

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record

DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2020-0024-EA

July 27, 2020

Shurtz Canyon Campground

Location: Shurtz Canyon, Iron County, Utah

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cedar City Field Office
Phone: (435) 865-3000
Fax: (435) 865-3058**

Cost Estimate: \$11,000



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2020-0024-EA
Shurtz Canyon Campground

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the development and operation of the Shurtz Canyon Campground will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.



Paul N. Briggs
Cedar City Field Manager

July 31, 2020

Date

DECISION RECORD
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2020-0024-EA
Shurtz Canyon Campground

Authorities

The authority for the trail system is contained in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (October 21, 1976 as amended) and its mission of multiple-use management of the National System of Public Lands.

Compliance and Monitoring

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will monitor the Shurtz Canyon Campground to ensure compliance with the terms, conditions, and stipulations applicable to the project. The campground will be monitored by BLM recreation specialists and BLM and Iron County law enforcement officers to ensure camping limits and other campground rules are followed.

Terms / Conditions / Stipulations

The permits will be required to conform to the design features listed in Chapter Two of the attached EA.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

The proposed action is in conformance with the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony Resource Management Plan. The plan states in Recreation Objective A, "Provide recreation opportunities under the Bureau's basic stewardship responsibilities for unstructured, extensive types of recreation uses, maximizing the visitor's freedom of choice. Continue to maintain important recreational values in Federal ownership to insure this continued diversity of recreation opportunities."

Alternatives Considered

This environmental assessment focuses on the proposed and no action alternatives. Other alternatives were not analyzed in detail because the issues identified during scoping did not indicate a need for additional alternatives. The no action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action.

Public Involvement

During preparation of the EA, local residents residing near the proposed Shurtz Canyon Campground were notified by mail or e-mail as well as meeting on-site to discuss the impacts of the campground. Several letters were received expressing concerns with impacts to their private land and quality of life. These potential impacts are addressed in Chapter 3. The project was posted on the BLM's ePlanning website on April 3, 2020. A 60-day public comment period was offered beginning May 13, 2020 and ending on July 17, 2020. A notice requesting public input was published in the St. George News on July 2, 2020. Several comments were received. A summary of the comments and the BLM response are contained in Appendix 6 of the attached EA.

Decision

It is my decision to approve the Shurtz Canyon Campground as described in the proposed action of the attached environmental assessment. This decision was made after careful consideration of the proposal, specialist and public input and the project record.

Rationale for Decision

Approval of the proposed action will meet the purpose and need of the EA and will not cause unnecessary and undue degradation of public land. It will support the economy of Iron County and provide additional recreational opportunities in the area. The proposed action may increase the potential of noise, dust, private land trespass and vehicle-livestock collisions along the road used to access the site. To help mitigate these impacts, speed limits, signing of private land boundaries adjacent to the road, and campground quiet hours will be implemented. The access road is an Iron County Class B road maintained by the County. Concerns about the condition and potential improvement of the road would need to be addressed to the County. A vegetation treatment in the area is being considered by the BLM and partners to reduce the potential for large wildfires in the area.

Protest/Appeal

Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the Cedar City Field Office, 176 East D.L. Sargent Drive Cedar City, UT 84721. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

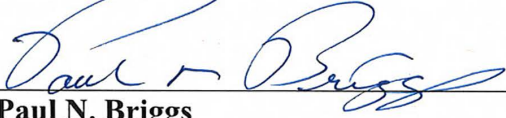
If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

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 irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted; and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adversely effected party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201

Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.



Paul N. Briggs
Cedar City Field Manager

July 31, 2020
Date

Attachments: DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2020-0024-EA

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

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2020-0024-EA**

July 31, 2020

Shurtz Canyon Campground

Location: Shurtz Canyon, Iron County, Utah

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cedar City Field Office
176 D.L. Sargent Dr.
Cedar City, UT 84721
Phone: 435-865-3000
Fax: 435-865-3058



Shurtz Canyon Campground Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2020-0024-EA

CHAPTER 1. PURPOSE & NEED

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to disclose and analyze the environmental consequences of constructing the Shurtz Canyon Campground (see map, Appendix 1). The Shurtz Canyon site is currently being used for dispersed camping and receives illegal dumping that requires regular cleaning. There is a hiking and mountain biking trailhead for the Iron Hills Trail System in this same location. This trail system is very popular and is continuing to expand with new trails being constructed annually. As with all outdoor recreation venues in the area, this system is experiencing rapidly increasing use.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose for the proposed action is to improve recreational facilities in the Shurtz Canyon area. The proposed action is needed to accommodate and manage increasing recreation use, provide for additional recreation opportunities in accordance with the Cedar City Field Office (CCFO) Recreation Business Plan and reduce dumping and other illegal activities in the area.

Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan(s)

The proposed action is in conformance with the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony Resource Management Plan (RMP). The plan states in the objectives, "Provide recreation opportunities under the Bureau's basic stewardship responsibilities for unstructured, extensive types of recreation uses, maximizing the visitor's freedom of choice. Continue to maintain important recreational values in Federal ownership to insure this continued diversity of recreation opportunities." The proposed campground is also identified in the Cedar City BLM Recreation Business Plan and has been approved by the BLM Resource Advisory Council.

Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

The proposed action is also consistent with the following laws, regulations and other plans:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
- Iron County RMP (2017)
- Cedar City Field Office Recreation Business Plan

Identification of Issues

Resources which might be impacted were identified by a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) interdisciplinary team as shown in Appendix 2. Local residents submitted letters expressing concerns about how the campground could affect their private property and quality of life in response to materials mailed to them on March 10, 2020 by the CCFO. The main concerns were keeping the gravel roads maintained at current levels with increased traffic, increased trash, fire containment and possible increased trespassing on private property. Iron County submitted a letter in support of the project. These letters are available for review in the case file in the Cedar City BLM office. Issues which need to be analyzed in order to make a reasoned choice between alternatives or a determination of significance include recreation, impacts to private landowners and the potential for an increase in human caused wildfires (see Chapter 3).

CHAPTER 2. DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

This EA analyzes two alternatives - the proposed action and no action. The No Action Alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action.

PROPOSED ACTION

The BLM proposes to construct a new campground about five miles south of Cedar City at the mouth of Shurtz Canyon (see map, Appendix 1). Construction would occur in two phases with Phase 1 incorporating 15 acres, and Phase 2 adding an additional 10 acres. Phase 2 would only be developed if the Phase 1 facilities were being used at maximum capacity on a regular basis. All of the 25 acres would be fenced and considered part of the campground facility but not all of this area would be disturbed. This location has been approved in the Cedar City Recreation Site Business Plan and would begin collecting a \$5.00-10.00 per site use fee as soon as it is developed.

