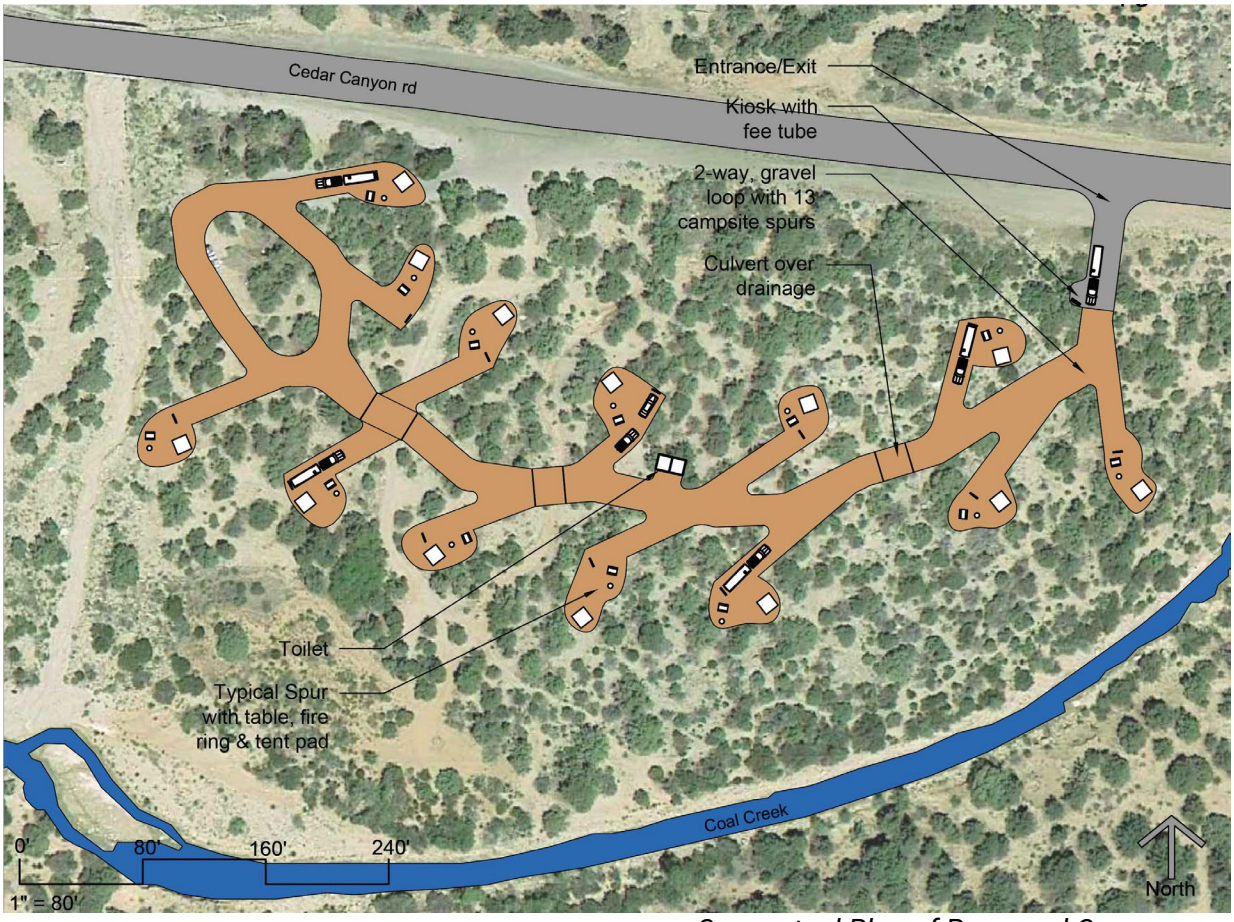
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

October 2024

Coal Creek Campground
Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2024-0036-EA



Conceptual Plan of Proposed Campground

Cedar Canyon, Iron County, Utah

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to disclose and analyze the environmental consequences of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) constructing developed recreation facilities along Highway 14 and Coal Creek, east of Cedar City, UT, and implementing an overnight dispersed camping restriction along the Hurricane Front in Cedar City, UT. (See Appendix A, Map 1). The Coal Creek area is currently utilized for dispersed long-term camping and receives illegal trash dumping that requires regular cleaning, patrols, and law enforcement intervention to ensure the 14-day camping rules are being enforced. From January of 2019 to December of 2023, there were 95 law enforcement actions taken, not including traffic accidents or traffic citations, within a six-mile radius of the identified day use area and along Hwy 14.

1.1. Background

In 2022, the Cedar City Field Office (CCFO) drafted the Coal Creek Day Use EA (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2022-0019-EA). The Coal Creek Day Use EA served a similar purpose and need identified in this Coal Creek Campground EA. On January 24, 2024, a 30-day public comment period was opened during which the Coal Creek Day Use EA was posted on the BLM's ePlanning website. When the public comment period closed on February 23, 2024, 13 comments were submitted. Overall, comments were related to a variety of topics discussed in the Coal Creek Day Use EA, but many were specifically related to the Proposed Action at the Coal Creek site. Numerous comments suggested that the implementation of a developed campground rather than a day-use area at the Coal Creek site would still meet the purpose and need while also increasing camping opportunities for the public. Multiple commentors suggested that the CCFO should complete further analysis to address potential impacts of constructing a developed campground at the Coal Creek site. As a result of these comments, the CCFO decided to cancel the Coal Creek Day Use EA. Those that commented were contacted and informed that the BLM was cancelling the EA and would be producing a new document that would further analyze the noted campground concerns. The Coal Creek Campground EA consists of a new Proposed Action of a developed campground rather than a day use area in the same locations that were being analyzed in the Coal Creek Day Use EA.

1.2. Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to accommodate and manage increasing demand for developed camping and trails and to reduce trash dumping, dispersed camping resource damage, and other illegal activities on BLM administered lands in the area. The need for the Proposed Action is provided by: The BLM's *Blueprint for 21st Century for Outdoor Recreation* – Strategic Pillar 4, which states "To meet the demand for increased visitation while protecting resources," and by 43 CFR 8365 which provides for the protection of public lands and resources, and for the protection, comfort, and well-being of the public in its use of recreation areas, sites, and facilities on public lands.

1.2.1. Decision to be Made

The Authorized Officer must determine whether to authorize:

- Construction of the Coal Creek Campground as described within the Proposed Action, and what stipulations, terms and conditions, and other restrictions must be adhered to.
- Prohibition of overnight dispersed camping along the Hurricane Front as described within the Proposed Action.
- Issuance of a ROW to the Cedar City Corporation to extend the Coal Creek Trail through the proposed Coal Creek campground, as described in the Proposed Action, and what stipulations, terms and conditions, and other restrictions must be adhered to.
- Thinning of pinyon and juniper, planting of desirable species, and planting of herbaceous upland and riparian herbaceous plants within the Coal Creek Campground as described within the Proposed Action.

1.3. Scoping and Issues

All resources and issues which might be impacted were identified by a BLM interdisciplinary team, located in Appendix B. Issues analyzed in further detail to make a reasoned choice between alternatives or a determination of significance include watershed (soils, floodplains, water and vegetation), recreation, and wildlife. The resources and issues identified are detailed in Chapter 3.

Table 1. Issues Analyzed in Detail

RESOURCE AND ISSUE #	ISSUE STATEMENT
Watershed – Issue 1	How would the development of a campground affect the Coal Creek watershed (soils, floodplain, water and vegetation)?
Recreation – Issue 2	How would the development of a campground affect recreation use?
Wildlife – Issue 3	How would use of the facilities affect mule deer and migration corridors?
Wildlife – Issue 4	How would the construction and public use of the proposed campground affect migratory birds and their habitats?

CHAPTER 2. ALTERNATIVES

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

2.1. Alternative A – No Action Alternative

The proposed facilities would not be constructed, and no reclamation of existing disturbed areas would occur. Dispersed recreation would continue as described in the purpose and need (Chapter 1). BLM law enforcement and the Iron County Sheriff's Office would continue to issue citations

for illegal dumping, vagrancy, illegal burning and overdue camping. Law Enforcement contacts are expected to continue regardless of the decision outcome.

2.2. Alternative B – Proposed Action

2.2.1. Coal Creek Campground

The BLM proposes the construction of a campground and trailhead approximately 2.5 miles east of Cedar City along Highway 14 (See Appendix A, Map 1). The campground would occupy up to 55 acres and contain up to 14 individual campsites, a trailhead that would allow creek access and connection to the proposed Coal Creek Trail via a pedestrian bridge, and a large group camping area. Campsites would have expanded amenities such as tent pads, fire rings, picnic tables, shade structures, vault toilets, and trash dumpsters. The campground and group camping area would have up to 10 shade structures on concrete slabs. Concrete slabs for the total number of shade structures would not exceed a total footprint of 4,000 sq. ft. The total thickness of the concrete would be four inches with spot footings up to 36 inches deep where required by the shade structures. Drinking water and a standpipe for fire suppression would be available if conveyance is obtained from the Cedar City water system or if other water rights are obtained in the future. Day use amenities such as shade structures and picnic tables would be added to the trailhead parking area. The campground would be designated as a fee area as defined in the *BLM Cedar City Field Office 2023 Modified Recreation Site Business Plan (*Appendix D*)*. Proposed fees would be generated using the *Fair Market Value Fee Calculation Method.* Campground fee collections would allow for the maintenance and future enhancement of the onsite facilities. Campsite reservations would be managed through e-commerce technologies, as directed in BLM Instruction Memorandum 2022-019. If e-commerce technologies were unable to be implemented, an iron ranger would be utilized for first-come first-served reservations and fee collections. Construction would occur in multiple phases based on available funding. The campground would be closed within the dates of December 1 to April 30 each year. Pursuant to 43 CFR 8364.1, the authorized officer may issue an order to temporarily close or restrict the use of the Coal Creek Campground, to protect persons, property, public lands, or resources; avoid conflict among public land users; or ensure the privacy of Tribal activities for traditional or cultural use. If it is decided that temporary closures of public lands are necessary, the CCFO would comply with all public notice requirements outlined in 43 CFR 8364.1 Section C.

2.2.1.1. *Campground Features*

- Portions of the current user created roadways would be reclaimed within the site boundary. Reclamation would include recontouring, native species seeding and erosion control.
- The campground would be constructed and maintained with heavy equipment.
- The road would be surfaced with road base type material or paved.
- Culverts would be installed as needed under the roadway to address drainage issues.
- Campfires would be allowed only within provided fire rings and grills.

- Camping would only be allowed in designated sites within the campground. Dispersed camping surrounding the campground would not be permitted as identified in Section 2.2.2.
- Barricade gates would be installed at each entrance to allow for the closing of the proposed site from December 1 to April 30 each winter to reduce human impact and disturbance to critical wildlife migration corridors. Monitoring and evaluation by wildlife specialists would occur using an implementation checklist. Based off the data that the monitoring and evaluation would produce, the authorized officer would have the discretion to open the campground before April 30, dependent on weather conditions and mule deer activity.

