

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

MIDDLE GREEN RIVER DAY USE SITE
MANAGEMENT

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2023-0010-EA

July 2024

Location:

Jensen Bridge Ramp: T 5S R 23E Section 28, lot 4
Bonanza Bridge Ramp: T 6S R 22E Section 7, Lot 11, 12, NW ¼ SE ¼
Brennan Bottom Ramp: T 7S R 21E Section 20, Lot 6
Salt Lake Meridian

Applicant/Address:

Vernal Field Office
170 South 500 East
Vernal, Utah 84078
435-781-4400
435-781-4499 (Fax)



MIDDLE GREEN RIVER RECREATION SITE MANAGEMENT

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2023-0010-EA

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completed an environmental review DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2023-0010-EA prepared for the Middle Green River Recreation Site Management in Uintah County, Utah. The proposed action (hereafter selected alternative) as described in the attached Environmental Assessment, would be the construction of three boat ramps and day use areas at sites along the Middle Green River. The project areas are existing recreation areas.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached Environmental Assessment, I have determined that the selected alternative will not be a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. No environmental effects will meet the definition of significance as defined in 40 CFR 1501.3(b) and will not exceed those effects described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 2008 Vernal Field Office RMP, as amended. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed.

RATIONALE

The following have been considered in my evaluation of the preferred alternative:

i. Short-term and long-term effects;

The disturbance and disruption to some natural resources and increase in traffic from construction of the day use areas will be short-term. The improvements to sanitation, visitor education, and ease of river access would be long-term. The ability of expanded sites to accommodate more visitors may be short-term or long-term depending on the rate that visitation naturally increases.

ii. Beneficial and adverse effects;

The temporary disturbance and disruption to some natural resources and increase in traffic from construction of the day use areas will be adverse effects, but will be minimized by the design features the BLM will implement (see section 2.2.9 of the EA). The improvements to sanitation, visitor education, ease of river access, and ability of expanded sites to accommodate more visitors will be beneficial effects for recreation and natural resources at the subject sites.


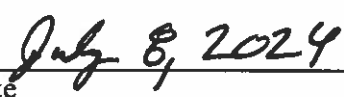
iii. Effects on public health and safety;

The reduction of human waste and litter at the recreation sites through facility improvement and visitor education will reduce the ongoing adverse effects to public health. Development of trailer-accessible boat ramps and larger parking areas will improve public safety by reducing the risk of vehicle collision.

iv. Effects that would violate Federal, State, Tribal, or local laws protecting the environment

The BLM reviewed the proposed action and determined no Federal, State, local, or Tribal laws for protection of the environment will be violated by implementing the selected alternative. Rationales for why the selected alternative will comply with the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, State statutes, and other requirements are included in Appendix A (the IDT checklist) of the EA. The BLM coordinated and consulted with appropriate agencies and officials (see section 4.1 of the EA) to further ensure no laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment will be violated.

APPROVAL

	
Authorized Officer	Date

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

DECISION RECORD

**MIDDLE GREEN RIVER DAY USE SITE
MANAGEMENT**

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2023-0010-EA

July 2024

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Jensen Bridge Ramp: T 5S R 23E Section 28, lot 4
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BLM



MIDDLE GREEN RIVER DAY USE SITE MANAGEMENT

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2023-0010-EA DECISION RECORD

It is my decision to approve the Middle Green River Day Use Site Management Proposed Action which would update and improve the capacity, productivity, and safety of three existing recreation areas located on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Proposed Action will result in the potential disturbance of approximately 31 acres mainly due to the construction of parking, access, and signage. All disturbance will be within the proposed project locations.

DESIGN FEATURES

The BLM would implement the following measures to reduce the extent and magnitude of environmental impacts from the proposed action:

DF1: To minimize adverse impacts to nesting migratory birds, if construction would occur from April 1 to July 15, a BLM biologist would perform surveys to inventory nesting activity. Any active nests would be avoided during construction by a buffer of 100 feet.

DF2: To minimize adverse impacts to nesting raptors, if the proposed construction would occur from January 1 to August 31, a BLM biologist would perform surveys to inventory nesting activity. Any identified nests would be avoided by the species-specific buffer identified in the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan, as amended.

DF3: To minimize adverse impacts to pronghorn, if construction would occur from December 1 to April 30 in pronghorn crucial year-long habitat, a BLM biologist would conduct a site-specific survey for pronghorn. If pronghorn were determined not to be present, or if it is determined through analysis and coordination with UDWR that impacts could be mitigated (considering factors such as snow depth, temperature, snow crusting, location of disturbance, forage quantity and quality, and animal condition), construction could proceed.

DF4: To prevent transportation of weed seeds into the project locations, prior to entering the project area, any equipment that would not stay entirely on existing road surfaces would be washed in a municipal carwash prior to arriving at the project site. This design feature would not apply to any trucks transporting dirt or gravel due to the nature of the material being transported.

DF5: Application of treatments outlined in the VFO Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan would be used to address any noxious weeds that could otherwise become established because of the proposed surface disturbance. Topsoil would be removed prior to construction, redistributed in reclaimed areas, and reseeded within 90 days.

DF6: A general construction permit would be acquired from the Utah Department of Water Quality. This permit would include a stormwater pollution prevention plan. Stream alteration permits would be acquired from the requisite agencies (i.e. Environmental Protection Agency on Indian Lands, the State of Utah, Army Corp of Engineers) prior to any in-stream work. These permits would contain measures the BLM would implement to minimize adverse impacts to surface water quality, but the specific measures cannot be known at this time.

DF7: To minimize adverse impacts to Monarch butterflies, a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act which are reliant on milkweed for survival, the BLM would conduct an onsite inventory to identify milkweed in the project locations prior to construction. Any milkweed identified would be removed and transplanted prior to the proposed construction; where transplantation is technically or economically infeasible, milkweed in equivalent or greater amounts to that destroyed would be reseeded in other nearby suitable habitat.

DF8: While no known paleontological resources are in the area and the probability of new discovery is low to moderate based on the project area's Paleontological Fossil Yield Classes (2 and 3), if any fossil material were found during project activities, work would halt, and the BLM Authorized Officer would decide what mitigation measures to implement.

DF9: To prevent dust-related adverse impacts to air quality, the BLM would apply dust control measures in accordance with Utah Administrative Code R307-205-5.

DF10: To deter camping on the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge "No camping" signs would be installed to inform users of the Refuge's camping policy.

COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING

Monitoring, by BLM representatives, will commence at the onset of construction and continue until the project meets Green River District Reclamation Guidelines. Future monitoring of the project area will consist of the implementation of operation and maintenance schedule needed to manage the recreation site.

RATIONALE

The decision to authorize this project has been made in consideration of the environmental impacts of the selected alternative analyzed in DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2023-0010-EA. This decision was made after considering impacts to resources with the Vernal Field Office while accommodating visitor use and public safety.

AUTHORITIES

The selected alternative will meet the BLM's need to address the known recreation-related issues at the existing user-created Middle Green River boat ramp areas while preserving and diversifying its recreational opportunities in accordance with the decisions of the 2008 Vernal Resource Management Plan.

PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY

The selected alternative will conform with the 2008 Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan, as amended, specifically the following decisions:

- REC-4: Areas not managed as SRMAs will be managed for dispersed recreational uses that require minimum facility development.
- REC-8 All developed recreation sites within VFO will be closed to the shooting of firearms, closed to grazing, and all forms of surface-disturbing activities not directly related to recreation development.
- REC-12: Maintain or expand infrastructure of all recreational sites, including but not limited to, cabins, restrooms, campsites, and trailhead development and ensure their safety for public use.

Although the selected alternative is not specifically mentioned in the plan, it is consistent with its objectives, goals, and decisions as they relate to recreation programs as stated above. (see pages 106-107 of the VFO RMP ROD).

