

To: Franchina, Rachel -FS[rfranchina@fs.fed.us]
Cc: Johnson, Amber[a2johnson@blm.gov]; Casey Worth[cworth@blm.gov]; Spencer, Jan -FS[jspencer@fs.fed.us]
From: Ashcroft, Tyler
Sent: 2017-02-08T12:32:25-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: NEPA support for campground proposals
Received: 2017-02-08T12:33:05-05:00
[White House EA FINAL appendices inserted.pdf](#)
[Deer Creek EA Final.pdf](#)
[Calf Creek Recreation Area Improvements EA with appendices.pdf](#)

All,

Attached are three example EAs from the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Two of these EAs are complete (Deer Creek and White House) the third (Calf Creek) is still in progress. These should provide a good example of what will be required for the Superbowl Campground expansion project. The Shay Canyon project, which is a new project may require more work.

As mentioned on the phone, in projecting estimated costs, the Superbowl campground project will likely be a two alternative (proposed action/no action) project with no more than 6 issues. The Shay Canyon campground project will likely include 3-4 alternatives and up to 8 issues.

I look forward to hearing your back from you soon.

Regards,

On Tue, Feb 7, 2017 at 3:52 PM, Franchina, Rachel -FS <rfranchina@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Tyler – Could you send the examples from GSENM at your earliest convenience?

Casey – Are you available to talk Weds. or Thursday about the proposed action?

Hoping to get an estimate to you guys soon; however, I'll be on leave next week so if we can get a few more details, I can send them to some specialists to be working on the estimate while I'm out. Thanks so much!

From: Ashcroft, Tyler [mailto:tashcrof@blm.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2017 8:52 AM
To: Johnson, Amber <a2johnson@blm.gov>
Cc: Franchina, Rachel -FS <rfranchina@fs.fed.us>; Casey Worth <cworth@blm.gov>; Spencer, Jan -FS <jspencer@fs.fed.us>

Subject: Re: NEPA support for campground proposals

I also have a few sample documents from Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument I can send on Monday. This should give you a better idea regarding the level of analysis that could be required. We would also follow a similar EA format.

On Thu, Feb 2, 2017 at 7:53 PM, Johnson, Amber <a2johnson@blm.gov> wrote:

Hi Rachel, Of course! I'll put you in contact with Casey Worth and I've cc'd him on this email. He is our recreation planner who has been working on this project. He has a pretty good conceptual idea of what we'd like in the project. He also knows what has been done so far, and what hasn't. I'll discuss it with him in the morning tomorrow, and ask him to give you a call to get a better idea of what you'd like for us to provide.

Amber

Amber Denton Johnson

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

BLM, Monticello Field Office

435-587-1505

On Thu, Feb 2, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Franchina, Rachel -FS <rfranchina@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Thank you Tyler and Amber! Any chance we can get a draft proposed action to help our specialists understand the scope?

From: Ashcroft, Tyler [mailto:tashcrof@blm.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:52 PM
To: Franchina, Rachel -FS <rfranchina@fs.fed.us>
Cc: Amber Johnson <a2johnson@blm.gov>; Spencer, Jan -FS <jspencer@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Re: NEPA support for campground proposals

Rachel and Jan,

It was a pleasure to meet you today. Included is some follow-up information.

as discussed the higher priority is the Superbowl campground, which is the existing campground that we are looking to expand. The BLM would like to add an additional loop (less than 20 sites) and group site (up to 25 people). The project would be completed in an approximately 5 acre area. If you have additional questions that need answered, Amber should be able to assist.

Kind regards,

On Fri, Jan 27, 2017 at 1:42 PM, Franchina, Rachel -FS <rfranchina@fs.fed.us> wrote:

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United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0013-EA

August 2016

White House Recreation Site Improvements

Location: Highway 89, 43 miles East of Kanab, Utah
Salt Lake Meridian, Kane County, Utah
Township 43 South, Range 1 West, Sections 10 and 14

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
669 South Highway 89A
Kanab, UT 84741
Phone: (435) 644-1200
Fax: (435) 644-1250



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White House Recreation Site Improvements

DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0013-EA

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Land Management proposes to update and improve White House Recreation Site in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). See Appendix A – Project Area Map for project location and area. These existing recreation facilities are located in the Monument's Frontcountry Management Zone approximately 43 miles east of Kanab, Utah in Kane County.

