

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

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**Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-UTY010-2010-0082 EA**

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**January 2010**

**Special Recreation Permit for Jackson Hole Mountain Guides**

*Location:* Climbing locations on Kane Creek Road, Highways 128, 313 and 279, North Tusher area, Fisher Towers, Castle Valley, and Sand Flats

*Applicant/Address:* Jackson Hole Mountain Guides, 1190 Murphy Lane, Moab, UT 84532

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Moab Field Office  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, UT 84532



## Special Recreation Permit for Jackson Hole Mountain Guides

DOI-BLM-UTY010-2010-0068 EA

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### CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

### INTRODUCTION

Jackson Hole Mountain Guides seeks a Special Recreation Permit to conduct commercial climbing tours on lands in the Moab Field Office. Jackson Hole has had a Special Recreation Permit with the Moab BLM office since 1989. Jackson Hole Mountain Guides is a permittee in good standing and seeks renewal of its SRP; in addition to its previously permitted locations, Jackson Hole has asked for additional climbing venues on Moab BLM land

### PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

Jackson Hole Mountain Guides seeks permission to conduct climbing tours on public lands in the Moab Field Office. As required by 43 CFR 2930, Jackson Hold Mountain Guides is required to obtain a Special Recreation Permit to conduct such an activity on BLM lands.

### CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)

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

Moab's RMP states the following:

- **REC-46** "Special Recreation Permits are issued as a discretionary action as a means to: help meet management objectives, provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreational use of public lands, control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors." (page 97)  
**and**
- **REC-47** "All SRPs will contain standard stipulations appropriate for the type of activity and may include stipulations necessary to protect lands or resources, reduce user conflicts, or minimize health and safety concerns...Issue and manage recreation permits for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts to such uses upon natural and cultural resources." (page 98).

### RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS

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

processing of use permits for economic uses of public lands consistent with the policies of the Plan, and specifically, film, mineral extraction, and recreation, for the benefit of Grand County

## **CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

### **PROPOSED ACTION**

Jackson Hole Mountain Guides proposes to offer commercial climbing trips on Moab BLM lands. Guided trips are usually fewer than 5 clients, with one guide. The following locations are requested for commercial climbing: Kane Creek Road (Ice Cream Parlor, Bakery, Space Tower, Predator, Abraxis, Tombstone), along Highway 279 (The Scar, Kings Hand, Wall Street, Day Canyon, Culvert Canyon/Cameltoe, Jug Handle, Off Width City), Highway 313 (Hunchback), Highway 128 (River Road Dihedrals, Drinks Canyon, Take Out Beach Crags, Lighthouse Tower, Dolomite Tower, Big Bend Butte, Big Bend Boulders, canyoneering Negro Bill Canyon), Mill Creek (Entrajo Canyon), North Tusher (House of Putterman, Determination Towers, Echo Tower, Monitor Butte and Merrimac Butte), Sand Flats Road (Elvis's Hammer, the Rhino's Horn), Castle Valley (Castleton Tower, the Rectory, the Priest, Sister Superior, Parriot Mesa/Crooked Arrows Spire), and Fisher Towers (the Lizard, Ancient Art, Kingfisher).

In addition, Jackson Hole Mountain Guides seeks three climbs in the Long Canyon area: The Shipyard, Maverick Buttress and the Reptilian Wall. The company suggests timing use limits on these climbs due to its presence in crucial desert bighorn sheep habitat.

All trips are day trips. As part of the proposed action, Jackson Hole Mountain Guides commits to hiking on existing climber trails to the named features. No new hiking trails will be created.

### **NO ACTION**

The No Action Alternative is to deny the SRP to Jackson Hole Mountain Guides.

## **CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING**

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

The climbing locations are located within 20 miles of the town of Moab. Each of the locations is accessible by paved or highly maintained road. Each of the climbs has existing "climber trails" to their bases; the permittee will use these existing hiking trails to access the climb.