2.2.2. Overnight Dispersed Camping Restriction

BLM CCFO managed public lands east of Cedar City from Shurtz Canyon Road to ½ mile north of Fiddlers Canyon would be restricted to no camping outside of designated camping areas (Appendix A, Map 2). The restriction area would encompass 12,600 acres of public land, though many of those acres are very inaccessible for any type of camping due to limited road or trail access and terrain limitations. 96% of the restricted camping area, or 12,200 acres, is unsuitable for camping with slopes that are greater than 5% (See Appendix A, Map 3) The camping restriction area would not include the Pyramid Ridge Campground, future expansions of existing campgrounds, or future designated campgrounds and campsites within the restriction area. If the BLM identifies areas of disturbance that are suitable for camping, those areas can be designated for authorized camping in the future. Camping is defined as –

"*Erecting of a tent or shelter of natural or synthetic material; preparing a sleeping bag or other bedding material for use; parking of a motor vehicle, motor home or trailer; for the apparent purpose of overnight occupancy while engaged in recreational activities such as hiking, hunting, fishing, bicycling, sightseeing, off-road vehicle activities, or other generally recognized forms of recreation."* (Final Supplementary Rules for Public Land Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado Relating to Camping and Occupancy of Public Lands 75) FR 32968

Signage would be installed to inform users of the camping restrictions. Areas that experience repeated dispersed camping use would be closed with the use of boulders or other means to block vehicle use and other means of camping as described above. Following a decision on the Proposed Action, the BLM would pursue establishment of supplementary rules in accordance with 43 CFR 8365.1-6 to establish a permanent camping restriction for the described area that would be enforced by Law Enforcement personnel.

2.2.3. Coal Creek Trail

The Coal Creek motorized, and non-motorized trail would be extended from the Southwest Wildlife Foundation property to the proposed Coal Creek Campground and up to Right Hand Canyon (Appendix A, Map 1). Where the trails would cross private land, Cedar City Corporation would negotiate a right-of-way (ROW) with the private landowner. Prior to Cedar City Corporation and the private landowner finalizing siting of portions of the trail that on private land, BLM would conduct class III cultural inventory and appropriate wildlife clearances to ensure no impact to cultural and wildlife resources. The trails would be separated to reduce conflict and would be open to motorized use, non-motorized use and e-bikes. The surface of the

non-motorized trail would be paved or native surface and a ROW would be issued to Cedar City or Iron County for the development of the trail. The trail would vary in width from five feet to twelve feet wide and a pedestrian bridge would be installed in the vicinity of the developed recreation facilities site. A cultural survey would be conducted after the trail designs are finalized and the exact alignments are determined.

2.2.4. Pinyon and Juniper Thinning, Desirable Tree Planting and Upland/Riparian Herbaceous Species Planting

Pinyon and juniper would be thinned throughout the Coal Creek Campground (Appendix A, Map 1) using a variety of methods including mastication, and chainsaws. Biomass (chips) from the chainsaw or mastication treatment would be rebroadcast across the site to provide for soil cover and allow for moisture to be retained, which would aid in the planting of native species. Native species including Narrowleaf Cottonwood, Coyote Willow, Yellow Willow, Water Birch, Thinleaf Alder and Red-osier Dogwood would be utilized within the project area. Native trees that are currently growing on site, such as cottonwoods and willows would be used in plantings. Disturbed areas (e.g., roads, camping areas) that are identified for reclamation would be ripped with a tractor mounted implement or dozer to break up the hardpan that was caused by repeated and concentrated use, allowing for seed bed preparation. These areas would be replanted to a diverse upland and riparian herbaceous species component that would benefit a wide variety of wildlife and make the area more aesthetically pleasing.

2.2.5. Design Features

Design features to reduce impacts to resources would include the following:

2.2.5.1. *Wildlife*

- Construction would occur outside of Mexican spotted owl nesting season, March 1 – August 31.
- Construction would be avoided between December 1 – April 30 to protect wintering big game.
- Construction activities would occur outside of the migratory bird nesting season (January 1 – August 31) to the greatest extent possible.
    - If this is not possible, habitat alteration, removal, or destruction would be avoided during the primary nesting season for migratory birds (April 1 – July 31). If unavoidable, nesting surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist at most five days prior to disturbance activities. Any active nests found would have at least 100 ft buffer for passerine species and 0.25 – 1.0-mile buffer for raptors depending on species (see Romin and Muck 2002 for raptor nest buffer recommendations). Biologists may determine when fledglings leave the nest and then allow disturbance activities to occur within the buffer.
- Speed limits would be set to 10 mph in the campground to reduce collisions with wildlife.

2.2.5.2. *Watershed (Soils, Floodplains, Water and Vegetation)*

- Project would maximize use of any previously disturbed land.

- Stream alteration permits would be filed as appropriate with the Utah Division of Water Rights for any stream bank alteration (bridges, culverts, etc.).
- A Soil Bioengineering Guide for Streambank and Lakeshore Stabilization (Eubanks et al. 2002) would be used to direct watershed stabilization and protection activities.
- Streambank stabilization and erosion control structures would be installed before site grading begins. Silt fences would be installed by securely attaching the material to a stake and burying the bottom in the ground.
- Erosion control measures would be implemented such as hardening drainages and installing culverts to move water through the proposed sites in a less erosive manner. Rock armor would be placed for culverts that cross the road to the day use site.
- Only the minimum amount of vegetation and soil disturbance required for construction would occur.
- Construction activities would be sequenced so that soil is not left exposed for long periods of time. Disturbed areas would be vegetated, mulched, or otherwise stabilized as soon as land alterations have been completed.
- All disturbed areas which are not needed for the facilities would be graded to blend with the adjacent area and reseeded with a seed mix approved by the authorized officer.
- Dedicated fueling areas during construction and maintenance would be level, protected from stormwater, and located at least 50 ft. from downstream drainage facilities.
- A pre-construction inspection for noxious weeds would be completed prior to ground disturbing activities. Any noxious weeds would be mapped and hand or chemically treated. Soil disturbance near any noxious weeds would be avoided.
- Cottonwoods and older age class woody riparian vegetation would be avoided. Disturbance of other riparian herbaceous cover or young willow would be minimized.

2.2.5.3. *Solid and Hazardous Waste*

- Enclosed solid waste receptacles would be provided at all project areas. Non-hazardous solid waste (trash) would be collected and deposited in the on-site receptacles. Solid waste would be collected and disposed of by a local waste disposal contractor.

2.2.5.4. *Special Status Plants (Ute Ladies'-tresses Orchid)*

- Ute Ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) surveys would be completed in the habitats described below if planned treatments could have potential impacts to these types of environments:
    - Habitat that is maintained in a state in which the hydrology provides regular surface or subsurface water; other flowering plants present at levels that provide additional floral resources to required pollinators, but that are not detrimental to individuals through resource competition; and an open canopy to provide access to sunlight.
    - Habitat types including moist meadows, perennial stream, or river terraces, sub-irrigated or spring-fed or abandoned channels, irrigation ditches, and springs.
    - The most recent habitat descriptions can be found in the Species Status Assessment Report (USFWS, 2023).

- BLM resource staff or qualified contractors or agency partners would determine the presence or absence of Ute Ladies'-tresses orchid within the project area prior to any activity. Within areas of suitable habitat, species clearance surveys would be conducted. Three consecutive years of clearance surveys are required to determine that an area of suitable habitat is not occupied. Surveys would be valid for three years.
- Surface disturbing activities (e.g., construction activities) would not be allowed within 300 ft. of suitable habitat or occupied habitat. If surveys are completed and Ute Ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) do not occur, no buffer would be required.

2.3. Alternative C – Day Use Area

This alternative would be identical to Alternative B, the Proposed Action, with the sole exception that the campground in the Proposed Action would be a day-use area with no overnight use authorized. This alternative was the Proposed Action of the Coal Creek Day Use EA and was not selected in this EA due to the numerous comments received during the public comment period for the Coal Creek Day Use EA stating that a campground would better suit the purpose and need. This alternative was not selected because the Proposed Action better fits the purpose and need by providing overnight use within the proposed dispersed camping closure area.

2.4. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

1. Overnight dispersed camping would not be allowed within ¼ mile of all roads and access points to public land within the restricted camping zone. This alternative would have been very difficult to identify on the ground without extensive surveying and informing the public about the restriction. This alternative would be difficult to enforce with Law Enforcement personnel.
2. Develop a campground in the Coal Creek location and not restrict camping throughout the restricted camping zone. This alternative was the original proposal for this location to deal with the long-term camping that was occurring at the site. Conceptual designs of the campsite were developed, and three different camping/use zones were identified, one for a group camping, one for individual campsites and one for a trailhead and day use. This alternative was not analyzed in detail due to it not meeting the purpose and need of reducing illegal long-term camping along Coal Creek and BLM lands adjacent to Cedar City, reducing dumping, resource damage, and other illegal activities in the area. The new campsite may have resolved the identified issue in one portion of the restricted camping zone but would not have resolved the issue throughout the surrounding area.

2.5. Conformance

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Recreation section on Page 50 of the RMP under 1. Objectives states,

> "*Provide recreation opportunities under the Bureau's basic stewardship responsibilities for unstructured, extensive types of recreation uses, maximizing the visitor's freedom of choice. Continue to maintain important recreational values in Federal ownership to insure this continued diversity of recreation opportunities."*

2.5.1. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

The Proposed Action is also consistent with the following laws, regulations, and other plans:

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)	The Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandates multiple use 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 conflicts.
IM No. 2013-161 Processing and Approving Supplementary Rules	"The state director may establish supplementary rules to provide for the protection of persons, property, and public lands and resources. Supplementary rules are used to support objectives of 43 CFR Subpart 8365, "Rules of Conduct" for the protection of public lands and resources, and for the protection, comfort, and well-being of the public in its use of recreation areas, sites and facilities on public lands. Supplementary rules should not duplicate or conflict with these or other Federal regulations. 5 Supplementary rules may be proposed in circumstances where existing regulations are not sufficient to manage resource use conflicts or to protect resources and may also be needed to implement decisions in resource management plans or other planning documents."
43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8365.1–6	Which allows state directors to establish supplementary rules for the protection of persons, property, and the public lands and resources. This provision allows the BLM to issue rules of less than national effect without codifying the rules in the CFR.
Iron County RMP (2017)	**Goal LU12: Develop a system of parks and recreational facilities and programs which provide recreational opportunities for all segments of the community through public/private cooperation**. (page 153) a) Pol. LU 12.1 Promote the development of a variety of park and recreation facilities which satisfy the recreational needs of all age groups and lifestyles, and which satisfy the needs of the handicapped through compliance with American Disabilities Act requirements.

	b) Pol. LU 12.2 Investigate the appropriateness of user fees and/or subsidies for specialized recreational services. c) Pol. LU12.3 Encourage citizen programs which provide recreation opportunities within individual development projects. f) Pol. LU 12.6 Promote cooperation between federal, state, and local agencies to coordinate regional park planning.
Utah Stream Alteration Program (1972)	The Utah Division of Water Rights (*UDWR) Stream Alteration Program was implemented in order to protect the natural resource value of the state's streams and protect the water rights and recreational opportunities associated with them.
Clean Water Act of 1974, Section 401 and Section 404	Work within Waters of the United States (WOTUS) is regulated by Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and falls under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). No navigable waters are located within the AOI; therefore, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act is not applicable. However, other WOTUS on site; which can include streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, bays, tidal areas, and near-shore waters; could be subject to federal jurisdiction under Section 404. Under Section 401 of the CWA, a federal agency may not issue a permit or license to conduct any activity that may result in any discharge into Waters of the United States unless a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, or certification is waived. A Section 401 water quality certification has been issued for all Nationwide Permits (NWPs) in the Sacramento District, subject to the conditions and notification requirements of the NWP, the regional conditions set forth by the USACE Utah Regulatory Office, and the conditions set forth in the USACE water quality certification approval.
Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) Program (1990)	Stormwater general permits are issued through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program or the state NPDES permitting authority. Construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land must be authorized under the Utah Pollutant

	Discharge Elimination System (UPDES). The permit is obtained by creating a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and submitting a notice of intent (NOI) to be covered under the UPDES General Storm Water Permit for Construction Activity (CGP).
Secretarial order 3362: Improving habitat quality in western big game winter range and migration corridors. U.S. Department of Interior. 2018. Washington, D.C., USA.	This Order directs appropriate bureaus within the Department of the Interior (Department) to work in close partnership with the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming to enhance and improve the quality of big-game winter range and migration corridor habitat on Federal lands under the management jurisdiction of this Department in a way that recognizes state authority to conserve and manage big-game species and respects private property rights

CHAPTER 3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Potentially impacted resources were identified by an interdisciplinary team as shown in Appendix B. Issues which were identified to be analyzed in detail to make a reasoned choice between alternatives, or a determination of significance are described below.