Phase 1- Approximately 13 individual campsites would be constructed to accommodate tents and RVs. The campground would include vault toilets, kiosks, fire rings, grills, picnic tables, trash receptacles, walking paths to the restrooms, perimeter post and pole or wire fences and road maintenance. Drinking water and a standpipe for fire suppression would be available if conveyance is obtained from the Cedar City water system or other water is obtained in the future.

- Tent pads would be installed at each site with cement barriers if needed.
- Portions of the old roadways would be rehabilitated within the site boundary. Reclamation would include recontouring, seeding and erosion control.
- Two roads leading out of the campground would be closed to public transportation but would remain open for administrative use.
- Gates would be installed on the roads leaving the campground.
- A cattle guard would be installed at the entrance of the site and where the Turnpike Trail exits the fence surrounding the campground.
- The campground would be cleared and maintained with a grader.
- The road would be surfaced with road base type material or paved.
- Culverts would be installed as needed under the roadway to address drainage issues.
- The current trailhead would be slightly modified in size.
- The current vault toilet would be moved to the northeast side of the trailhead.

Shirts Canyon Road (the canyon is spelled Shurtz, but the road is spelled Shirts) and Tipple Road may be chip sealed or paved if traffic volume surpasses the ability to maintain road conditions at their current level. Both roads are county Class "B" roads and have a 66 foot right of way. Paving or chip sealing these roads would be analyzed in a separate NEPA document in the future.

Phase 2- This phase would add approximately 14 individual sites and would be constructed in the same manner as Phase 1.

Design Features

Design features to reduce impacts would include the following:

- Avoid project disturbance activities during migratory bird nesting season January 1 – August 31 (non-raptor species April 1 – July 31; raptor species January 1 – August 31). If unavoidable, then nesting surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist at most 7 to 10 days prior to disturbance activities. Any active nests found will have appropriate buffers and seasonal timing restrictions added. Biologists may determine when actives become inactive when fledglings leave the nest and then allow disturbance activities to occur within the buffer
- Surveys for pygmy rabbits will be conducted before any construction activities and BMPs implemented, as needed.
- Construction will be avoided between December 1 through April 15 to protect wintering deer.
- Only the minimum amount of vegetation and soil required for construction will be disturbed.
- All disturbed areas which are not needed for the facilities will be graded to blend with the adjacent area and reseeded with a seed mix approved by the authorized officer.
- Erosion control measures will be implemented such as hardening drainages and installing culverts to move water through the site in a less erosive manner.
- Road maintenance on Shirts Canyon and Tipple Road will be coordinated with Iron County to ensure that road surfaces are passable by all vehicle types (Iron County).
- Signs will be installed along Shirts Canyon Road indicating that the public is crossing through private land.
- A 25 mile per hour speed limit sign will be installed on Shirts Canyon Road (Iron County).
- An inspection for noxious weeds will be completed. Any noxious weeds will be mapped and hand or chemically treated. Soils disturbance near any noxious weeds should be avoided.
- The livestock grazing permittee will be notified prior to project implementation. Construction will occur outside of the grazing season if possible. The permittee will be coordinated with regarding fence construction.
- All range improvements that are damaged will be replaced (cattleguards, fences, etc.) as soon as possible or before the next grazing use period.
- Campground or picnic site pads, trails, and other facilities will not be constructed within 330 ft of the riparian area.
- Campfires will be allowed only within provided fire rings and grills.

NO ACTION

The proposed facilities would not be constructed, and no reclamation of existing disturbed areas would occur. Dispersed recreation would continue.

ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED IN DETAIL

An alternative was considered which would allow for additional facilities for picnicking adjacent to the Shurtz Canyon Trailhead authorized for day use only. This alternative was not analyzed in detail as this would just disperse camping to adjacent areas, resulting in impacts similar to the No Action Alternative. Closing the area to camping is not supported in the existing land use plan and would require a land use plan amendment and a special rule published in the Federal Register.

CHAPTER 3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Resources which might be affected were identified by an interdisciplinary team as shown in Appendix 2. Concerns were raised by the public during scoping and the public comment period. Issues which need to be analyzed to make a reasoned choice between alternatives or a determination of significance are describe below.

Cumulative impacts in the project area are mainly due to recreation use, private land development and wildfire occurrences. The existing Shurtz Canyon Trailhead is seeing increased use, resulting in dispersed camping disturbances and illegal dumping. The private land near the trailhead has been developed for residential use and the increased recreation use has deteriorated the condition of the access road, creating additional noise and dust. Wildfires have occurred in the past and will continue to be a concern in the future.

Issue 1. How would the development of facilities affect recreation use?

As recreation has increased in Southwest Utah over the past 10 years, demand for recreation facilities and amenities has also grown. The development of this campsite is in response to increased camping on public land in this location. The site is close to town and provides a place that can be used in early spring and late fall when many higher elevation sites are not available. The Shurtz Canyon site is currently being used for dispersed camping during spring and fall with a higher volume of use throughout the summer months. The site receives illegal dumping on a regular basis and requires regular cleaning.

The Proposed Action would improve recreation use in the area by providing needed facilities which would decrease the proliferation of dispersed campsites and parking disturbance. Trash would likely decrease, and sanitation conditions improve.

The No Action Alternative would likely result in new dispersed parking areas, dispersed campsite disturbance, trash accumulation and sanitation issues. Recreation use is expected to continue to increase under this alternative.

Issue 2. How would development of facilities affect the community and local landowners?

The Shirts Canyon and Tipple roads currently receive large volumes of traffic as visitors and locals travel to the Shurtz Canyon Trailhead, private property and other destinations along both roads, creating dust, noise and wear to the county-maintained roads. Increased use of the area is expected to continue with or without the proposed facilities. Since the Shurtz Canyon Trailhead was developed five years ago the average vehicle traffic to the trailhead was 3,597 vehicles per year. In the past two years the vehicle count has increased to an average of 5,015 vehicles per year, which amounts to 8-12 vehicles per day or an increase of 1,487 vehicles or 30 percent. Vehicle traffic data indicates that the trailhead area is used year-round with the highest months of use from late spring to fall. Vehicle traffic is collected using a magnetic vehicle counter that is placed inside the entrance to the trailhead. The campground is within a half mile of the Cedar City limits with land that is zoned (Master Planned Development).

The Proposed Action Alternative would likely further increase traffic on both the Shirts Canyon and Tipple roads. The additional recreation and road use would likely affect private

landowners by increases in dust, noise, and wear to the county-maintained roads. Irresponsible drivers might leave the county-maintained road and cause degradation of private land. Increases in vehicle and livestock collisions may occur. The private property values may be impacted due to the new campground, though the area immediately surrounding the campground is zoned Agriculture 20.