### **Recreation**

The area within 20 miles of Moab is heavily used by recreationists of all types, including those who come to Moab to climb. The climbs requested by Jackson Hole Mountain Guides are used regularly by the general public, as well as by other permittees. In addition, these climbs are very well-known, and are listed in guidebooks and magazines, as well as on internet sites, forums and blogs. In 2009, Jackson Hole Mountain Guides had 201 client days and 95 guide days, for an almost 2-1 client to guide ratio.

### **Wilderness**

The canyoneering route in Negro Bill is within the Negro Bill Wilderness Study Area. It is managed to preserve wilderness values. The WSA is visited by approximately 40,000 people per year.

### **Natural Areas**

The climbing routes in Fisher Towers and Castle Valley are within the Fisher Towers and Mary Jane BLM Natural Areas. BLM manages these areas to maintain natural values.

### **Cultural Resources**

Rock art could be located near rock art.

### **Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species**

All climbing routes are within modeled Mexican Spotted Owl habitat (MSO) and have been evaluated for habitat suitability. These areas are either under current USFWS survey protocol designation for un-occupied or are in areas determinate as un-suitable for MSO occupancy.

### **Fish and Wildlife**

Raptors: All requested climbing routes are in areas with potential nesting habitat for a variety of raptors. Currently there are no known active nesting sites near any of the proposed climbing routes.

Desert Bighorn Sheep: the climbing routes in Long Canyon and Seven-mile Canyon are within crucial desert bighorn sheep lambing and rutting habitat, as are the following routes: Hunchback, Jug Handle, Maverick Buttress and Off Width City. In addition, the Maverick Buttress Route (in Long Canyon) is located immediately adjacent to a bighorn sheep water tank. The routes in the Gold Bar Canyon, Courthouse Pasture, North Tusher and Mill Canyon area, and the Culvert Canyon and Day Canyon routes are within desert bighorn sheep migration corridors.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

#### **DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS**

##### **PROPOSED ACTION**

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

##### **Recreation**

The addition of 200 people to an area which receives over 800,000 recreation visits per year would not disturb existing recreation patterns. Granting Jackson Hole Mountain Guides an SRP would provide a recreation benefit to the clients, as well as an economic benefit to the business. The promotion of a good climbing ethic by Jackson Hole would benefit recreation as proper behavior would be taught to those being introduced to the sport of climbing.

##### **Wilderness**

Commercial activities and backpacking are permitted uses in wilderness, including WSAs. The Wilderness Act states: "Commercial activities may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas." The proposed action would not violate the Wilderness Act, nor would it violate BLM's "Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review."

##### **Natural Areas**

Fisher Towers and Castle Valley are within the Fisher Towers and Mary Jane BLM Natural Areas. Both of these areas receive very heavy climber use. The addition of 200 people to those climbing in the area would have little impact. The commitment of Jackson Hole Mountain Guides to stay on previously existing climber trails mitigates impacts to naturalness within these areas.

##### **Cultural Resources**

Stipulations attached to the permit disallow climbing on rock art. This stipulation would prevent further damage to cultural resources.

##### **Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species**

Use of the proposed climbing sites is not expected to impact nesting MSOs, as there are currently no nesting MSOs in the vicinity. All habitats that are considered suitable have current protocol surveys in place and these surveys are repeated as required by the USFWS survey protocol. If MSO nesting occupancy is determined within 0.5 miles of any permitted climbing site, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be notified. Action, such as closing the site to climbing, will be implemented to insure nesting success.

##### **Fish and Wildlife**

Raptors: All of the listed climbs have the potential to be chosen by a raptor for a nest site near the climb. Stipulations following USFWS Guidelines for Raptor Protection will be attached to the permit which disallow climbing if a raptor nest is in use within a certain specified distance from the nest (see attached stipulations). If it is determined that there is an active nest within 0.5 miles of the climb, the BLM will implement USFWS Guidelines for Raptor Protection and the climbing area may be signed as closed to permittees for the duration of the nesting period or until the chicks have fledged the nest. (It is also hoped that private climbers, although not under this stipulation, would adhere to the closure.) These stipulations would lessen the impacts to nesting raptors.