Recreation Goals and Objectives:

- Ensure the continued availability of quality outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences that are not readily available from other sources; protect the health and safety of visitors; protect natural, cultural, and other resources; encourage public enjoyment of public lands; and enhance recreational opportunities.
- Work collaboratively with affected user groups and organizations, state and local officials, and other interested parties to provide for site-specific or area specific comprehensive integrated activity level planning.
- Ensure there is a spectrum of recreation opportunities and settings through comprehensive integrated activity level planning. Such plans will include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Recreation use allocations.
 - Group size or seasonal limitations.
 - Opportunities for dispersed or organized camping, including large events.
 - Facility development
 - Opportunities for interpretation or other signage
 - Campfire restrictions
 - Establish limits of acceptable change or other environments indicators in order to provide for adaptive management.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The EA analyzed the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives in detail. A third alternative to close the project locations to recreation was considered but was dismissed because it would go against the basic policy objectives for the area (see section 2.3 of the EA). Onsite visits were conducted by Vernal Field Office Personnel. The No Action alternative was not selected due to the need for improved facilities. The Proposed Action was selected due to its benefits to the public and the recreation site as well as the community.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM posted the project description and location online to the publicly accessible national NEPA register (ePlanning) on March 7, 2023. No public inquiries directly related to the project were received. One section of a letter from the organization Living Rivers Colorado Riverkeeper received by the BLM on January 10, 2024, requested the BLM to prioritize recreation on the White River and pause planning and development of the proposed action. The letter specifically requested the BLM consult “with [public] river users, the Uintah Ouray Ute Indian Tribe, the [USFWS] Endangered Fish Recovery Program, and the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge” prior to developing Green River facilities. The BLM held a virtual meeting with the commenter on February 26, 2024. The BLM also considered the agencies the commenter recommended to consult.

CONSULTATION

SHPO and THPO

National Historic Preservation Act consultation was conducted with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation for a determination of “No Historic Properties” by letters mailed May 8, 2023 and January 24, 2024. No objection was received of the documented finding and the BLM has fulfilled its responsibilities under section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3(c)(4).

Based on the results of the pedestrian survey and records search summarized in U22BL0918, the BLM has made a determination of “No Historic Properties Affected.” This archaeological report covers 100% of the project area. The project was submitted digitally to the Utah SHPO for concurrence on May 8, 2023. The Utah SHPO concurred with a finding of “No Historic Properties Affected” based on the findings presented in archaeological project U22BL0918 on May 8, 2023.

Tribes

Pursuant to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1531) and NHPA (16 USC 131) Tribes were notified of this project by letter mailed December 13, 2022. The BLM did

not receive any responses regarding this project. There are no identified Native American sites within the project area.

USFWS

As part of project prework, communication with USFWS personnel on January 6, 2022 identified potential conflict with suitable Mexican spotted owl habitat in the canyon east of the proposed development due to construction noise. Surveys were conducted during the 2023 field season and no Mexican Spotted Owls were identified, therefore no coordination with USFWS was required.

Informal consultation with USFWS was completed for fish species listed as candidate, proposed, threatened, or endangered. Based on review of the proposed action and design features, USFWS concurred with BLM's determination that there would be no adverse impacts to the subject fish species meriting detailed analysis on April 18, 2024.

The BLM conducted an onsite review of mapped breeding and nesting habitat for Western, yellow-billed cuckoo present in the project locations. There are no suitable cottonwood galleries in the project locations per habitat assessment guidelines provided by USFWS. Additionally, the designed avoidance buffers for migratory birds and raptors would minimize potential adverse impacts to Western, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo from construction noise below a level meriting detailed analysis, so no Section 7 consultation was conducted.

Milkweed, a plant necessary to the Monarch butterfly which is a candidate species for listing under the ESA, may be present in the project area. However, the designed milkweed transplantation (see section 2.2.9) would minimize effects to milkweed below a level meriting detailed analysis and Section 7 consultation is not required for candidate species.


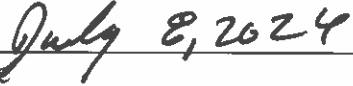
Ouray National Wildlife Refuge

The BLM consulted USFWS staff Rob Bundy – Project Leader Lower Green River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex & Refuge Manager, and Brian Ocepek – Senior Realty Specialist, December 6, 2022. The Refuge requested that “No camping” signs would be placed along the NWR boundary adjacent to the Brennan Bottom ramp, which the BLM committed to. The BLM agreed that Ouray National Wildlife Refuge and Uintah County would be contacted prior to implementation if any roads would be improved.

Uintah County

The BLM conducted an onsite visit on February 14, 2024, with Uintah County regarding the Brennan Bottom access route. The BLM determined that while there are existing and authorized uses of the route, there are no existing rights-of-way on the route.

SIGNATURE

Signature	
	
Authorized Officer	Date

PROTEST AND APPEAL

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the authorizing office within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice or appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal 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 immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay

If you appeal this decision, please provide this office with a copy of your Statement of Reasons.

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**MIDDLE GREEN RIVER DAY USE SITE
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Jensen Bridge Ramp: T 5S R 23E Section 28, lot 4
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MIDDLE GREEN RIVER DAY USE SITE MANAGEMENT

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2023-0010-EA

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MIDDLE GREEN RIVER DAY USE SITE MANAGEMENT

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2023-0010-EA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The BLM prepared a Business Plan in July of 2018 which proposed developing two boat ramps along the Middle Green River. In accordance with policy, this plan was presented to the Utah Resource Advisory Council, a 15-member council that advises the BLM in the management of public land. The Advisory Council reviewed the plan and recommended its approval. The BLM also identified a need for an additional boat pull-out north of where the Green River enters Tribal lands, so a third ramp was added to the proposal.

The three (3) project locations identified for proposed boat ramp development are the Jensen Bridge south of the town of Jensen, the Bonanza Bridge 11 river miles down-river from the Jensen Bridge location and Brennan Bottom, 24 river miles down-river from the Bonanza Bridge location. All locations are on BLM-managed lands.

The specific sites were selected for the following reasons. The river is slow-moving in these sections, with no rapids and few riffles, making it ideal for family recreation. The areas have existing recreational use as dispersed campsites. There are some existing user-constructed boat ramps along the river between Jensen Bridge and Bonanza Bridge. These ramps are unstable, especially the Bonanza Bridge, which has a sandbar developing behind it. Some user-created river access ramps are on or require access across private land, encouraging trespass. Because there are no latrine facilities in these areas, human waste is becoming a health hazard. Resource damage such as proliferation of user-created routes is also occurring. User conflicts currently exist in the area. For example, in the fall of 2022 an entity mechanically created a berm across a user-created river ramp between the Jensen and Bonanza project locations, closing it to public access.

1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED

The need for the BLM action is to address the known recreation-related issues at the existing user-created Middle Green River boat ramp areas while preserving and diversifying its recreational opportunities in accordance with the decisions of the 2008 Vernal Resource Management Plan, as amended. The purposes for the BLM action in accordance with the BLM's 2018 Business Plan are: 1) to improve visitor safety, provide access to the river on designated routes, and reduce sanitation issues; 2) restore existing recreation-related resource damage and prevent future recreation-related resource damage; 3) manage, reduce, or eliminate trespass; 4) protect area sensitive resources; and 5) diversify recreational opportunities.

1.2 DECISION TO BE MADE

The BLM decision to be made is whether to develop the proposed day use areas with boat ramps and designate necessary access routes as open to motorized use, allow continuation of the existing management, or to close the areas to recreation.

1.3 CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)

The proposed action would be consistent with the following Recreation resources goals and objectives of the 2008 Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan, as amended:

- Ensure the continued availability of quality outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences that are not readily available from other sources; protect the health and safety of visitors; protect natural, cultural, and other resources; encourage public enjoyment of public lands; and enhance recreational opportunities.
- Work collaboratively with affected user groups and organizations, state and local officials, and other interested parties to provide for site-specific or area specific comprehensive integrated activity level planning.

The proposed action would also conform with the following management decisions:

- REC-4: Areas not managed as SRMAs will be managed for dispersed recreational uses that require minimum facility development.
- REC-8 All developed recreation sites within VFO will be closed to the shooting of firearms, closed to grazing, and all forms of surface-disturbing activities not directly related to recreation development.
- REC-12: Maintain or expand infrastructure of all recreational sites, including but not limited to, cabins, restrooms, campsites, and trailhead development and ensure their safety for public use.

The proposed action would provide the minimum facility development needed to allow the continuation of recreation at the sites while addressing their known recreation-related issues.

1.4 RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND OTHER PLANS

The BLM has recognized recreation as a valid use of public lands within Utah as provided for under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

1.5 IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

The following issue was identified for detailed analysis by a BLM Interdisciplinary Team. Appendix A, the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist, documents the rationales for other resources and issues that were considered but not analyzed further.

- How would the proposed construction, boat ramps, parking area expansions, and interpretive information development affect recreation in the Middle Green River?

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

2.1 ALTERNATIVE A – NO ACTION

Under the No Action alternative, the proposed day use areas and boat ramps would not be constructed, and no access roads would be designated. Existing user-created recreation sites would likely continue to be used. Recreationists would continue to use the Middle Green River section as it is.

2.2 ALTERNATIVE B – PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action alternative, the BLM would develop three (3) boat ramps (See Map A in Appendix B) with parking areas and implement a sign-based interpretation and education program. The configurations are pending a final engineering design, but the surface disturbance of the three proposed sites combined would not exceed 31 acres.

