

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
BLUE CASTLE FREERIDE EVENT

DOI-BLM-UT-G020-2024-0010-EA

August 2024

Location: Green River, Utah
T. 20 S. R. 15 E., Sec. 12, 13, 24
T. 20 S. R. 16 E., Sec. 17, 18, 19

Blue Castle Experiences, LLC.
323 James Canyon Loop
Genoa, Nevada, 89411

Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah, 84660
435-636-3616

BLM



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to disclose and analyze the environmental consequences if the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) authorizes the Green River Classic Freeride Event as proposed by Blue Castle Experiences, LLC.

Blue Castle Experiences, LLC applied for a special recreation permit (SRP) (2024-00590) on April 10, 2024, with the BLM Price Field Office (PFO). This competitive freeride mountain biking event called “the Green River Classic” is proposed to take place once a year in either October or November from 2024 to 2033, barring the results of annual performance evaluations by the BLM. In 2024, the event would take place October 25, 2024, through October 27, 2024, near Green River, Utah, in Emery County. The Green River Classic would consist of professional competitions, amateur rides, and a campout for up to 300 participants and spectators. As part of the event, there would be a t-shirt and food vendor that would be permitted to operate at the event if Blue Castle Experiences, LLC receives an SRP. Motorized travel would be restricted, and camping would be restricted to identified areas for vehicle supported camping and RV’s.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The BLM’s purpose and need are to respond to the SRP application for the Green River Classic Mountain Bike Event in accordance with 43 CFR 2932 and meet the recreation management goals and objectives in the Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) as amended (October 2008).

1.3 DECISION TO BE MADE

The BLM will decide whether to issue Blue Castle Experiences, LLC, the t-shirt vendor, and the food vendor SRPs for the proposed Green River Classic and, if so, under what terms and conditions.

1.4 CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the RMP. It has been determined that the Proposed Action would not conflict with decisions throughout the plan. Although the Proposed Action is not specifically mentioned in the plan, it is consistent with objectives, goals, and decisions of the plan and is specifically provided for in multiple decision(s):

REC-67 (pg. 112): Portions of the PFO not identified as a [Special Recreation Management Area] SRMA will be identified as an [Extensive Recreation Management Area] ERMA. ERMA’s will receive only custodial management (which address only activity opportunities) of

visitor health and safety, user conflict, and resource protection issues with no activity-level planning. Therefore, actions within ERMA's will generally be implemented directly from [Land Use Plan] LUP decisions, such as SRPs or [Off Highway Vehicle] OHV management decisions. See Appendix R-9 for additional specific recreation management objectives for the PFO ERMA.

REC-72 (pg. 112): The BLM will issue an SRP as a discretionary action subject to [National Environmental Policy Act] NEPA analysis (Appendix R-10). Additionally, commercial SRPs will also be issued to provide a fair return for the commercial use of public lands.

REC-73 (pg. 113): SRPs will be issued according to established evaluation factors described in Appendix R-10. The factors identified will primarily examine the sensitivity of the proposed site and the nature of the proposed use.

REC-76 (pg. 113): Vending could be authorized in conjunction with organized events or when the vending is necessary to support resource protection or appropriate recreation use. Vending permits could also be authorized to enhance recreational experience.

REC-78 (pg. 113): Refer to appendix R-10 for competitive event SRP criteria.

1.5 RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, OR OTHER PLANS

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et. Seq.). FLPMA mandates multiple uses of Public Lands, including recreation use. An objective of BLM's recreation policy is to satisfy recreation demand within allowable use levels in an equitable, safe, and enjoyable manner, minimizing adverse resource impacts and user conflict. The Green River Classic is a unique event that would provide participants and spectators an opportunity for free ride mountain biking on BLM land.

43 CFR Subpart 2932 *et seq.* Special Recreation Permits for Commercial Use, Competitive Events, Organized Groups, and Recreation Use in Special Areas 2932.5 Definitions: Competitive Use is any organized, sanctioned, or structured use, event, or activity on public land in which 2 or more contestants compete and either or both of the following elements apply:

- (i) Participants register, enter, or complete an application for the event;
- (ii) A predetermined course or area is designated 2932.11
 - (a) Except as provided for in 2932.12, you must obtain a Special Recreation Permit for: (1) Commercial use, including vending, associated with recreational use; or (2) competitive use.

The Green River Classic is a competitive event. Therefore, Blue Castle, LLC is required to obtain an SRP.

1.6 IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

Resource specialists on the BLM's Interdisciplinary (ID) Team reviewed Chapters 1 and 2 of the EA. The team determined whether their respective resources are present in the Proposed Action

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location and would be affected by implementation of the Proposed Action. The ID Team Checklist in Appendix A provides the rationale for issues that were considered but not analyzed further. The questions listed below guide the analyses of project-related effects provided in Chapter 3.

Table 1-1. Issues identified for detailed analysis

| | |
|---------|--|
| Issue 1 | How would the Green River Classic effect recreation in the proposed event area? |
| Issue 2 | How would the Green River Classic impact wilderness characteristics in the Desolation Canyon inventory unit? |

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes the alternatives considered by the BLM during preparation of this Environmental Assessment.

2.1 ALTERNATIVE A – NO ACTION

Under the no action alternative, the BLM would not issue Blue Castle Experiences, LLC or the associated vendors SRPs. The event would not be authorized to take place on BLM land within the PFO.

2.2 ALTERNATIVE B – PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action is to allow Blue Castle Experiences, LLC to host the Green River Classic under an SRP. The SRP would allow for the event to be held once a year in either October or November from 2024 to 2033, barring the annual results of a performance evaluation by the BLM. The event would take place over three days. Additionally, the Blue Castle Experiences, LLC would be authorized for four days of setup and staff training immediately preceding the event and one day of clean up immediately following the event.

The PFO is considering whether to issue one commercial-competitive permit and two vending permits for this event:

- Blue Castle Experiences, LLC (#2024-00590): SRP for the event as a whole
- Food Vendor
- T-Shirt Vendor

The vending SRPs are contingent on the Blue Castle, LLC SRP. If issued, all permits would be on probation through December 31st, 2024. With acceptable performance in 2024 and each year after, the permits would be active through December 31st, 2033.

The Green River Classic would be located T. 20 S. R. 15 E., Sec. 12, 13, 24, T. 20 S. R. 16 E., Sec. 17, 18, 19 and accessed using North Long Street in the City of Green River (Figure 1). Event attendance is estimated to include 50 registered professional riders, 100 amateur riders, and 100 spectators. The amateur riders would compete in various sessions each day called “soul sessions”. The professional riders would compete in various sessions each day called “pro sessions”. All sessions would take place within marked freeride zones. Figure 1 provides the proposed layout for the event; all areas are currently disturbed (fully or partially denuded of vegetation with soil compacted). Drones would be flown in the immediate event area to record footage of activities and would be subject to Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

Staff would consist of 20-30 people and include a build crew, registration staff, a master of ceremonies, judges, medical staff (1 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) required), and security staff. Blue Castle, LLC would need to hire new employees for this event; employees would be temporary hires for the event and may change annually if the event were allowed to persist through the life of the SRPs.

During the set-up and training days all staff would set up, maintain, and/or construct the following items:

1. Event hub: Medical tent, registration booth with tent and tables, sponsor and vendor booths, portable stage with sound system and projector, water tank
2. Campground waste containment and sanitation: trash cans, roll-off dumpster, perimeter fence, portable toilets with hand-wash station, designated fire pits with firewood provided
3. Event operations: directional markers and signs, shade tents, trash cans, portable toilets, boundary markers around freeride area
4. Minor maintenance of certain routes and freeride features as needed, to be performed with hand tools and dirt

Participants and spectators’ highway legal vehicles would only be allowed to drive to identified camping zones, which includes a parking zone for up to 20 RVs. Staff and emergency vehicles would be allowed to drive on all identified, pre-disturbed routes to access the entirety of the event. Bikes would be allowed on pre-disturbed routes and within the freeride zones. No off-highway vehicles (as defined in the RMP, BLM 2008 p. 162) would be allowed in the event area. All non-participants, outside of staff viewing an ongoing event, must be outside the freeride zone to ensure the safety of spectators and participants.

Bonding would be required prior to the 2024 Green River Classic. Bonding for future years would be at the discretion of the SRP authorized officer and based on the annual performance evaluation. Blue Castle Experiences, LLC would review the BLM’s bond estimate sheet for removal of trash and event equipment. They would read and sign the bond determination letter. The amount of \$1,926.36 would be collected in a suspense account through the BLM’s Collection and Billing System. The BLM’s follow up site visit would determine what percentage of the bond is returned, which is up to 100% with full compliance of the stipulations and item removal list.

2.2.1 DESIGN FEATURES

A summary of event-specific design features is provided in Table 2-1.

Table 2-11 Project design features

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| | A temporary net-style fence would be installed around the camping zone to demarcate camping zones and contain wind-blown trash. |
| Public health and safety | Driveways sufficient for a standard vehicle would be kept clear through and around camping area to provide egress and emergency access. |
| | The event area would be clearly signed, and signs would be placed at the access points to advise the visiting public of the event. |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| | <p>An Emergency Medical Technician would be onsite during freeride activities. Medical staff with minimum qualification of wilderness first responder (equivalent to Emergency Medical Responder) would be present outside of those activities, stationed at the medical tent.</p> |
| | <p>BLM would install signs up to two weeks prior to the event notifying the public of the event.</p> |
| | <p>A minimum 20-foot buffer would be maintained between spectators and freeride zones.</p> |
| | <p>All waste, including human waste, would be packed out. Catholes (buried waste) would not be permitted.</p> |
| | <p>The quantity and placement of trash cans and portable toilets would be commensurate with the size and duration of the event.</p> |
| <p>Environmental protection</p> | <p>Firewood would be provided for the event and fires would be contained to rings provided by Blue Castle, LLC Pallet burning would not be permitted, nor would fires outside of the fire rings.</p> |
| | <p>Only emergency and staff vehicles would be allowed on routes to the Battleship freeride zone</p> |
| | <p>Drone overflight above wilderness would be prohibited.</p> |
| | <p>Event staff would fully clean up the event area post-event. In the event that trash remains, the BLM would use the retained portion of the bond to fund additional cleanup.</p> |
| | <p>If concentrated paleontological resources are encountered, activity in that area at that location must stop and the BLM PFO Authorized Officer must be notified.</p> |

2Terms and permit stipulations from BLM Form 2930-2 (pertaining to legal requirements, conditions of termination, operating rights and responsibilities, advertising, subcontracting, accounting, and compliance with the operating plan) would apply, as would BLM Utah and PFO stipulations in Appendices B and C. These stipulations encompass financial, insurance, reporting requirements; environmental protection and fire safety measures; and public health and safety and informed risk disclosures.