Cumulative impacts in the project area are mainly due to recreation use, private land development and wildfire occurrences. The existing primitive camping area is seeing increased use, resulting in long-term dispersed camping disturbances and illegal dumping.

Alternative B and C are nearly identical, with the only distinction being that the campground described in Alternative B is a day use are with no overnight use allowed in Alternative C. The affected environment and environmental impacts, construction and long-term maintenance of each facility, and the amenities that will be provided will be the same for both alternatives. The campground and the day-use area are collectively referred to as “Recreation Facilities” throughout this chapter.

3.1. Issue 1. How would the development of recreation facilities affect the Coal Creek watershed (soils, floodplain, water and vegetation)?

3.1.1. Affected Environment

Cedar Canyon creates the stream bed for Coal Creek which is embanked throughout the entire drainage by Highway 14. Coal Creek is the major drainage that flows from the mountains to the east into the heart of Cedar City and is a Zone A, Iron County FEMA mapped, floodplain. Water irrigation companies and Cedar City Corporation use irrigation ditches to appropriate the water for farmland and will eventually be deposited into recharge basins for the Cedar Valley aquifer. For the first fifty years after establishment, Coal Creek was Cedar City’s main source of irrigation and culinary water.

Coal Creek's unique watershed characteristics include a short, steep drainage that lacks adequate vegetive growth to inhibit high sediment runoff. Floods in Coal Creek often result in deposits of fine sediments in low areas, natural channels, borrow pits, canals, ditches, culverts and irrigation structures. Flood level waters can carry as much as 86% suspended material, clay, sand and gravel after a storm. These floods have caused great damage to the natural environment, infrastructure and create local natural disasters.

The floodplain and associated riparian area along Coal Creek are limited due to the channelized nature of Coal Creek (high slope percentage, velocity of water, and snow melt). Vegetation within the area includes species commonly found in dry shrubland/grassland and desert riparian areas. Native riparian and upland plant communities help stabilize the stream channel, dissipate streamflow energy, protect against accelerated erosion, capture sediment, and provide bank stability with root masses capable of withstanding most high flow events.

Riparian vegetation is primarily composed of Fremont cottonwoods, tamarisks (invasive, non-native), willows, and a very small component of sedges and rushes. Other upland vegetation intermixed in the area include pinyon pine, juniper, rabbitbrush, greasewood, sagebrush, sand dropseed, galleta grass, and Indian ricegrass. The Coal Creek system sees large water flows during spring snow melts and summer monsoons. Cottonwoods, young willows and large rocks/boulders are the primary natural bank armoring of this system, but banks have been eroded over time.

3.1.2. Impacts from the Proposed Action

3.1.2.1. *Campground Development*

Construction of the campground recreation facilities would remove vegetation and disturb soils, potentially increasing sediment deposits into Coal Creek, which would decrease overall water quality in Coal Creek. These impacts would be short-term, limited to the period of construction and minimized by installing erosion and sediment control structures and following design features (Section 2.2.5). Installation of the toilet facility in the Coal Creek site would reduce or eliminate human waste and reduce the associated risks of water contamination occurring from the currently uncontrolled and concentrated dispersed camping use. Installation of rock armoring would dissipate the flow of water, decreasing erosion and deposition of sediment in Coal Creek.

3.1.2.2. *Campground*

Continued use of the campground would negatively affect smaller vegetation types from the expected trampling that occurs at concentrated use sites. This disturbance would mainly occur in designated areas such as picnic sites, campsites, and along walking paths. Reclaiming areas which would not be used for picnic sites, campsites, and walking paths would be expected to increase desired vegetation and decrease erosion in the areas which are currently being impacted.

3.1.3. Impacts from Alternative C – Day Use Area

The impacts from Alternative C would be identical to those analyzed for the Proposed Action, as the only distinguishing factor between these two alternatives is that Alternative C does not allow for overnight use of the recreation facilities (day use area) and Alternative B permits overnight camping in the recreation facilities.

3.1.4. Impacts from No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would not develop the Coal Creek Campground. Vegetation in the site would continue to be impacted by expanding dispersed camping use and the harvesting of vegetation for burning from unregulated campfires. Loss of vegetation from camping use would be expected continue as individuals recreate outside of the currently disturbed sites. Riparian vegetation would continue to be trampled by intensive camping related activities. Water quality would continue to be impacted due to the presence of human waste by the current lack of restroom facilities.

3.1.5. Cumulative Impacts

Implementation of the Proposed Action is not expected to measurably contribute to the cumulative impacts of other construction activities causing vegetation removal and soil disturbance within the Coal Creek watershed due to the small nature of the project area (less than 1 percent of the watershed) and the implementation of design features that would improve hydrological resources and conditions in the project area. Camping in the area is expected to occur into the future whether the facilities are constructed or not. The short-term removal of vegetation and disturbance of soils would be offset by the installation of erosion control structures. The long-term impacts to water quality would be offset by having restroom facilities and fire rings.

3.2. Issue 2. *How would the development of the recreation facilities affect recreation use?*

3.2.1. Affected Environment

As recreation has increased in Southwest Utah over the past 10 years, demand for recreation facilities and amenities has also grown. The development of this campground or day use site is in response to increased illegal, long-term camping on BLM-administered land in this location. The site is near Cedar City and would provide a place that could be used in early spring and late fall when many higher elevation sites are inaccessible or closed. The Coal Creek site is currently being used for long-term dispersed camping and day-use activities during spring and fall with a higher volume of use throughout the summer months. The site receives illegal dumping on a regular basis and requires regular cleanup projects throughout the year. Typically, 15 cubic yards of trash is removed from this location each year. BLM law enforcement and the Iron County Sheriff's Office have issued citations for illegal dumping, vagrancy, illegal burning and overdue camping (staying longer than the 14-day limit). Over the past five years there has been 95 law enforcement actions taken within a six-mile radius of the identified day use area and along Hwy 14.

3.2.2. Impacts from the Proposed Action

The recreation experience would be improved by the proposed developed recreation facilities. Campsites would be more evenly spaced, parking would be available, the area would be expected to contain less trash, and sanitation and water facilities would improve the overall user experience. Long term dispersed camping along Coal Creek would be displaced to other locations on non-federal land within the canyon and other locations near Cedar City. The

proposed camping restriction would impact individuals that currently use public land for long-term camping (over the 14-day limit).

3.2.3. Impacts from Alternative C – Day Use Area

The impacts from Alternative C would be similar to those analyzed for the Proposed Action, as the only distinguishing factor between these two alternatives is that Alternative C does not allow for overnight use of the recreation facilities (day use area) and Alternative B permits overnight camping in the recreation facilities. Under Alternative C, there would be no camping (dispersed or developed) within the dispersed camping closure area, notwithstanding the possibility of future developed campground not described or analyzed within this document.

3.2.4. Impacts from the No Action Alternative

If the campground is not developed and the camping restriction is not implemented, dispersed camping would continue along public lands in the lower reaches of Coal Creek Canyon. This would result in new dispersed parking and camping areas and on-going trash accumulation. Illegal dumping affecting aesthetics, long-term campers and other illegal activities would prohibit fair use and access by all members of the public and illicit activities would create an unsafe environment for all public land users.

3.2.5. Cumulative Impacts

Most of the Coal Creek drainage is private land or too steep for camping. Approximately 96 % of the restricted camping area or 12,200 acres is unsuitable for camping with slopes that are greater than 5% (See Map 4, Appendix A). The proposed Coal Creek site is one of the larger areas within the restricted camping area that has slopes less than 5% and has good access along Highway 14. Consequently, the proposed campground location is heavily utilized for dispersed camping. Cumulative impacts to recreation in the project area are primarily from concentrated dispersed camping and the associated trash and campfires which have occurred as a result of the dispersed camping. A developed recreation site and camping restriction would reduce the amounts of trash and impacts to public land caused by long term camping.

The Coal Creek Trail receives use from walkers, dog walkers, bikers, runners, and skateboarders. This is a popular trail with good access points within the canyon. The extension of this trail would greatly enhance the recreational experience by providing a longer trail and additional access points.

3.3. Issue 3. *How would use of the recreation facilities affect mule deer and migration corridors?*

3.3.1. Affected Environment

The proposed campground and trail would be located on the Parowan Front in crucial mule deer winter range and within an identified migration corridor. This winter range has been highly impacted by infrastructure, adjacent private land development, and recreational expansion. For the purpose of GIS analysis, the Parowan Front has been divided into smaller analysis units by major roads and the 7,000ft elevation level. The specific project area is on the Panguitch Lake #28 and Zion #29 Wildlife Management Units (WMU) and within the “Fiddlers” (Panguitch

Lake #28) and "Zion" (Zion #29) winter range analysis units (Appendix A, Map 4). Migration corridor data was calculated using the Brownian Bridge movement model outlined by Sawyer et al. (2009), from 100 radio collars deployed collaboratively by the UDWR and CCFO BLM (2018-2022).

Mule deer typically select habitat with moderate slopes as reported in several habitat modeling research efforts (Sawyer et al. 2006, Anderson et al. 2013, Coe et al. 2018). A slope analysis of locations recorded by radio-collared mule deer on the Panguitch Lake #28 WMU and the Zion #29 WMU from 2018 to 2021 suggest mule deer utilize areas less than 25% slope. Steeper slopes beyond that threshold were not selected for this analysis based on collected data within these WMUs. The Fiddlers analysis unit contains 10,321.21 acres of BLM lands, of which 4,222.41 are within preferred mule deer slope of $\leq$25%. The Zion analysis unit contains 11,837.92 acres of BLM lands, of which 5,548.65 acres are within preferred mule deer slope of $\leq$25%.

Big game animals wintering east of I-15 have limited winter range due to poor range conditions according to UDWR winter range requirements or Desired Components Index Standards (UDWR 2018) and continued human development that is compounded by the physical barrier of the I-15 corridor (BLM 1986, UDWR 2020a). The wintering segments of these mule deer populations within these WMU's have been in long term decline for multiple years (Bernales et al. 2015).

3.3.1.1. *Mule Deer*

Mule deer typically migrate to specific winter ranges which are usually geographically restricted, resulting in high deer numbers concentrated in relatively small areas, regardless of forage availability or condition (Sawyer et al. 2017, BLM 2019). When this habitat is lost, it cannot be offset or mitigated by simple range expansion or habitat restoration efforts (Sawyer et al. 2017). A commonly reported consequence of development on winter range is the resultant shift in big game distribution that creates higher densities in the remaining areas, exposing the population to greater risks of density-dependent effects such as increased fawn mortality and over-winter mortality (White et al. 1987, Hobbs 1989, Bartmann et al. 1992). Sawyer et al. (2006) reports that direct or indirect habitat losses have potential to decrease carrying capacity and may result in population-level effects due to reduced fertility and or survival.

Wild animals minimize energy expenditure by reducing their activity, but human disturbance disrupts this energy saving behavior by causing extra movement as animals move into cover. In the western U.S., these impacts are exacerbated for wintering migrating big game species (Sawyer et al. 2017) as their survival and reproductive potential are both directly tied to overwinter bodily health. Long term human disturbances can cause shifts in habitat use that would not be evident until after abandonment of the habitat (Longshore et al. 2013).