The BLM would designate Uintah County claimed Class D Road 022206 as OHV-open to provide access to the proposed Brennan Bottom site.

The day use areas on BLM managed land within half mile of developed sites would be closed to dispersed camping and open to overnight parking.

2.2.1 BOAT RAMPS

All proposed ramps would provide access to the Green River for users with small boats and floatation devices. During times of low water level, the lower portion of all ramps would become exposed onto a sandy shore where users could still safely access the river.

2.2.2 ACCESS

Access to the Jensen Bridge Site would be directly off the Red Wash Highway (Uintah County-claimed road 3070) and would be contained entirely within the area shown on Map B in Appendix B.

Access to the Bonanza Bridge Site would be directly off State Highway 45 (Bonanza Highway) and would be contained entirely within the area shown on Map C in Appendix B.

The access route to the Brennan Bottom Site would be on Uintah County claimed Road 022206 (UTU 069125-03), branching off an OHV-open designated route to continue south for 0.12 mile, then turn east for 1.32 miles to the area shown on Map D in Appendix B. The portions of the Road 022206 not currently BLM-designated would be designated as OHV-open. A route evaluation worksheet has been completed for this project component (see Appendix C).

Within the project locations, the roads would be graveled and maintained by BLM as often as needed to ensure a safe visitor experience. Any construction would comply with the BLM Manual 9113 standards for a resource road.

Outside of the project locations all proposed access would be along existing routes identified in the Uintah County transportation system. The character and alignment of those routes would remain the same under this proposal.

2.2.3 PARKING

Overnight parking would only be allowed for boat trailers and attached vehicles. No overnight camping would be allowed.

Each parking area would be cleared of vegetation, leveled, and covered with two inches of gravel. Each parking area would accommodate 5 to 10 low-clearance vehicles and/or trailers. Edges of each parking area could be delineated using barriers such as bollards or post and rail fence, to be determined during final design.

2.2.4 FACILITIES AND SANITATION

Kiosks to provide river regulations, safety information and other interpretation would be placed at each site. Each would be an upright kiosk constructed to match others found in the Vernal Field Office to facilitate a consistent look and feel. At each site, the BLM would install 1 pre-made cast concrete single vault toilet which would be cleaned, stocked, and maintained by BLM staff or contractors. Additionally, between 1 and 4 shade structures, and picnic tables would be installed at each site based on evaluation of current and future use and as funding allows. The BLM would install trashcans as needed; at a minimum a trash can would be available in each toilet building, which BLM staff or contractors would empty regularly.

2.2.5 CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT

The BLM estimates that construction would take 12 weeks total. Equipment used for the construction may include standard pickup trucks, flatbed trailers to haul materials and equipment, and construction equipment. The BLM would use heavy equipment to level and grade the ramps, roads, and parking areas and dump trucks to haul gravel, and equipment.

2.2.6 FEES

The recreation sites would not have a minimum use fee. Instead, site users would be given opportunities to pay what they feel the offered experience is worth. To do so, the BLM would install a station for optional onsite payment at the Jensen Bridge and Bonanza Bridge locations. In addition, the BLM may institute an e-payment option. The fees collected would remain with the Vernal Field Office to fund maintenance staff, facility repair, and new facility construction.

2.2.7 USER CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

To reduce user conflict, the following measures would be implemented at each site.

- The BLM would not require reservations for any of the boat launch locations.
- The BLM would require that any dogs remain on-leash.
- Dispersed camping would not be allowed within half a mile of developed day use areas.
- Per 43 CFR 8365.2-5 and the Vernal Resource Management Plan, the BLM would close the boat launch sites and adjacent parking areas to the discharge or use of firearms, other weapons, and fireworks.

2.2.8 RECLAMATION

The BLM would follow the Green River Districts reclamation guidelines when reclaiming existing surface disturbance. Soils temporarily excavated would be relocated onsite. Reclamation may include tilling the ground, reseeding, and signing or even blocking unauthorized routes with boulders or fences to prevent their continued use.

2.2.9 DESIGN FEATURES

The BLM would implement the following measures to reduce the extent and magnitude of environmental impacts from the proposed action. The analysis of effects was completed with consideration of these measures:

DF1: To minimize adverse impacts to nesting migratory birds, if construction would occur from April 1 to July 15, a BLM biologist would perform surveys to inventory nesting activity. Any active nests would be avoided during construction by a buffer of 100 feet.

DF2: To minimize adverse impacts to nesting raptors, if the proposed construction would occur from January 1st to August 31st, a BLM biologist would perform surveys to inventory nesting activity. Any identified nests would be avoided by the species-specific buffer identified in the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan, as amended.

DF3: To minimize adverse impacts to pronghorn antelope, if construction would occur from December 1 to April 30 in pronghorn crucial yearlong habitat, a BLM biologist would conduct a site-specific survey for pronghorn. If pronghorn were determined not to be present, or if it is determined through analysis and coordination with UDWR that impacts could be mitigated (considering factors such as snow depth, temperature, snow crusting, location of disturbance, forage quantity and quality, and animal condition), construction could proceed.

DF4: To prevent transportation of weed seeds into the project locations, prior to entering the project area, any equipment that would not stay entirely on existing road surfaces would be washed in a municipal carwash prior to arriving at the site. This design feature would not apply to any trucks transporting dirt or gravel due to the nature of the material being transported.

DF5: Application of treatments outlined in the VFO Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan would be used to address any noxious weeds that could otherwise become established because of the proposed surface disturbance. Topsoil would be removed prior to construction, redistributed in reclaimed areas, and reseeded within 90 days.

DF6: A general construction permit would be acquired from the Utah Department of Water Quality. This permit would include a stormwater pollution prevention plan. Stream alteration permits would be acquired from the requisite agencies (i.e. Environmental Protection Agency on Indian Lands, the State of Utah, Army Corp of Engineers) prior to any in-stream work. These permits would contain measures the BLM would implement to minimize adverse impacts to surface water quality, but the specific measures cannot be known at this time.

DF7: To minimize adverse impacts to Monarch butterflies, a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act which are reliant on milkweed for survival, the BLM would conduct an onsite inventory to identify milkweed in the project locations prior to construction. Any milkweed identified would be removed and transplanted prior to the proposed construction; where transplantation is technically or economically infeasible, milkweed in equivalent or greater amounts to that destroyed would be or reseeded in other nearby suitable habitat.

DF8: While no known paleontological resources are in the area and the probability of new discovery is low to moderate based on the project area's Paleontological Fossil Yield Classes (2 and 3), if any fossil material were found during project activities, work would halt, and the BLM Authorized Officer would decide what mitigation measures to implement.

DF9: To prevent dust-related adverse impacts to air quality, the BLM would apply dust control measures in accordance with Utah Administrative Code R307-205-5.

DF10: To deter camping on the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge "No camping" signs would be installed to inform users of the Refuge's camping policy.

2.3 ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED BUT DISMISSED – STOPPING RECREATION IN THE PROPOSED BOAT RAMP AREAS

Under this alternative, the BLM would stop the ongoing recreation use in the areas of the three proposed boat ramps. This alternative would involve closing public access to the three sites, reclaiming any surface disturbance, and enforcing the closure long term.

The BLM dismissed this alternative from detailed analysis because it is against the basic policy objectives for the area (see section 1.3). The RMP's decision REC-4 states "Areas not managed as SRMAs will be managed for dispersed recreational uses that require minimum facility development. In addition, REC-12 requires the maintenance and expansion of infrastructure of all recreation sites to ensure their safety for public use. Finally, BLM's 2011 Manual 8320 Planning for Recreation and Visitor Use states "Public lands that are not designated as Recreation Management Areas are managed to meet basic Recreation and Visitor Services and

resource stewardship needs. Recreation is not emphasized; however, recreation activities may occur except on those lands closed to public use. The R&VS are managed to allow recreation uses that are not in conflict with the primary uses of these lands. Therefore, stopping ongoing recreation use in the proposed boat ramp areas would require an RMP amendment closing the area to public use.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

3.1 RECREATION

How would the proposed construction, boat ramps, parking area expansions, and interpretive information development affect recreation in the Middle Green River?

