

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

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2016-0200-EA**

July 2016

**Adding an Alternative Hell's Revenge Route to the List of
Permitted SRP Routes**

Location: Grand County, Utah

Moab Field Office
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The 2008 Moab Resource Management Plan (RMP) adopted a Travel Plan which designated routes available for motorized and mechanized travel. Although there are over 3500 miles of route designated for motorized travel, the Moab Field Office issues motorized Special Recreation Permits only on a subset of these designated routes. This subset of routes has been analyzed for Special Recreation Permit use. One of the analyzed routes, Hell's Revenge, was analyzed as part of the issuance of the Moab Jeep Safari permit (Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2011-0189, *Red Rock 4-Wheelers Jeep Safari and Fall Campout 10-Year Permit Renewal and Other Permitted, Non-Competitive Motorized Use of Jeep Safari Routes*, which was signed December 28, 2012.

The portion of the Hell's Revenge route that was authorized for Jeep Safari and other permitted use did not include one small segment (about one third of mile long) that provides an easier go-around along the main Hell's Revenge loop. This go-around is designated for motorized use in the Travel Plan; if outfitters and tour guides were authorized to use these routes, congestion on Hell's Revenge could be ameliorated. In addition, outfitters would be able to customize the timing of their trips by shortcutting a slow and difficult segment of the Hell's Revenge route.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The BLM has identified a need to allow outfitters to use an additional segment of the designated Hell's Revenge route. This would add approximately one third of a mile of permitted route to the already authorized Hell's Revenge Jeep Route. The purpose of this action is to consider making this change to the list of permitted routes. The decision to be made is whether or not to add one third of a mile of designated route to the subset of routes that is authorized for Special Recreation Permit use.

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN

The 2008 *Approved Moab Resource Management Plan* (RMP) states: "issue and manage special recreation permits for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interactions and limit the impacts of such uses upon natural and cultural resources." REC-50, page 98). Allowing permittees to make full use of the Hell's Revenge area would conform to this statement.

Thus, the proposal is in conformance with the 2008 *Moab RMP*.

RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS

The proposed action is consistent with the Grand County General Plan (2012), which includes the following strategy: Strategy E - Maintain and enhance the recreational, scenic, and cultural amenities unique to Grand County to attract and sustain economic activity.

CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

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

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action seeks to add about one third of a mile of designated route to the list of routes permitted to Special Recreation Permit holders. The proposed addition is shown on Map 1.

NO ACTION

The No Action Alternative is not to allow permit holders to utilize the entire designated Hell's Revenge route system.

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist (Appendix A). The Interdisciplinary Team Checklist provides a brief description of the affected environment. The checklist also indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Resources which could be impacted to a level requiring further analysis are described in Chapter 3. Impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4 below.

The proposed permitted routes are all designated routes that are open to the public under the terms of the Moab Field Office Travel Plan.

Recreation

The Hell's Revenge Jeep Safari route is located in the Sand Flats Special Recreation Management Area. A local fee is charged to access this route. Motorized recreation use on the Hell's Revenge route is very heavy, especially during the busy spring and fall months. It is estimated that the Hell's Revenge route receives the greatest use of any Jeep Safari route, by both the general public and motorized permit holders.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

PROPOSED ACTION

This section analyzes the impacts of the Proposed Action to the potentially impacted resources described in the affected environment Chapter 3, above. The Proposed Action would allow

permittees to use the short designated route along the main Hell’s Revenge Jeep Safari route as shown on the attached map. The total mileage that would be added to the list of analyzed permitted routes would be about one third of a mile.

Recreation

Allowing motorized permittees to utilize the short designated motorized route along the Hell’s Revenge route would provide recreation benefits. Utilizing the go-around would allow a better traffic flow; permittees could cut short their trips if time is essential by using the route shown on Map 1 to delete a difficult portion of the Hell’s Revenge route from their trip. Using the proposed already-designated alternative route would also help clear up congestion as outfitters could choose to utilize the route shown on Map 1 rather than being forced to stay on the “main” Hell’s Revenge route.

NO ACTION

The No Action alternative is not to allow permittees to use the alternative route along the Hell’s Revenge Jeep Safari route as depicted in Map 1.

Recreation

Motorized traffic on the Hell’s Revenge route would not be alleviated by allowing outfitters to utilize the short designated go-around route along the Hell’s Revenge Jeep Safari Route.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Past actions in this area include motorized use, as well as other types of recreation.

It has been determined that cumulative impacts to the natural resources would be negligible because impacts of the proposed action would benefit recreation, and because cultural surveys on the proposed additions to the travel plan would protect any cultural resources from impact.