Disruption within an established migration corridor creates irreversible impacts as described above and therefore protection of these highly sensitive habitats have been widely recognized in the literature and planning efforts (BLM 1986, Sawyer et al. 2017, US Department of Interior 2018, Kaufmann et al. 2020, Sawyer et al. 2020). The establishment of Secretarial Order 3362 is intended to direct the conservation of these corridors and expedite data gathering to identify big game migration corridors throughout the western United States (Kaufmann et al. 2020).

3.3.1.2. *Human Population Trends*

Washington County, just south of Iron County, is projected to increase by 155.1% (ranked 1st in Utah) over the next 40 years, while Iron County is project to increase 70.1% (ranked 7th in Utah) and Beaver County is projected 43.9% (ranked 14th in Utah) (Hollingshaus et al. 2022). An increase in human population growth is a sufficient predictor of overall growth in total participants of outdoor recreation participation and can cause crowding at recreation sites (White et al. 2016).

3.3.1.3. *Recreation Trends*

Due to increasing visitation from nearby national parks and increased tourism, research suggests that visitors will seek additional recreation opportunities outside of the National Park System (White et al. 2016). As a result, more visitors are seeking less-developed recreation areas to find solitude from the high crowding at popular recreation sites. These predictions are consistent with observations in Zion National Park (ZNP), located in Washington and Iron County, which places a greater potential of increased recreation on habitat east of the I-15 corridor in Iron and Beaver counties (Leaver and Pace 2021).

Portions of ZNP are located within the winter range analysis area and the potential increase in recreation along the I-15 corridor in southern Utah has been recognized by Leaver and Pace (2021). In 2021, the National Park Service saw an increase of 60 million visits nationwide, or an increase of 25.3% from 2020 (Ziesler and Spalding 2022). ZNP has experienced record visitation rates in recent years (5.04 million in 2021) and has been steadily increasing year-over-year since 2008 (2.69 million visitations) (Statista 2022).

The types of recreational use that is expected to increase is consistent with what is proposed at the Coal Creek site and the Coal Creek trail. White et al. (2016) predicted that the top five outdoor recreation activities projected to increase the most include: developed skiing, visiting interpretive sites, day hiking, birding, and equestrian activities.

3.3.2. Impacts from the Proposed Action

3.3.2.1. *Impacts to Mule Deer Migration Corridor*

Researchers have found evidence that migratory behavior of ungulates decreases as disturbance increases (Lendrum et al. 2012. 2013, Sawyer et al. 2013, Blum et al. 2015, Wyckoff et al. 2018, Sawyer et al. 2020). Sawyer et al. (2017) reported a long-term research project that refutes the prevailing notion that mule deer will habituate to human disturbance and instead demonstrated that development can have long term consequences through avoidance behavior and the resulting functional loss of habitat. Ungulates are more likely avoiding areas of disturbance associated with human recreation rather than roads or trails themselves and therefore impacts can be avoided or minimized through seasonal restrictions on human uses (Coe et al. 2018).

As human recreation and development on public lands increases, a variety of consequences from recreational activities are occurring to wildlife species across North America (Larson et al. 2016). Over-utilization of limited winter range resources resulting from high densities of deer use attempting to avoid human disturbances in this physically limited area has been a long-standing concern (BLM 2019, UDWR 2020a). The Proposed Action would contribute to a loss

of functional habitat on the Parowan Front and intersect a migration corridor between the Panguitch Lake and Zion WMU's. The Coal Creek Trail would directly impact 1.83 linear miles on mule deer winter range, of which 0.32 miles directly bisects the migration corridor (Appendix A, Map 5).

3.3.2.2. *Impacts to Mule Deer Winter Range*

In this analysis we utilize a very conservative 100m buffer around human developments (trails, roads, campgrounds, etc.) to analyze the scale of impact to wintering big game. Based on behavioral avoidance distances cited in the literature (Taylor and Knight 2003, Preisler et al. 2014, Larson et al. 2016, Sawyer et al. 2017), we can conservatively assume that all areas within 100m of proposed trails or other developments are functionally unsuitable habitat for wintering mule deer and elk. This analysis does not specifically include potentially relevant variables, such as cover, topography, and proximity to existing routes, but assumes this is addressed by the conservative 100m buffer.

The Proposed Action would construct 1.83 miles of trail and build the Coal Creek campground. Considering the presence of SR14, the previously surface disturbed acreage at <25% (preferred mule deer slope) is 94.2 acres on the Zion analysis unit and 25.75 acres on the Fiddlers analysis unit within the Proposed Action boundary. The Proposed Action would add 3.52 acres of disturbance on the Zion WMU for a total of 97.72 acres and 0 acres on the Fiddlers WMU of new disturbance (the area was already disturbed by SR14). The total functional use disturbance in the project area would be 123.47 acres.

The trend of increasing human populations in southern Utah (Hollingshaus et al. 2022), a local increase in recreationists and its promoted economic impacts (Leaver and Pace 2021), and a growing trend of recreational users expanding recreation days spatially and temporally (White et al. 2016, Monz et al. 2020), suggests that the Coal Creek Campground site and Coal Creek Trail will result in an increase in human presence on big game winter range exacerbating energetic costs at a vulnerable timeframe potentially impacting overwinter survival and reproductive potential (Sawyer et al. 2006). The overall increased presence of humans on the Parowan Front winter range, based on the above analysis, is expected to impact a locally declining mule deer population that is limited by development on winter range (UDWR 2020a, UDWR 2020b). By following the associated design features and seasonal use restrictions, the Coal Creek campground would minimize these expected impacts to wintering mule deer.

Section 2.1 of this EA would improve mule deer winter range conditions along riparian areas through the promotion of native vegetation. The proposed vegetation planting would provide more desirable forage and cover species in an area that is currently experiencing encroachment by pinyon, juniper and tamarisk.

3.3.3. Impacts from Alternative C – Day Use Area

The impacts from Alternative C would be identical to those analyzed for the Proposed Action, as the only distinguishing factor between these two alternatives is that Alternative C does not allow for overnight use of the recreation facilities (day use area) and Alternative B permits overnight camping in the recreation facilities.

3.3.4. Impacts from the No Action Alternative

Impacts from human presence would continue from dispersed recreation as described in the Proposed Action and in section 3.1. Timing restrictions would not be enforced which would continue to impact wintering mule deer and the associated migration corridor. Continued use of the proposed campground area for long-term camping, illegal activities and year-round human occupancy will continue to affect mule deer migration and over winter abilities.

The no action alternative would allow non-native vegetation to continue to compete with desirable forage and cover species. The loss of desirable vegetation for mule deer would continue as overnight users compact soils and remove standing vegetation.

3.3.5. Cumulative Impacts

General cumulative impacts are those activities which occur or have occurred in the general area of the proposed campground which include recreation, camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, rights-of-way, and mining. Wildlife are being impacted in Cedar Canyon by Highway 14, private land development, mineral quarrying/production, hiking and dispersed camping. These uses are expected to continue and increase in the future.

Similar to the analysis conducted to impacts on mule deer winter range, cumulative impacts were calculated by utilizing a 100m buffer around human developments (trails, roads, campgrounds, etc.). Based on avoidance distances cited in the literature (Taylor and Knight 2003, Preisler et al. 2014, Larson et al. 2016, Sawyer et al. 2017), we can conservatively assume that all areas within 100m of human developments are functionally unsuitable habitat for wintering mule deer and contribute to cumulative impacts. Table 1 summarizes impacts throughout the Parowan Front analysis units.

Analysis Unit	Total Acres in Analysis Unit	Acres of BLM in Analysis Unit	Acres of BLM ≤25% Slope	Acres of 100m Buffer on Roads and Trails	Available Habitat on BLM	% BLM Habitat Disturbed by Existing Routes (100m)
Cottonwood	39,070.22	19,438.17	10,652.92	3545.99	7,106.93	33.29%
Fiddlers*	25,779.19	10,321.21	4,222.41	2309.93	1,912.48	54.71%
Fremont	12,136.95	10,244.43	7,130.86	2485.9	4,644.96	34.86%
North Creek	33,709.55	14,420.36	13,242.96	6451.91	6,791.05	48.72%
South Creek	30,323.46	18,477.96	14,611.21	5207.82	9,403.39	35.64%
Sulphurdale	19,001.08	8,194.70	7,176.04	2743.88	4,432.16	38.24%
Zion*	30,290.26	11,837.92	5,548.65	2734.47	2,814.18	49.28%
Total	190,310.71	92,934.75	62,585.05	25,479.90	37,105.15	40.71%

Table 1. Summary of the Parowan Front mule deer analysis units for cumulative impacts from human developments such as roads and trails.

*Areas impacted by the Proposed Action

The amount of existing disturbance acreage within the Fiddlers analysis units is 54.71% of mule deer habitat functionally lost to human development on BLM lands (Table 1). Within the Zion analysis unit, cumulative disturbance is estimated to be 49.28% of mule deer habitat on BLM. The proposed campground would contribute an additional 3.52 acres (0.07%) which would increase cumulative disturbance on this analysis unit to 49.35%.

3.4. Issue 4. How would the construction and public use of the recreation facilities affect migratory birds and their habitats?

3.4.1. Affected Environment

The proposed Coal Creek Campground project area falls within Bird Conservation Region 16, Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau, and provides habitat for a variety of avian fauna. The potential Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) or birds that warrant special attention from Region 16 identified through USFWS's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) that may occur in the proposed project area are included in **Table 1** below. This table is only a subset of migratory birds that inhabit the project area.

Table 1. Bird Species of Conservation Concern (BCC) in Bird Conservation Region 16, Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau, and eagles that may occur within the proposed project area.

Species	**Scientific Name**	**Project Area Range**
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Nonbreeding
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	*Selasphorus platycercus*	Breeding
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	Year-round
Pinyon jay	*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*	Year-round
Virginia's Warbler	*Vermivora virginiae*	Breeding

3.4.2. Impacts from the Proposed Action

The short-term impacts from implementing construction activities for the Coal Creek Campground would result in up to 55 acres of disturbance and loss migratory bird habitat. Migratory birds occupying within and near the project area would be displaced from the construction disturbance. Some migratory birds may return to the area after construction of the course is completed. However, the long-term impacts to migratory birds would result in additional acreage lost beyond the acreage lost to construction activities due to an increase of human presence for recreational purposes. The amount of additional acreage lost in migratory bird habitat due to the increase of human presence is currently not measurable because there are several different species of birds, and the tolerance of human presence is different for each species. The main impact to migratory birds from an increase of human presence would be

during sensitive periods including territory establishment (pre-breeding) and reproduction. Botsch et al., 2017 found that even at low levels of human recreational disturbance during territory establishment can have a negative effect on both density and species richness of migratory birds. Disturbances to migratory birds during territory establishment would force species to accept less suitable habitats (Botsch et al., 2017; Miller et al., 1998). An increase of human recreational disturbance during primary breeding season where migratory birds have active nests would most likely result in the abandonment of nests, especially for high-sensitivity species (open-cup nesters). For bird species that do not abandon their nests, would have an increase of nest predation risk from an increase of predators utilizing edge habitat created by the campground and recreational trails (Miller et al., 1998). Many predators use edge habitat to their advantage for preying on birds and other wildlife.

The presence of campgrounds and trails themselves and human disturbance increases the likelihood of generalist species (e.g., American robin, black-billed magpie, common raven, and house finch) being in more abundance in the area while there is a less abundance of specialist species (e.g., broad-tailed hummingbird, pinyon jay, Virginia's warbler) (Miller et al., 1998). Miller et al. found that campgrounds and recreational trails and human presence changes breeding bird communities, resulting in altered bird species diversity and composition.

If design features of the Coal Creek Campground are adhered to for migratory birds, then impacts to breeding bird populations would be minimized.

3.4.3. Impacts from Alternative C – Day Use Area

The impacts from Alternative C would be identical to those analyzed for the Proposed Action, as the only distinguishing factor between these two alternatives is that Alternative C does not allow for overnight use of the recreation facilities (day use area) and Alternative B permits overnight camping in the recreation facilities.