3.1.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The analysis area for recreation is individual sites and access routes. This area was selected because it contains the area where the recreation facilities would be installed. Recreationists are currently using the analysis areas for primarily day use activities: picnicking, fishing, and launching personal watercraft such as rafts, kayaks, and standup paddleboards. Some users also camp in a dispersed manner. To access the river, users have created two-track boat ramps while backing boat trailers into the river. BLM employees monitoring use on the Green River have observed and reported steadily increasing visitation by recreationists. The BLM has three years of traffic data in the analysis area, and it indicated access by approximately 2066 vehicles per year. The BLM has observed increasing sanitation issues and vegetation removal from recreational use at all three proposed day use sites and user-created sites, which decreases their recreational value. Some private landowners have restricted access to the day use sites by closing access across private land. Other land uses in the analysis area include livestock grazing, and at Brennan Bottom there is adjacent oil and gas development.

3.1.2 ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION) ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Under the No Action alternative, the ongoing vegetation removal, human sanitation issues, and private-public conflicts would be expected to continue at the current levels or increase and would reduce the recreational value of the analysis area. There would be no designated access across BLM land to the Brennan Bottom location.

3.1.3 ALTERNATIVE B (PROPOSED ACTION) ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The proposed day use areas, boat ramps, route designation, and facilities would provide recreation access to the Green River in an authorized manner. Weekly visitation of BLM staff to the sites, including regular patrols by BLM Law Enforcement, would provide maintained facilities and public interface to improve education on the area and proper use of the facilities to the visiting public. The proposed boat ramps would make river access safer and easier by increasing the area available for trailers to back into the river and by improving durability of the sites for sustained or increasing use. The proposed parking areas constructed of gravel-hardened natural surface would allow frequent use without wearing as quickly. The proposed vault toilets and trash receptacles would decrease litter and waste at the sites. The proposed kiosks would improve the area education of public users. The proposed designation of the Brennan Bottom

access road would provide authorized access to the proposed boat ramp at that location. All these factors would improve the recreational value of the analysis area and provide recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy in an authorized manner.

3.1.4 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The proposed action would add to the surface disturbance of other actions in the area and contribute to adverse effects. The level of adverse effects would be minimized by the proposed design features (see section 2.2.9). The proposed action would contribute to cumulative beneficial impacts to recreation in the analysis area by reducing potential user conflicts, adding facilities to accommodate the increasing number of users, and improving recreational value along the Middle Green River. The No Action alternative would contribute to the adverse effects to recreation from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions by decreasing the recreational value of the Middle Green River from litter and waste and vegetation removal. No Action would not provide authorized recreational opportunities for users seeking the specific experiences described in section 3.1.1, but these uses would be expected to continue in an unauthorized manner.

4.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1 PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Table 4-1 lists the persons, groups, and agencies that were coordinated with or consulted during the preparation of this project. The table also summarizes the conclusions of those processes.

Table 4-1. Coordination and Consultation

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Utah State Historic Preservation Office	National Historic Preservation Act Section 106	<p>Based on the results of the pedestrian survey and records search summarized in U22BL0918, the BLM made a determination of “No Historic Properties Affected.” This archaeological report covers 100% of the project area. The project was submitted digitally to the Utah SHPO for concurrence on May 8, 2023.</p> <p>The Utah SHPO concurred with a finding of “No Historic Properties Affected” based on the findings presented in archaeological project U22BL0918 on May 8, 2023.</p>
Ute Indian Tribe Tribal Historic Preservation Office	National Historic Preservation Act Section 106	<p>A Class III intensive pedestrian survey of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed action was conducted under project U22BL0918. A determination was made of “No Historic Properties Affected” for this project. This determination, and project documentation, was submitted digitally to the Ute THPO on May 8, 2023. No objection was received within 30 days of the documented finding and the BLM has fulfilled its responsibilities under Section 106, pursuant to 36CFR800.3(c)(4).</p> <p>An additional survey was conducted for an area at Bonanza Bridge, U24BL0021. Based on the results of the pedestrian survey and records</p>

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
		<p>search summarized in U24BL0021, the BLM has concluded that a determination of “No Historic Properties Affected.” This determination, and project documentation, was submitted digitally to the Ute THPO on 1/24/2024. No objection was received within 30 days of the documented finding and the BLM has fulfilled its responsibilities under Section 106, pursuant to 36CFR800.3(c)(4).</p>
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Endangered Species Act Section 7	<p>Wildlife, Threatened & Endangered: As part of project prework, communication with USFWS personnel on January 6, 2022 identified potential conflict with suitable Mexican spotted owl habitat in the canyon east of the proposed development due to construction noise. Surveys were conducted during the 2023 field season and no Mexican Spotted Owls were identified, therefore no coordination with USFWS was required.</p> <p>Informal consultation with USFWS was completed for fish species listed as candidate, proposed, threatened, or endangered. Based on review of the proposed action and design features, USFWS concurred with BLM’s determination that there would be no adverse impacts to the subject fish species meriting detailed analysis on April 18, 2024.</p> <p>The BLM conducted an onsite review of mapped breeding and nesting habitat for Western, yellow-billed cuckoo present in the project locations. There are no suitable cottonwood galleries in the project locations per habitat assessment guidelines provided by</p>

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
		USFWS. Additionally, the designed avoidance buffers for migratory birds and raptors (see section 2.2.9) would minimize potential adverse impacts to Western, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo from construction noise below a level meriting detailed analysis, so no Section 7 consultation was conducted. Milkweed, a plant necessary to the Monarch butterfly which is a candidate species for listing under the ESA, may be present in the project area. However, the designed milkweed transplantation (see section 2.2.9) would minimize effects to milkweed below a level meriting detailed analysis and Section 7 consultation is not required for candidate species.
Tribes	Government to Government Consultation Policy	Tribes were notified of this project by letter mailed December 13, 2022. The BLM did not receive any responses regarding this project. There were no identified Native American concerns with the project.
Ouray National Wildlife Refuge	Access across Ouray NWR	USFWS staff Rob Bundy – Project Leader Lower Green River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex & Refuge Manager, Brian Ocepek – Senior Realty Specialist, December 6, 2022. Findings: Ouray National Wildlife Refuge and Uintah County should be contacted prior to implementation if any roads would be improved. The Refuge requested that “No camping” signs would be placed along the NWR boundary adjacent to the Brennan Bottom ramp, which the BLM committed to (see section 2.2.9; DF10).
Uintah County	Coordination	The BLM conducted an onsite visit on February 14, 2024, with Uintah County regarding the Brennan Bottom access

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
		route. The BLM determined that while there are existing and authorized uses of the route, there are no existing rights-of-way on the route (see Appendix C).

4.2 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The BLM posted the project description and location online to the publicly accessible national NEPA register (ePlanning) on March 7, 2023. No public inquiries directly related to the project were received. One section of a letter from the organization Living Rivers Colorado Riverkeeper received by the BLM on January 10, 2024, requested the BLM to prioritize recreation on the White River and pause planning and development of the proposed action. The letter specifically requested the BLM consult “with [public] river users, the Uintah Ouray Ute Indian Tribe, the [USFWS] Endangered Fish Recovery Program, and the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge” prior to developing Green River facilities. The BLM held a virtual meeting with the commenter on February 26, 2024. The BLM also considered the agencies the commenter recommended to consult, and project coordination that occurred is documented in table 4-1 above.

4.3 LIST OF PREPARERS

The specialists listed in the following table(s) assisted in the preparation of this EA.

Table 4-2. BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Georgia Foster	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Project Lead, Recreation
Joel Ward	Environmental Specialist	Quality Assurance

5.0 REFERENCES, GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

5.1 REFERENCES CITED

BLM (Bureau of Land Management). 2008. *Record of Decision for the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan*. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Utah.

5.2 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AUTHORIZED OFFICER: The decision maker who has the delegated authority to for that decision.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: A concise public document that analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and provides enough evidence to determine the level of significance of the impacts.

IMPACT: A modification of the existing environment caused by an action (such as construction or operation of facilities).

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM: Representatives of various disciplines designated as members of a team which was created to prepare an environmental document.

MINIMIZE: To reduce the adverse impact of an operation to the lowest practical level.

MONITOR: The process of collecting and assessing data/information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of a decision or its conditions of approval.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE: The most likely condition to exist in the future if current management direction were to continue unchanged.

PERMIT: A revocable authorization to use public land for a specified purpose for a specified period.

PROJECT LOCATION: The area of land potentially affected by a proposed project.

SCOPING: The process of identifying the issues, management concerns, preliminary alternatives, and other components of an environmental document.

SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA: A public lands unit identified in land use plans to direct recreation funding and personnel to fulfill commitments made to provide specific, structured recreation opportunities (i.e., activity, experience, and benefit opportunities). Both land use plan decisions and subsequent implementing actions for recreation in each Special Recreation Management Area are geared to a strategically identified primary market—destination, community, or undeveloped.