Iron County and Cedar City would benefit from having more developed outdoor recreational opportunities close to the community. It would allow businesses to generate income from recreation opportunities. In addition, those businesses that provide food, fuel and outdoor gear to visitors would benefit if more hikers, bikers and campers were staying close to the community. Local residents are expected to use the enhanced recreation venues as well.

The No Action Alternative is expected to have substantially the same impacts as the Proposed Action Alternative. Recreation use in the area is continuing to increase and is expected to do so into the reasonably foreseeable future. Not constructing the campground might slow the use in the short-term, but long-term increases in use are still anticipated. Consequently, the No Action Alternative could result in degradation of public land by not constructing the facilities to reduce erosion, garbage, fire danger and sanitary conditions.

Issue 3. How would the development of the area affect the potential for a large wildfire?

Fire season usually begins in late May and runs through September. The predominant wind direction is from the southwest and fires tend to spread to the north and east from the point of origin. Wildfires in the area have started from natural ignition and human causes and have mostly been controlled at a small scale by initial attack resources. One recent exception is the Hicks Creek Fire, an escaped prescribed fire from a private land logging operation that occurred in late October of 2016 and burned 1,456 acres. With increased recreation use and private land development, it stands to reason that human caused fires will only increase in the future. Several community fire plans and associated hazardous fuel reduction treatments have been completed in the vicinity in recent years and another hazardous fuel reduction/vegetation treatment is being planned in the immediate area in the next few years to reduce the risk of wildfire and enhance big game winter range.

The Proposed Action Alternative would help to mitigate the potential for human caused wildfires by providing fire rings and grills. Developed camp sites that provide metal fire rings in areas cleared of flammable vegetation and materials serve to greatly reduce the risk of a campfire escaping and becoming a wildfire. For this reason, campfires are still allowed in developed sites under Stage 1 fire restrictions. Dispersed camping with campfires is occurring now without these facilities. This use is expected to increase without development and management. A developed campground would necessitate increased patrols by both BLM and Iron County law enforcement as well as increased observation and reporting from the public.

The No Action Alternative would still allow for dispersed camping, likely resulting in an increased number of dispersed campfires without proper protection such as fire rings and grills.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Recreation use is expected to increase regardless of the alternative authorized. Camping is allowed under the existing land use plan for the area and the trailhead is becoming increasingly popular. Camping is expected to continue either at the trailhead or on adjacent public lands. A wildfire prevention vegetation treatment is expected to occur in the next few years which would decrease the chance of a catastrophic wildfire occurring in the area. Private lands adjacent to the access roads are expected to be developed. In summary, development of the area is increasing, both for residential and recreation use. This growth is supported by Iron County, which might result in improvement of the access roads. While the proposed project would result in better facilities for recreation users and a decrease in unauthorized dumping and dispersed recreation impacts, it would impact local landowners by increasing use of the roads and the potential for more noise, dust, trespass and livestock/vehicle collisions. These impacts would likely increase over time, as recreation use in the area is expected to continue to grow.

CHAPTER 4. PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During preparation of the EA, local residents residing near the proposed Shurtz Canyon campground were notified by mail or e-mail as well as meeting on site to discuss the impacts of the campground. Several letters were received expressing concerns with impacts to their private land and quality of life. These potential impacts are addressed in Chapter 3. The project was posted on the BLM's ePlanning website on April 3, 2020. A 60-day public comment period was offered beginning May 13, 2020 and ending on July 17, 2020. A notice requesting public input was published in the St. George News on July 2, 2020. Several comments were received. A summary of the comments and the BLM response are contained in Appendix 6.

List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Consultation for undertakings, as required by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 USC 470)	Class III surveys have been completed and a No Effect determination supported by SHPO.
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah	Consultation as required by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1531) and NHPA (16 USC 1531)	The tribe has stated that they do not have any concerns with the project going forward.

List of Preparers

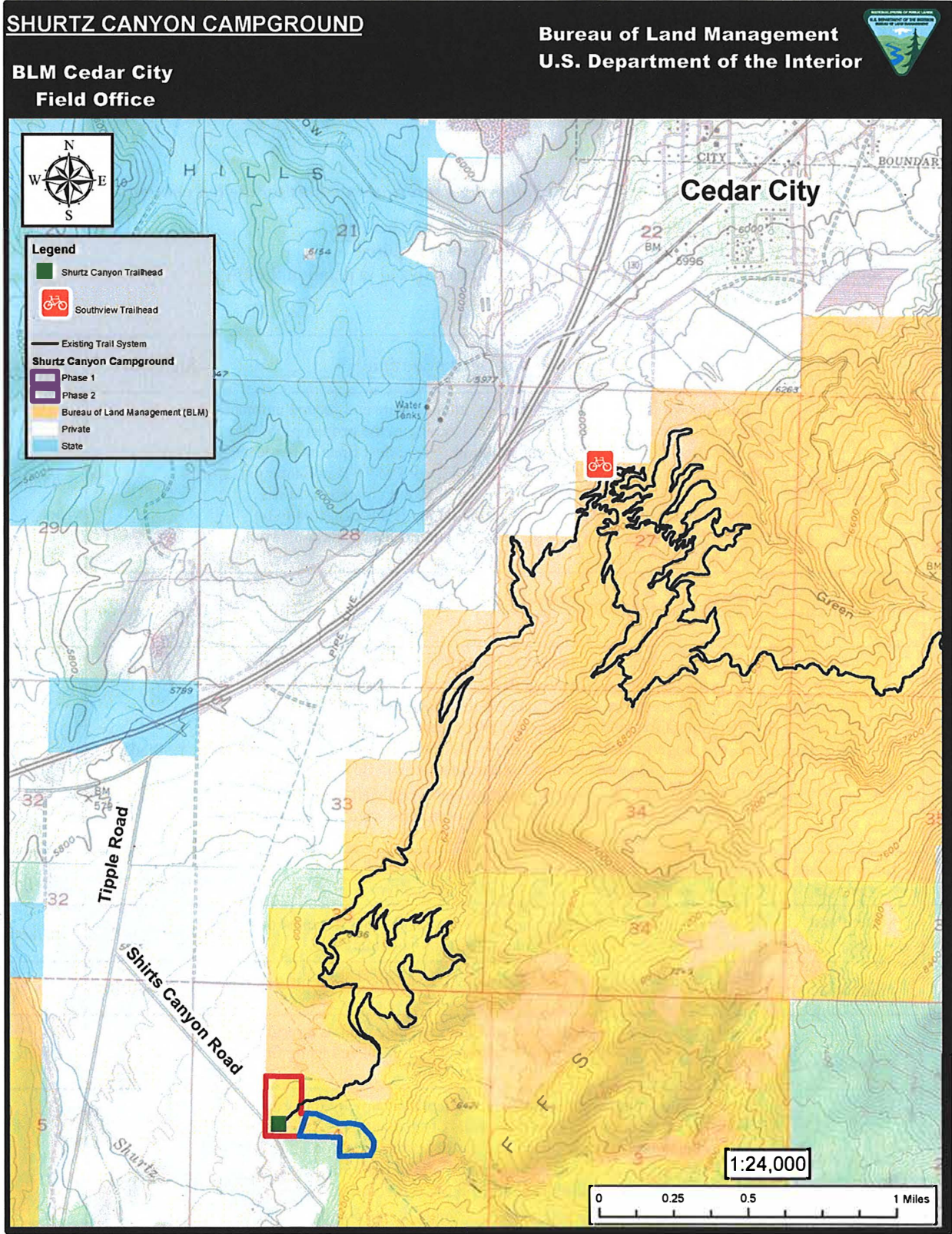
See Appendix 2.