Figure 1: Project Area

Bureau of Land Management, Utah
Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501

NORTH

Proposed operations area and temporary infrastructure for the Green River Classic mountain bike free-ride event. Applicant: Blue Castle Experiences, LLC

7/1/2024

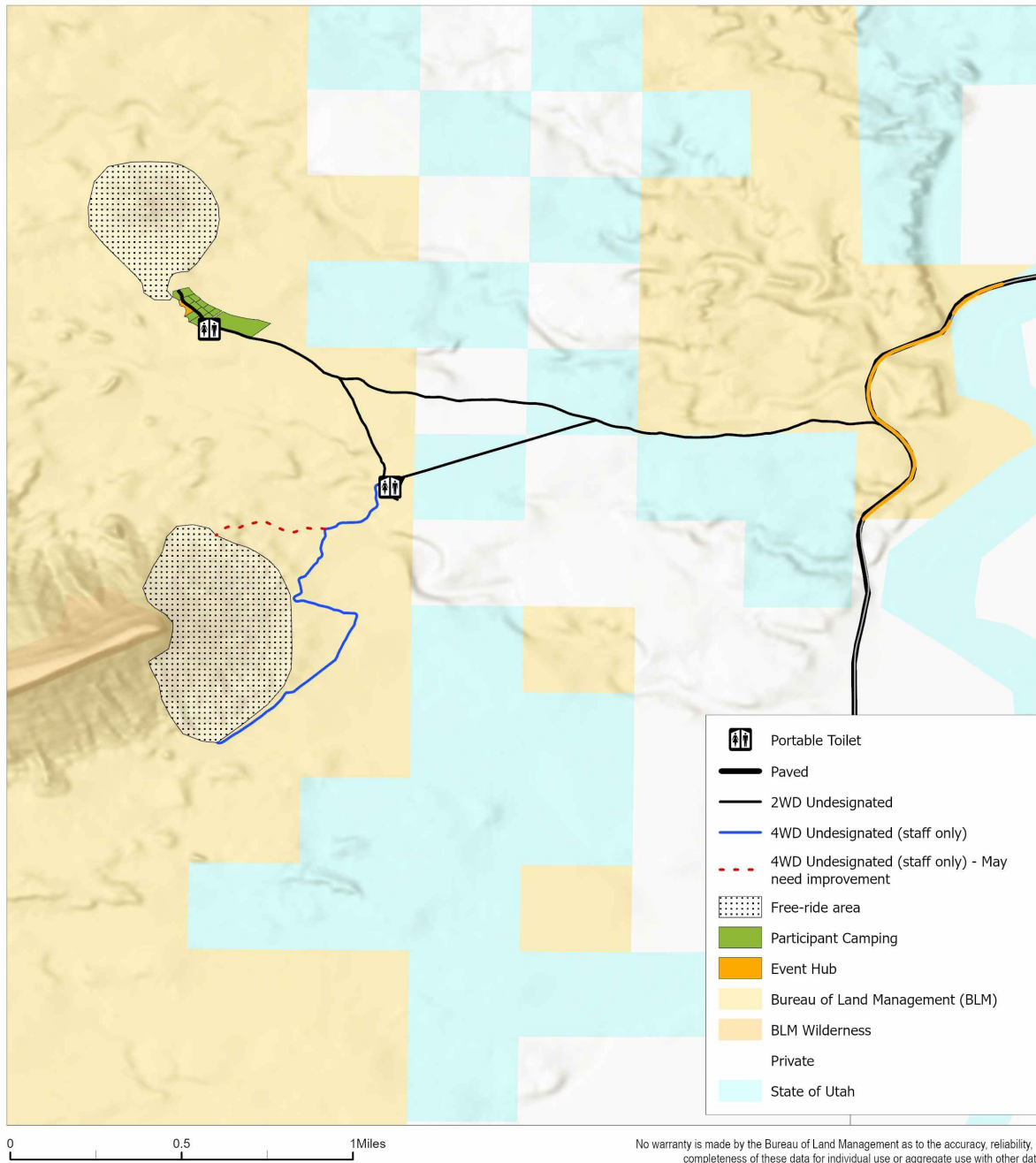


Figure 1: Map of proposed event area.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter presents the potentially affected existing environment (i.e., the physical, biological, social, and economic values and resources) for each issue identified for detailed analysis in the ID Team Checklist (Appendix A). The affected environment is the baseline for comparison between the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts/consequences of alternatives, which this chapter also discloses.

3.1 HOW WOULD THE GREEN RIVER CLASSIC AFFECT RECREATION IN THE PROPOSED EVENT AREA?

How would the Green River Classic effect recreation in the proposed event area?

3.1.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The affect analysis area is the proposed Green River Classic event area (Figure 1) and includes the entire area where recreational biking and camping occurs. The temporal timeframe for the effects analysis is the next 15 years which includes the duration of the permit (assuming acceptable performance) plus five years following to assess any impacts outlasting the permit.

The analysis area is a Mancos shale badland with little to no native vegetation. Approximately 150 acres are currently used as a freeride area by mountain bikers and motorcyclists; single-track trails have developed through recurring use on many slopes and users have constructed intermittent jump features from dirt. Access is via several two-tracks which were not designated in the RMP. Recreationists use the flat areas surrounding the Blue Castle access road for parking during the day and have created a three-acre dispersed camping area with fire pits (see Figure 1). Blue Castle is six miles from the city of Green River, so users may include both locals and out-towners. Dominant recreation activities in the area around the city include boating, off-roading, and biking. There are no facilities on the west side of the Green River; the nearest BLM recreation site is the Swasey's Beach recreation site four miles away.

Activities at Blue Castle have not presented a substantive management concern compared to nearby high-traffic areas which have proven prone to resource degradation and the expansion of human impacts, such as Swasey's Beach and the surrounding river corridor (the Green River Daily). Opportunities for camping around Blue Castle and Battleship (Figure 2) are constrained by the rolling topography of the Mancos shale, and biking impacts (per BLM site visits) are limited to the event area and confined by overlying cliffs. The BLM is not aware of law enforcement incidents or emergency responses related to mountain biking.

The Proposed Action would occur within the PFO ERMA which provides high quality recreation opportunities and offers beneficial outcomes for recreation participants and communities (BLM 2014). Management of recreation in ERMAs is commensurate with the management of other resources and resource uses and, in general, is limited to actions necessary to maintain resource

protection and human health and safety. The RMP identifies the ERMA as meeting the need (niche) of a venue for events that may not be appropriate in SRMAs. The Green River Classic falls into this category as a mid-size to large competitive event would not be allowable in the PFO's SRMAs, many of which receive a high volume of visitor use and several of which explicitly do not allow Class III SRPs (which include all competitive events).

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities and resource uses include livestock grazing and recreation activities as previously described. In addition, this event has previously occurred in the proposed analysis area without a BLM permit. Future activity plans may address the authorization or closure of the Blue Castle area; however, no such proposal is part of this EA.

3.1.2 ALTERNATIVE A - NO ACTION ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Under the No Action alternative, the SRP would be denied, so the event would not take place. Public recreation would continue at typical use levels and patterns without visitors being impacted by a large event occurring. Recreational benefits of free-riding and camping in general, such as mental stimulation, enjoyment of a natural setting, physical fitness, and risk taking would continue to be gained from recreation. However, event-specific benefits such as community building and competition-driven skill building would not be provided.

3.1.3 ALTERNATIVE B - PROPOSED ACTION ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Granting the SRP would create a competitive free ride mountain biking opportunity, which is not a common experience on BLM land in Utah due to the lack of appropriate areas (Mancos Shale, close to paved roads, not already designated as motorized) and lack of free-ride events for mountain bikes. The event location terrain provides different competition experiences such as downhill trials, freerides, and trick sessions. The permit includes separate competition opportunities for amateurs and professional bike riders. Personal benefits from the event to competitors and spectators may include mental stimulation, enjoyment of natural settings, physical fitness, community building, and risk taking.

Granting the permit would also authorize overnight camping for competitors and spectators. Like mountain biking, camping provides opportunities for recreationists to enjoy the natural setting and time with family, friends, and their user group community. Through education provided by the event organizers in accordance with the operating plan and stipulations, attendees would also have the opportunity to learn more about responsible recreation and environmental stewardship.

Granting the permit would result in hand improvements to a four-wheel drive road which would be used exclusively by staff and emergency vehicles use during the event (Figure 1). Road improvements would persist after the event and would continue for the life of the SRP, though any future event-related maintenance would only occur immediately prior to the event, not on a recurring basis. The roads accessing the event area for competitors and spectators would not be subject to any improvements.

The BLM's general terms for an SRP (2930-2) (see Appendix C) and the BLM Utah SRP stipulations (see Appendix D) would be enforced. The BLM Headquarters and Utah State Office developed these terms and stipulations to protect visitor safety and area resources. Area resources are also protected in the long term through the BLM's requirement that the proponent provide Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly program information to visitors and participants. The BLM would monitor the event to ensure compliance with the permit's operation plan, terms, and stipulations.

Granting the permit may create temporary user conflicts by limiting other recreationists' use of the analysis area during the set-up, clean-up, and event dates. Signs installed before and during the event, and the proponent's staff during the event would inform other recreationists of the event. The event requires registration of attendees, so other recreationists may elect to register and join the event. However, registration for the event would be limited to 300 people.

Potential long-term impacts of the Proposed Action are both beneficial and adverse. A potentially adverse impact of the Proposed Action is authorized use of non-designated routes; while these routes are heavily used by the public already, a weekend event of this size would perpetuate those impacts. Beneficial long-term impacts of the event would include the education of participants on Leave No Trace principles including pack it in/pack it out. With up to 300 attendees ranging from novice to professional skill levels, a diverse and sizable subset of the mountain bike community would be engaged in these efforts. Other benefits of the event would include required clean-up of the analysis area following the event for the life of the SRP and enforcement of stipulations to ensure public health and safety during the event.

3.1.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions and uses are described in Section 3.1.1. The No Action Alternative would not result in an accumulation of effects because the permit would not be approved. The Proposed Action would contribute the effects previously described in Section 3.1.3.

3.1.5 MONITORING AND/OR COMPLIANCE

The BLM would monitor the event as follows:

- Site visit prior to the event to take photos and document starting ground conditions
- Monitoring at least two days of the event itself for compliance with permit stipulations and operating plan
- Follow-up site visit the week after the event to ensure proper cleanup

Permittees would also be required to submit a post-use report within 30 days of the event ending. On this report, Blue Castle, LLC and the event vendors would be required to report final event attendance and vendor revenue. Under the national BLM stipulations, they would also be required to disclose any accidents resulting in death, personal injury requiring hospitalization or emergency evacuation, or property damage greater than \$2,500 within 24 hours of the incident.

The BLM would use monitoring and event reports (post-use and accident) in completing a final post-use evaluation. On this evaluation, the permittee would be given an acceptable, probationary, or unacceptable performance status which would be used to determine whether they would be eligible for future event validation. The follow up site visit would determine what percentage of the \$1,926.36 bond would be returned.

3.2 HOW WOULD THE GREEN RIVER CLASSIC IMPACT WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS IN THE DESOLATION CANYON INVENTORY UNIT?

Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (LWC) are defined as areas having at least 5,000 acres in a natural or undisturbed condition and providing outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive forms of recreation. LWC inventory units may be less than 5,000 acres if they are contiguous with any federal lands formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness value, such as designated Wilderness or wilderness study area (WSA). Naturalness is defined as “appear[ing] to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and any work of human beings must be substantially unnoticeable” (BLM 2021 1-8). Outstanding opportunities for solitude may derive from remoteness, terrain, configuration, or vegetation screening, and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation encompasses any non-motorized, dispersed recreation regardless of current use or extent of opportunities throughout the unit. Both are qualitative judgments made in comparison to other units, and only one needs to be met (BLM 2021).