5.3 LIST OF ACRONYMS

Table 5-1. Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NI	Not Impacted
NP	Not Present
PI	Potentially Impacted

APPENDIX A. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

Resources and Issues Considered (Includes Supplemental Authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1)

Project Title: Middle Green River Day Use Site Management

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2023-0010-EA

File/Serial Number:

Project Leader: Georgia Foster

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.

Table Appendix A-1. Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

Determi nation	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality Emissions	Criteria air pollutant and fugitive dust emissions would result from vehicle transportation to and from the sites and the use of	Adam Deppe	01/02/24

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
		<p>construction equipment. These emissions would be during construction only, so air quality would not be affected to a degree that a detailed analysis is required. Emissions would be dispersed over the project location and would be indistinguishable from background emissions as measured by monitors or predicted by models. The designed application of dust control measures required by Utah Administrative Code R307-205-5 (see section 2.2.9; DF9) would minimize impacts from fugitive dust, where applicable.</p> <p>The project locations are in the Uinta Basin Ozone Nonattainment Area (Marginal). 40 CFR 93.153 defines the de minimis thresholds for nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in a marginal ozone nonattainment area as 100 tons per year (tpy). NOx and VOC emissions from construction equipment and vehicle traffic would be the main sources of precursor pollutants for this project. Potential emissions from this project over an annual basis are calculated to be below de minimis levels. The emissions inventory for the project total 0.23 tons for NOx and 0.03 tons for VOCs. A general conformity determination is filed in the project record.</p>	Tyler Elgiar	
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<p>Greenhouse gas emissions would result from vehicle transportation to and from the sites and the use of construction equipment. Emissions would be during construction only, so would not cause adverse effects to a degree that detailed analysis would be required. Emissions would be dispersed over the project locations and would be indistinguishable from background emissions as measured by monitors or predicted by models.</p>	<p>Adam Deppe</p> <p>Tyler Elgiar</p>	01/02/24

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
		<p>Cumulative GHG emissions contribute to climate change, but net-emissions determine the impact on climate. The closer net-emissions are to zero, then the climate impact is also closer zero. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) GHG permitting programs only apply to major stationary sources emitting over 100,000 tons carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per year (e.g., power plant, landfill, etc.) or modifications of major sources with emission increases greater than 75,000 tons CO₂e per year. Additionally, the EPA requires annual reporting for facilities with stationary sources that emit 25,000 metric tons (mt) CO₂e per year to provide a basis for future policy decisions and regulatory initiatives regarding GHG's. The Proposed Action's emissions (79.9 tons CO₂e) would not trigger EPA rules, permitting, or reporting requirements. Since emissions would be below the EPA rules, they would be close to net-zero.</p>		
NP	BLM Natural Areas	A desktop review of the project locations using available GIS layers indicated no BLM Natural Areas are present in them.	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NP	Cultural: Archaeological Resources	<p>A Class III intensive pedestrian survey of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed action was conducted under project U22BL0918. A determination was made of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this project. This determination, and project documentation, was submitted digitally to the Utah SHPO and the Ute THPO on 5/8/2023. The Utah SHPO concurred with the BLM's finding of effect on 5/8/2023. No objection was received from the Ute THPO within 30 days of the</p>	Jaymee Hasty	02/28/24

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
		<p>documented finding and the BLM has fulfilled its responsibilities under Section 106, pursuant to 36CFR800.3(c)(4).</p> <p>An additional survey was conducted for an area at Bonanza Bridge, U24BL0021. Based on the results of the pedestrian survey and records search summarized in U24BL0021, the BLM made a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected." This determination, and project documentation, was submitted digitally to the Ute THPO on 1/24/2024. No objection was received within 30 days of either documented finding and the BLM has fulfilled its responsibilities under Section 106, pursuant to 36CFR800.3(c)(4).</p>		
NP	Cultural: Native American Religious Concerns	Pursuant to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1531) and NHPA (16 USC 131) Tribes were notified of this project by letter mailed December 13, 2022. The BLM did not receive any responses regarding this project. There are no identified Native American sites within the project location.	Jaymee Hasty	01/13/23
NP	Designated Areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	A desktop review of the project locations using available GIS layers indicated no ACECs are present in them.	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NP	Designated Areas: Wild and Scenic Rivers	A desktop review using available GIS layers indicated no Wild/Scenic or Recreational sections of the Green River are in the project locations.	Georgia Foster	03/15/24

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
NP	Designated Areas: Wilderness Study Areas	A desktop review of the project location using available GIS layers indicated no Wilderness Study Areas are in the project locations.	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NP	Environmental Justice	No minority or low-income communities or populations are in the project locations. Per the EJS Screening Tool at https://ejsscreen.epa.gov/mapper , Leota, the closest community is 5 miles west of the Brennan Bottom site, is in the 80 to 90 percentile for low income and in the 70 to 80 percentile for minority. No disproportionate adverse effects are anticipated because the sites are and would continue to be available for anyone to use. The proposed fees would not be mandatory (see section 2.2.6). Therefore, the sites would be equally accessible to users of any income.	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NP	Farmlands (prime/unique)	Per NRCS data (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcsep1338623.html), the project locations (soils 505366-103, 505408-141, and 505384-12) are not prime farmland.	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	The project locations are not within any past fuel treatment areas. The nearest fuel treatment is 5 miles to the east. Proposed disturbance for the day use areas would not exceed 31 acres. While disturbance in this vegetation type can increase the amount of invasive plants, specifically Bromus tectorum (cheatgrass) which leads to a change of ecosystem dynamics and an increase in fire frequency, the existing fuel loadings should not change from the current conditions because of the weed control design features (see section 2.2.9; DF4 and DF5) in accordance with the Vernal Weed Planning Area Invasive Weed	Dixie Sadlier Chris Perkins	01/18/23 01/03/24

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
NI	Geology / Minerals / Energy Production	<p>Management Plan. The designed reclamation of disturbed areas (see section 2.2.8) and weed prevention would prevent creation of additional hazardous fuels.</p> <p>The Jensen Bridge project location is near a pending mining lode claim (UTU-105264198) and two authorized mineral material permit areas (UTU-095654 and UTU-095955) in the section. However, the proposed recreation development would not impede access to mineral materials, nor would eventual development of the mineral materials site interfere with public access to the proposed recreation sites. Per BLM GIS data and MLRS review, there are no identifiable oil and gas leases or unit agreements at the Jensen Bridge project location.</p> <p>The Bonanza Bridge project location partially overlaps the Green River Community Pit for sand and gravel (UTU-076094). However, the proposed recreation development would not impede access to mineral materials, nor community extraction of the mineral materials site interfere with public access to the proposed recreation sites. Per BLM GIS data and MLRS review, there are no identifiable mine claims, oil gas leases, or unit agreements at the Bonanza Bridge project location.</p> <p>Per BLM GIS and MLRS review, the Brennan Bottom project location is in Federal Oil & Gas Unit Agreement UTU-063017X and non-competitive lease UTUT105330854 which are both held by Finley Resources Inc. However, the proposed recreation development would not prevent the lease holder from accessing fluid minerals or lease infrastructure, nor would eventual development of the oil and gas prevent public access to the</p>	Vincent Cunningham	01/05/23

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
NP	John Wesley Powell (JWP) NCA & McCoy Flats Trail System	<p>proposed recreational structures. Per review of LR2000 and MLRS, there are no authorized or pending mine claims and no authorized or pending mineral material permits in the Brennan Bottom area.</p> <p>The JWP NCA and McCoy Flats Trail System are not present in the project location per GIS review.</p>	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NI	Lands/Access	<p>Master Title Plats have been reviewed for conflicts with existing rights-of-way or public water reserves. There are no public water reserves within the project location, per the Master Title Plat. Notice letters to right-of-way holders regarding the project were sent on 2/13/2023. Three responses were received as of 3/2/2023. Access to the proposed Brennan Bottom day use area would be via Uintah County claimed Road #022206. This road would be designated as OHV-open. The road crosses a small piece of the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge. A conversation with USFWS staff Rob Bundy – Project Leader Lower Green River NWR Complex & Refuge Manager, Brian Ocepek – Senior Realty Specialist and BLM staff Georgia Foster – Recreation Planner/Project Lead, Patrick Ahnsbrak - Realty Specialist, about the project occurred on December 6, 2022. An agreement was reached that Ouray National Wildlife Refuge and Uintah County should be contacted if any roads would be improved prior to implementation. “No Camping” signs would be installed to inform users of the no camping policy on the refuge. No</p>	Patrick Ahnsbrak	05/28/24