Desert Bighorn Sheep:

Maverick Butte is located well within active lambing grounds as well as near a guzzler (man-made water source), making this area highly susceptible to disturbance to desert bighorn sheep. To access this site, climbers must park next to the guzzler on the south side of the canyon and hike across the canyon to the north side. The talus slopes on the north side of the canyon are heavily used by the desert bighorn for foraging as well as for escape terrain from activities on the Long Canyon Road. The canyon bottom and northern talus slopes provide less disturbed corridors for bighorn to move through their habitat and avoid disturbances near the road. The proposed climbing activity on Maverick Butte may further fragment desert bighorn habitat within the Long Canyon.

In addition to Maverick Butte, the following climbs are located in the Long Canyon area within active lambing grounds: the climbs at the mouth of Long Canyon (Reptilian Wall and Shipyard), and those along Highway 279 (Jug Handle and Off Width City). Climbing activities, as well as associated activities such as hiking to the site, would impact desert bighorn sheep, particularly during lambing season. In addition, ewes and lambs are highly susceptible to displacement during the hot summer months. Increased or unpredictable disturbances can further stress lactating animals and their young that are already subject to heat stress and reduced forage and water. This may reduce the survival rate of young lambs or nursing ewes or may cause desert bighorn to abandon their lambing grounds. Stipulations attached to this permit disallowing climbing on Reptilian Wall, Shipyard, Jug Handle, and Off Width City between April 1 and August 15 would limit disturbances during the lambing season and reduce stress from disturbance during the hot summer months while ewes are feeding their lambs.

The Hunchback site is located on the edge of active lambing grounds in Seven-mile Canyon, and is adjacent to and north of Highway 313. Most bighorn ewe activity has been documented in a small canyon on the south side of Highway 313. The sheep readily cross the highway to the south of this area and move towards Monitor and Merrimac. There is ample escape terrain to the south that is utilized more than that near the Hunchback site. In addition, the Hunchback site is close to the road and climbers can park adjacent to the site. Climbers do not hike into adjacent lambing habitats. Activities at the Hunchback site would not fragment this lambing habitat, as most bighorn use has been recorded across Highway 313 and to the south. Climbing activities, including parking and hiking, would not be considered more disturbing to the sheep than travel on the adjacent highway. Climbing at the Hunchback site during lambing season would not impact desert bighorn sheep.

Unrestrained dogs are known to chase desert bighorn sheep and other wildlife. Stipulations attached to the permit stating that all dogs accompanying the permittee and its clients must be on leash would reduce impacts to desert bighorn sheep.

The routes in the Gold Bar Canyon, Courthouse Pasture, North Tusher and Mill Canyon area, and the Culvert Canyon and Day Canyon routes have been previously permitted and are within desert bighorn sheep migration corridors. These habitats are more typically utilized by rams and are frequently utilized before, during and after the rut by rams traveling to and from their rutting grounds. These habitats are also utilized throughout the year by rams as well as younger animals and ewes moving to other habitats and may also be used by ewes with their lambs.

Climbing activities in migration corridors could cause rams to take flight and avoid utilizing habitats near climbing activities, but these disturbances to migratory and rutting rams would be minimal, as there is ample escape and foraging terrain adjacent to the climbs. In addition, rams tend to move through an area in a short period of time. Local sheep utilizing areas seasonally or yearlong near the proposed climbs may experience localized disturbance from these activities and may abandon small portion of this habitat or may habituate to the activities. Escape terrain is plentiful and bighorn can readily avoid these areas, as needed. Typically these areas do not offer high value lambing grounds, so it is not expected that the additional stress from flight and avoidance behaviors would be elevated to a point where lambing success or herd viability is negatively impacted.

#### **NO ACTION**

The No Action alternative would not meet the need for the proposed action; the benefits of issuing an SRP to a viable, responsible business would be foregone. There would be no environmental impacts from the proposed action because the action would be denied.

#### **Recreation**

Approximately 200 climbers would not be added to the numbers who currently climb in the Moab area. The SRP would be denied, and the 200 climbers would not be guided by a responsible outfitter and would not be educated in outdoor ethics vis-à-vis climbing. The number of visitors to the Moab BLM would not be appreciably lessened.