PFO BLM conducted LWC inventories in 1980, 1999, and 2007. Each LWC inventory is a snapshot of conditions at the time of inventory. BLM policy requires inventory updates when new information regarding wilderness characteristics is received from any internal or external entity or if a change in circumstances has occurred which no longer supports the previous inventory, such as the removal of a structure or land acquisition (BLM 2021 1-3). Consequently, each inventory may be treated as a baseline for the time of project.

3.2.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

UNIT OVERVIEW

The area of analysis for impacts to wilderness characteristics is the entirety of the affected unit, and the temporal scale is the fifteen years which includes the duration of the permit (assuming acceptable performance) plus five years following to assess any impacts outlasting the permit if it is not renewed.

Detailed information about non- WSA LWC is part of the administrative record for the RMP and subsequent BLM inventory documents. The following records are incorporated by reference:

- (1) 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory (BLM 1999);
- (2) 2002 Revised Findings Regarding Wilderness Character (BLM 2002)
- (3) RMP (BLM 2008);

(4) Desolation Canyon Wilderness Characteristics Review (BLM 2007)

The Proposed Action would occur mostly within the Desolation Canyon LWC unit (NLCS000935), located in Uintah, Emery, and Grand Counties adjacent to the Desolation Canyon and Turtle Canyon Wildernesses. Per BLM corporate GIS data, approximately 173,000 acres of this unit possess wilderness characteristics and 6,000 do not (subtracting portions which are now wilderness from the original inventory unit). The project area is within subunit 8 (as identified in the 1999 inventory), which is 57,500 acres and is entirely adjacent to the Desolation Canyon Wilderness (Figure 2).

Within the entire Desolation Canyon unit, the 1999 inventory identified the following wilderness characteristics:

- **Naturalness:** Most of the inventory area appears natural, with scattered individual and cumulative impacts of human imprints (from grazing, oil and gas exploration, and recreation) being substantially unnoticeable.
- **Opportunities for solitude:** Opportunities for solitude derive from the size and remoteness of the entire inventory area combined with the Desolation Canyon WSA; numerous local areas offer solitude where vegetation, configuration, and terrain allow.
- **Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation:** In the land-based parts of the Desolation Canyon unit, recreation opportunities including hunting, horseback riding, backpacking, backcountry camping, rock climbing, and more.

The 1999 inventory maps and photographs document motorized routes and cross-country tracks leading to and beyond the project area, including all routes proposed for motorized access to the event location and the camping area. Based on these findings, this portion of the unit was determined not to have wilderness characteristics.

LWC inventories may be updated under certain circumstances such as during NEPA analysis, during land use planning, or when new information is submitted by the public (BLM 2021 1-3). In 2001, an external party submission prompted a review of the project area and other nearby sections of Subunit 8 which were deemed not to have wilderness characteristics. This review determined that the main access road leading to Blue Castle would be cherry-stemmed as it was bladed and that the other vehicle impacts (several two-tracks, an eroding dugway, a rehabilitated route leading to a decommissioned drillhole, and two small campsites) did not substantively impact the LWC unit's naturalness due to their low use and impassibility to most vehicles. No bicycle impacts on the slopes where the freeride areas are proposed are mentioned in the inventory notes, which focus on motorized vehicle use, and it is unclear from photos if they were present at the time of the inventory. As a result of this review, the BLM's wilderness characteristics determination was changed from not present to present.

The entire Desolation Canyon Unit was reviewed in 2007 as part of the 2008 RMP planning process. The portion of Subunit 8 where the proposed event would take place was not called out in the comments the BLM received, and the determination of wilderness characteristics being present did not change. In the RMP, the BLM identified five non-WSA LWC units having

wilderness characteristics where management is to be focused on the protection, preservation, and maintenance of those characteristics (“natural areas”). Selection was based on the unit’s resources (wilderness characteristics as well as uses which conflict with wilderness characteristics), valid existing rights, and coherence with other management objectives (BLM 2008 p. 35-36). The Desolation Canyon unit was not selected for management of those characteristics. The nearest natural area (Mexican Mountain) is fifteen miles west. The Desolation Canyon Unit is managed as “Lands with Wilderness Characteristics – Other,” i.e., not specifically managed for the preservation of its wilderness characteristics.

Figure 2: Blue Castle LWC Map

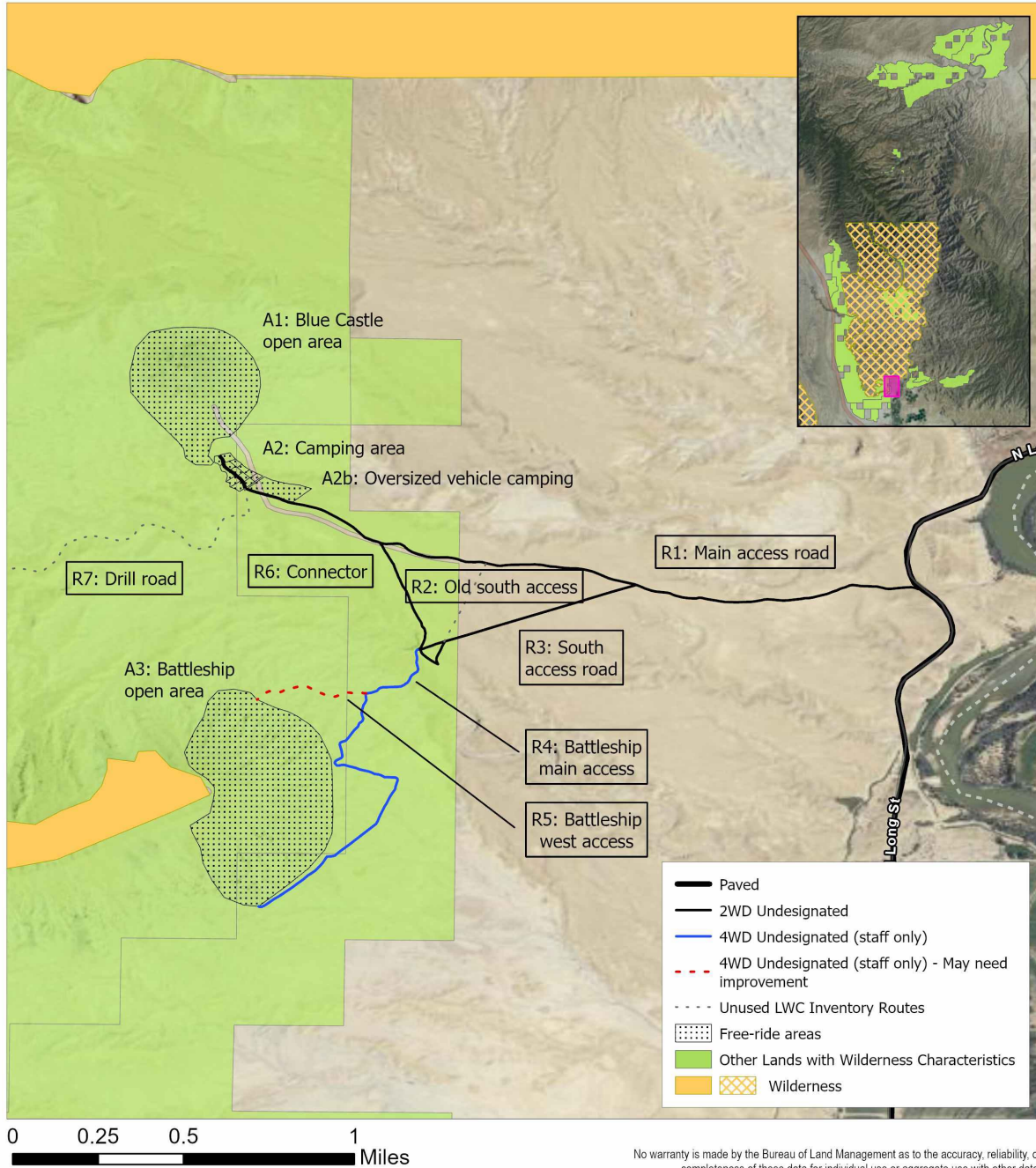
Bureau of Land Management, Utah
 Price Field Office
 125 South 600 West
 Price, UT 84501

Utah

NORTH

Map depicting project area in relation to the surrounding Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) unit, NLCS000935, shown in full in the inset map.

7/1/2024



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

Figure 2: Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) inventory summary in relation to project area.

Table 3-1 Summary of ground disturbances within and project area

| Route/area | 1999 inventory ID | Changes as of 2024 | Proposed Use |
|-------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| R1 | Route 6 (cherry-stem) ¹ | Heavier use than at time of inventory with more camping impacts, maintenance has likely occurred | Primary access |
| R2 | DC-2A | This segment has completely regrown. | None |
| R3 | Not documented | New; users have likely replaced R2 with this route and R6. | Primary access |
| R4 | DC-3A (considered impassable past 0.2 miles) | Previously deemed impassable to vehicles. No construction or maintenance apparent, but now receives light OHV use for its entire length (past 0.2 miles) | Staff access only |
| R5 | Not documented | Most likely new as it was not noted in inventory. Lightly used with no construction or maintenance. | Staff access only |
| R6 | Not documented | Regular use; users have likely replaced R2 with this route and R3. | Primary access |
| R7 | Route 6: DC-1A | Rehabilitated, no use apparent | None |
| A1 | Not documented | User-created mountain/dirt bike play area present since at least 2013 per satellite imagery | Entire impacted area. |
| A2 | Route 6 | Single campsite noted in inventory, but size was not. Currently, approximately 3.2 acres are heavily used, and 3.3 acres (A2b) are lightly to moderately used (indicated by grass regrowth during the winter). | Entire impacted area |
| A3 | Not documented | User-created mountain/dirt bike play area present since at least 2013 per satellite imagery | Entire impacted area |

¹ The Route 6 cherry-stem in the BLM’s LWC corporate GIS layer was created based on the paper maps completed with the inventory and is therefore not aligned to the on-the-ground route. The linear route on the map is true to the ground disturbance, and the intent of the cherry-stem is clearly stated in the 2001 field evaluation.

Naturalness: A complete summary of ground disturbances within the project area are presented in Table 3, including those in the LWC inventories and those present today. The extent of motorized disturbances has expanded since the 2001-2002 review.

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation: In the context of LWC inventories, recreation refers specifically to nonmotorized, nonmechanized recreation. BLM 1999 references a range of recreation opportunities across the entire Desolation Canyon inventory unit. Due to the dry environment, low elevation, steep slopes, and lack of vegetation, opportunities such as horse packing, backpacking, hunting, and winter recreation are infeasible and low-quality in the project area, and river running and fishing are not present. Hiking has the greatest potential to occur.

Compared to primitive and unconfined recreation, opportunities for solitude are more prevalent and high-quality due to the steep and rolling terrain and low recreational use. Camping in area A2 degrades opportunities for solitude due to vehicular and human noise. Bicycle use on the slopes similarly reduces opportunities for solitude as the slopes of Blue Castle and the Battleship may be seen throughout the surrounding area.