3.4.4. Impacts from the No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, migratory bird breeding communities would be protected, and species richness and composition would be maintained or increased. There would be less opportunities for nest predation from not creating more edge habitat for predators. Generalist species would be less likely to dominate the surrounding habitat and allow for high sensitivity and specialist species to utilize and breed in the area. Bird-territory establishment would be protected, and nesting birds would be less likely to abandon nests.

Under the no action alternative, the BLM would be in conformance of Executive Order 13186 and to meet their responsibilities to conserve migratory birds according to WO IM 2008-050, Memorandum of Understanding (BLM MOU WO-230-2010-04) between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and BLM.

3.4.5. Cumulative Impacts

The adjacent Coal Creek Trail and Highway 14 has likely impacted local breeding bird communities in the area. Adding the 55 acres campground would have additional impacts to local breeding bird

communities. Impacts would be minimized to migratory birds if recommended design features and conservation measures are followed.

Other resource uses that occur within and near the proposed project area that add to the cumulative effects from the past, present, and future actions include mining and dispersed recreation activities including ATV/UTV trails and roads.

Human recreation disturbance activities have been increasing throughout the years and expect to continue to grow as local human populations are increasing and are expected to continue to increase substantially into the foreseeable future (Flather and Cordell, 1995; Hollingshaus et al., 2022). The past three years have had an even higher rate of outdoor recreation from the COVID-19 Pandemic (Taff et al., 2021) and rise of popularity. The continued increase of human presence in the proposed Coal Creek Campground and adjacent trails and recreational activities in the future would most likely add disturbance and adverse impacts to breeding bird communities, reducing species richness and composition.

CHAPTER 4. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1. Public Involvement

Those who had submitted comments for the Coal Creek Day Use EA were contacted and notified of this draft EA and the comment period. Comments from the Coal Creek Day Use EA are located on the Eplanning page for this EA.

The draft EA was open to public comment from October 1 – October 16, 2024. Three comments were received during the comment period. Two comments offered support for the draft EA. A third comment, from a private landowner whose land would be crossed by the proposed trail, was concerned that the EA erroneously referred to an existing public road easement across the private parcel. Upon further investigation, BLM discovered that the existing easement on this private land is for a buried culinary water pipeline and granted to Cedar City Corporation. Therefore "The trails would follow the public road easement across private land" was struck from section 2.2.3. Moreover, BLM added language to section 2.2.3 to clarify that any future easement for the Coal Creek Trail across private land would be negotiated between Cedar City Corporation (the proponent) and the private landowner and BLM would be required to conduct cultural and wildlife clearances prior to final siting of that portion of the trail on private land because the action is connected to a greater federal action.

4.2. Consultation and Coordination

The table below lists persons, agencies, and organizations consulted.

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Utah Division of Water Rights	**Stream Alterations Program (R655-13-1 through 655-13-7).** The Utah Stream Alternation Program was created in 1972 with the goal of protecting the natural resources value of streams within the state, and to protect water rights and recreational activities. The USACE issued Programmatic General Permit 10 (PGP-10) which allows applicants to obtain state approval and Section 404 of the CWA authorization though a single application. Although not all stream alteration activities qualify for approval under PGP-10, several minimal impact activities can be approved under this joint permit agreement.	**Consultation is on-going.**
Iron County **Floodplain Manager**	**Floodplain Management (EO 11988, May 24, 1977).** The Utah Stream Alternation Program was created in 1972 with the goal of protecting the natural resources value of streams within the state, and to protect water rights and recreational activities. The USACE issued Programmatic General Permit 10 (PGP-10) which allows applicants to obtain state approval and Section 404 of the CWA authorization though a single application. Although not all stream alteration activities qualify for approval under PGP-10, several minimal impact activities can be approved under this joint permit agreement.	**Consultation is on-going.**
Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 USC 470)	**Consultation with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was initiated on February 26, 2024. On February 28, 2024, SHPO agreed with the BLM's determination of eligibility and effect: this project would result in no historic properties affected.**

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah as well as the Cedar Band, Indian Peaks Band, Kanosh Band, Koosharem Band, and Shivwits Band; Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation; Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian Reservation; Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation; Navajo Nation; Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Ute Mountain Ute Tribe – White Mesa Community; Pueblo of Zuni; and The Hopi Tribe.	American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1531) and NHPA (16 USC 1531)	**Request for consultation letters were sent by the BLM on February 12, 2024 to the Tribes listed here. One reply from the Moapa Band of Paiutes was received on February 23, 2024. They had no comments and would like to be informed any findings of adverse effect. No other responses were received.**

CHAPTER 5. LIST OF PREPARERS

A list of the staff consulted for analysis during the preparation of this document is included in Appendix B.

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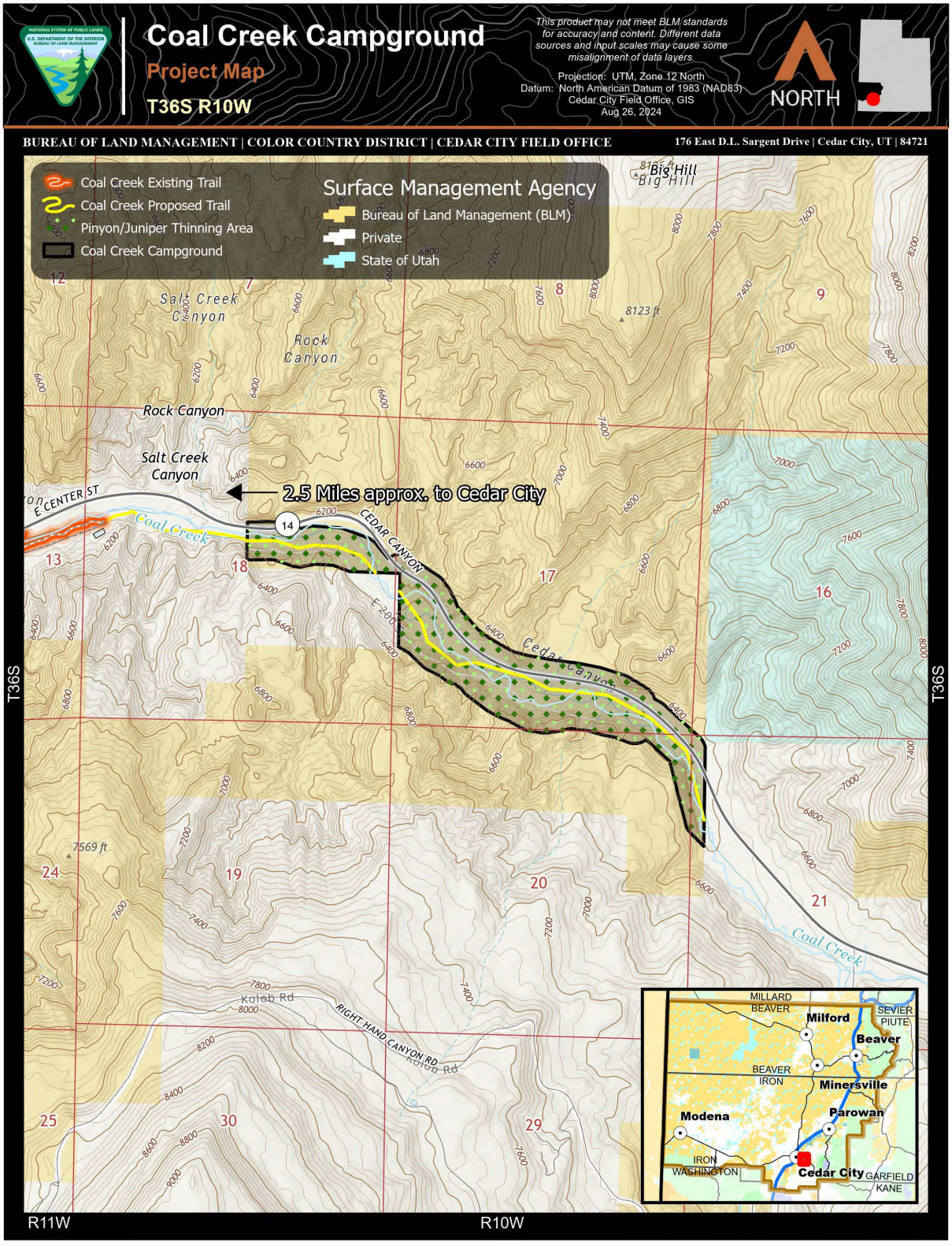
APPENDICES

A. Maps
B. Interdisciplinary Team NEPA Checklist
C. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- Biological Assessment Concurrence
D. 2023 Modified Recreation Site Business Plan