#### **Wilderness**

A small number of climbers guided by Jackson Hole Mountain Guides would not be in the Negro Bill Wilderness Study Area. Given that the area hosts up to 40,000 visitors per year, this reduction in use would not be appreciable in lessening crowding in the WSA.

#### **Natural Areas**

Both the Fisher Towers and Castle Valley area receive very heavy climber use. Denying the permit to Jackson Hole would mean that 200 people may not be added to those numbers. This small reduction in numbers to those climbing in these areas would have very little impact on the naturalness of these areas.

#### **Cultural Resources**

Cultural resources would not be impacted by permitted climbers.

#### **Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species**

Although 200 permitted climbers would not be allowed under No Action, private climbing and recreation would continue. Thus, No Action would not have an appreciable beneficial impact to Mexican Spotted Owl populations.

### **Fish and Wildlife**

Raptors: although 200 permitted climbers would not be allowed under No Action, private climbing and recreation would continue. Thus, No Action would not have an appreciable beneficial impact to nesting raptors. No Action could actually result in negative impacts to nesting raptors because stipulations to protect them would not be imposed, and these stipulations would not be shared with private climbers. Private climbers would continue to climb without restriction; although private climbers are not required to adhere to commercial stipulations, it is hoped that many of them would do so.

Desert Bighorn Sheep: although 200 permitted climbers would not be allowed under No Action, private climbing and recreation would continue. Thus, No Action would not have an appreciable beneficial impact to desert bighorn sheep. No Action could actually result in negative impacts to sheep because stipulations to protect them would not be imposed, and these stipulations would not be shared with private climbers. Private climbers would continue to climb without restriction; although private climbers are not required to adhere to commercial stipulations, it is hoped that many of them would do so.

### **MITIGATION**

As mitigation, stipulations have been developed that would be attached to the permit for raptors and for desert bighorn sheep for a subset of the climbs requested in the proposed action. These are:

1. Permitted climbing will be disallowed on a particular climb if a raptor nest is in use within a certain specified distance from the nest (the time and distance varies by species; see attached stipulations). Permittees will be notified of the existence of the use of the nest, and the climb will be signed as closed to permittees for the duration of the nesting period.
2. Permitted climbing will not be allowed on Maverick Butress. Permitted climbing will not be allowed on Reptilian Wall, Shipyard, Off-Width City and Jug Handle from April 1 through August 15 (lambing season and summer restrictions).
3. All dogs accompanying the climbing groups must be on leash at all times.

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

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

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

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the ENBB on January 6, 2010. No one has contacted the BLM in response to the notice. A public comment period was not offered because very little interest in the proposal has been expressed.

Because the action is within a Wilderness Study Area, an IMP was prepared and is attached. A thirty day waiting period for actions in a WSA was imposed on this action.

## List of Preparers

Table 5.2. List of Preparers

### BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Ann Marie Aubry	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Floodplains, Soils, Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Hydrologic Conditions, Water Resources
Katie Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Areas of Critical Environmental concern, Farmlands, Recreation, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recreation
Leigh Grench	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Ben Kniola	Natural Resource Specialist	Environmental Justice, Lands/Access, Wastes
Bill Stevens	Planning Specialist	BLM Natural Areas, Socioeconomics, Wilderness/WSA, Areas with Wilderness Characteristics, Travel Management
Pam Riddle	Biologist	Fish and Wildlife, T&E Animal Species, Migratory Birds
Daryl Trotter	Botanist	Fuels, Invasive Species, Vegetation, T&E Plants, Woodland/Forestry
Rob Sweeten	Landscape Architect	Visual Resources
Jordan Davis	Range Conservationist	Rangeland Health Standards, Livestock Grazing, Wild Horses and burros, Vegetation

### Appendix A: Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

### Appendix B: IMP (for Action in WSA)

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

**Jackson Hole Mountain Guides (commercial climbing permittee)**  
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2010-0082 Environmental Assessment

**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 issue the commercial Special Recreation Permit for Jackson Hole Mountain Guides to operate in the all areas listed under the Proposed Action **except** Maverick Buttress. No permitted climbing will be allowed on Maverick Buttress to protect crucial bighorn sheep habitat. In addition, timing restrictions will be stipulated on Reptilian Wall, Shipyard, Jug Handle and Off-Width City, allowing no permitted climbing from April 1 to August 15. This decision is contingent upon meeting all stipulations and monitoring requirements attached.