Appendices

1. Map
2. Interdisciplinary Team NEPA Checklist

3. Phase 1 Campground Design
4. Notified Landowners
5. Conceptual Campground Design (Phase 1 and 2)
6. Public Comments and Response

Appendix 1. Map



Appendix 2

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM NEPA CHECKLIST

Project Title: Shurtz Canyon Campground
NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2020-0024-EA
Project Leader: Dave Jacobson

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

RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED:

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality	The proposal is within an area that has attained state and federal ambient air quality standards or is unclassified. Nothing in the project proposal is anticipated to alter the current situation. Some dust fines are expected during construction, but fugitive dust, PM2.5 or PM 10 is not anticipated to be an issue. Increased road traffic would be anticipated on Shirts Canyon Road once the project is completed but is not expected to be near a level of significance. Fugitive dust and exhaust emissions would quickly settle or disperse.	E. Shotwell	03/26/2020
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	There are no ACEC within the CCFO	Dave Jacobson	2-14-2020
NI	Cultural Resources	A Class III inventory of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) will need to take place prior to authorization. If historic properties are identified during this inventory, stipulations will be added to the plan of development to avoid or minimize any potential adverse effects. If no historic properties are identified or no adverse effects to historic properties are identified than this determination will be changed to a NI. Update 7/27/2020 A Class III inventory was completed in April 2020. As a result of this inventory, no historic properties were identified in the APE. This determination is changed to an NI.	R. Plank	4/10/2020 7/27/2020
NI	Environmental Justice	There would be no low income or minority populations disproportionately impacted by the proposed action.	Dave Jacobson	4-20-2020
NI	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	Potential for prime, unique or important farmlands does not exist due to steep slopes, lack of topsoil and lack of irrigation water.	E. Shotwell	03/26/2020
NI	Floodplains	There are no Iron County FEMA mapped floodplains within the project area.	E. Shotwell	05/05/2020
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	There would be no impacts to fire and fuels management as a result of the proposed action. Right of ways should be re-vegetated using fire resistant species.	J. Cox	3/9/2020
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	The only known mineral resources on the lands occupying the proposed campground are common variety deposits of sand and gravel. The lands are prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources based on underlying thick sedimentary sequences. There are no previously authorized nor pending mineral authorizations on the Shurtz Canyon site. The use of these lands as a campground would not be compatible with the extraction of the known mineral resource and so this resource would be unavailable for development while the campground is in existence.	E. Ginouves	2-13-20

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		However, given the minor value of the resource for the lands involved and/or the unlikelihood of it being developed for this resource even without a competing land-use, the impact to mineral resources is viewed as negligible.		
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	There would be emissions of GHG's associated with exhaust of heavy equipment, pickup trucks, etc. associated with project implementation and with the possibility of increased traffic on the Shirts Canyon Road. However, these emissions would be expected to be minimal, even on a local scale.	E. Shotwell	03/26/2020
NI	Hydrologic Conditions	Hydrologic conditions are relatively good in relation to site potentials. The project is expected to some soils that would be susceptible to increased erosion in the short-term. See Rangeland Health Standards, Vegetation, Soils and Water Resources for further detail.	E. Shotwell	05/05/2020
PI/NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	With any disturbance, the possibility exists for the establishment of invasive and non-native species. Standard measures for rehabilitation such as reseeding, washing vehicles to prevent the spread of weed seed, avoidance of noxious weed areas and control efforts following seeding. Noxious weed infestations are spread in part by the movement of vehicles, humans, animals, including livestock, by the transport of seed through physical contact and/or ingestion. The small, isolated noxious weed infestations should eventually be reduced in the future with the continuation of the noxious weed program which was implemented by the Cedar City Field Office. The Cedar City Field Office currently has an aggressive noxious weed control program and annually removes large quantities of noxious weeds throughout BLM administered lands in both Iron and Beaver counties. The BLM coordinates with County, State and Federal agencies in order to locate, treat and monitor noxious weed infestations throughout both counties. NI if noxious weed stipulations are adhered to. There are known noxious weeds within the area. If an inspection is done for noxious weeds prior to the project by the project lead and if any noxious weeds that are observed would be gps'd in collector and would be hand or chemically treated and/or avoiding any noxious weeds and seeds by not disturbing the soils within close proximity of the weed within the working area of the project..	J. Bulloch	3/10/2020
NI	Lands/Access	There are no proposed or authorized rights-of-way (ROW) or land tenure actions in or adjacent to the proposed action. Access to the proposed action would be via the Iron County class B road- Shirts Canyon Road. Should the BLM or the county want to further develop this road or have legal access to the proposed action, a ROW will need to be applied for.	B.Cox	2-25-2020
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	The proposed campgrounds is not within any areas that were identified as having wilderness characteristics in the 2011 or updated 2014 inventory.	Dave Jacobson	2-14-2020
PI/NI	Livestock Grazing	The Shurtz Canyon Campground would be within the Shurtz Canyon pasture of the Hamilton Fort allotment. The permit allows for either Sheep grazing or Cattle grazing in a year. Sheep grazing occurs within 01/01 - 02/19. The permittee may apply for cattle use for the same AUMs (45) after June 15 th if Sheep use was not applied for. Developing and fencing the campground (25 acres) would reduce some forage for livestock, although it is anticipated to not result in a reduction of AUMs due to the current pinyon and juniper encroachment within the project boundary. NI If - Permittee's will be notified prior to project implementation and construction is outside of the grazing season. Permittee will be coordinated with regarding fence construction. All range improvements that are damaged would be replaced (cattleguards, fences, etc.) as soon as possible or before the next grazing use.	E. Shotwell	05/05/20