OTHER ACTIONS WITHIN THE UNIT

Within the unit, past and ongoing actions have influenced its wilderness characteristics. The following activities are ongoing within the unit:

- Standing SRPs for guided hunting throughout the unit
- Onshore camping associated with floating on the Green River in the far northern reaches of the unit (subunit 1)
- Grazing throughout the unit

In 2024, the relocation of a 46kV power line running from Columbia to Woodside was authorized which has the potential of adding 4,400 acres to subunit 8 on the west side of the Beckwith plateau (17 miles northwest of the project area).

3.2.2 ALTERNATIVE A - NO ACTION ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Under Alternative A, the proposed event would not take place. In absence of the event, it is reasonably foreseeable that these activities would continue and that the adverse effects they have on the LWC unit's naturalness would persist. All impacts are established enough that reclamation which could enhance naturalness are not reasonably foreseeable. Thus, not authorizing the event would neither enhance nor degrade the naturalness of the unit as ground impacts already exist and the site would continue to be used.

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation would continue unimpaired. There would be no noise and no crowds as a result of the event which could impair solitude in the surrounding area. Since no new disturbances would occur under this alternative, there is no anticipated change to the size of the LWC unit.

3.2.3 ALTERNATIVE B – PROPOSED ACTION ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

If Blue Castle, LLC is granted the proposed SRP, motorized vehicle use would be authorized on routes and camping areas which have existed since at least 1999, and mountain bike use would be authorized in a play area which has been used by motorized and mechanical bikes since at least 2013. The current condition and proposed use of the motorized routes are summarized in Table 3-1. These actions would perpetuate impacts that already exist in the unit:

Size: LWC unit boundaries are formed by roads maintained for regular vehicle use, routes identified within the BLM's Ground Transportation Linear Features inventory, land status boundaries, and developed rights-of-way. The size of an LWC inventory unit could consequently be increased by reclaiming a road or removing a structure and reduced by the construction thereof to change a unit's boundary or bisect it. Minor improvements to several existing, undesignated routes would be allowed under the Proposed Action to ensure full-sized vehicle access is possible for emergency egress (Figure 2). However, these improvements would not be designated for public use nor maintained post-event for regular use and thus would not cross the threshold for being boundary-altering wilderness inventory roads.

Naturalness: The event would occur on areas within the Desolation Canyon inventory unit which have been disturbed, per satellite imagery and LWC reports, for at least a decade. These features have impaired the naturalness of the unit since its inventory. However, being captured in the inventory indicates that they were deemed to not impair the unit's naturalness to the extent that they degrade its wilderness characteristics.

The riding areas, campsites, and access routes encompass approximately 167 acres, 0.09% of the Desolation Canyon LWC Unit and 0.3% of subunit 8. These disturbances are potentially visible from 8,345 acres of the main LWC unit (4.8%) and 6,358 acres of subunit 8 (11%). However, owing to the barren badland terrain, the tracks are low contrast on the landscape and do not impact the hillslopes' form, color, or texture as defined in BLM Policy Manual 8400 (BLM 1984). While they may impair the appearance of naturalness in the immediate vicinity, they are less likely to degrade it from farther distances.

The proposed event would perpetuate these existing impacts within a controlled environment with user education. No reclamation activities are proposed which would enhance the unit's naturalness, and no new ground disturbance is proposed which would further impair it. Minor improvements to certain routes for emergency access could marginally increase the close-range visibility of those routes by changing their visual profile (form). Event staff would educate visitors over the course of the weekend on Leave No Trace practices and patrol the camping area during evening hours to ensure compliance with stipulations and respond to problems and safety issues as they arise. As a result, the event is an opportunity for responsible recreation practices to be taught and shared within the mountain bike freeride user group, encouraging preservation of wilderness characteristics in the long term.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation: The recreation component of the LWC inventory process refers to nonmotorized, nonmechanized recreation.

The presence of many people in this small area and the noise they generate would reduce opportunities for solitude within the portion of the unit where the event is visible as well as any area where it can be heard. However, these impacts would only persist for the duration of the event itself.

3.2.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The proposed SRP would perpetuate ground impacts related to mountain biking and camping across the entire area, which would be utilized for the event weekend over the duration of the permit. The recreation site would be monitored for the five years following the permit to assess long-term impact and the effects of the event in relation to regular use. Impacts to opportunities for solitude would be only for the event weekend over the duration of the permit, and consequently would not have any long-term impacts. Cumulative impacts would result only from the combination of the event with typical recreational activities in the project area during the window when the event occurs.

4.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The issue identification Section 1.6 identifies issues analyzed in detail in Chapter 3. The issues were identified through the public and agency involvement process described below.

4.2 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 | A cultural resources Class III Intensive Field Survey of the area of potential effects with a buffer was conducted on July 11 th , 2024, by the Montgomery Archaeological Consultants resulting in 241.5 acres being inventoried (U24MQ0509). Two isolated finds were recorded and determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The BLM has made an undertaking determination of no historic properties affected directly and indirectly (physically, visually, auditorily and atmospherically). The Proposed Action would not have an adverse effect on the eligible historic property. The report was sent to State Historic Preservation Office August 8, 2024, to receive concurrence. |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Endangered Species Act Section 7 | Threatened and Endangered species are not present within the |

| Name | Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination | Findings & Conclusions |
|--|--|--|
| | | Proposed Action location. Designated Critical Habitat for Yellow-billed Cuckoo is 1.3 miles away and Mexican Spotted Owl is over 40 miles away. Additional analysis and consultation are not needed for this project. |
| Native American Nations and Tribal Organizations | Executive Order 13175, Executive Order 13007 | Executive Orders 13175 and 13007, the Presidential Memorandum of January 26, 2021, and Section 106 of the NHPA require federal agencies to conduct government-to-government tribal consultation prior to federal undertakings. Agency staff undertook an analysis to determine whether tribal consultation would be required or appropriate consistent with EO 13175 for this undertaking and the agency official concluded this undertaking would have tribal implications (EO 13175.1[a]; 2022 Presidential Memorandum on Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation, Section 4), or would be of interest to the tribes who consult with the PFO. Tribal consultation letters were sent on July 22 nd , 2024. |

4.3 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public was notified of the proposed project by posting information on the BLM’s ePlanning website on June 3, 2024. BLM posted the EA for a 30-day public comment period from August 9, 2024, through September 8, 2024.

4.4 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 |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| John Clevenger | Park Ranger | Chapter 3 and Appendix A |
| Bridget Murray | | Chapter 3 and Appendix A |
| Taylor Benson | Geologist | Appendix A |
| Bayley Wilmoth | Planning and Environmental Specialist | Quality Assurance and Appendix A |
| Johny Tallerico | Rangeland Management Specialist | Appendix A |
| Tyler Elgiar | Air Specialist | Appendix A |
| Sarah Baldwin | Wildlife Biologist | Appendix A |
| Jason Carlile | Rangeland Management Specialist | Appendix A |
| Holly Mitchell | Hydrologist | Appendix A |
| Emily Lessner | Paleontologist | Appendix A |
| Veronica Kratman | GIS Specialist | Appendix A |
| Dakota Ray | Natural Resource Specialist | Appendix A |
| Tyler Arnold | Fisheries Biologist | Appendix A |
| Clara Kimber | Archaeologist | Appendix A |
| David Palmer | Forester | Appendix A |

5.0 REFERENCES AND ACRONYMS

5.1 REFERENCES CITED

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Manual 8400 – Visual Resource Management (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 1984).
https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/mediacenter_blmpolicymanual8400.pdf
- Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands (Public) (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2021),
<https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2021-01/BLM-Policy-Manual-6310.pdf>.
- Handbook H-8320-1 – Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of Land Management 2014). Available online:
https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Media_Library_BLM_Policy_H-8320-1.pdf.
- Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Price, Utah: U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2008). Available online:
https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/67041/83197/99802/Price_Final_Plan.pdf.
- Utah Wilderness Inventory (Montana and Nevada: Bureau of Land Management, 1999). Available online:
<https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Utah%20Wilderness%20Inventory%201999.pdf>.
- Wilderness Characteristics Review: Desolation Canyon (Price, Utah: U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2007). Unpublished review documentation.
- Wilderness Inventory Evaluation – Revised Findings Regarding Wilderness Character (Price, UT: U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2002). Unpublished review documentation.

5.2 LIST OF ACRONYMS

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| SRP | Special Recreation Permit |
| PFO | Price Field Office |
| SRMA | Special Recreation Management Area |
| ERMA | Extensive Recreation Management Area |
| LUP | Land Use Plan |
| OHV | Off Highway Vehicle |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |

| | |
|-------|--|
| FLPMA | Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 |
| ID | Interdisciplinary |
| EMT | Emergency Medical Technician |
| RMP | 2008 Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan |
| LWC | Lands with Wilderness Characteristics |
| WSA | Wilderness Study Area |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| APE | Area of Potential Effect |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Office |

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)