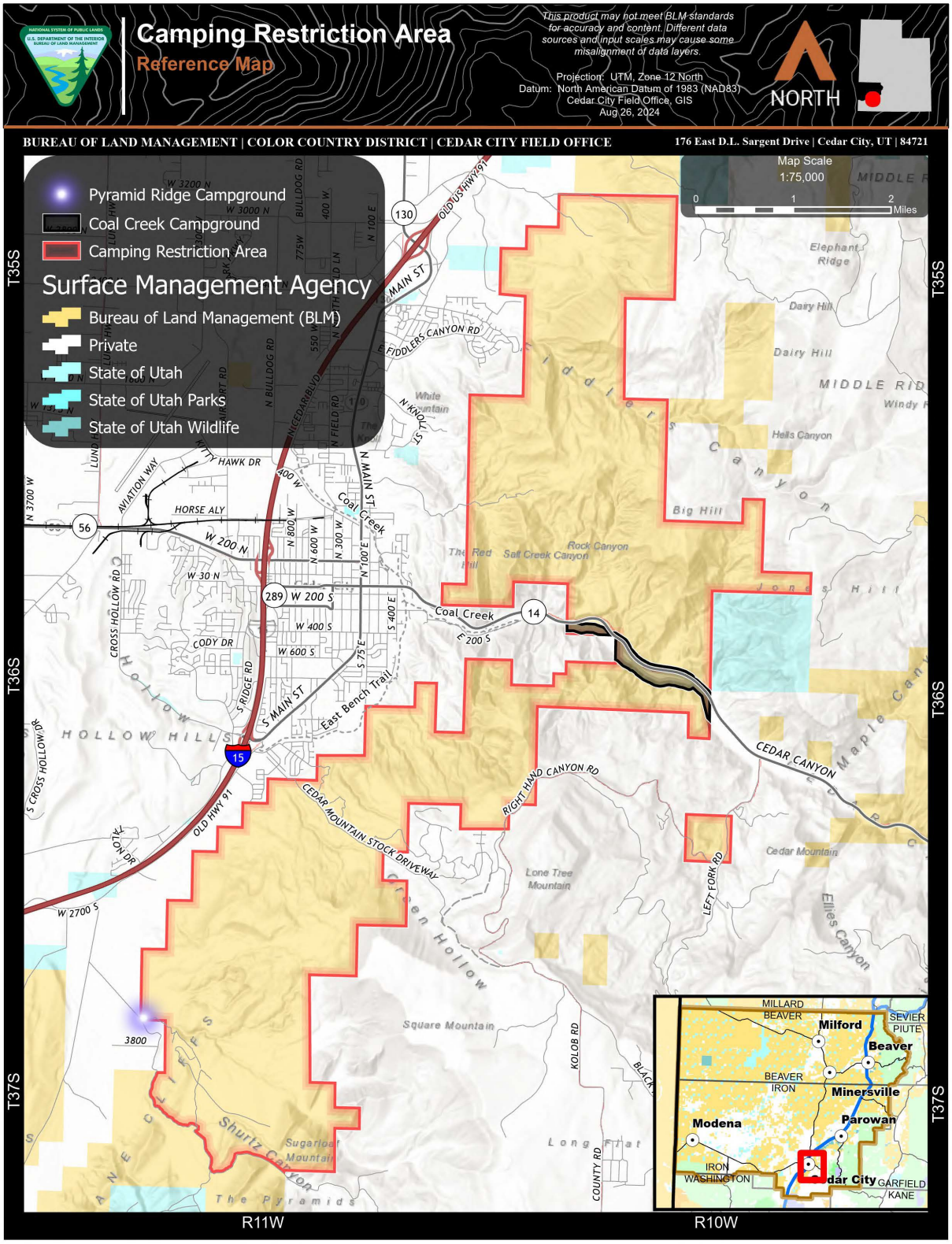
APPENDIX A

MAPS

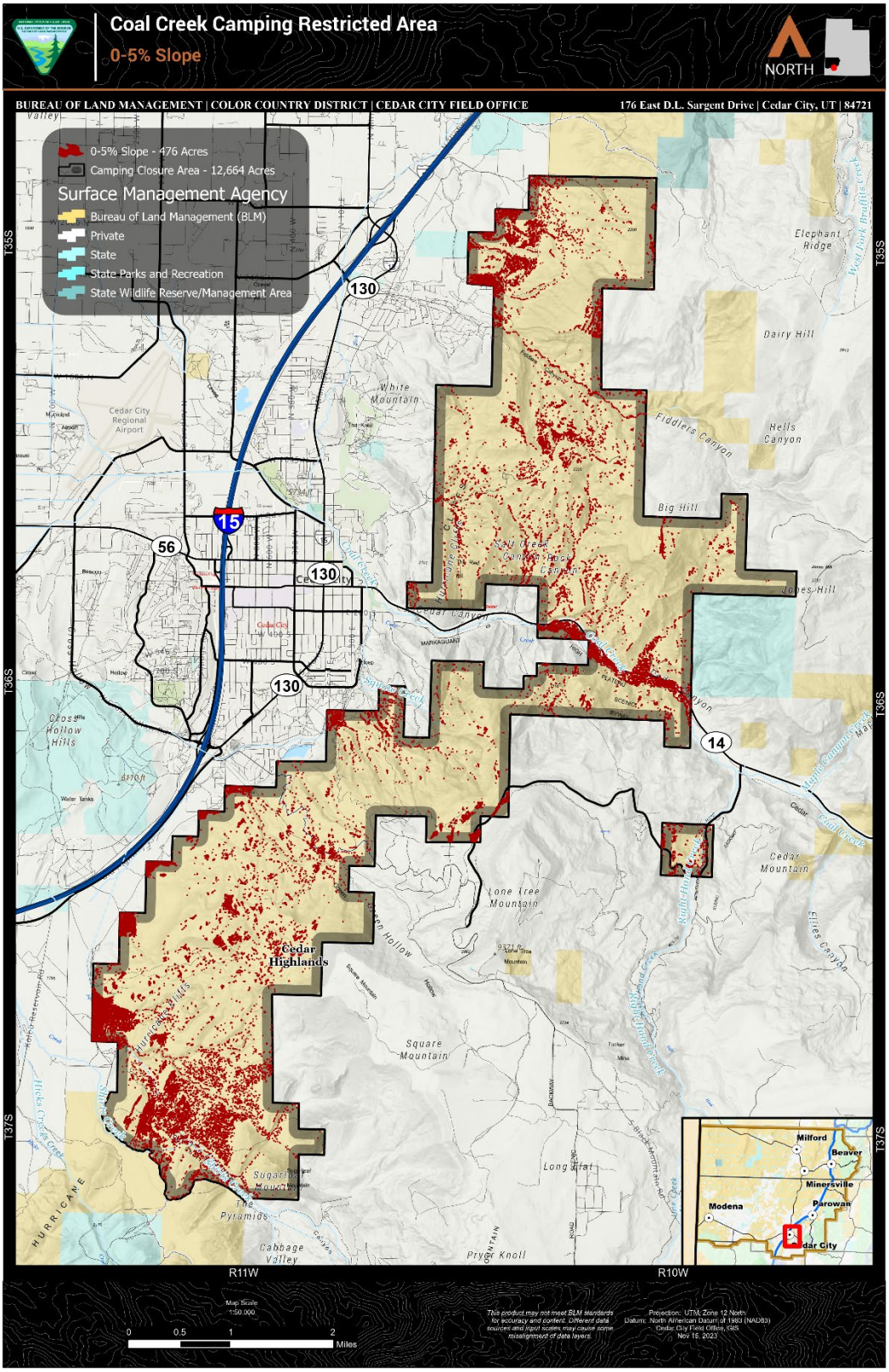
Map 1


Coal Creek Campground
Project Map
T36S R10W
This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.
Projection: UTM, Zone 12 North
Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
Cedar City Field Office, GIS
Aug 26, 2024
NORTH
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT | COLOR COUNTRY DISTRICT | CEDAR CITY FIELD OFFICE
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive | Cedar City, UT | 84721
Coal Creek Existing Trail
Coal Creek Proposed Trail
Pinyon/Juniper Thinning Area
Coal Creek Campground
Surface Management Agency
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Private
State of Utah
2.5 Miles approx. to Cedar City
E CENTER ST
CEDAR CANYON
Coal Creek
Salt Creek Canyon
Rock Canyon
Big Hill
8123 ft
7569 ft
Kolob Rd
RIGHT HAND CANYON RD
T36S
R11W
R10W
MILLARD
BEAVER
Milford
SEVIER
PIUTE
Beaver
BEAVER
IRON
Minersville
Modena
Parowan
IRON
WASHINGTON
Cedar City
GARFIELD
KANE

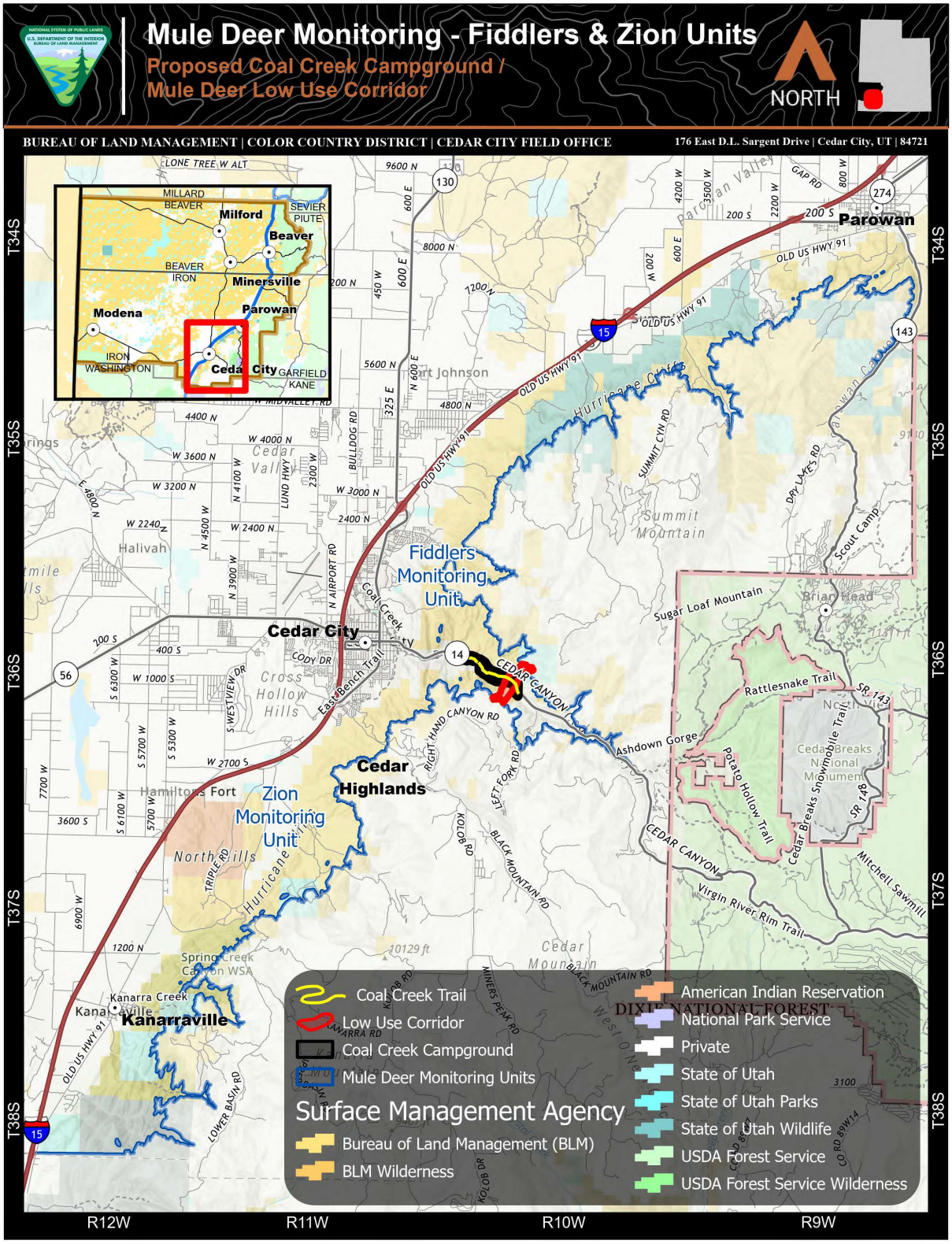
Map 2


Camping Restriction Area
Reference Map
This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.
Projection: UTM, Zone 12 North
Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
Cedar City Field Office, GIS
Aug 26, 2024
NORTH
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT | COLOR COUNTRY DISTRICT | CEDAR CITY FIELD OFFICE
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive | Cedar City, UT | 84721
Pyramid Ridge Campground
Coal Creek Campground
Camping Restriction Area
Surface Management Agency
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Private
State of Utah
State of Utah Parks
State of Utah Wildlife
Map Scale
1:75,000
0 1 2 Miles
T35S
T36S
T37S
R11W
R10W
MAIN ST
OLD US HWY 91
FIDDLERS CANYON RD
NICEDAIR BLVD
N BULLDOG RD
N FIELD RD
AVIATION WAY
HORSE ALY
W 200 N
W 30 N
W 200 S
W 400 S
W 600 S
CODY DR
CROSS HOLLOW RD
S RIDGE RD
S MAIN ST
East Bench Trail
Coal Creek
CEDAR CANYON
RIGHT HAND CANYON RD
CEDAR MOUNTAIN STOCK DRIVEWAY
LEFT FORK RD
COUNTY RD
KOLOB RD
W 2700 S
3800
Elephant Ridge
Dairy Hill
MIDDLE RID
Hells Canyon
Big Hill
Rock Canyon
Jones Hill
Cedar Mountain
Lone Tree Mountain
Square Mountain
Sugarloaf Mountain
The Pyramids
Long Flat
Green Hollow
HOLLOW HILLS
Shurtz Canyon
Ellies Canyon
Maple Canyon
MILLARD
BEAVER
Milford
SEVIER
PIUTE
Beaver
BEAVER
IRON
Minersville
Modena
Parowan
IRON
WASHINGTON
Cedar City
GARFIELD
KANE