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Consultation will take place between the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (PITU) and the BLM-Cedar City Office (CCFO) after the Class III inventory is complete. Consultation is currently on-going. Update 7/27/2020 The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah has reviewed the project and has no objection to the project moving forward.	R. Plank	4/10/2020 7/27/2020
NI	Paleontology	Shurtz Canyon Campground: the surficial geology of the proposed campground area is Quaternary-age (Holocene and Pleistocene) landside deposits. Using the Bureau Potential Fossil Yield Classification System, the formation falls within Class 2, low potential for vertebrate or scientifically significant invertebrate fossils. There are no known scientifically-significant fossil localities on, or adjacent to, either proposed campground site and the potential for fossil resources on either location is low. The proposed use of either site as a campground would not require any pre-utilization fossil resource surveys and no fossil mitigation measures are necessary.	E. Ginouves	2-13-20
PI/NI	Rangeland Health Standards	Standards and Guidelines for Healthy Rangelands were not being fully met within the Hamilton Fort (Shurtz Canyon Pasture) Allotment. The upper elevations of the Shurtz Canyon Pasture are dominated by pinyon and juniper while the lower elevations of the pasture are dominated by Wyoming Big Sagebrush. NI If: Construction and reclamation standards need to be identified for the campground and reclaim staging sights. Mitigation measures including carrying fire extinguishers, shovels, etc... should be incorporated. A thorough reclamation plan needs to be identified through the process.	E. Shotwell	03/26/20
PI	Recreation	As recreation has increased in Southwest Utah over the past 10 years demand for recreation facilities and amenities has also grown. The development of this campsite is in response to increased camping on public land in this location. The site is close to town and provides a location that can be used in early spring and late fall when many high elevation sites are not available.	Dave Jacobson	4-1-2020
PI	Socio-Economics	Iron County and Cedar City would benefit from having more developed outdoor recreational opportunities close to the community. It would allow businesses to generate income from recreation opportunities. In addition, those businesses that provide food and outdoor gear to visitors would also benefit if more hikers, bikers and campers were staying close to the community. However, this impact would not substantially change the socioeconomic conditions to the community. The private property values may be impacted due to the new campground, though the area immediately surrounding the campground is zoned Agriculture 20. The campground is within a half mile of the Cedar City Limits with land that is zoned (Master Planned Development).	Dave Jacobson	4-20-2020
PI/NI	Soils	This project has the potential to impact soils in the project area by increasing potential for wind and water erosion. Vegetation removal and disturbance of topsoil increase the probability of soil erosion. These impacts could be mitigated by implementing a reclamation plan that includes re-contouring, reseeding disturbed areas and including other sediment control measures as needed. NI if design features include a reclamation plan that contains seed mix, re-contouring, and erosion and sediment control measures.	L. Kitchen	5/4/2020

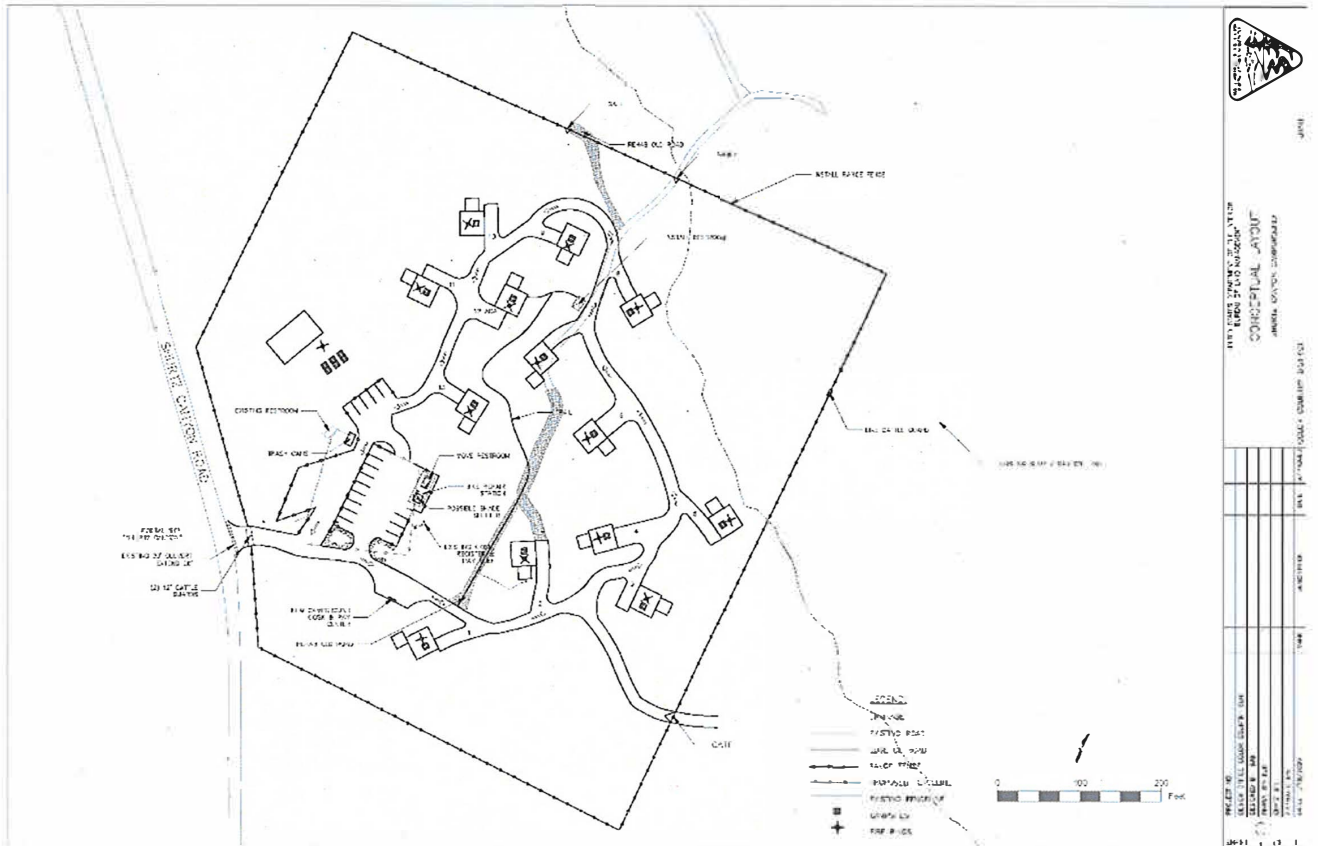
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Special Status Plants	No Special Status Plants occur in or adjacent to the proposed project area. The proposed project has low potential for any SS Plants to be present based on locale for plants known to occur within the CCFO.	M. Bayles	4-14-2020
PI/NI	Vegetation	Removal of vegetation would occur under the proposed action. Due to the clearing that would occur, a reclamation plan would be required for staging areas. A seed mix based on ecological site, soils, elevation, precipitation, etc... would need to be identified as part of reclamation procedures following the construction of the project. Seed mixes should be identified prior to construction to the greatest extent possible. Timing of seeding will be crucial to ensure that the planted seed has the best chance of survival. Seed mixes and timing of seeding should be identified within the Field Office and should be disclosed in the EA. In addition, reclamation procedures including re-contouring in conjunction with re-vegetation would need to be identified to ensure that soil erosion is minimized following implementation of the project. NI if: design features include a reclamation plan that contains seed mix, re-contouring, and erosion and sediment control measures.	E. Shotwell	03/26/20
NI	Visual Resources	The proposed campground is in VRM Class IV. A visual contrast rating was conducted, and it was determined that the project will meet the objectives of VRM class IV.	Dave Jacobson	05/07/2020
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	There are no known waste issues currently associated with the proposed project area. Use of construction equipment introduces a threat only if an unforeseen incident or malfunction occurs with the equipment. However, this threat is unlikely due to the probability and minimal quantities of product utilized. State and federal regulation governs the use, storage and disposal of any wastes. In addition, should an unforeseen incident occur, reporting and mitigation is required	T. Carlson	05/05/2020
PI/NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	See Wetlands and Riparian.	E. Shotwell	05/05/2020
PI/NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Within the most eastern portion of the project area there is a riparian area and its associated creek that was identified and rated at PFC in 2008. NI if: Campground pads, trails, etc. will not be constructed within 300 ft of the riparian area.	E. Shotwell	2-14-2020
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	There are no proposed wild or scenic rivers within the CCFO.	Dave Jacobson	2-14-2020
NP	Wilderness/WSA	The proposed campground is not within or near a WSA or wilderness area.	Dave Jacobson	3/17/2020
NP	Wild Horses	The proposed projects are not within or adjacent to a Wild Horses Herd Area (HA) or Herd Management Area (HMA).	C. Hunter	4/13/2020
PI/NI	Wildlife & Fish	The project area is within crucial mule deer winter range and should avoid construction and potentially camping opportunities Dec 1 through Apr 15. The Shurtz Canyon Campground area is a high-density area for wintering mule deer. The campground is also within elk winter habitat and mapped wild turkey habitat. NI if design features are implemented.	D. Schaible	4-20-2020
NI	Wildlife - Greater Sage-Grouse	The project is not within greater sage grouse habitat.	Dave Jacobson	3/25/2020
PI/NI	Wildlife – Migratory Birds	Various migratory bird species utilize the habitat in and around the proposed project area. Migratory birds may be temporary displaced during project disturbance activities. Avoid project disturbance activities during migratory bird nesting season January 1 – August 31	Derek Christensen	4/13/2020