Project Title: Blue Castle Free Ride Event

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-G020-2024-0010-EA

File/Serial Number: N/A

Project Leader: John Clevenger

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

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| Air Quality | NI | Air quality in Emery County is designated as attainment/unclassified for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The Proposed Action would not be anticipated to have an adverse impact on air quality. The Proposed Action would result in criteria and hazardous air pollutants associated with vehicle travel to and from the event location as well as small amounts of fugitive dust from mountain bikes used in the event. Emissions associated with the Proposed Action would occur on an annual basis throughout the duration of the SRPs. However, emissions would be intermittent, dispersed over a large area, and indistinguishable from background emissions as measured by monitors or predicted by models. | 05/31/24 | Tyler Elgiar |
| Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change | NI | The Proposed Action is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on greenhouse gases (GHGs) and climate change. GHG emissions associated with the Proposed Action would originate from vehicle travel to and from the event location. GHG emissions would occur on an annual basis throughout the duration | 05/31/24 | Tyler Elgiar |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|----------------|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | <p>of the SRPs. However, emissions would be intermittent, dispersed over a large area, and indistinguishable from background emissions as measured by monitors or predicted by models.</p> <p>Cumulative GHG emissions contribute to climate change, but it is the net-emissions that determine the impact on climate. The closer the 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 metric tons (mt) carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per year (e.g., power plant, landfill, etc.) or modifications of major sources with emission increases greater than 75,000 mt CO₂e per year. Additionally, the EPA requires annual reporting for facilities with stationary sources that emit 25,000 mt CO₂e per year to provide a basis for future policy decisions</p> | | |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|--------------------|---------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| | | and regulatory initiatives regarding GHG's. Maximum GHG emissions associated with the Proposed Action are estimated to be 21.24 mt CO ₂ e per year and would not trigger EPA rules, permitting, or reporting requirements. Since emissions would be below the EPA rules, they are close to net-zero. | | |
| BLM natural areas | NP | The Price RMP was reviewed as were the current GIS layers. There are no natural areas identified in the area of the Proposed Action. The nearest natural area is the Mexican Mountain, which is over 14 miles west of the event location. | 5/29/2024 | John Clevenger |
| Cultural Resources | NI | Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, its implementing regulations at Title 36 CFR 800, and the <i>State Protocol Agreement Between the Bureau of Land Management and the Utah State Historic Preservation Office Regarding the manner in which the Bureau of</i> | 8/8/2024 | Clara Kimber |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|----------------|---------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| | | <p><i>Land Management will meet its Responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act as provided for in the National Programmatic Agreement (2020), this project is a federal undertaking with the potential to effect historic properties (36 CFR 800.3([a]). Therefore, a Class III Intensive Field Survey to identify cultural sites and historic properties (NRHP-eligible sites) in the APE will be conducted.</i></p> <p>A cultural resources Class III Intensive Field Survey of the area of potential effects with a buffer was conducted on July 11th, 2024, by the Montgomery Archaeological Consultants resulting in 241.5 acres being inventoried (U24MQ0509). Two isolated finds were recorded and determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The BLM has made an undertaking determination of no historic properties affected directly and indirectly (physically,</p> | | |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | visually, auditorily and atmospherically). The Proposed Action would not have an adverse effect on the eligible historic property. The report was sent to State Historic Preservation Office August 8, 2024, to receive concurrence. | | |
| Native American Concerns | NI | Executive Orders 13175 and 13007, the Presidential Memorandum of January 26, 2021, and Section 106 of the NHPA require federal agencies to conduct government-to-government tribal consultation prior to federal undertakings. Agency staff undertook an analysis to determine whether tribal consultation would be required or appropriate consistent with EO 13175 for this undertaking and the agency official concluded this undertaking would have tribal implications (EO 13175.1[a]; 2022 Presidential Memorandum on Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation, Section 4), or would be of interest to the tribes who consult with the PFO. | 8/8/2024 | Clara Kimber |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|---|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | Tribal consultation letters were sent on July 22 nd , 2024. | | |
| Designated Areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern | NP | The Price RMP was reviewed as were the current GIS layers. There are no designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in the area of the Proposed Action. The nearest ACEC is the Tidwell Draw - uranium ACEC, which is over 11 miles west of the event location. | 5/29/2024 | John Clevenger |
| Designated Areas: Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) | NP | Per review of BLM Utah corporate data, there are no wild and scenic rivers within the event area. The nearest one is the recreational segment of the Green River WSR, which is over 3 miles northeast of the event location. | 5/29/2024 | John Clevenger |
| Wilderness | NI | Per GIS review, the event would be close to the Desolation Canyon wilderness: proposed camping area is 0.75 mile from the boundary, the proposed Blue Castle freeride area is 0.6 miles away, and the proposed Battleship freeride area is located on the hillslopes immediately beneath the | 6/27/2024 | Bridget Murray |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| | | <p>boundary (within 100 feet as the crow flies but separated by 30- to 50-foot cliffs). The wilderness goes to the top of the Blackhawk Formation cliffs of the Little Elliott Mesa. Consequently, bicycle use within wilderness would not be possible due to the natural barrier of the cliff drop-off. The sounds associated with the event (voices, vehicles, and music/announcements in the evenings) would reduce opportunities for solitude in the nearby parts of the wilderness for the duration of event activities. Activities could also be seen from the rim of the plateau. These effects would be temporary in nature. No other impacts to wilderness qualities would occur, nor would there be any long-term impacts post-event.</p> | | |
| Jurassic National Monument | NP | <p>Based on GIS review, the Proposed Action is outside the Jurassic National Monument. The Jurassic National Monument is over 31 miles northwest of the event location.</p> | 5/29/2024 | John Clevenger |
| National Historic Old Spanish Trail | NP | <p>The Price RMP was reviewed as were the</p> | 5/29/2024 | John Clevenger |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | current GIS layers. The Proposed Action is outside the Old Spanish Trail. The Old Spanish Trail is over 5 miles south of the event location. | | |
| San Rafael Swell Recreation Area | NP | Based on GIS review, the Proposed Action is outside the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area. The San Rafael Swell Recreation Area is more than 14 miles west of the event location. | 5/29/2024 | John Clevenger |
| Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) | NP | The Price RMP was reviewed as were the current GIS layers. There are no designated WSAs in the area of the Proposed Action. The nearest WSA managed by the PFO is Desolation Canyon WSA which is over 4 miles northeast of the event location. | 5/29/2024 | John Clevenger |
| Environmental Justice | NI | The study area is Emery County. The reference area is the State of Utah. According to the EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/) and the BLM Socioeconomic Profile Tool (https://headwatersecon | 05/28/2024 | Bayley Wilmoth |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|----------------|---------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| | | <p>omics.org/tools/blm-profiles/), the following average percentages of environmental justice communities of concern occur within the study area.</p> <p>Minority – 10% of the population in the study area, Emery County, are minority populations. The reference area, the State of Utah, has minority populations that make up 22% of the population. Of the total minority population in the study area only 1% is American Indian. According to BLM guidance for environmental justice, a minority community of concern is present if the percentage of the population identified as belonging to a minority group in a study area is equal to or greater than 50% of the population or if the minority group population percentage is greater than 110% of the reference area minority population. In this case neither one of those indicators apply; therefore, a minority environmental justice community of concern is not present.</p> | | |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|----------------|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | <p>Low-Income – 32% of the population in the study area are low-income. The reference area has low-income populations that make up 26% of the population. According to BLM guidance for environmental justice screening, a low-income community of concern is present if the population experiencing poverty in the study area is near, at, or below 200% of the Federal poverty threshold or if the population experiencing poverty is at or above 50% the population within the study area. In this case the low-income population in the study area exceeds the reference area. Therefore, a low-income community of concern is present.</p> <p>BLM does not believe the Proposed Action would pose any disproportionate adverse impacts to identified environmental justice populations because the proposed event is a short-term, public event at a previously disturbed site that would be held</p> | | |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|--|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | to the Design Features, stipulations, and bond mentioned in the EA. This finding could change based on information received from public comment, tribal consultation and/or local knowledge. | | |
| Farmlands (prime/unique) | NP | After an online review on Web Soil Survey (accessed 8/6/2024). There are no prime or unique farmlands in the area. The closest prime or unique farmlands is a prime farmland if drained that is approximately 1.26 miles away. | 5/30/2024 | J. Tallerico |
| Fuels/Fire Management | NI | The Proposed Action would not impact fire and fuels management because the act of having a bike competition would not create vegetation, ground disturbance (due to the area having disturbance currently) or prevent the BLM from being able to conduct fire/fuels management as necessary. | 5/28/2024 | Dakota Ray |
| Geology / Minerals / Energy Production | NP | According to Mineral and Land Records System GIS data, there are no mining claims, mines, or mineral leases near the project location. The closest mining claims are 7.5 | 08/6/2024 | Taylor Benson |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|-------------|------------------|
| | | miles to the south. The closest mine is a community pit in Grand County 2 miles to the southeast. The closest oil and gas lease is 7 miles to the southeast. Therefore, no further analysis is required. | | |
| Lands/Access | NP | Per review of the master title plat, the nearest existing authorization is 1.4 miles away and is not affected by the proposal, and per the Proposed Action access would occur within existing disturbances and camping zones. Therefore, no further analysis is required. | 5/30/24 | Veronica Kratman |
| Lands with Wilderness Characteristics | PI | The free-ride areas, campsites, and some access roads are within LWC unit NLCS0000935 (Desolation Canyon), subunit 8. Potential impacts to lands with wilderness characteristics are analyzed in detail in Section 3.2. | 6/27/2024 | Bridget Murray |
| Livestock Grazing | NI | The Proposed Action occurs in the Desert allotment where grazing begins November 1 st each year. However, from site knowledge and provided pictures, the Proposed Action does not take place in an area that is normally grazed. | 5/30/2024 | J. Tallerico |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|----------------|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | <p>The anticipated impacts of the Proposed Action would not require further analysis.</p> <p>Rangeland Health Standards incorporate many resources such as upland soils, riparian habitat, and hydrology. If a resource is impacted by the proposed project, it will be covered in its respective section included in this checklist.</p> | | |
| Paleontology | NI | <p>The proposed project area consists of a geologic unit of Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 3 (Mancos Shale, Blue Gate Member) indicating some likelihood of encountering paleontological resources. A paleontological survey was completed of the proposed project area on 5/31/23 (by E. Lessner). One instance of invertebrate paleontological resources was identified on the surface, and there are no known vertebrate fossils within the project area. So, impacts to paleontological resources would not be expected as a result of</p> | 5/31/24 | E. Lessner |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| | | the proposed event. If concentrated paleontological resources are encountered, activity in that area at that location must stop and the BLM Price Field Office Authorized Officer must be notified. | | |
| Plants: Invasive and Noxious Weeds | NI | Surface disturbing activities have the potential to introduce or spread noxious and invasive weeds. After online GIS review, there is potential for Russian Knapweed to be present; however, with knowledge of the area and pictures of the site, it is very unlikely for Russian Knapweed to be present. The site location is constantly disturbed by other recreationists and shows no sign of noxious weeds establishing or spreading. The soil type on site is also largely void of plant life and is not good for growing conditions. The BLM currently sprays in other areas surrounding Green River and would add monitoring this location after the event's completion to ensure no spread or establishment of noxious or invasive weeds. | 5/30/2024 | J.Tallerico |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|--|---------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| Plants: Native Communities | NI | With knowledge of the location and using soil type, there is very little vegetation currently on site. The location of the Proposed Action is constantly disturbed by other recreationists, and the soil type is not good for plant growth. Impacts to the site are not expected to need further analysis. | 5/30/2024 | J.Tallerico |
| Plants: BLM Sensitive | NP | Based on review of known occurrences, soils maps, existing vegetation and elevation, potential habitat for BLM sensitive species does not occur within the Project Location. | 5-24-24 | Sarah Baldwin |
| Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate | NP | An IPaC report (USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation) generated on 4-25-24 states that the following species or their habitats may occur within the Project Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ute Ladies'-tresses • San Rafael Cactus • Jones Cycladenia A site visit conducted on 4-25-24 by BLM biologists found no suitable habitat for any of the above species. | 5-24-24 | Sarah Baldwin |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|----------------------------|---------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| Rangeland Health Standards | | Rangeland Health Standards incorporate many resources such as upland soils, riparian habitat, and hydrology. If a resource is impacted by the proposed project, it will be covered in its respective section included in this checklist. | 6/3/24 | J.Tallerico |
| Recreation | PI | The proposed activity would create recreation opportunities for the duration of the event. These are analyzed in detail in Section 3.1. | 5/31/2024 | John Clevenger |
| Socioeconomics | NI | BLM recreation economics are summarized according to the BLM's Valuing America's Public Lands 2023 Data, which reflects economic contributions from resource use. For this data, jobs are considered an annual average of the number of full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees, and do not equal full-time equivalents ² . Additionally, outputs are considered the market value of production of a good or service and can be expressed in terms of total sales value, or in terms of the cost to | 07/24/24 | Bayley Wilmoth |

² [Socioeconomic Data | Bureau of Land Management \(blm.gov\)](https://www.blm.gov/10000017/10000017/10000017/10000017/10000017)

