources.	Amber Koski	8/1/2013
NI	Paleontology	The nature of the proposed actions will not impact paleontological resources.	Michael Leschin	7.17.13
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	The proposed surface disturbance is small and temporary. The standard statewide stipulations for SRPs would assurance that rangeland health standards for upland soils, riparian areas, desired species including fish and water quality are being met. Therefore, rangeland health standards are expected to remain unchanged after implementation of the proposed action.	Karl Ivory	07/15/2013
NI	Recreation	The proposed action is located in both ERMA (Extensive Recreation Management Area) and SRMA (Special Recreation Management Area). Whereas the ERMA, is where recreation opportunities and problems are limited and explicit recreation management is not required. While the SRMA, will use integrated management between the BLM and other agencies to provide outstanding recreational opportunities and visitor experiences while protecting natural and cultural resource values. Implementation of the proposed project will have minimal impact on recreation. All routes are limited to designated routes, trails and roads.	Josh Winkler	7/17/13

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Socio-Economics	Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no measureable social or economic impacts because the project is relatively small in scope when compared to the larger economy of the area.	Ahmed Mohsen	7/15/13
PI	Soils	Riparian soils could be negatively impacted by improper camp placement and methods. Camp only in designated camping areas using low impact camping methods.	Jeffrey Brower	07/09/13
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	After review of BLM records there are no known populations of federally listed plants. The small group size, the Leave No Trace policy of the group, and the expectation to use a site only a few times a year is expected to reduce or eliminate potential impacts to surrounding vegetation.	Dana Truman	7/15/2013
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	The proposed action will occur on the Green River. The Green River provides habitat for the Colorado Pikeminnow, Humpback chub, Bonytail, and Razorback sucker. The presence of people floating on the river might cause these species to be temporarily displaced into other parts of the river, but this would only be a short-term, minor impact. The Leave No Trace policy would also ensure that trash and debris brought in by the action would not end up in the river and reduce the quality of available fish habitat.	Jared Reese	9/5/2013
NI	Vegetation Excluding USFWS Designated Species	The proposed surface disturbance is small and temporary. Therefore, vegetation is expected to remain unchanged after implementation of the proposed action.	Karl Ivory	07/15/2013

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Visual Resources	The proposed action is found within a Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class 1 through 4. Dispersed camping, driving, hiking and no permanent structures consist with the requirements of all the VRM classification. VRM classification is to manage for the level of change; these camping, driving and hiking activities will be a small visitation in the area. There are not a permanent changes or impacts to the area so the proposed action would meet with the most restrictive management objective (VRM class 1), which is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and not attract attention.	Josh Winkler	7/16/13
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Furthermore, no extremely hazardous substances, as defined in 40 CFR 355, in threshold planning quantities, will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of in association with the project. Trash would be confined in a covered container and disposed of in an approved landfill. No burning of any waste will occur due to this project. Human waste will be disposed of in an appropriate manner in an approved sewage treatment center.	Floyd Johnson	7/18/13
PI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	Water quality could be impacted due to improper handling of human waste and improper disposal of trash & food waste. All human waste and trash will be carried out and disposed of in a proper manner.	Jeffrey Brower	07/09/13
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	The proposed surface disturbance is small and temporary. Therefore, wetlands and riparian zones are expected to remain unchanged after implementation of the proposed action.	Karl Ivory	07/15/2013

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Wild and Scenic Rivers	The proposed action is located within a suitable wild and scenic river segment. The Green River from the confluence with the San Rafael River to Canyonlands National Park is 50 river miles of suitable river. The permit is for short-term, temporary human presence with no impact to "outstanding remarkable values" of the Green River. The permit stipulations serve to protect WSR "outstanding remarkable values". The proposed action will not alter the tentative classification of suitable for scenic values.	Matt Blocker	7/15/13
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	As per review of GIS and the Price Resource Management Plan (2008), The Proposed Action is not within a Wild Horse or Burro Herd Management Area.	Mike Tweddell	07/08/2013
NI	Wilderness/WSA	There proposed action lies Horseshoe Canyon (North) but the use and related facilities satisfy the non-impairment criteria (and therefore do not involve a use of the WSA that would be incompatible with wilderness designation). Examples of uses that may be authorized include river trip outfitters, hunting or fishing guides, group backpack trips, and providers of pack animals and saddle horses.	Matt Blocker	7/15/13
NI	Woodland/Forestry	There are no merchantable woodland/forestry products that will be affected by the proposed action.	Stephanie Bauer	7/22/13
NI	Non WSA lands with Wilderness Characteristics	The proposed action is located within lands with wilderness characteristics but will not have an impact to the characteristics	Matt Blocker	7/15/13