**RATIONALE:** The decision to authorize this Special Recreation Permit for Jackson Hole Mountain Guides has been made in consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed action. The action is in conformance with the Moab Resource Management Plan, which allows for recreation use permits for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts to such uses upon natural and cultural resources.

Authorized Officer



Date

2/8/10

## INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

**Project Title:** Special Recreation Permit for Jackson Hole Mountain Guides

**NEPA Log Number:** DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2010-0088 EA

82

**File/Serial Number:** MFO-Y010-10-034R

**Project Leader:** Jennifer Jones

**DETERMINATION OF STAFF:** (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

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

The following elements are not present in the Moab Field Office and have been removed from the checklist:  
Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Wild Horses and Burros.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
<b>RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)</b>				
NI	Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Am Abney	1-4-10
NI	Floodplains		Am Abney	1-4-10
NI	Soils		Am Abney	1-4-10
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)		Am Abney	1-4-10
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones		Am Abney	1-4-10
NI	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern		K Stevens	1-4-10
PI	Recreation	positive impact to climbers	K Stevens	1-4-10
NI	Wild and Scenic Rivers		K Stevens	1-4-10
NI	Visual Resources		K Stevens	1-4-10
PI	BLM Natural Areas	Possible minor impacts -- can be minimized	Or Stevens	1-4-10
NI	Socio-Economics	by re-evaluating sticking to existing climber trails	Or Stevens	1-4-10
NI	Wilderness/WSA	Will prepare IMP	Or Stevens	1-4-10

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NC	Cultural Resources	Waiver # CG-10-062	L. Quinn	1/4/10
NC	Native American Religious Concerns	11	L. Quinn	1/12/10
NP	Environmental Justice	The proposed action and alternatives would not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects to minority or low income populations	B. Kila	1/4/10
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	would not require or produce hazardous wastes	B. Kila	1/4/10
PT	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	M&O Habitat	[Signature]	1/4/10
NI	Migratory Birds	activity not expected to impact habitat/occupancy	[Signature]	1/4/10
NI	Utah BLM Sensitive Species	activity not expected to impact habitat/occupancy	[Signature]	1/4/10
PT	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	Bighorn Sheep Lamb	[Signature]	1/4/10
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds		D. Troth	1-4-10
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species		D. Troth	1-4-10
NI	Livestock Grazing		[Signature]	1-4-10
NI	Rangeland Health Standards		[Signature]	1-4-10
NI	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species		[Signature]	1-4-10
NI	Woodland / Forestry		[Signature]	1-4-10
	Fuels/Fire Management			
	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production			
	Lands/Access			
	Paleontology			

**FINAL REVIEW:**

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	[Signature]	1-4-10	
Authorized Officer	[Signature]	2/8/10	

## Authorized Locations for Jackson Hole Mountain Guides

SRP # MFO-Y010-10-034R exp. 12/31/2019

### Kane Creek Area

Ice Cream Parlor  
Bakery  
Space Tower  
Predator  
Abraxis Wall  
Tombstone

### Moab Portal to Mouth of Long Canyon, Hwy 279

The Scar  
Kings hand  
Wall Street (Jaycee Park to Indian writing turn-out)  
Day Canyon  
Jug Handle  
Off Width City  
Culvert Canyon

### Mill Creek

Entrajo Canyon

### North Tusher

House of Putterman  
Determination towers  
Echo tower  
Monitor Butte  
Merrimack butte

### Highway 313

Hunchback

### Sand Flats Recreation Area

Elvis's hammer  
The Rhino Horn

### Highway 128

River Road dihedrals  
Drinks canyon  
Take out beach crag  
Lighthouse tower  
Dolomite tower  
Big Bend butte  
Big Bend boulders