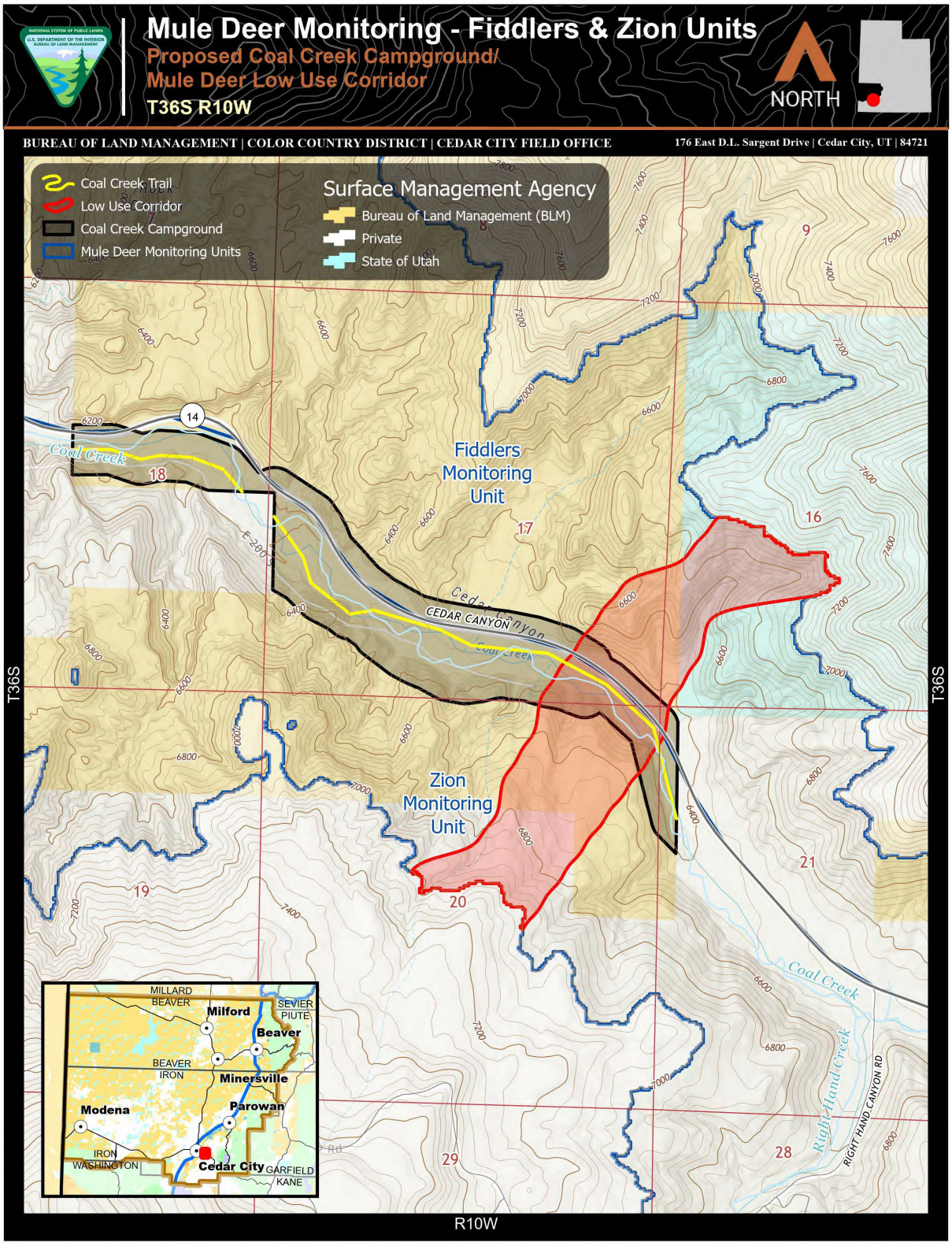
Map 3


Coal Creek Camping Restricted Area
0-5% Slope
NORTH
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT | COLOR COUNTRY DISTRICT | CEDAR CITY FIELD OFFICE
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive | Cedar City, UT | 84721
0-5% Slope - 476 Acres
Camping Closure Area - 12,664 Acres
Surface Management Agency
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Private
State
State Parks and Recreation
State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area
T35S
T36S
T37S
R11W
R10W
Elephant Ridge
Dairy Hill
White Mountain
Fiddlers Canyon
Hells Canyon
Big Hill
Jones Hill
Cedar Canyon
Cedar City Regional Airport
Cross Hollow Hills
Lone Tree Mountain
Cedar Mountain
Cedar Highlands
Square Mountain
Long Flat
Sugarloaf Mountain
The Pyramids
Cabbage Valley
Pryor Knoll
HURRICANE
Milford
Beaver
Minersville
Parowan
Modena
Cedar City
Map Scale 1:50,000
0 0.5 1 2 Miles
This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.
Projection: UTM, Zone 12 North
Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
Cedar City Field Office, GIS
Nov 15, 2023

Map 4


Mule Deer Monitoring - Fiddlers & Zion Units
Proposed Coal Creek Campground /
Mule Deer Low Use Corridor
NORTH
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT | COLOR COUNTRY DISTRICT | CEDAR CITY FIELD OFFICE
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive | Cedar City, UT | 84721
Milford
Beaver
Minersville
Modena
Parowan
Cedar City
Fiddlers Monitoring Unit
Zion Monitoring Unit
Cedar Highlands
Kanarraville
Coal Creek Trail
Low Use Corridor
Coal Creek Campground
Mule Deer Monitoring Units
Surface Management Agency
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
BLM Wilderness
American Indian Reservation
National Park Service
Private
State of Utah
State of Utah Parks
State of Utah Wildlife
USDA Forest Service
USDA Forest Service Wilderness
R12W
R11W
R10W
R9W
T34S
T35S
T36S
T37S
T38S

Map 5


Mule Deer Monitoring - Fiddlers & Zion Units
Proposed Coal Creek Campground/
Mule Deer Low Use Corridor
T36S R10W
NORTH
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT | COLOR COUNTRY DISTRICT | CEDAR CITY FIELD OFFICE
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive | Cedar City, UT | 84721
Coal Creek Trail
Low Use Corridor
Coal Creek Campground
Mule Deer Monitoring Units
Surface Management Agency
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Private
State of Utah
Fiddlers Monitoring Unit
Zion Monitoring Unit
CEDAR CANYON
Coal Creek
Right Hand Creek
RIGHT HAND CANYON RD
T36S
R10W
MILLARD
BEAVER
Milford
SEVIER
PIUTE
Beaver
BEAVER
IRON
Minersville
Modena
Parowan
IRON
WASHINGTON
Cedar City
GARFIELD
KANE

APPENDIX B
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM NEPA CHECKLIST

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM NEPA CHECKLIST

Project Title: Coal Creek Campground

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-CO10-2024-0036-EA

File/Serial Number:

Project Leader: Mike Innes

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

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

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

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA. **The NEPA Handbook states that issues need to be analyzed in detail if: 1) Analysis of the issue is necessary to make a reasoned choice between alternatives; 2) The issue is significant...or where analysis is necessary to determine the significance of impacts.**

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form.

RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED:

Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality	The proposal is within an area that has attained state and federal ambient air quality standards or is unclassified. Nothing in the project proposal is anticipated to alter the current situation. Some dust fines are expected during construction, but fugitive dust, PM2.5 or PM 10 is not anticipated to be an issue. Fugitive dust and exhaust emissions would quickly settle or disperse.	R. Oberhelman	8/26/2024
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	There are no ACEC's within the CCFO	M. Innes	8/21/2024
NI	Cultural Resources	A Class III cultural inventory took place during June and July of 2022 (U22BL0532) in which the Area of Potential Effect (APE) was surveyed for cultural resources. Six previously identified cultural sites were revisited during the inventory with all site records updated. The CCFO archaeologist concurred with the prior site records that none of the sites are recommended eligible for listing on the NRHP. As a result of the Class III inventory, no new historic properties were identified within the APE. Consultation with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was initiated on February 26, 2024. On February 28, 2024, SHPO agreed with the BLM's determination of eligibility and effect. Therefore, this project would result in no historic properties affected.	J. LaValley	8/21/2024
NI	Environmental Justice	The Proposed Action would have no measurable impact on low income or minority populations. EO 12898 requires the BLM to identify and address any disproportionately high or adverse environmental effects on low-income populations, minority populations or tribal populations. Using the BLM EJ Screen Tool, the project area falls	R. Oberhelman	8/26/2024

Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		within US Census Bureau Tract 49021110602, Block Group 1 in Iron County, Utah. A minority population of 15% was identified as residing in the block group. This does not meet the 50% population requirement for detailed analysis, nor is it 10% or greater than the reference area (State of Utah) minority population of 23%. Approximately 49% of the identified block group is considered low-income. This does exceed 50% of the block group population and is equal to or greater than the reference area (State of Utah) low-income population of 25%. Using the BLM EJ Screen Tool, the project area falls within US Census Bureau Tract 490211107021, Block Group 1 in Iron County, Utah. A minority population of 5% was identified as residing in the block group. This does not meet the 50% population requirement for detailed analysis, nor is it 10% or greater than the reference area (State of Utah) minority population of 23%. Approximately 13% of the identified block group is considered low-income. This does not exceed 50% of the block group population and nor is it equal to or greater than the reference area (State of Utah) low-income population of 25%. Using the BLM EJ Screen Tool, the project area falls within US Census Bureau Tract 490211105022, Block Group 1 in Iron County, Utah. A minority population of 15% was identified as residing in the block group. This does not meet the 50% population requirement for detailed analysis, nor is it 10% or greater than the reference area (State of Utah) minority population of 23%. Approximately 24% of the identified block group is considered low-income. This does not exceed 50% of the block group population and nor is it equal to or greater than the reference area (State of Utah) low-income population of 25%. The Proposed Action would not have disproportionally or adverse environmental effects on low-income or minority populations within the block group. While the Proposed Action would eliminate dispersed camping opportunities, in conjunction with the proposed campground, the Proposed Action would provide a benefit to public health and safety by reducing crime and waste in Coal Creek Canyon and elsewhere within the campground closure area.		
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	There are no prime or unique farmlands within the project area.	M. Moulton	8/21/2024
PI	Floodplains	The project is within Zone A of Iron County FEMA mapped floodplain. EO 11990 compliance will require consultation with Iron County Flood Manager regarding development of the campground and amenities on the floodplain.	M. Moulton	8/21/2024

Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	There would be no impacts to fire and fuels management as a result of the Proposed Action. Any disturbed site would need to be reseeded with fire resistant species.	M. Esplin	9/9/2024
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	The only known mineral resources on the lands occupying proposed Coal Creek campground are common variety deposits of sand and gravel. The lands are prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources based on underlying thick sedimentary sequences. There are neither previously authorized nor pending mineral authorizations on the Coal Creek canyon site. The use of these lands as a campground would not be compatible with the extraction of the known mineral resource and so this resource would be unavailable for development while the campground is in existence. However, given the minor value of the resource for the lands involved and/or the unlikelihood of it being developed for this resource even without a competing land-use, the impact to mineral resources is viewed as negligible.	Ed Ginouves	8/21/24
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	There would be emissions of GHG's associated with exhaust of heavy equipment, pickup trucks, etc. associated with project implementation. However, these emissions would be expected to be minimal, even on a local scale.	R. Oberhelman	8/26/2024
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	With any disturbance, the possibility exists for the establishment of invasive and non-native species. Standard measures for rehabilitation such as reseeding, washing vehicles to prevent the spread of weed seed, avoidance of noxious weed areas and control efforts following seeding. As long as noxious weed stipulations are adhered there would be No impact, there are known noxious weeds within the area if an inspection is done prior for noxious weeds in the project area by the project lead and if any noxious weeds that are observed would be geolocated in field maps and would be hand or chemically treated and/or by avoiding any noxious weeds and seeds by not disturbing the soils within close proximity of the weed within the working area of the project, if this is completed there would be no impacts from this proposal. Noxious weed infestations are spread in part by the movement of vehicles, humans, animals, including livestock, by the transport of seed through physical contact and/or ingestion, as well as spread from acts of Mother nature such as: wind and water. The small, isolated noxious weed infestations should eventually be reduced in the future with the continuation of the noxious weed program which was implemented by the Cedar City Field Office. The Cedar City Field Office currently has an aggressive noxious weed control program and annually removes large quantities of noxious weeds throughout BLM administered lands in both Iron and Beaver counties. The BLM coordinates with County, State and Federal agencies in order to locate, treat and monitor noxious weed infestations throughout both counties.	M. Moulton	8/28/2024
NI	Lands/Access	The primary access to the proposed project location would be via State of Utah class B road – SR-14. This access will	Rob Turley	8/22/24

Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		be directly off the main road and should not require an additional ROW. Per Title 43 Code of Federal Regulation 2807.14 nearby or adjacent ROW holders will be notified of this Proposed Action. Holders that have been notified are Cedar City Corp., AT's Queo Archery, and UDOT. BLM CCFO provided notification to the adjacent ROW holders on April 28, 2022. No new ROWs have been issued in this area since April 28,2022		
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	The proposed campground site is not within any areas that were identified as having wilderness characteristics in the 2011 or updated 2014 inventory.	M. Innes	8/21/2024
NP	Livestock Grazing	The project area is not within a grazing allotment.	M. Moulton	8/21/2024
NP	National Historic Trails	There are no National Historic Trails within the project area.	M. Innes	8/21/2024
PI	Native American Religious Concerns	Request for consultation letters were sent by the BLM on February 12, 2024 to the following Tribes: Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah as well as the Cedar Band, Indian Peaks Band, Kanosh Band, Koosharem Band, and Shivwits Band; Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation; Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian Reservation; Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation; Navajo Nation; Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Ute Mountain Ute Tribe – White Mesa Community; Pueblo of Zuni; and The Hopi Tribe. On February 23, 2024, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Darren Daboda, sent the following email reply: "I appreciate the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cedar City Field Office (CCFO) for contacting the Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). Currently, THPO has reviewed the report and has no comments. We, however, would like to stay informed/ contacted if there are any adverse effects or finding of cultural significance during construction within the APE." No responses were received from other Tribes as of August 21, 2024. The Proposed Action would not limit access or impede the ceremonial use of known Indian sacred sites, nor would it adversely affect the integrity off any known sacred sites.	J. LaValley	8/21/2024
NI	Paleontology	Coal Creek Campground Site: the surficial geology of the proposed campground area is Quaternary-age (Holocene and Pleistocene) alluvium deposits. Using the Bureau Potential Fossil Yield Classification System, the formation falls within Class 2, low potential for vertebrate or scientifically significant invertebrate fossils. There are no known scientifically significant fossil localities on, or adjacent to, the proposed campground site and the potential for fossil resources on the location is low. The proposed use of the site as a campground would not require	Ed Ginouves	8/21/24

Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		any pre-utilization fossil resource surveys and no fossil mitigation measures are necessary.		
NP	Rangeland Health Standards	There is no grazing in this area, therefore RLH standards do not apply to this project.	M. Moulton	8/21/2024
PI	Recreation	As recreation has increased in Southwest Utah over the past 10 years demand for recreation facilities and amenities has also grown. The development of this campground is in response to increased illegal camping on public land in this location. The site is close to town and provides a location that can be used in early spring and late fall when many high elevation sites are not available. See Chapter 3.	M. Innes	8/21/2024
NI	Socio-Economics	While the Proposed Action would provide temporary employment opportunity to construct the campground and the trail, this would not surpass the threshold of substantial impact on socio-economics. The dispersed camping closure would eliminate the possibility of free camping within the project area and require all camping to occur at a fee site. However, there are extensive free dispersed camping options adjacent to the closure and the fee schedule for the proposed campground would below the national average for similar sites. It would not represent a substantial negative impact to low-income populations in the project area.	R. Oberhelman	8/26/2024
PI	Soils	This project would be expected to impact soils in the project area from construction activities. Vegetation removal and disturbance of topsoil, mixing of soil horizons, would increase the probability of soil erosion. These impacts could be mitigated by implementing a reclamation plan that includes re-contouring, reseeding disturbed areas and other sediment control measures as needed.	M. Moulton	8/21/2024
NI	Special Status Plants	No Special Status Plants occur in or adjacent to the proposed Coal Creek Campground. The proposed project has low potential for any SS Plants to be present based on locale for plants known to occur within the CCFO. The Fish and Wildlife Service IPAC shows that Ute Ladies'-Tresses (Spiranthes diluvialis) has potential habitat within the project area based on modeling. The only potential habitat would be adjacent to Coal creek along the banks. The only place survey would be required would be where the proposed pedestrian bridge is being proposed to cross the creek. A Site visits will be used to determine if the modeled potential habitat meets the habitat requirements (moist meadows, perennial streams terraces, sub-irrigated or spring-fed abandoned channels) based on the species status assessments. Design features will be incorporated to mitigate impacts to potential habitat or require further survey to determine species occurrence. Design features will also be included to avoid disturbance if Ute Ladies'-Tresses is discovered. (see attached design features).	M. Bayles	8/28/2024
PI	Vegetation	Removal of vegetation would occur under the Proposed Action. Due to the clearing that would occur, a reclamation	M. Moulton	8/21/2024

Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		plan would be required for staging areas. A seed mix based on ecological site, soils, elevation, precipitation, etc… would need to be identified as part of reclamation procedures following the construction of the project. Seed mixes should be identified prior to construction to the greatest extent possible. Timing of seeding will be crucial to ensure that the planted seed has the best chance of survival. Seed mixes and timing of seeding should be identified within the Field Office and should be disclosed in the EA. In addition, reclamation procedures including re-contouring in conjunction with re-vegetation would need to be identified to ensure that soil erosion is minimized following implementation of the project.		
NI	Visual Resources	The proposed campground is in VRM Class IV and will meet the objectives of that classification. The camping restriction would not have any visual impacts to the landscape.	M. Innes	8/21/2024
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	There are no known waste issues currently associated with the proposed project area. Use of construction equipment introduces a threat only if an unforeseen incident or malfunction occurs with the equipment. State and federal regulation governs the use, storage and disposal of any wastes. In addition, should an unforeseen incident occur, reporting and mitigation is required. The proposed area is a popular transient camp area and there is potential to find some camps during construction. Abandoned camps need to be reported and investigated prior to removal.	T. Carlson	9/3/2024
PI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	The project occurs along Coal Creek and its associated floodplain which is a major water source for Cedar City and surrounding Iron County. Coal Creek is fed by many tributaries, springs and snow melt from Cedar Mountain. The DEQ have rated the Coal Creek – C/B unit as an impaired 303d listing due to temperature. A storm water plan will be required which may also include consultation with Utah DEQ. There are numerous water rights associated with Coal Creek including point to point rights deeded to the BLM. Dispersed camping (often longer than 14 days), illegal dumping, etc. have been occurring along Coal Creek and associated BLM land for a number of years and has seen an increase of this type of use in recent years. There are expected temporary impacts to the stream due to the construction activities associated with the Proposed Action. Design features will substantially reduce those impacts with phased construction, minimal removal of vegetation, erosion control measures and reclamation of sites disturbed but not part of final facilities. Positive impacts are also expected as reducing the illegal activities within the nearby floodplain on the water and implementation of vault toilets. A stream alteration permit (PGP-10) will be required to be filed and approved with the Division of Water Rights and the Army Corps of Engineers for any alterations to the stream bed and associated banks prior to bridge construction.	M. Moulton	8/21/2024
PI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	The project occurs along Coal Creek and its associated riparian zone. Coal Creek is confined by SR 14 and the	M. Moulton	8/21/2024

Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		steep gradient that is the stream bed and most water is appropriated by numerous water rights in the Cedar Valley, some storm water is eventually deposited in Quichapa during high run offs and man-made recharge basins. Removal of some riparian vegetation is expected to occur with the proposal, but design features (no removal of woody species (cottonwoods) would substantially reduce this impact. A PGP-10 filing as discussed in Water Resources would be required which Army Cor of Engineers would review and determine whether further filings are necessary with the alteration of the riparian zone.		
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers in the CCFO.	M. Innes	8/21/2024
NP	Wilderness/WSA	There are no designated Wilderness or WSA's within the project area.	M. Innes	8/21/2024
NP	Wild Horses	The proposed projects are not within or adjacent to a Wild Horses Herd Area (HA) or Herd Management Area (HMA).	J. Bulloch	8/27/24
PI	Wildlife & Fish	The project area is within crucial mule deer winter range and would avoid construction activities and human presence (camping) from Dec 1 through Apr 30. The area is on the Parowan Front which is identified as a high-density area for wintering mule deer and threats include human encroachment on winter range diminishing its value due to loss of habitat and avoidance of key areas. The project area is also within elk winter habitat and year-round wild turkey habitat. Adopting BMP's for habitat improvements for mule deer and wild turkey would be beneficial for these species. NI if these design features are followed with seasonal closures (Dec 1 to Apr 30) of the campground area.	D. Schaible	9/3/24
NP	Wildlife - Greater Sage-Grouse	The project is not within greater sage grouse habitat.	K. Willardson	8/26/2024
PI	Wildlife – Migratory Birds	Various migratory bird species utilize the habitat in and around the proposed project area year-round. Long-term and short-term impacts to migratory birds from the development of the proposed campground and trails should be analyzed in detail. Impacts to migratory birds include short-term displacement from construction disturbance and long-term displacement from recreational use. Plan project disturbance activities outside of migratory bird nesting season (January 1 – August 31) to the greatest extent possible. If this is not possible, then avoid any habitat alteration, removal, or destruction during the primary nesting season for migratory birds (April 1 – July 31). If unavoidable, then nesting surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist at most 7 days prior to disturbance activities. Any active nests found will have appropriate buffers and seasonal timing restrictions added. Biologists may determine when a nest becomes inactive after	D. Christensen	8/21/2024

Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		fledglings have left the nest and then allow disturbance activities to occur within the buffer.		
NI	Wildlife-Special Status (not TEC)	BLM sensitive species that may occur in the project area include but are not limited to bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, fringed myotis, Lewis' woodpecker, northern goshawk, pygmy rabbit, short-eared owl, spotted bat, three-toed woodpecker, Townsends big-eared bat, and western red bat. If pygmy rabbit habitat is to be disturbed, surveys should be conducted to apply appropriate BMP's if necessary. NI if design features are followed with seasonal closures of the campground area.	D. Schaible	9/3/24
NI	Wildlife T&E and Candidate	USFWS' Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) shows that there may be potential impacts to the following listed species from the proposed campground: Utah prairie dog (UPD; threatened), California condor (CACO; experimental population), Mexican spotted owl (MSO; threatened), yellow-billed cuckoo (YBCU; threatened), and monarch butterfly (candidate). No designated critical habitat for any of these threatened and endangered species exists within the proposed campground area. No mapped Utah prairie dog (UPD) habitat exists within 0.5 miles of the proposed campground area nor does the area have suitable habitat for UPD habitat. It is determined that the proposed campground would have no effect to the Utah prairie dog. It is also determined that there would be no effect to YBCU because it is outside of SWFL range and consists of unsuitable or marginal habitat for YBCU. MSO and CACO has the potential to utilize the area for foraging and nesting. Informal consultation for MSO and CACO was completed with the USFWS for the proposed campground. The proposed campground may affect, but not likely to adversely affect the MSO and not jeopardize the non-essential experimental population of CACO. Informal consultation was completed and concurrence from USFWS was given on March 15, 2023.	D. Christensen	8/21/2024
NI	Woodland / Forestry	Areas proposed contain pinyon-juniper woodlands. However, only minimal amounts of trees will be removed.	C. Peterson	8/28/2024

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	Ryan Oberhelman	9/10/24	Analysis complete and adequate
Authorized Officer	Jacqueline Russell	11/18/2024	

APPENDIX C

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- Biological Assessment Concurrence

(see attached document in Eplanning site for this project)

APPENDIX D

2023 Modified Recreation Site Business Plan

(see attached document in Eplanning site for this project)