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		(non-raptor species April 1 – July 31; raptor species January 1 – August 31). If unavoidable, then nesting surveys must be conducted by a qualified biologist at most 7 – 10 days prior to disturbance activities and active nests found will have appropriate buffers and seasonal timing restrictions added. Biologists may determine when actives become inactive when fledglings leave the nest and then allow disturbance activities to occur within the buffer. NI if restrictions are included in the design features.		
PI/NI	Wildlife-Special Status (not TEC)	BLM sensitive species that may occur in the project area include but are not limited to bald eagle, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, fringed myotis, Lewis' woodpecker, pygmy rabbit, and Townsends big-eared bat. If pygmy rabbit habitat is to be disturbed, surveys should be conducted to apply appropriate BMP's. NI if design features are implemented.	D. Schaible	4/13/2020
NI	Wildlife T&E and Candidate	No critical habitat for California condor, Mexican spotted owl, western yellow-billed cuckoo, and southwestern willow flycatcher is located within or reasonably near the proposed project area (NI). California condors may use the area for foraging. The nearest California condor nest is located about 12 miles south of the proposed project area. The nearest critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl is located about 2.5 miles southwest of the proposed project area (NI). The nearest mapped Utah prairie dog colony (colony ID: 0112b; private property) is located just 0.18 miles west of the proposed project area. This colony has been unoccupied for the last 3 years. The proposed project area consists of mostly unsuitable habitat for Utah prairie dog, After consulting with USFWS, it has been determined that there will be "no effect" to UPD's for the proposed project area. The rationale for this is due to unsuitable habitat and distance from occupied UPD habitat.	Derek Christensen	03/26/2020
NI	Woodland / Forestry	Areas proposed contain pinyon-juniper woodlands. However, only minimal amounts of trees on a few acres will be removed.	C. Peterson	2-14-2020

Final Review:

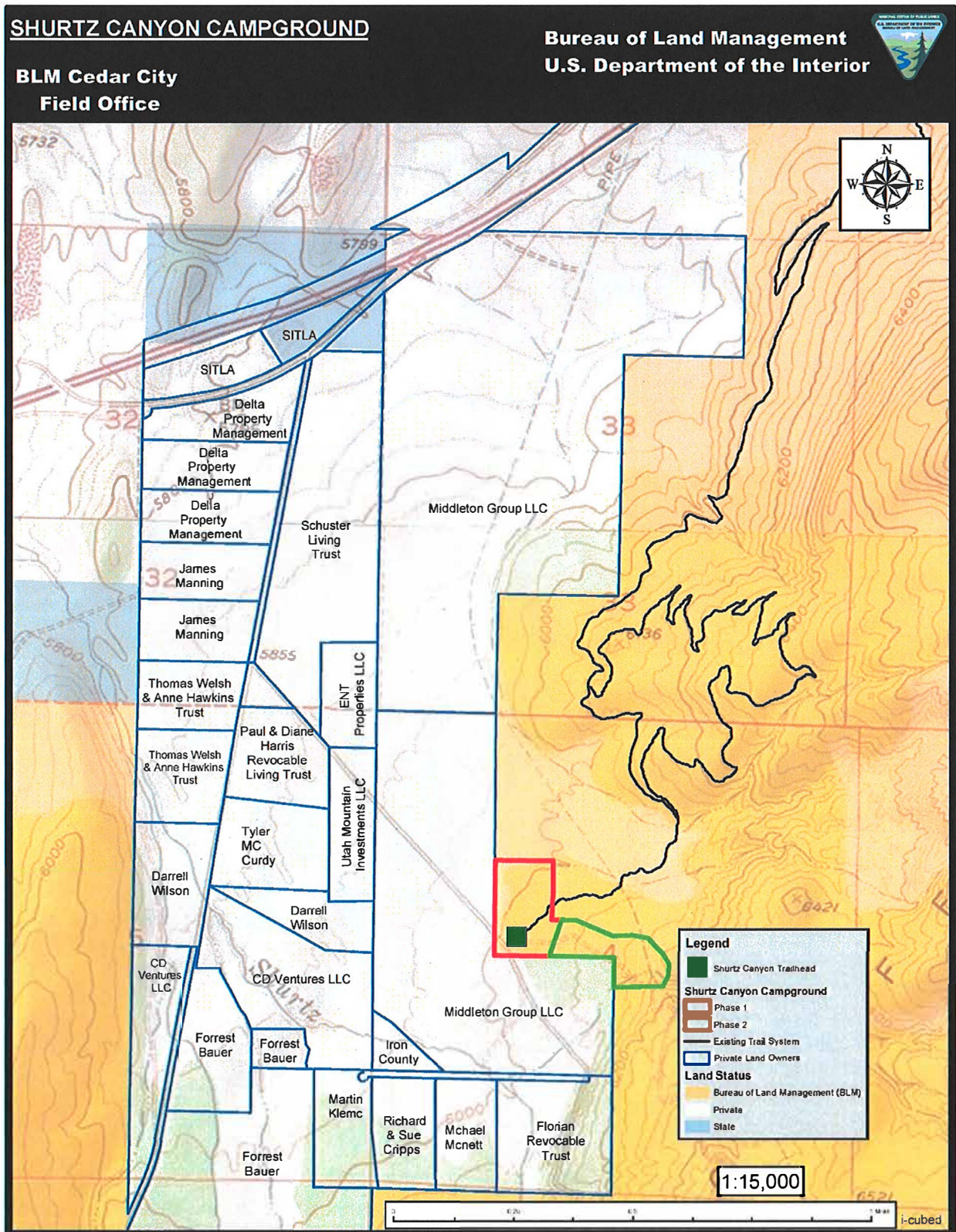
Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	<i>Gina Ginowes</i>	30 July 2020	
Authorized Officer	<i>Paul R. Bunge</i>	31, July, 2020	

Appendix 3. Phase 1 Campground Design




 PROJECT NO. _____
 CLIENT: _____
 DESIGNER: _____
 DATE: _____
 SCALE: _____
 SHEET NO. _____ OF _____

Appendix 4. Notified Landowners



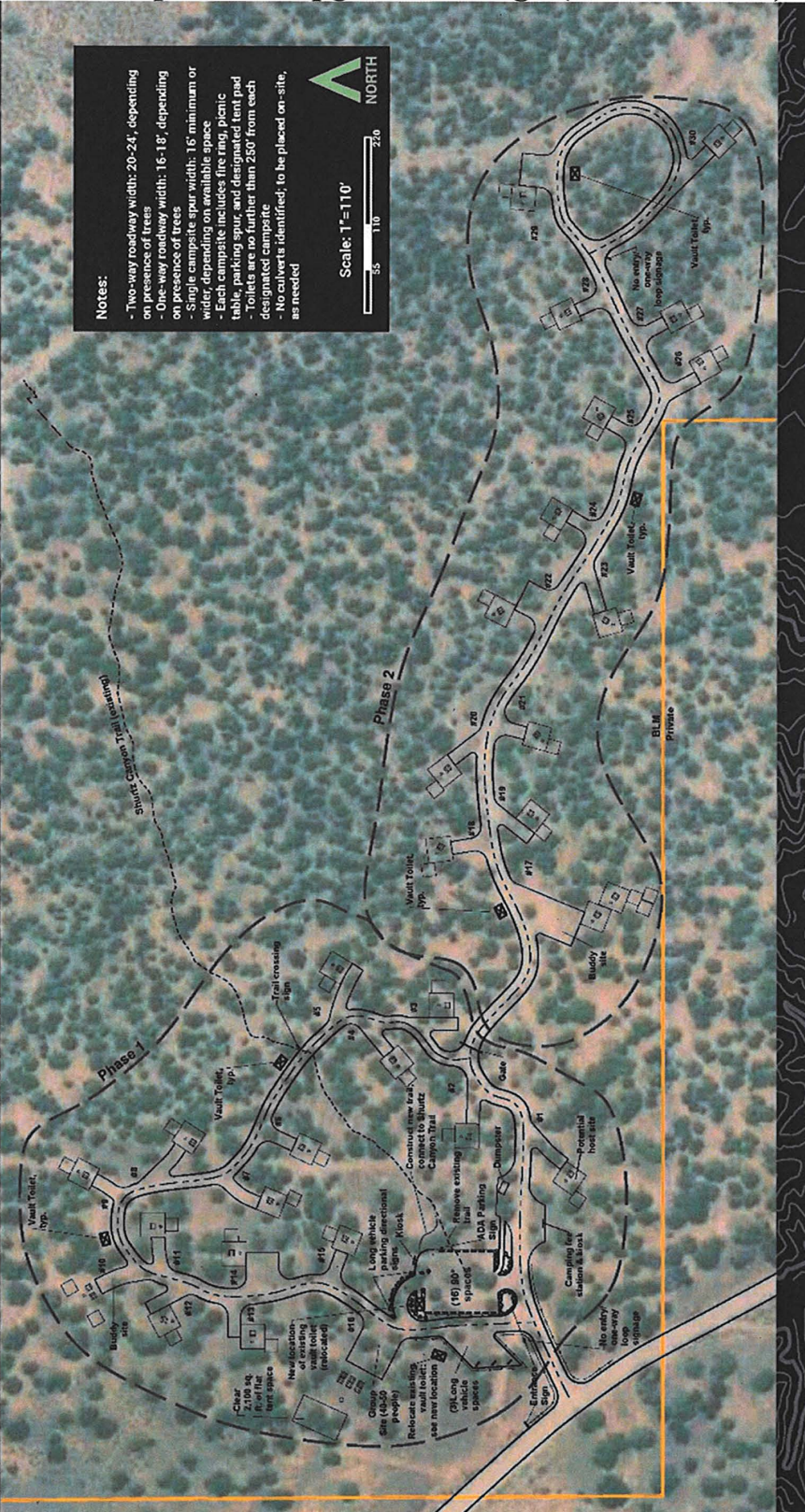
Appendix 5. Conceptual Campground Design (Phase 1 and 2)

Bureau of Land Management
Clear City Field Office
Designed: Whitley May
February 2019

Shurtz Canyon Campground Preliminary Plan



- Notes:**
- Two-way roadway width: 20-24', depending on presence of trees
 - One-way roadway width: 16-18', depending on presence of trees
 - Single campsite spur width: 16' minimum or wider depending on available space
 - Each campsite includes fire ring, picnic table, parking spur, and designated tent pad
 - Toilets are no further than 250' from each designated campsite
 - No culverts identified; to be placed on-site, as needed



Appendix 6. Public Comments and BLM Response

Several commenters, including Iron County, expressed support for the project. Several comments were received stating opposition to the campground. Specific substantive comments are summarized below.