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
		existing land uses would be changed or modified by the implementation of the proposed action. The proposed action has the potential to reduce or eliminate trespass that is occurring outside of the project area along various areas of the Green River by providing an area to put in or take out watercraft. This trespass concern cannot be quantified. Therefore, a detailed analysis cannot be conducted.		
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	A desktop review of the project locations using available GIS layers indicated no lands with wilderness characteristics are in the project locations.	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NI	Livestock Grazing & Rangeland Health Standards	The Jensen Bridge Ramp and Bonanza Bridge Ramp project locations are in the active Split Mountain grazing allotment, but because the locations of the boat ramps are already disturbed, little impact to grazing would be expected from the proposed surface disturbance. The planned reclamation (see section 2.2.8) could increase availability of desirable forage. No impacts to rangeland health standards would be expected from the proposed construction, due to the expansive size of the allotment (120,800 acres) and the small footprint of the boat ramps (17 acres). The dates that cattle or sheep utilize the allotment are from 10/1-5/15. The Brennan Ramp project location is not in any grazing allotment.	Haydn Carson	02/10/23
NI	Paleontology	The Jensen Bridge project location is in Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 2 and 3, which indicates a low to moderate potential for encountering significant fossil materials. The Bonanza Bridge project location is in PFYC class 1, the lowest potential for encountering significant fossil materials, and unknown PFYC class. The BLM completed a site visit on November 18, 2022, and determined that this unknown PFYC	Vincent Cunningham	01/05/24

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
		<p>area was loose, unconsolidated river sediment with no bedrock. The Brennan Bottom project location is in an unknown PYFC class. The BLM completed a site visit on November 18, 2022, and determined that this unknown PYFC area is unconsolidated river sediment with no in-place bedrock.</p> <p>All three proposed recreation development sites would be in river alluvium of sand and cobbles and within the Green River floodplain. Encountering fossil material within these old riverbeds and floodplain sediments would be improbable, as the river has most likely removed or destroyed all paleontological resources. If paleontological resources are found during project activities, work should halt, and the BLM Authorized Officer would determine what mitigation measures to implement (see section 2.2.9; DF8).</p>		
NI	Plants: Invasive and Noxious Weeds	<p>Invasive and noxious weeds including perennial pepperweed (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>), Russian thistle (<i>Acroptilon repens</i>), Russian olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>) and cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>) were identified in the project locations, per BLM GIS data review. Surface disturbance could ordinarily contribute to the establishment and spread of noxious and invasive plants, but the designed weed control (see section 2.2.9; DF4 and DF5) and reclamation (see section 2.2.8) would address any infestation of invasive plants and noxious weeds introduced or spread in the project locations by construction. Invasive plants and noxious weeds were therefore eliminated from further analysis in this EA.</p>	Sandra Robins	02/08/23
NI	Plants: Native Communities	<p>The primary vegetation types in the project locations are introduced upland vegetation, greasewood flat, and salt desert scrub, per review of Landfire existing vegetation types.</p>	Sandra Robins	02/08/23

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
		However, the project locations are in existing user-created dispersed recreation sites where the plant communities are already altered due to regular human presence and use. The proposed action would formalize the use area. Due to the weekly visits by the BLM staff to maintain the site, recreationist created surface disturbance expansion would no longer occur. Therefore, the proposed construction would not affect the native plant communities to a degree that a detailed analysis is required.		
NP	Plants: BLM Sensitive	No BLM sensitive plant species or habitat are present in the project locations, per Utah Natural Heritage Program and BLM GIS data review.	Sandra Robins	02/07/23
NP	Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	No Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate plant species or their habitat are present in or near the project locations, per Utah Natural Heritage Program and BLM GIS data review.	Sandra Robins	02/07/23
PI	Recreation	The proposed recreation development would provide additional facilities for visitors to use. The proposed visitor management (2.2.7), interpretation, and facilities (2.2.4), would change the visitor experience to a level meriting detailed analysis.	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NI	Socioeconomics	Per the BLM Headwaters Socioeconomic Profiling tool, recreation makes up approximately 1% of the jobs in Uintah County, and the percent has declined between 2010 and 2020. No impact to the social or economic status of the county is anticipated.	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NI	Soils: Physical / Biological	Soils would be temporarily excavated but would be relocated onsite (see section 2.2.8).	Daniel Emmett	01/09/24

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
NI	Visual Resources	<p>The designed stockpiling, redistribution, and reseeded of viable soils would reduce soils impacts below a level requiring detailed analysis. Therefore, no detailed analysis is required.</p> <p>The project location is in Visual Resource Management Class III, the objective of which is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Because there are existing user-created features (launch ramps and parking areas) at all project locations, there should be minimal impacts on the visual resource.</p>	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NP	Wastes (hazardous/solid)	<p>No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in amounts greater than 10,000 pounds would be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the proposed action. Trash and other waste materials would be cleaned up and removed immediately after completion of operations.</p> <p>Ongoing human waste impacts and the effects of the alternatives to human waste disposal are addressed in the recreation effects sections (3.1.2; 3.1.3).</p>	Georgia Foster	03/15/24
NI	Water: Groundwater Quality	<p>Groundwater may be encountered during construction activities as the project locations are in or along the banks of the Green River. However, contamination of groundwater would be avoided by following design features in section 2.2.9, which include washing tools and equipment prior to entering the project location, refueling equipment at an appropriate distance from water resources, and implementing a stormwater pollution prevention plan. Any fluid spills would be immediately reported to the Authorizing Officer for implementation of mitigation measures. The proposed surface disturbance would not be expected to impact groundwater quality, as previously completed</p>	Vincent Cunningham Holly Mitchell	12/09/22 01/03/24



Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
		similar projects with known outcomes did not impact groundwater resources.		
NI	Water: Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	Due to the design features incorporated within the required stormwater pollution prevention permit from the Utah Division of Water Rights, impacts to hydrological conditions would not be expected to rise to a level requiring detailed analysis.	Jordan McMahon Holly Mitchell	02/08/23 01/03/24
NP	Water: Municipal Watershed / Drinking Water Source Protection	There are no drinking water source protection zones within the project location.	Jordan McMahon Holly Mitchell	02/08/23 01/03/24
NI	Water: Streams, Riparian, Wetlands, Floodplains	The project location is in the Green River floodplain and associated riparian area. The Vernal Resource Management Plan has No Surface Occupancy stipulation in floodplains and within 100 meters of streams, but this can be waived if there are no reasonable alternatives. Due to the local topography of the area, and the existing disturbance from user created ramps and parking, the identified project locations are the only viable locations. Additionally, the design features (section 2.2.9; DF6) for stormwater/water quality would ensure impacts do not rise to the level requiring detailed analysis.	Jordan McMahon Holly Mitchell	02/08/23 01/03/24
NI	Water: Surface Water Quality	Due to the design features (section 2.2.9; DF6) for stormwater/surface water quality, impacts to water quality would not be expected to rise to a level requiring detailed analysis.	Jordan McMahon Holly Mitchell	02/08/23 01/03/2024
NP	Water: Water Rights	No water rights are within the project locations per review of the Utah division of water rights database.	Jordan McMahon Holly Mitchell	02/08/23 01/03/2024

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
NI	Water: Waters of the U.S.	The project is within 100 meters of the Green River, a water of the U.S. Due to the design features for stormwater/surface water quality within the stormwater and stream alteration permits required by the state of Utah (section 2.2.9; DF6), impacts to waters of the U.S. would not be expected to rise to a level requiring detailed analysis.	Jordan McMahon Holly Mitchell	02/08/23 01/03/24
NP	Wild Horses	Per GIS review and the Vernal Resource Management Plan, the nearest herd area is Bonanza herd area, which is 11 miles south of the project location. Wild horses were removed from the HA 22 years ago. The bonanza herd is considered zeroed out. Any horses present in the area fall within the jurisdiction of the County.	Dusty Carpenter	12/15/23
NI	Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)	<p>Migratory birds: Based on the vegetation and correlated habitat types found in the project location, numerous migratory bird species may migrate through or nest within the project location. However, if construction would occur during April 1- July 15, a construction avoidance buffer of 100 feet from active nests (see section 2.2.9; DF1) would keep impacts to migratory bird species from rising to the level requiring further analysis.</p> <p>No raptor nests are known to be present in or near the project locations per BLM GIS review. Unknown raptor nests could be present. To minimize adverse impacts to nesting raptors, if the proposed construction would occur from January 1st to August 31st, a BLM biologist would perform surveys to inventory nesting activity. Any identified nests would be avoided by the</p>	Jordan McMahon	02/08/23