**CHAPTER 5
PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED**

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action and EA by posting on the BLM’s ePlanning website on June 26, 2016. No written responses were received in response to this notice. The BLM contacted the Sand Flats Management Team, who oversees the day-to-day operations in the Sand Flats Recreation Area. The Sand Flats Team concurs with the proposed change

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Sand Flats Management Team, Grand County	Permittee use in Sand Flats	Concur with proposed changes

BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Katie Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Recreation, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Visual Resources
Jared Lundell	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Jordan Davis	Rangeland Management Specialist	Woodland/Forestry, Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds
Bill Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	BLM Natural Areas, Socioeconomics, Wilderness/WSA, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Environmental Justice
Pam Riddle	Biologist	Fish and Wildlife, T&E Animal Species, Migratory Birds, Utah Sensitive Species
R. Doolittle	Geologist	Wastes, Geology, Air Quality, Floodplains, Water Resources, Wetlands
Josh Relph	Fuels Specialist	Fire/Fuels
David Williams	Rangeland Management Specialist	T and E Plants, Soils, Vegetation, Livestock Grazing, Rangeland Health Standards
Jan Denney	Lands/Access	Lands/Access
ReBecca Hunt-Foster	Paleontologist	Paleontology

Appendices

Appendix A: Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

Map 1: Proposed Route Addition to Jeep Safari Permit

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: Adding Hell's Revenge Route to List of Permitted SRP Routes

NEPA Log Number: DOI BLM UT Y010-2016-200 -EA

Project Leader: Katie Stevens

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

The following elements are not present in the Moab Field Office and have been removed from the checklist:

Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Wild Horses and Burros.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions		A.M. Aubry R. D. Pals	6/29/16
NI	Floodplains		D. Pals R. D. Pals	6/29/16
NI	Soils	It is on a existing road.	D. Williams DW	6/29/16
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)		D. Pals R. D. Pals	6/29/16
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones		R. D. Pals	6/29/16
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	See 2008 Moab RMP.	Katie Stevens K	6/29/16
PI	Recreation	Would help permitted traffic flow on Hells Revenge	Katie Stevens KS	6/29/16
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	See 2008 Moab RMP.	Katie Stevens K	6/29/16
NI	Visual Resources		Katie Stevens KS	6/29/16
NP	BLM Natural Areas	See 2008 Moab RMP.	Bill Stevens BY	6-29-16
NI	Socio-Economics		Bill Stevens BY	6-29-16
NP	Wilderness/WSA	See 2008 Moab RMP.	Bill Stevens BY	6-29-16
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	See 2008 Moab RMP.	Bill Stevens BY	6-29-16
NI	Cultural Resources	include SRP Arch ^{etig. bottle} guide	[Signature]	6-29-16
NI	Native American Religious Concerns		[Signature]	6-29-16
NI	Environmental Justice	No EJ populations in area.	Bill Stevens BY	6-29-16
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)		R. D. Pals David Pals	6/29/16

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	no new impacts -	Pam Riddle	6/29/16
NI	Migratory Birds	" "	Pam Riddle	6/29/16
NI	Utah BLM Sensitive Species	" "	Pam Riddle	6/29/16
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	" "	Pam Riddle	6/29/16
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	on Designated road, just making it available to SRP Holders.	Jordan Davis	6/29/16
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	on existing road	Dave Williams	6/29/16
NP	Livestock Grazing		DW	6/29/16
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	on existing road	DW	6/29/16
NI	Fire/Fuels		Josh Relph	6/29/16
NI	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species	on existing road	David Williams Jordan Davis	6/29/16
NI	Woodland / Forestry	Designated route becoming available for SRP holders	Jordan Davis	6/29/16
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production		David Pals	6/29/16
NI	Lands/Access	Subject to valid existing rights	J. Denney	6-29-16
NI	Paleontology	route in wind blown sand area, & will not affect fossils in outcrops. If fossils are found, contact BLM Paleontologist.	Rebecca Hunt-Foster	6/29/16