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | <p>produce a good or service¹. For the Proposed Action, BLM would issue three permits for commercial operation at the proposed bike event. These permits would allow operators to employ staff members for eight days a year from 2024 to 2033. Operators would anticipate hiring new employees for this event (Section 2.2). Outputs would be anticipated from this event due to the presence of commercial vendors and registration fees. However, employment would be limited to the event period each year, and outputs would be to the limited number of vendors and event duration. Therefore, impacts to socioeconomics would not be anticipated to a degree requiring further detailed analysis.</p> | | |
| Soils: Physical / Biological | NI | The site has been previously disturbed by other recreationists, and it is very likely that the disturbance will continue to happen by general public recreationist. After review of Web Soil Survey (accessed | 6/3/2024 | J.Tallerico |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | 6/3/24), the soils are rated as erosive, but the event would not be anticipated to cause impacts needing further analysis. | | |
| Visual Resources | NI | Per RMP GIS data, the access routes, camping, Blue Castle freeride area, and most of the Battleship area are all within Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III areas. The highest-elevation portion of the Battleship area (approx. 14 acres) is within a VRM Class II area. Management activities in Class II areas may be seen but should not attract attention, while those in Class III areas may attract attention but may not dominate the landscape. The proposed event would occur only in areas which are already impacted, and the high volume of visitors at a single time would perpetuate those impacts. The campsite is distinctly noticeable to due denuded vegetation and soil compaction changing the texture and color of the flat area; these impacts would not be added to and are within the thresholds allowed by Class III. | 6/27/2024 | Bridget Murray |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| | | <p>Impacts on the hillslopes are visually apparent as lines following natural contours and texture changes due to soil compaction. They are most prominent in the lower slopes and thus within the Class III threshold; activities here would not substantively add to the many existing tracks and features. The higher slopes in the Class II are less traveled and less apparent from observation points such as the access road and camping area; consequently, they are within the thresholds allowed by Class III.</p> | | |
| <p>Wastes (hazardous/solid)</p> | <p>NI</p> | <p>There are no known waste sites in the SRP area. The proponent included in their operating plan measures to contain human and other waste, and measure to clean up waste including micro-waste left by the event. These include trash cans, porta-toilets, and a post-event clean-up operation. BLM would also conduct post-clean-up monitoring. No chemicals subject in reportable quantities under SARA Title III would be used,</p> | <p>5/31/2024</p> | <p>John Clevenger</p> |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|--|---------------|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| | | <p>produced, stored, transported, or disposed in association with the project. With the implementation of the operating plan and monitoring, impacts from wastes are not expected; therefore, detailed analysis is not required.</p> | | |
| <p>Water: Groundwater Quality</p> | <p>NI</p> | <p>Per ArcGIS data review, the Proposed Action area is not located over any sensitive ground water recharge zones. Additionally, the Proposed Action would only occur in previously disturbed surface areas. Therefore, groundwater resources would not be impacted by the Proposed Action.</p> | <p>6/10/2024</p> | <p>Holly Mitchell</p> |
| <p>Water: Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)</p> | <p>NI</p> | <p>High usage of trails, camping and travel of large groups has the potential of disturbing surface flow patterns and altering hydrologic conditions. Alterations could cause rills and gullies to form on the landscape. Applying Design Features (Section 2.2.1) and Special Recreation Permit Stipulations (Appendices B and C)—particularly <i>BLM Utah Terms and Stipulations</i></p> | <p>6/10/2024</p> | <p>Holly Mitchell</p> |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|--|---------------|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| | | <p>Section F and <i>Price Field Office Supplemental Stipulations</i> Sections E-7,10,14 and Section H—to protect water resources would avoid or mitigate impacts to hydrologic conditions, reducing the potential for impacts from the proposed event and group size. Therefore, further analysis is not needed as impacts would not be anticipated to a degree that could be considered significant.</p> | | |
| <p>Water: Municipal Watershed / Drinking Water Source Protection</p> | <p>NI</p> | <p>There are no Ground Water Zones of Protection located in the Proposed Action area.</p> <p>Approximately 98% of the Proposed Action would occur within a Surface Source Protection Zone 4, which means it is furthest from the source zone (the Green River Intake) that is used for municipal water. Approximately 2% intersects within a Surface Source Protection Zone 1. Zone 1 encompasses the area on both sides of the source, 1/2 mile on each side measured laterally from the high-water</p> | <p>6/10/2024</p> | <p>Holly Mitchell</p> |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
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| | | <p>mark of the source (bank full), and from 100 feet downstream of the point of diversion to 15 miles upstream, or to the limits of the watershed or to the state line, whichever comes first. However, the section that intersects Zone 1 is all on established paved road known as North Long Street.</p> <p>Due to the proposed Design Features (Section 2.3.1), stipulations, no proposal for new ground disturbance, the proximity to drinking water resources, and the definitions brought forth by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality drinking water rules (https://documents.deq.utah.gov/drinking-water/rules/DDW-2018-003500.pdf), impacts to drinking water would be not be expected to a degree requiring further detailed analysis.</p> <p>Specific stipulations (Appendices B and C) to protect the Municipal Watershed/ Drinking Water Sources include <i>BLM Utah Terms and Stipulations</i> Section F:</p> | | |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|---|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | Environmental and Resource Protection – leave no trace principles and <i>Price Field Office Supplemental Stipulations</i> Sections E-7,10,14, and Section H. | | |
| Water: Streams, Riparian Wetlands, Floodplains | NI | <p>There are no streams, riparian, wetlands, or floodplains present in the Proposed Action free ride and proposed camping locations per GIS review.</p> <p>According to National Wetland Inventory (accessed 6/6/24), there are two Riverine (R4SBJ) areas that intersect the proposed routes accessing the free ride and camping sites. However, the proposed routes are pre-disturbed and whether the event was approved or not, use would continue by the public.</p> <p>Additionally, applying Design Features (Section 2.2.1) and Special Recreation Permit Stipulations (Appendices B and C)—particularly <i>BLM Utah Terms and Stipulations</i> Section F and <i>Price Field Office Supplemental Stipulations</i> Sections E-7,10,14 and Section H—to protect water</p> | 6/10/2024 | Holly Mitchell |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | resources would avoid or mitigate impacts, reducing the potential for impacts from the proposed event access roads intersecting streams, riparian wetlands, or floodplains. Therefore, further analysis is not needed as impacts would not be anticipated to a degree that could be considered significant. | | |
| Water: Surface Water Quality | NI | Surface disturbance in and around the stream from large groups could create increased sedimentation and runoff carrying constitutes to the stream. By applying the Design Features in section 2.3.1, and Special Recreation Permit Stipulations (Appendices B and C). Particularly <i>BLM Utah Terms and Stipulations</i> Section F: Environmental and Resource Protection – leave no trace principles, and <i>Price Field Office Supplemental Stipulations</i> Sections E-7,10,14, and Section H that relate to water resources, would avoid or mitigate impacts to these resources. Thus, reducing the impact to | 6/10/2024 | Holly Mitchell |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|------------------------|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | these resources and further analysis is not anticipated. | | |
| Water: Water Rights | NI | The proposed SRPs are proposed to be surface actions. In the Proposed Action, a 60-gallon tank of water would be used to water the jumps to harden them and help with dust control. The source would be from a local RV spot in town. Because the source is from a treated municipal source, not being pulled from the river directly, in addition to the application of the Design Features in Section 2.2.1 and Special Recreation Permit Stipulations (Appendices B and C)—particularly <i>BLM Utah Terms and Stipulations</i> Section F: Environmental and Resource Protection – leave no trace principles, and <i>Price Field Office Supplemental Stipulations</i> Sections E-7,10,14, and Section H— that relate to water resources, impacts to water rights would not be anticipated. | 6/10/2024 | Holly Mitchell |
| Wild Horses | NP | After GIS review, the proposed project is not | 5/31/24 | Jason Carlile |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|--|---------------|--|------------------|----------------------|
| | | <p>within a Wild Horse or Burro Herd Management Area (HMA). The closest HMA is the Sinbad Wild Burro Herd located over 15 miles to the southwest. Therefore, no further analysis is required.</p> | | |
| <p>Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)</p> | <p>NI</p> | <p>A site visit by a BLM biologist on 4-25-24 found no suitable ground-nesting migratory bird habitat within the project boundaries. Additionally, the site was already highly disturbed from previous human activity, and the Proposed Action would take place outside of the breeding season for any migratory bird species. Because of this, the Proposed Action would not be expected to have an impact on migratory birds or their habitats to a degree requiring additional detailed analysis.</p> | <p>5-24-24</p> | <p>Sarah Baldwin</p> |
| <p>Wildlife: Fish (designated or non-designated)</p> | <p>NP</p> | <p>Fish are not present in the proposed event area. Critical habitat for designated and non-designated fish is over ½ mile away from the proposed event. The proposed event would not occur in any known riparian zones or</p> | <p>5/30/2024</p> | <p>Tyler Arnold</p> |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|---|---------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | | perennial streams significant to Colorado River Fishes. Travel to the event would be conducted on existing roads, not creating new travel ways impacting riparian or critical habitat. | | |
| Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated | NI | The Project Location is within ½ mile of RMP designated desert Bighorn sheep habitat, though the event is not planning to go up into the cliff areas above the established trails. The project location contains no water sources, and a site visit conducted by a BLM biologist on 4-25-24 found that the project location hosts very little vegetation, which would give bighorn sheep no reason to descend the cliffs down to the event space. The Project Location is entirely located within RMP designated pronghorn habitat. Per the site visit, the area is already highly disturbed from human activity and is lacking the water and vegetation resources that would make the site attractive to use by pronghorn. | 5-24-24 | Sarah Baldwin |
| Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, | NP | Per the 1997 Wiley GIS habitat model, and an IPaC report (USFWS | 5-24-24 | Sarah Baldwin |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| Proposed or Candidate | | <p><u>Information for Planning and Consultation</u>) generated on 4-25-24, the following species or their habitats may occur within the project location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow-billed Cuckoo • Mexican Spotted Owl • Monarch butterfly <p>A site visit conducted on 4-25-24 by a BLM biologist found the project location to be unsuitable for use by Yellow-billed Cuckoo (YBCU) because there was no riparian habitat within ½ mile, and the area was totally devoid of the required overstory vegetation. Designated Critical habitat for YBCU is located 1.3 miles to the west of the project location, along the Green River. The site also lacks the canyon habitat necessary for Mexican Spotted Owl nesting habitat, and the vegetation composition for foraging habitat. Designated Critical habitat for MSO is located approximately 40 miles to the north.</p> | | |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|--|---------------|---|---------------|----------------------|
| | | <p>Additionally, the site did not contain the riparian habitat that would support the milkweed necessary for monarch butterfly reproduction, nor the flowering vegetation necessary for supporting migrating adult butterflies.</p> | | |
| <p>Wildlife: BLM Sensitive Species</p> | <p>NI</p> | <p>Based on the elevation, geology and vegetation of the project location, in addition to the GIS Conterminous United States (CONUS) (USGS GAP analysis project) habitat layers, the surrounding habitat is potentially suitable for use by the following BLM sensitive species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burrowing Owl • Kit Fox • White-tailed prairie dog • Townsend's big-eared bat • Spotted bat • Fringed myotis • Big free-tailed bat <p>A site visit was done by a BLM biologist on 4-25-24 to assess the suitability of the habitat. The project location, and surrounding area, was not suitable for use by kit fox. It did appear to be suitable for use by white-tailed prairie dogs</p> | <p>8-6-24</p> | <p>Sarah Baldwin</p> |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
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| | | <p>and burrowing owls, though there was no evidence (mounds, scat, fresh digs, etc.) found of them during the visit. The site is located within ½ a mile of active human developments and is already highly disturbed through frequent human use.</p> <p>The cliffs above and surrounding the project location contain suitable roosting habitat for big free-tailed bats, but the Proposed Action would not authorize activities that would disturb these habitats. The project location lacks the riparian habitat that would attract insects for bats, making it an unlikely foraging location for the other bat species.</p> | | |
| Woodlands/Forestry | NP | There are no forest or woodland vegetation cover types in or around the project area based on review of site photos. This resource will not require any additional analysis | 5/30/2024 | David Palmer |
| Public Health and Safety | NI | Bike competitions have inherent risk. The site has challenging topography and physical characteristics which may result in accidents if maneuvers are | 5/31/2024 | John Clevenger |

| Resource/Issue | Determination | Rationale for Determination | Review Date | Assigned Staff |
|----------------|---------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| | | <p>improperly executed by the competitors. To protect the spectators, there would be a buffer separating them from the competitors. In case of an emergency, the proponent has committed to have an ambulance at the event. Public health and safety do not need to be analyzed in detail because the proponent has committed to the above measures and complied with BLM requirements to appropriately insure the event.</p> | | |