### Castle Valley area

Castleton tower  
The Rectory  
The Priest  
Sister Superior  
Parriot Mesa crooked arrows spire

### Fisher Towers

The lizard  
Ancient Art  
King Fisher

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**Environmental Notification Bulletin Board**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION BULLETIN BOARD**

**Project Name:** SRP for Jackson Hole Mountain Guides  
**NEPA Log Number:** DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2010-0082EA  
**Field Office/Code:** Moab Field Office  
**Contact:** Katie Stevens  
**Phone Number:** 435-259-2172  
**File/Serial Number:** MFO-Y010-10-034R

**Document Type:**

**Primary Program:** Cultural:  Watershed:   
 Fire / Fuel:  Wild Horses:   
 Lands & Realty:  Wildlife:   
 Minerals:  Planning:   
 Range:  Paleontology:   
 Recreation:  Woodland / Forestry:   
 Vegetation:  Other:

**Project Description:**

Jackson Hole Mountain Guides proposes to offer commercial climbing trips on Moab BLM lands. Guided trips are usually fewer than 5 clients, with one guide. The following locations are requested for commercial climbing: Kane Creek Road (Ice Cream Parlor, Bakery, Space Tower, Predator, Abraxis, Tombstone), along Highway 279 (The Scar, Kings Hand, Wall Street, Day Canyon, Culvert Canyon/Cameltoe, Jug Handle, Off Width City), Highway 313 (Hunchback), Highway 128 (River Road Dihedrals, Drinks Canyon, Take Out Beach Crags, Lighthouse Tower, Dolomite Tower, Big Bend Butte, Big Bend Boulders, canyoneering Negro Bill Canyon), Mill Creek (Entrajo Canyon), North Tusher (House of Putterman, Determination Towers, Echo Tower, Monitor Butte and Merrimac Butte), Sand Flats Road (Elvis's Hammer, the Rhino's Horn), Castle Valley (Castleton Tower, the Rectory, the Priest, Sister Superior, Parriot Mesa/Crooked Arrows Spire), and Fisher Towers (the Lizard, Ancient Art, Kingfisher). In addition, Jackson Hole Mountain Guides seeks three climbs in the Long Canyon area: The Shipyard, Mavericks and the Reptilian Wall. The company suggests use limits on these climbs due to its presence in crucial desert bighorn sheep habitat. All trips are day trips. As part of the proposed action, Jackson Hole Mountain Guides commits to hiking on existing climber trails to the named features. No new hiking trails will be created.

**Legal Description:**

Meridian: Salt Lake  
 Township:  
 Range:  
 Section:

**General Location and Other Remarks:**

Kane Creek Road (Ice Cream Parlor, Bakery, Space Tower, Predator, Abraxis, Tombstone), along Highway 279 (The Scar, Kings Hand, Wall Street, Day Canyon, Culvert Canyon/Cameltoe, Jug Handle, Off Width City), Highway 313 (Hunchback), Highway 128 (River Road Dihedrals, Drinks Canyon, Take Out Beach Crags, Lighthouse Tower, Dolomite Tower, Big Bend Butte, Big Bend Boulders, canyoneering Negro Bill Canyon), Mill Creek (Entrajo Canyon), North Tusher (House of Putterman, Determination Towers, Echo Tower, Monitor Butte and Merrimac Butte), Sand Flats Road (Elvis's Hammer, the Rhino's Horn), Castle Valley (Castleton Tower, the Rectory, the Priest, Sister Superior, Parriot Mesa/Crooked Arrows Spire), and Fisher Towers (the Lizard, Ancient Art, Kingfisher). Long Canyon area: The Shipyard, Mavericks and the Reptilian Wall.

**County(s):** Grand Other:

**Special Interests:** ACEC:  Special Status Species:   
 Crucial Habitat:  Visual Resources:   
 Cultural:  Designated Wilderness / WSA:   
 Fire Rehabilitation:  Wild & Scenic Rivers:   
 Riparian:  Areas with Wilderness Characteristics:   
 None:  Native American Concerns:   
 Other:  BLM Natural Areas:

EA commenced January 6, 2010. Included a 30 day IMP