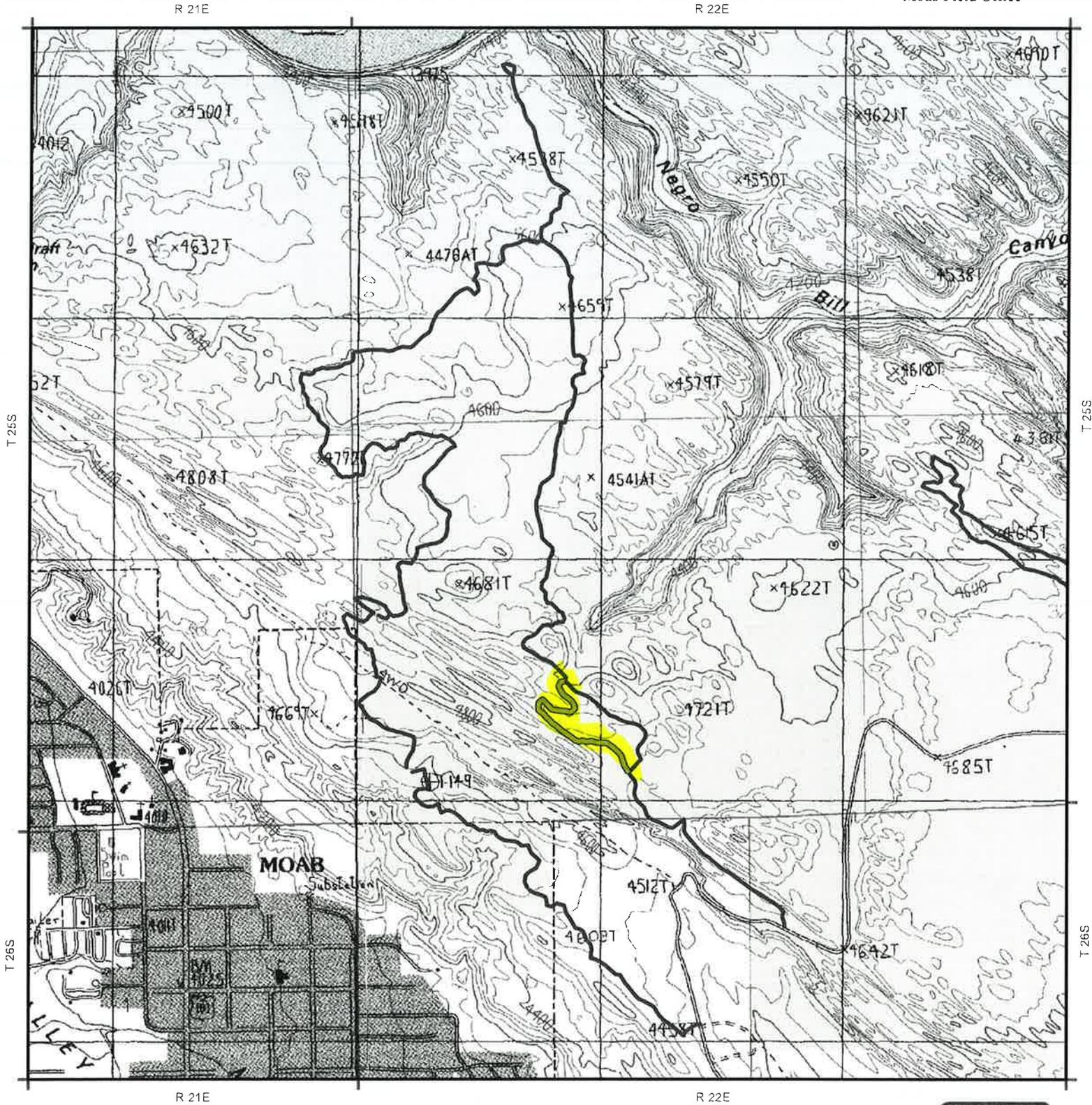
FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	KC Stevens	6/29/16	
Authorized Officer	KC Stevens	7/1/16	

BNJL Jones

Proposed route addition to Jeep Safari permit

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 Bureau of Land Management
 Moab Field Office

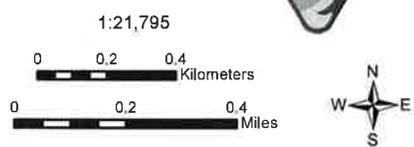


Legend

- proposed addition
- Main Jeep Safari Routes

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Private
- State



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

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

Adding a Hell's Revenge Go-Around Route to List of Permitted SRP Routes
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FONSI: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the present document, I have determined that the action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and an environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION: It is my decision to allow Special Recreation Permit holders to utilize the additional one-third mile of designated route along the Hell's Revenge Jeep Safari route (route location shown on the map attached to the EA and discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment). This change would add approximately one third of a mile of designed route to the subset of designated routes that is permitted for motorized Special Recreation Permit use. This small addition to the list of permitted routes would enable permittees to tailor their Hell's Revenge tours to the needs of their clients and to the conditions found along the route at any point in time.

RATIONALE: The decision to authorize the addition of a designated route to the subset of routes authorized for Special Recreation Permit use has been made in consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed action. The action is in conformance with the Moab Resource Management Plan.

Kathleen C. Stevens 7/1/16
Authorized Officer Date
(acting) AFM, Recreation