APPENDIX A-2: FINAL REVIEW

| Reviewer Title | Signature |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Environmental Coordinator | |
| Authorized Officer | |

APPENDIX B: BLM UTAH TERMS AND STIPULATIONS

A. GENERAL

1. Permits issued for more than one year are subject to annual validation. To secure validation the permit holder must:
 - a. have performed satisfactorily under the terms and conditions of this permit and be in conformance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, postings, and written requirements applicable to the area and operation covered by the permit,
 - b. ensure that all persons operating under the permit have obtained all required Federal, State, and local licenses, certifications, or registrations,
 - c. have on file, with the office issuing the permit, current insurance that meets or exceeds the BLM's minimum insurance requirements for the event or activity and identifies the United States Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management as additional insured, and
 - d. have no outstanding, past due, or unpaid billing notices.
2. Permittees may not leave unattended personal property on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management for a period of more than 48 hours without written permission of the authorized officer, with the exception that vehicles may be parked in designated parking areas for up to 14 consecutive days. Unattended personal property is subject to disposition under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended.
3. The permit only authorizes the use for the activity, the time(s) and in the area(s) specifically described in the approved area(s) of operation section of this permit (page one of Form 2930-2) or on the list of authorized routes or maps attached to the SRP.
4. The permittee must maintain on file with the BLM a current and correct list of employees who will be conducting services for the company on public land. Persons providing services under this permit must be an employee of the permittee.
5. Placement of caches of supplies and food or equipment for future activities is not allowed without written permission of the authorized officer.

6. The permittee and any persons providing services under this permit must present or display a copy of the Special Recreation Permit (Form 2930-2) to an authorized officers-representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request to determine the validity of the permit, ascertain if the group has a copy of the permit and are operating within authorization (locations and activities), check all required equipment, and to orient trip participants about the use of public lands and safety.
7. The permittee shall post a copy of the Special Recreation Permit (Form 2930-2) and these special stipulations in prominent view where all participants and public may view them (e.g., at the start of an event, staging area, in a commercial outfitters office or on their website, etc.).
8. If the permittee wishes to sell or otherwise terminate his or her business and desires that permit privileges be transferred to a new owner, the permittee shall notify the authorized officer in advance, in writing, and receive advance written approval for the permit transfer. Additionally, the permittee shall advise the authorized officer in advance of any action that would result in a change in ownership or controlling business interest.
9. When a non-permitted company/group (e.g., booking agent, advertiser) is working with a commercially permitted company to provide a service on public lands, the advertising must reflect this partnership. For example, Company Y is not permitted but they work with Company X who is permitted. Company Y must include 'working in conjunction with Company X, a commercially permitted outfitter on all advertisements.

B. FINANCIAL

1. All fees associated with commercial use are established by the BLM Director, updated every three years based on the Implicit Price Deflator Index, and published in the Federal Register. Commercial use fees are based on a percentage (3% as of November 2017) of the adjusted gross revenue derived from use authorized under the Special Recreation Permit. The permittee will pay at least the minimum annual fee (\$130.00 as of May 2023), plus any commercial use fees due in excess of the minimum fee. Additionally, if more than 50 hours of BLM staff time is required for processing the permit, cost recovery of direct expenses related to the permit will be charged. If the 50-hour cost recovery threshold is anticipated to be exceeded, then recovery of costs begins with the first hour.

2. When Special Area fees are applicable, commercial operators must collect the fees from their guests, spectators, or participants, and list the Special Area fee as a separate item assessed by BLM on trip invoices. At the end of each use season, the permittee must include a trip-by-trip accounting of the number of guests using the Special Areas in their year-end post use report.
3. A minimum annual fee or prepayment of estimated use fees is due prior to use occurring. This amount is based on either the amount of fees paid the previous year or an annual revenue estimate agreed to by both the permittee and the authorized officer. For commercial use, periodic payments are allowed if the prepayment amount due exceeds \$1,000.00. At least 25% of the total amount due must be paid prior to use.
4. The permittee must submit a post use report (see Appendix A) thirty days after the last use of the permit in a calendar year, or as agreed upon with the field office administering the permit. Alternative reporting arrangements may be established by written agreement with the authorized officer. An extension of this due date may be approved by the issuing office on a case-by-case basis. The report must contain a trip-by-trip log of trip location, beginning and ending dates of each trip, number of clients, number of guides, and gross receipts for the trip. In reporting gross receipts, the outfitter will report all payments made by the customer including, but not limited to, activity-related equipment rental, gratuities, donations, and gifts, with the only exceptions being state and local sales tax and retail sales of durable goods that remain the property of the customer and have utility after the activity. The request for deductions based on pre- and post- trip transportation and lodging expenses and percentage of time on public land, if being claimed, must also be submitted at this time. Requests for transportation and lodging deductions must be accompanied by copies of supporting receipts documenting proof of payment.
5. The permittee must submit a post use report to the authorized officer for every year the permit is in effect. If the post use report is not received by the established deadline, the following late fee schedule, set by the Utah BLM Director, will be initiated:
 - a. More than 15 calendar days but less than 30 calendar days after the due date: \$125
 - b. More than 30 calendar days after the due date, but less than 45 calendar days: \$250
6. Post use reports submitted more than 45 calendar days after the due date may result in criminal, civil, and/or administrative action to protect the interest of the United States.
7. The permittee must maintain the following internal accounting records pertaining to the permit for a minimum of three years after the expiration of the permit:
 - a. W-2 records or a similar record of employment for all employees conducting activities under the permit,
 - b. a record of all financial relationships with booking agents or advertisers,
 - c. a record of all receipts or compensation including payments, gratuities, donations, gifts, bartering, etc., received from any source during activities conducted under the permit, and
 - d. a record of all payments made by the permittee and claimed as a deduction in the permittee's fee submission.
 - e. a complete and reconcilable accounting system that includes the following items:

- i. customer cash receipt deposit ledger or statements. These include the deposit transactions with continuous sum totals.
- ii. bank statements/ledgers, or the deposit slip ledger receipts

C. INSURANCE

1. Self-insured, Federal, and State Government agencies are not required to list the United States Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management as an additional insured. In lieu of insurance, a written statement is required from the comptroller or risk manager that the SRP activity is in fact agency sponsored and the agency accepts liability. If a state or state subdivision, or quasi-governmental agency is not self-insured, all insurance requirements apply.
2. At a minimum, the permittee shall have in force a property damage, personal injury, and comprehensive public liability insurance policy that meets or exceeds the BLM’s minimum insurance requirements for the event or activity.

General Guidelines for Minimum Insurance Requirements

| SRP Event or Activity | Per Occurrence | Per Annual Aggregate |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|
| Low Risk: general non-competitive and noncommercial activities such as group camping, group activities, mounted orienteering, backpacking, or dog trials. | \$300,000 | \$600,000 |
| Moderate Risk: whitewater boating, horse endurance rides, OHV events, mountain bike races, rock climbing (with ropes), ultra-light outings, rodeos | \$500,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| High Risk: bungee jumping, speed record events, unaided rock climbing, aerial or aerial delivery | \$1,000,000 | \$2,000,000 - \$10,000,000 |

3. The policy shall state that the insurance company shall have no right of subrogation against the United States of America.
4. Such insurance must name the United States Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management as an additional insured and provide for specific coverage of the permittee’s contractually assumed obligation to indemnify the United States.
5. The permit is not valid unless the permittee maintains a current authenticated certificate of the required insurance on file with the office issuing the permit. The insurance need only be valid during periods of actual use (which may include a set-up and break-down period).

6. The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States against any responsibility or liability for damage, death, injury, or loss to persons and property which may occur during the permitted use period or as a result of such use.
7. The name of the insured on the insurance policy must be the same as the name on the permit. Those permittees holding insurance policies which only insure the permittee and not the permittee's employees must ensure that their employees also have the required insurance in effect, and that a certificate of insurance is furnished to the authorized officer.

D. MARKING OF OUTFITTER VEHICLES

Every street-legal motor vehicle used to transport clients or equipment shall be marked with at least one sign, decal, or placard on each side of the vehicle. The sign shall at a minimum include the company name and must be readable from a distance of 50 feet.

E. PRE-TRIP ITINERARY

If required, the permittee will file a notice of intent in writing with the BLM prior to each trip. The notice of intent must specify the intended dates of the trip, number of clients, number of guides, name of the lead guide and area to be visited, including the location of camps. See Special Recreation Permit Details on page one of this document for itinerary requirements for this permit.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE PROTECTION

All activities must conform to *Leave No Trace* principles.

1. For all activities and at all base camps with locations served/supported by a motorized vehicle, the permittee must have a toilet system that allows for the proper carry-out and disposal of solid human body waste in a responsible and lawful manner that is adequate for the size of the group and length of the trip. Toilets must be accessible for use by passengers and crew at all sites where a company motorized vehicle is present, except in developed locations where public restrooms are provided. In locations remote from a permittee's vehicle, solid human waste must be cat holed in a sunny location in bare soil or carried out (unless otherwise stipulated). Toilet paper must be carried out and not buried or burned.
2. Cans, rubbish, and other trash shall not be discarded, buried, or dumped on public lands or related waters. Wet garbage such as eggshells, orange peels, leftover solid food, bones, melon rinds, etc., must be carried out. Trash cleanup at campsites and day use areas will include all litter or discarded items including small items such as bottle caps, cigarette butts and micro-trash.

