

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Little Snake Field Office  
455 Emerson Street  
Craig, CO 81625

## DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: CO-100-2007-028DNA

CASE FILE/PROJECT NUMBER:

PROJECT NAME: Amendment to the Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T5N, R92W and R93W; and T6N, R92W and R93W.

### A. Describe the Proposed Action

- This amendment only applies to transportation (roads and routes) decisions south of the Yampa River between Ralston Draw to the east and the Duffy Tunnel area to the west within the Little Yampa Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (LYC-SRMA).
- Assigns BLM road numbers to roads designated for motorized vehicle use in the RAMP.
- Designates and assigns BLM road numbers to existing roads within the LYC-SRMA that were either missed in the original RAMP or have been developed through unauthorized use since the RAMP that provide key motorized vehicle access for use of Public Lands.
- Identifies existing roads for closure that were either missed in the original RAMP or have been developed through unauthorized use that are redundant, or not legally accessible to the public, or do not provide key motorized vehicle access for use of Public Lands.
- A map of the area and road proposals is part of this project analysis and on file in the Little Snake Field Office.

### B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: April 26, 1989

Final RMP/EIS, September 1986

Draft RMP/EIS, February 1986

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The Little Yampa Canyon area, 19,840 acres, was designated as a Special Recreation Management Area in the Little Snake Resource Management Plan Record of Decision in 1989.

**C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/Finding of No Significant Impact. (Environmental Assessment No. CO-016-95-048).

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?**

Yes. The current proposed action is part of the approved actions in the Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI. The proposed action is within the same location as the original EA.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes. The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI analyzed the environmental impacts of alternatives ranging from No Action to the Approved Actions, which include this proposed action.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?**

Yes. The Proposed Action would have no disproportionate impacts on minority populations or low income communities per Executive Order (EO) 12898 and would not adversely impact migratory birds per EO 13186.

No new, threatened or endangered plant or animal species have been identified on the site, and archeological clearances have been completed.

**4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?**

Yes. The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI methodology and analytical approach are appropriate to this proposed action.

**5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?**

Yes. The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI analyzed the direct, indirect, and site-specific impacts of the area covered under this present proposed action.

**6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?**

Yes. The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI addressed cumulative impacts. The cumulative impacts resulting from the current proposed action are unchanged from those analyzed in the original EA.

**7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?**

Yes. All public involvement and interagency review associated with The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI are adequate to this proposed action.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ole Olsen	Natural Resource Specialist	Air Quality, Floodplains Prime/Unique Farmlands, Water Quality – Surface	OO	8/7/07
Robin Morris	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	RWM	8/22/07
Mike Andrews	Realty Specialist	Environmental Justice	MAA	08/06/07
Rob Schmitzer	Project lead	Hazardous Materials	RS	07/19/07
Ole Olsen	Natural Resources Specialist	Invasive Non-native Species	OO	8/7/07
Hunter Seim	Rangeland Management Spec.	Sensitive Plants, T&E Plant	JHS	8/13/07
Charlie Sharp	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animal	CMS	08/01/07
Marilyn Wegweiser	Petroleum Geologist	Water Quality - Ground	MDW	07/02/07
Charlie Sharp	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	CMS	08/01/07
Rob Schmitzer	Recreation Specialist	WSA, W&S Rivers	RS	07/19/07

**REMARKS:**

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

**Background Information:** Cultural resources, in this region of Colorado, range from late Paleo-Indian to Historic. For a general understanding of the cultural resources in this area of Colorado, see *An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources, Little Snake Resource Area, Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, *An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and *Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Northern Colorado River Basin*, Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

**Environmental Concerns:** The proposed project(s), Duffy Mountain RAMP, has undergone both Class II and Class III cultural resource survey as per Colorado Protocol: Addendum 1.

Morris, Robyn Watkins

2007 A Class II and Class III Survey of the Duffy Mountain Recreation Area Management Plan, BLM-Little Snake Field Office, Moffat County, Colorado (10.16.07).

The survey identified two eligible to the National Register of Historic Places prehistoric cultural resources. The proposed project may proceed as described in this EA with the following mitigative measures in place.

**Mitigation Requirements:**

Before roads are added to the list for maintenance, cultural resource specialist must determine mitigation measures for the two eligible to the National Register of Historic Places sites.

The following standard stipulations apply for this project:

The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the find and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and
- Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-5000,

and with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris August 22, 2007

**NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS**

A letter was sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council, and the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs on January 21, 1999. The letter listed the projects that the BLM would notify them on and projects that would not require notification. No comments were received (Letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris August 22, 2007

**Conclusion**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Signature of Lead Specialist\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of NEPA Coordinator\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Authorizing Official\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Note: The signed Conclusion on this document is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.