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
		species-specific buffer identified in the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan, as amended.		
NI	Wildlife: Fish (designated or non-designated)	The project is within the 100-year floodplain of the Green River and is classified as critical habitat to T&E fish species requiring consultation with USFWS. Informal consultation with USFWS was completed on 4/18/2024 with no impacts to species listed as candidate, proposed, threatened, or endangered. The project would have no impacts to BLM special status fish species. Due to the design features for stormwater/surface water quality (see section 2.2.9; DF6), impacts to fish or their habitats would not be expected to rise to a level requiring detailed analysis.	Jordan McMahon Tyler Arnold	02/08/23 04/18/24
NI	Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated	Pronghorn: The project locations are in Utah Division of Wildlife Resources designated pronghorn year-long crucial habitat. However, given the small project footprint (28.1 acres) relative to the amount of habitat present (385,657 mapped GIS crucial range acres) in the greater proximity, and the design feature (see section 2.2.9; DF3), impacts to pronghorn and associated year-long crucial habitat would be minimized.	Jordan McMahon	02/08/23
NI	Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo: The project locations are within 0.5 miles of the Green River riparian corridor. However, GIS and on-site review of mapped breeding and nesting habitat revealed that there are no suitable cottonwood galleries in the project locations per habitat assessment guidelines provided by USFWS. The designed avoidance buffers during construction within breeding season for migratory birds and raptors (see section 2.2.9; DF1 and DF2) would also minimize potential adverse impacts to Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo from construction noise. Due to the marginal habitat and design features, the proposed action would not affect Western Yellow-	Jordan McMahon	02/08/23

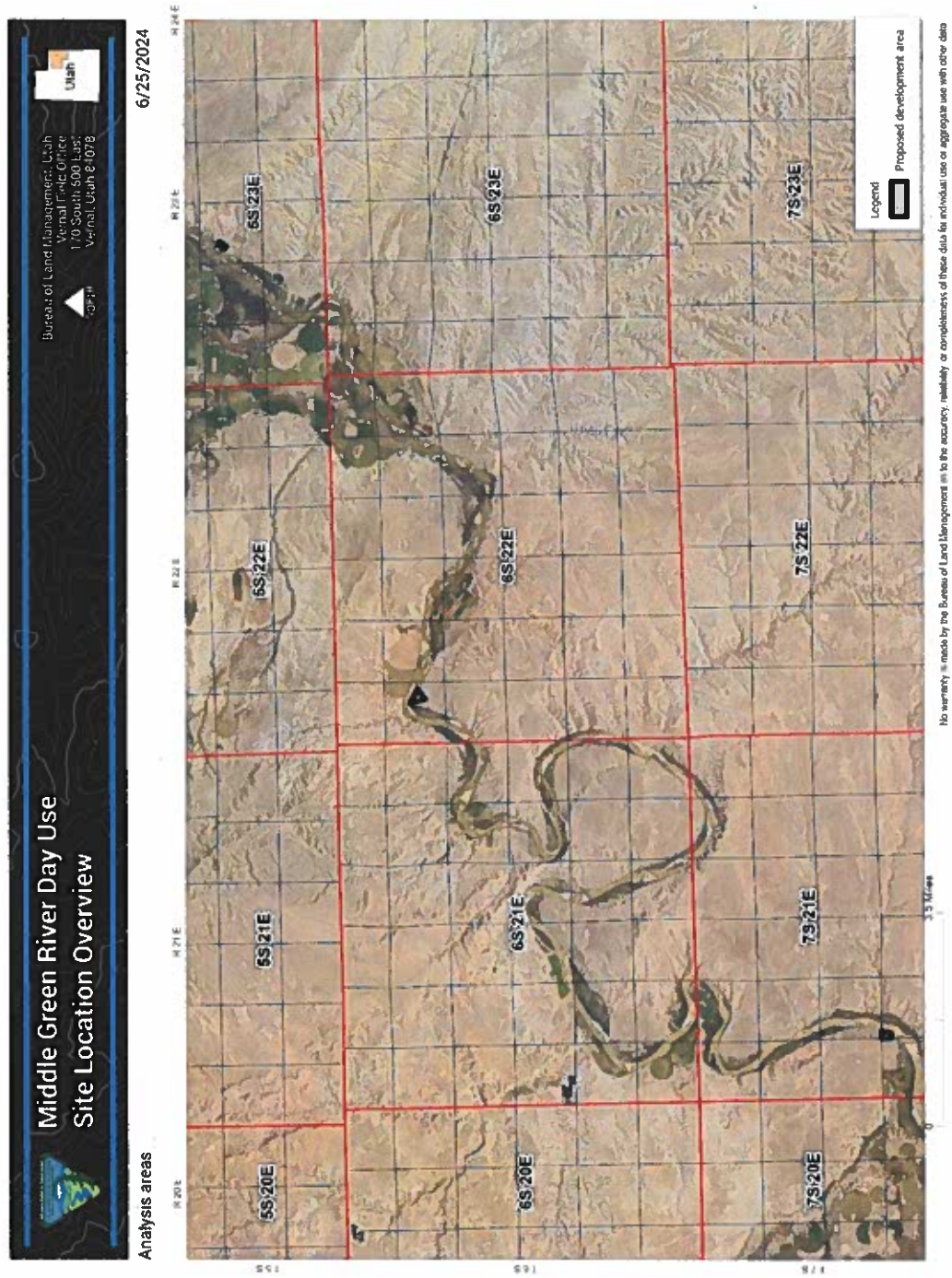
Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale	Signature	Date
		<p>adverse impacts to Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo from construction noise. Due to the marginal habitat and design features, the proposed action would not affect Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo populations or habitat, and detailed analysis is not required for this species.</p> <p>Monarch Butterfly: Milkweed may be present in the project locations based on the project location. Monarch butterflies, a candidate species for listing under the ESA, are reliant on milkweed for survival. Any milkweed destroyed or displaced due to this project would be quantified by a pre-construction site visit. Areas for planting and seeding would be included in reclamation upon project completion (see section 2.2.9; DF7). Therefore, no effects to monarch butterfly would be to a level meriting detailed analysis.</p>		
NP	Woodlands/ Forestry	Forest and Woodland resources are not present in the project locations per review of GIS.	David Palmer	01/02/24

Table Appendix A-2. Final Review

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator		7/8/24	
Authorized Officer			July 8, 2024

APPENDIX B: MAPS

MAP A: PROPOSED ACTION OVERVIEW



MAP C: BONANZA BRIDGE RAMP



Bonanza Bridge Analysis Area

Bureau of Land Management • Utah
Vernal Field Office
170 South 500 East
Vernal, Utah 84378



Revised Analysis area

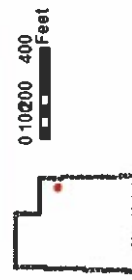
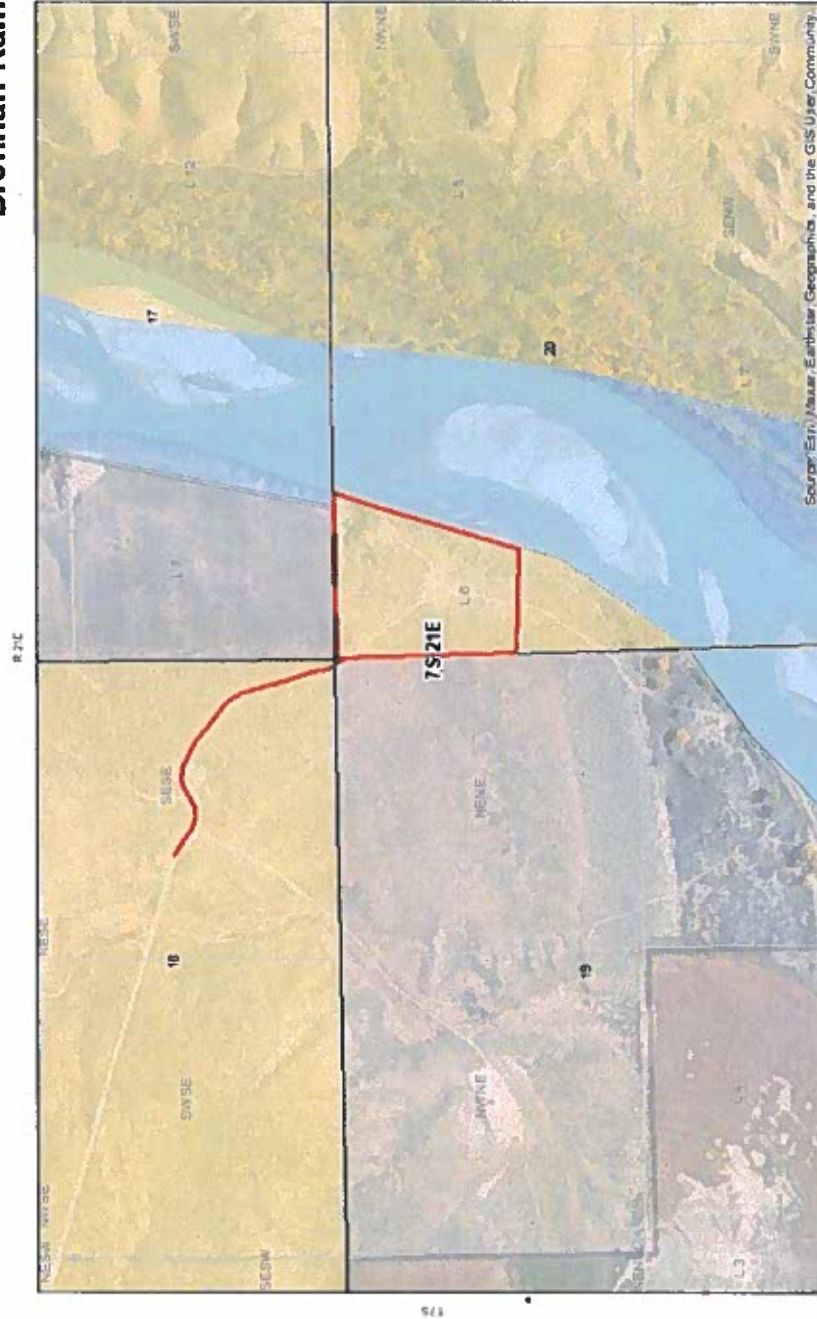
1/3/2023