3. Washing or bathing with soap is not permitted in tributary streams, springs or other natural water sources. Dishwater must be strained prior to dispersal (scattering). Dishwater and bathwater may not be dispersed within 100 feet of streams, springs, or other natural water sources.
4. The permittee will be responsible to ensure that historical, archaeological, cultural (including paleontological resources), or ecological values are not damaged, destroyed, or removed by any participants during authorized activities.
5. The permittee must conduct operations authorized by the permit in accordance with applicable BLM management plans and the permittee's own operating plan submitted to the BLM in support of this permit.
6. The number of participants on any trip, including guides, may not exceed the number specified in the permittee's operating plan and approved permit. The exception to this requirement is over-the-road bus tours using state and Federal highway and class B county roads.
7. No camping is permitted within 300 feet of a water source other than perennial streams unless prior written permission is received from the authorizing officer.

G. FIRES

This permit does not waive any applicable fire restrictions and orders that may affect the use of campfires, charcoal or cooking fires. The following stipulations apply unless specifically waived by written permission of the authorized officer:

1. At sites accessed by the permittee's motor vehicle(s), the permittee must provide its own fuel wood.
2. At sites accessed by the permittee's motor vehicle(s), the permittee must use a fire pan to contain the fires, ash, and charcoal. Charcoal and ash from the fire pan must be hauled out.
3. Gathering wood from standing trees, live or dead, is prohibited.
4. Use of dead and down wood is permitted only at backcountry sites not accessed by the permittee's motor vehicle(s). In such cases, if a fire pan is not used, burn all wood to ash and naturalize the area before leaving.
5. Scatter fuel wood piles and rock lined fire rings before leaving the site.

H. INFORMED RISK

1. The permittee shall inform clients of the inherent risks involved with the activity.

2. The permittee shall review potential safety concerns, contingency plans and potential consequences with its clients prior to operations.
 3. The permittee shall utilize the appropriate and proper equipment and gear for the activity.
- (1) The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization are made aware of the physical safety hazards associated with abandoned mine openings and the potential for encountering abandoned mines within the permitted area. The permittee must present or display a copy of the attached *Utah Abandoned Mine Safety: Stay Out and Stay Alive!* Brochure in prominent view where all participants and public may view it. To obtain additional copies of the brochure, contact your local BLM office.

I. SAFETY AND EQUIPMENT

1. The permittee will ensure that activities are conducted in compliance with all laws and regulations relating to vehicle operations, land use restrictions, food handling, and any other applicable regulations.
2. Every person serving as a guide on public land must at a minimum be trained and currently certified in Basic First Aid and Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Each guide must have legible copies of certification cards in his/her possession while operating under a BLM Special Recreation Permit in Utah. In addition, certification cards must be filed at the permittee's headquarters and available for BLM review if requested.
3. The following equipment must be carried on all commercial trips:
 - a. A first aid kit adequate to accommodate each activity, group, or subgroup will be carried on all trips.
 - b. Adequate repair kits and spare supplies appropriate for the trip and activity.
4. The following procedures must be followed during all commercial activities:
 - a. Unless specifically authorized in the permit, discharge of firearms is allowed only for legal pursuit of game animals by a licensed hunter.
 - b. Use of explosives and fireworks is prohibited.
5. Equipment used would be washed prior to use to remove mud and debris that may contain invasive or noxious weed seeds and help to reduce the chance of invasive or noxious weed spread in construction corridors.

APPENDIX C: PFO TERMS AND STIPULATIONS

A. GENERAL

- B. This permit authorizes recreational use of public lands administered by the Price Field Office. The use of public lands authorized by this permit will be in accordance with the signed permit, plan of operations and attached map, unless otherwise changed or modified by the terms, conditions, and/or stipulations of this permit. All activities to be engaged in must be specified in the operating plan.
- C. Post-use reports, requests for amendments (locations and activities), cache proposals, and changes to operating plans are due on November 15 of each year. Updated price and staff lists, insurance, and the minimum use fee are due February 15. Proof of renewal of licenses and registrations are due at time of expiration.
- D. Pre-trip itineraries are required as follows:
 - One week in advance for use in any designated wilderness area, year-round
 - One week in advance for use in the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area from March 1 to May 31 and September 1 to November 31
 - Two weeks in advance for any trips utilizing a cache (prior authorization required)
 - Two weeks in advance for trips to Jurassic National Monument
 - Two weeks in advance for all trips where participants will be camping in the Price Field office.

The SRP Coordinator will arrange on-site meetings during at least one trip annually to monitor permit compliance. If none of the above apply, the permittee will submit pre-trip itineraries and work with the Coordinator to schedule an on-site visit. Failure to do so may result in probationary status. A site visit is not required if the operator is not conducting business on Price Field Office lands that year.

- E. The permittee is responsible for ensuring all stipulations are followed by the business, guides, and clients, including equipment, web and marketing content, field conduct, and timely responses to administrative matters.
- F. The permittee is responsible for knowing where wilderness study areas (WSA), wilderness, and other special management areas are and knowing and complying with motorized travel designations. This SRP is not a license to do anything inconsistent with these management designations.
- G. Unless use allocations are in place, the public lands will generally remain available on a first-come first-served basis to as many other commercial and private users as desire to use them, except as otherwise provided for in these stipulations. Nothing herein implies that the first permittee into any area has been authorized an exclusive use privilege. The permittee shall not interfere with any other uses, recreational or otherwise.

- H. Permittees are responsible for paying any additional special area fees, including those associated with campgrounds, river use, or Jurassic National Monument, at time of use.
- I. The BLM has no authority to permit or regulate use of non-BLM land (private, State, and other Federal) unless provided for by cooperative agreement. Issuance of this permit does not convey or imply permission to operate on such lands nor on BLM lands outside of the Price Field Office (Carbon and Emery Counties). Permittees are responsible for maintaining accurate maps of administrative boundaries.
- J. The BLM reserves the right to limit group size and/or number of groups should it become apparent that, during the term of this permit, the concentrated use is resulting in adverse environmental and/or social impacts.
- K. The BLM reserves the right to schedule mandatory pre or post season meetings to discuss any issues or items associated with this permit. Each permittee (or a representative of the organization) shall be expected to attend and participate in these meetings
- L. The BLM reserves the right to modify permit terms and stipulations at any time. Such amendments will be discussed at the end of each use season and agreed to by both parties prior to authorization for the following use season.

B. SUPPLEMENTAL STIPULATIONS FOR PERMITTEES USING OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES AND MOUNTAIN BIKES

1. Only routes specifically approved in the permittee's operating plan may be utilized.
2. Permittees must be familiar with and comply with State of Utah OHV laws. All activities and activity participants must follow state regulations and manufacturer's recommendations regarding operations.
3. OHV operators must be familiar with and comply with BLM's OHV designations whether posted on the ground or not.
4. Permittees must operate in accordance with 43 CFR 8341 concerning OHV use on public lands. To obtain a printed copy of these regulations, contact your local BLM office or visit BLM Utah's Recreation Permits website:
http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/recreation_home/permits.html
5. OHV operators must yield to non-motorized users. Mountain bikers must yield to pedestrians and riding or pack animals.
6. Operators shall not intentionally chase or harass wildlife.
7. The permittee shall be responsible for clean-up and remediation in event of accident or mechanical failure resulting in the spillage of fuels, lubricants, coolants, hydraulic fluids, or other petroleum-based or synthetic organic compounds.
8. Use on Goodwater Rim Trail prohibited from April 15th to June 15th.
9. The Permittee shall be responsible for clean-up along the routes used for an event. All temporary trail markings, signs, and litter from event participants must be removed within 1 week from the end of the event.

10. Vehicle use is not permitted in Wilderness Areas or Wilderness Study Areas. No off-route travel is permitted. To avoid damaging cultural sites that may be near the routes, the roadbed should not be widened by inappropriate passing or parking.
11. The maximum number of vehicles allowed per group is 24 unless otherwise stated on permit.
12. Permittee will be responsible for any wildfires caused by the permittee's party and will report all wildfires to the nearest BLM Field Office.
13. The permittee agrees to assume responsibility for public safety and health during any phase of his operation, including first aid, retrieval and evacuation activities including costs.
14. All waste will be packed out and deposited in an authorized dump site.
15. All guides will be informed of permit stipulations. There will be a required review of stipulations of all drivers authorized under the permit.
16. Permittee shall not have exclusive use of Recreation Areas or interfere with other valid use of the public lands unless specifically authorized under the terms of the Special Recreation Permit.
17. All animals will be kept under control. When outside of vehicles, all domestic animals must be kept on a leash. Domestic animals must remain in the vehicle in the presence of wildlife. Harassing of wildlife and/or livestock will not be allowed.
18. Any paleontological and/or cultural resources (historic or prehistoric site or object) are protected and shall not be damaged or removed. All personnel associated with the permitted activity will be informed by the permittee that they are subject to prosecution for vandalizing and/or collecting any historic or prehistoric artifacts or paleontological remains. All guides will be specifically instructed in proper cultural site visitation behavior.
19. Any additional routes or campsites will require additional approval from BLM.
20. Parking and staging will be only on non-vegetated areas and are not permitted on well pads or around range improvements and corrals.

C. SUPPLEMENTAL STIPULATIONS FOR CAMPING

Unless specifically authorized in permit:

1. Camping is only allowed in non-vegetated areas.
2. Camping is not permitted on well pads or airstrips or within 300 feet of range improvements, including corrals and water containment structures.
3. Camping is not permitted within the Nine Mile Canyon Special Recreation Management Area.
4. Campsites may not block access to routes, other campsites, staging areas, trailheads, mines and gravel pits, or recreation or range facilities.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL STIPULATIONS FOR CULTURAL RESOURCE SITES

1. Do not touch any rock art.

2. Do not remove or alter the location of artifacts or structure remnants (feel free to look, but return them to the exact location where you found them)
3. Do not walk on or damage site features such as standing architecture, rock alignments, middens, or other features that would suffer from physical contact.
4. Do not drive across sites with mechanized vehicles, such as cars, trucks, OHVs, or bicycles, and avoid riding livestock across or through sites whenever possible.
5. Leave the site in the same condition as you found it.
6. Pets are not allowed in sites as they can cause irreparable damage through digging or using the site as a toilet.

E. SUPPLEMENTAL STIPULATIONS FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTION

1. The permittee will be responsible for ensuring that all guides and/or group leaders will be educated about the threatened and endangered species that could be present in the activity area. This education will include the potential penalties for taking a species listed under the Endangered Species Act.
2. Observe desert bighorn sheep, American pronghorn, deer, and elk from a distance. No vehicle or foot pursuit allowed. No excessive noise.
3. All domestic animals will be kept on leash and their waste packed out. Domestic animals must remain in the vehicle in the presence of wildlife. Dogs stress wildlife and may cause them to abandon habitat, nests, and water sources temporarily or permanently.
4. Observe low speed to avoid direct fatality of prairie dogs.
5. Groups must avoid disturbing raptors year-round, especially during nesting seasons (March 1-August 31). There will be no stopping within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of active raptor nests (indicated by fresh excrement and/or defensive bird behavior). An active nest site should be reported to the appropriate BLM field office.
6. There will be no vehicle or foot pursuit of bald or golden eagles, ferruginous hawks, or burrowing owls. No excessive noise is allowed in the presence of these birds.
7. No dispersed camping or staging is allowed within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of natural water sources or guzzlers.