Comment	Comment and Response
1	<p>Comment: The roads are inadequate to take the additional traffic which would result from the campground. They would be unsafe.</p> <p>BLM Response: The CCFO has coordinated with the Iron County Engineer in respect to the public use of both Tipple and Shirts Canyon roads. The right-of-way width on both roads is 66 feet (33 feet each side of the centerline of the road) and both are on the County Class B maintenance system, i.e., gas tax dollars are used for maintaining them on a regular basis. Widening and chip sealing the roads are certainly a possibility for Iron County in the future, should they feel it is a priority. Any alterations or improvements to roads would be at the discretion of Iron County and outside the scope of this analysis.</p>
2	<p>Comment: Recreational visitors to the area would obviously not confine their activities to the campground parking lot. Activities such as biking, ATVs, travel, and other activities would extend into the roads and property in the surrounding area.</p> <p>BLM Response: Public land and county roads surrounding the Shurtz Canyon Campground are currently open to other allowable uses such as ATV travel and biking. These activities could be expected regardless of the alternative chosen.</p>
3	<p>Comment: Of particular concern is the bridge on Tipple Road. The road here is narrow, and very slippery when muddy. There has also been worsening erosion over recent years, and there is undercutting of the structure that is not easily seen from the road. This provides a significant danger, especially to people who may not be familiar with the area, and in dusty off-road conditions.</p> <p>BLM Response: This section of Tipple Road is not likely to be used for access to the campground as the main turn off for the campground is the Shirts Canyon road which is ½ mile to the north of the bridge crossing on Tipple Road. Iron County fixed the erosion on the Tipple Road bridge in June and July of 2020. Any alterations or improvements to roads would be at the discretion of Iron County and outside the scope of this analysis.</p>
4	<p>Comment: The implementation of this proposed campground in Shurtz Canyon is an increased wildfire risk to not only public land but to private landowners located in the Shurtz Canyon area and to the community of Cedar Highlands, which is identified by the State of Utah as being at high wildfire risk.</p> <p>To appropriately address public safety, there should be significant fuels reduction work conducted inside the proposed campground and well outside the</p>

	<p>campground planning area—like what has been done northeast of town on the Parowan Front. Specifications for the campground should require a minimum of 70-foot canopy spacing between each tree inside the proposed campground and a minimum of 1500 feet of extensive fire mitigation work outside of the campground to reduce “spotting potential” in the event of wildfire. Ideally, a large-scale fuels reduction treatment is needed to adequately address the fire threat in this area. Cedar City Fire Department has for years and continues to respond to frequent fire incidents in Shurtz Canyon.</p> <p>BLM Response: Developed camp sites that provide metal fire rings in areas cleared of flammable vegetation and materials serve to greatly reduce the risk of a campfire escaping and becoming a wildfire. This is why campfires are still allowed in developed sites under Stage 1 fire restrictions. Dispersed camping with campfires is occurring now without these facilities. This use is expected to increase without development and management. A developed campground would necessitate increased patrols by both BLM and Iron County law enforcement as well as increased observation and reporting from the general public.</p> <p>The BLM is working to propose a vegetation treatment in the area in the next few years to directly address wildfire mitigation for the Shurtz Canyon and Cedar Highlands communities. When the Three Peaks Campgrounds was developed, human caused wildfires decreased in that area due to less dispersed camping.</p>
5	<p>Comment: This will turn into a homeless encampment given the amenities that will be available, even without there have been some taking advantage of the off the radar "trailhead" for long term camping.</p> <p>BLM Response: All users of the campground would be held to camping limitations of 14 days and fee requirements for the site and use of the amenities. Currently there is a “No Minimum Use Fee” for the trailhead though the camping stay limit is still 14 days and is patrolled on a regular basis. The campground would have a set fee per night which may be adjusted over time.</p>
6	<p>Comment: This will result in an increase in crime, trespassing and illegal hunting and discharging firearms in a reckless manner. Who will monitor the canyon, those of us who are property owners would expect to see a much more visible law enforcement presence?</p> <p>BLM Response: The area is currently being used by the public and shooting and hunting are allowable uses of public land. One of the mitigation measures in the proposed action identifies that “Signs will be installed along Shirts Canyon Road indicating that the public is crossing through private land.” These signs should inform the public that they are adjacent to private land and should participate in recreational activities only on public land. The area would be patrolled more frequently by BLM and Iron County law enforcement after the development of the campground.</p>

7	<p>Comment: We would like further discussion in a public meeting and a more easily accessible forum for the public to be involved and informed than this option allows or encourages.</p> <p>BLM Response: The public was informed through direct mailings to the surrounding residents prior to the BLM starting the EA, as well as on-site discussions with the local residents. Opportunities to comment on the analysis have been offered through various formats such as ePlanning, mail and email.</p>
8	<p>Comment: Noise and dust will increase for local landowners.</p> <p>BLM Response: The campground would have quiet hours posted at the entrance and dust may be reduced through the mitigation of a 25 mile-per-hour speed limit sign installed on Shirts Canyon Road. The potential for additional noise and dust for private landowners is acknowledged in Chapter 3.</p>
9	<p>Comment: The building of a campground in this location would have significant effects and I believe deserves robust discussion and opportunities for further consideration of its appropriateness. This project is unanimously opposed by the local taxpayers, and this should be a major consideration also.</p> <p>BLM Response: See the response to Comment 7. One of the purposes of an environmental assessment is to determine if significant impacts might occur which would result in the preparation of an environmental impact statement. This determination is made by the decision maker, based on the impact analysis contained in Chapter 3. While public opposition is noted, it is not a factor in determining the level of significance. A specific <i>impact</i> to a landowner could reach a level of significance, but this impact would need to be specified. The potential impacts as identified by a BLM interdisciplinary team and the public are addressed in Chapter 3.</p>
10	<p>Comment: Increase road use will endanger grazing livestock on private land. If you insist on building this campground, we ask that you find an alternate way to your campground than what is shown on your map, and redirect traffic away from our property.</p> <p>BLM Response: See the response to Comment 1. This is an existing county-maintained road. It is acknowledged in Chapter 3 that increased recreation use in the area would likely increase the potential for vehicle/livestock collisions.</p>
11	<p>Comment: How will the increased road use and campground affect wildlife?</p> <p>BLM Response: With the implementation of design features included in the proposed action, impacts to wildlife are not expected to reach a level requiring detailed analysis (see Appendix 2).</p>