Final Review:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			

Appendix B-Wilderness Interim Management Impairment/Non-Impairment Evaluation Form

With the passing of the deadline for completion of reclamation activities in September of 1990, only temporary, non-surface-disturbing actions that require no reclamation; grandfathered uses, and actions involving the exercise of valid existing rights can be approved within WSA's. Reference documents for evaluators and managers are Handbook 8550-1, IM UT 93-45, and IM UT 93-114.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Name of action: DOI-BLM-UT-G022-2013-0045 EA

Proposed Action: X No Action Alternative: ____ (check one)

Proposed by: The Wild Institute

Description of action: The Bureau of Land Management Price Field Office received a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) renewal application from The Wild Institute for requested use in Labyrinth Canyon. The Wild Institute proposed action is Located in Horseshoe Canyon (North) WSA

Chris Heeter on behalf of The Wild Institute has requested authorization through a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct a canoe and hiking trip on lands and facilities managed by the Price Field Office. The company will take a group of women on a week-long canoe trip for small groups (9-14 people) in Labyrinth Canyon. Labyrinth Canyon provides a perfect week long adventure that is accessible to a variety of skill levels. The purpose of The Wild Institute is to help awaken people's wild spirits. They do this through professional speaking and leadership development/team off site and through offering canoeing. Standard statewide stipulations would accompany this permit.

Location: Labyrinth Canyon part of Horseshoe Canyon (North) from approximately Ten Mile Canyon to Horseshoe Canyon within the Price BLM Field Office boundaries.

What BLM WSAs are included in the area where the action is to take place?

Horseshoe Canyon (North)

VALID RIGHTS OR GRANDFATHERED USES (if any)

Is lease, mining claim, or grandfathered use pre-FLPMA? ____ Yes X No

If yes, give name or number of lease(s), mining claim(s) or grandfathered use and describe use or right asserted:

Has a valid existing right been established? ____ Yes X No

EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL FOR IMPAIRMENT OF WILDERNESS VALUES

Is the action temporary and non-surface disturbing? Yes No

If yes, describe why action would be temporary and non-surface disturbing and identify the planned period of use:

September, canoe, hiking, and camping are non-surface disturbing and temporary because of the ever changing river conditions erase most impacts.

When the use, activity, or facility is terminated, would the area's wilderness values be degraded so far as to significantly constrain the Congress's prerogative regarding the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness?

Naturalness: Naturalness as an ingredient in wilderness is defined as lacking evidence of man's impacts on a relatively permanent basis. All activities would take place on the river and minimal impacts from camping and hiking, with no impacts to the WSAs.

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude: The only potential impacts to solitude would occur with rare interactions with other groups. The additional impact to solitude which may result from these very small trips would be minimal and temporary.

Outstanding Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: There is no reason to believe that the proposed action will reduce these opportunities.

Optional Supplemental values: No perceived negative impacts.

Considered cumulatively with past actions, would authorization of the action impair the area's wilderness values? Yes No

Rationale: Group hiking, canoe and camping commercial activities are permitted not only in WSA's, but in officially-designated wilderness.

RESULTS OF EVALUATION

Non-impairment Standard

The only actions permissible in study areas are temporary uses that do not create surface disturbance, require no reclamation, and do not involve permanent placement of structures. Such temporary or no-trace activities may continue until Congress acts, so long as they can be terminated easily and immediately.

The only exceptions to the non-impairment standard are:

- 1) Emergencies such as suppression activities associated with wildfire or search and rescue operations,
- 2) Reclamation activities designed to minimize impacts to wilderness values created by IMP violations and emergencies;