MAP D: BRENNAN RAMP

11/15/2022

Middle Green Day Use Site Development
Brennan Ramp



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BLM



APPENDIX C: BRENNAN BOTTOM RAMP ACCESS ROAD EVALUATION FORM

Evaluation Form and Checklist for Interdisciplinary Route Analysis	
Route Information	
Route ID	Uintah County Class D Road 022206
Route Length	¾ Mile
Land Ownership	The road is almost entirely on BLM-administered land, crossing a small corner of the USFWS Ouray National Wildlife Refuge
Route Location	The road is in Section 18, T7S, R21E Salt Lake Meridian
Evaluation Date	05/28/24
Evaluation Team	Jo Foster, Jaymee Hasty, Patrick Ahmsbrak, Dave Palmer, Travis Decker, Tyler Arnold, Holly Mitchell, Stephanie Howard, Joel Ward
Route Type (Road, Primitive Road, Primitive Route, Trail)	The route is defined as a Road
Route Characteristics (e.g., maintenance frequency, use level, vehicle type accommodation, can parking/passing occur without leaving the route)	The route has generally low use, with moderate use on west half, and progressively lower use to the east as accesses branch off. Based on BLM observation, when visiting the Brennan Bottom site, no vehicles were observed. A permittee for a nearby allotment has been known to use the route in the winter, access to existing water well, Vehicle types include all classes; the route is not restricted to high clearance. The width can accommodate 2 vehicles passing without pulling off route.
Route Condition (e.g., braiding, washed out, etc)	Uintah County may be maintaining the route even though it is claimed as a Class D. The route is level, crowned and ditched.
TMP Network Connectivity (e.g., OHV access allowances on non-	BLM has nearby routes designated OHV open, but none that access the Brennan Bottom site. The route is necessary to complete the network access to destinations.

Evaluation Form and Checklist for Interdisciplinary Route Analysis	
BLM Lands, BLM's OHV designations of connecting routes)	
Purpose and Need Rationale for OHV Travel on the Route (e.g., destinations or experiences provided by the route, whether the other routes provide access to the same destinations or experiences)	The route is needed to provide access for the public to the proposed boat ramp/day use area and experiences on the Green River; no other publicly open routes provide access to the site.
Potential Resource and/or User Conflicts from Motorized Travel on the Route	No known resource or user conflicts exist. The area is not in allotment, and the use by a permittee is during winter when the area has low use for recreation. BLM coordinated with the USFWS NWR and has agreed to place "No Camping" signs at refuge boundary. Middle fork has water right on the water well (26-ft deep sump), pipeline pumps to lay-flats so water trucks/oil-field traffic would be infrequent
IDT's Recommended Route Designation by Alternative including relative importance of the route to the route network of each alternative	Under alternative A the route would remain closed to OHV use. User created impacts would be expected to continue, Under alternative B the route would be designated as open to OHV use. This would direct traffic and use to the designated route and developed area minimizing the impact of OHV use in the area.

Evaluation Form and Checklist for Interdisciplinary Route Analysis	
Recommended Mitigation Measures	Under alternative A, no day use facilities would be created, updated, or managed. User created impacts would be expected to continue.
	Under alternative B, the existing route would be upgraded as needed to install a boat ramp and facilities. This would concentrate use to the developed route. Directed use would discourage additional disturbance outside of the developed area.
Purpose and Need Criteria	
Official and Authorized Uses (e.g., facility access, permit access, etc)	The route is used for the following: range access and allotment use, oilfield water right-access (Middle Fork), Uintah County access (class D claim), pipeline and powerline maintenance, Ouray Wildlife Refuge access, private land access, and Utah FFSL (DNR) access to the navigable waterway.
Other Land Ownership Access Uses:	Ouray Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) access, private land access, Utah FFSL access to navigable waterway
Recreational Uses (e.g., campsites, overlooks)	River use (boating – put in and take out); no campsites or overlook; fishing and hunting
Designation Criteria	
Air Quality	The existing route is currently being utilized by recreationists in the area. A designation of open would not be anticipated to increase the number of vehicles accessing the site. Therefore, no change in emissions would be expected as a result of the open designation.
Wildlife and Habitats (in, proximate, crosses, and buffer distances)	Add buffers/distances from subject wildlife species, including fish. Fish Habitats (200 m outside 100-year floodplain) within .5-mile for fish critical habitat
Plants and Habitats (in, proximate,	The route is within the horseshoe milkvetch (<i>Astragalus equisolensis</i>) and sterile yucca (<i>Yucca sterilis</i>) potential habitat polygon. The nearest horseshoe milkvetch plant is .45 miles on the south side of the Green River and the nearest sterile yucca population is 1.45 miles from the route.

Evaluation Form and Checklist for Interdisciplinary Route Analysis	
crosses, and buffer distances)	
Special Status Species and Habitats (in, proximate, crosses, and buffer distances)	The route is within .5-mile of Endangered razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow critical habitat; other special status (BLM sensitive) fish include roundtail chub, bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker habitats.
Perennial, Ephemeral, and Intermittent Streams (in, proximate, crosses, and buffer distances)	Within 200 meters from the 100-year floodplain, >200m from the Green River (perennial flow) but no new surface disturbance would occur, intermittent stream to North more than 100 meters according to Nat. Hydrography dataset; no crossings
Wild Horses and Habitat (in, proximate, crosses, and buffer distances)	No Wild Horse management area is nearby. The nearest is the Bonanza HA 11 miles south.
Invasive Non-Native Vegetation and Noxious Weeds (in, proximate, crosses, and buffer distances)	Saltcedar, Russian thistle, Russian olive, cheatgrass, whitetop, and knapweed are present along the route.
Erosive Soils	None known (check layers)
Cryptobiotic Soils	None known (check layers)
Cultural Resources Sites or Probability (in, proximate,	Probability medium, no known sites within 15 meters of road; some Tribal communities (primarily Navajo and Hopi) consider Green River traditional cultural property but has not been formally evaluated

Evaluation Form and Checklist for Interdisciplinary Route Analysis	
crosses, and buffer distances)	
Paleontological Resources Sites or Probability (in, proximate, crosses, and buffer distances)	Unknown PYFC class. The BLM completed a site visit on November 18, 2022, and determined that this unknown PYFC area is unconsolidated river sediment with no in-place bedrock.
Recreation Opportunities (trailheads, loop opportunities, dispersed camping, permitted OHV events, SRMA, etc.)	Currently used as dispersed camping; will be closed to dispersed camping (would require FRN), no trails identified, angler access, hunting access; currently no permitted OHV events
Visual Resource Management Class and Inventory	VRM Class III
ACEC	None present
Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas	None present
BLM natural area	None present
Lands with wilderness characteristics	None present
Wild and Scenic River	None present
National Historic Trail	None present

Evaluation Form and Checklist for Interdisciplinary Route Analysis	
Conflicts with Other Recreational Users	There are no known conflicts with other types of recreation.
Adjacent Communities	Leota is the nearest community, 5 miles west of the route