The White House Recreation Site is approximately five acres and provides camping amenities and trailhead parking. It is located two miles south of Highway 89 and the Paria Contact Station at the end of Monument road #751 adjacent to the Paria River.

The site provides access for hikers and overnight backpackers hiking the Paria River into the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area which is jointly managed by Vermilion Cliffs National Monument (VCNM) in the BLM- Arizona Strip Field Office and the BLM-Utah Kanab Field Office (KFO). VCNM and the KFO jointly administer the Special Recreation Permit Fee Program for hiking access into this area and the KFO and GSENM jointly administer the Recreational Use Permit (Expanded Amenity) Fee Program at White House Campground. A three-office Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and annual operating plan guides the roles and responsibilities of each BLM office in administering and managing fees and operations at the White House Recreation Site.

The recreation site currently contains the following amenities and site fixtures:

- 2 car-camping sites and 3 walk-in campsites, with tables and fire rings
- 2 vault toilets
- A fee station with fee tube, register and information kiosks
- A gravel/natural surface parking lot
- A bicycle rack
- Fencing and cattle guard
- Small signs

Trash collection and water are available year-round at the Paria Contact Station.

Prior development of facilities at this recreation site was addressed in this environmental compliance document:

White House Trailhead Campground Maintenance 92-35 CX (1992) - The replacement of the existing vault toilets with two new SST vault toilets and an accessible walkway was authorized.

BLM has secured deferred maintenance funds to replace the vault toilets. Recreation fees would be used to fund the other site improvements. If approved, some of the proposed recreation site improvements could be implemented as soon as Summer 2016.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action is to replace old, deteriorated site amenities, slightly increase capacity for camping and trailhead parking, and improve the functionality and accessibility of the site, thereby improving the recreational experience for site users.

The White House Recreation Site facilities are deteriorating and do not meet visitor expectations for site functionality. The current site layout is disorganized, inefficient, and confusing to use, and some aspects of the site do not meet the *Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas*. The lack of natural shade currently limits camping use, especially during summer months. These issues diminish the quality of the recreational experience provided for visitors.

The old vault toilets in the campground do not meet accessibility standards, do not vent properly, and have deteriorated to the degree that they've been sided with plywood. Two of the campsites are adjacent to the parking area and the remaining three are up on the hill scattered in the trees. They are poorly defined and have little to no shade. The parking area, which is used by both campers and those hiking into the canyon, is a long oval marked with many small signs directing users how to park because it is not intuitive. It is highly likely that users doing multi-day backpack trips down the Paria River park adjacent to the campsites, blocking ready access for days for those wishing to car camp. The fee station area with information about both the White House camping fees and overnight and day-use fees for the Paria Canyon Permit Area is often confusing for the public to use and understand.

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan* (MMP), effective February 2000, and is supported by the following plan decisions:

FAC-6 *All facilities and parking areas will be designed to be unobtrusive and to meet the visual resource objectives.*

FAC-10 *Calf Creek and White House Campgrounds are the only developed campgrounds in the Frontcountry Zone.*

FAC-12 *Existing parking areas may be better delineated with barriers to prevent further expansion. Parking areas could accommodate up to 30 vehicles, but most will be designed for fewer than 10 cars. Construction of small spur routes or trails may be allowed to access parking areas or other facilities. Trails and parking areas will not be paved.*

The project area is in the Frontcountry Zone where facilities are allowed for visitor use, safety, interpretation, and the protection of Monument resources. It is also located within the HWY 89 Special Recreation Management Area where the recreation experience is to focus on learning about

geology, history, archaeology, biology, and paleontology, in addition to scenic viewing, and opportunities provided are to accommodate all visitors.

RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND OTHER PLANS

The proposed action complies with federal environmental laws and regulations, Executive Orders, and Department of Interior, BLM, and GSENM policies and is consistent with state laws and local and county ordinances and plans, including the following:

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act (OPLMA) established the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) in order to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations. The Act goes on to require that NLCS units, of which GSENM is one, be managed in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated. The NLCS includes National Monuments, Wilderness Study Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. The proposal was designed to meet the objectives of OPLMA.

Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701-1712) directs the development of land use plans for BLM lands. Once land use plans are developed, any approved project must be provided in the land use plan or be consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions in the approved land use plan. As noted above, this project conforms to the land use plan.

Endangered Species Act of 1973

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides for conserving endangered and threatened species of plants and animals. It requires that federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any actions that they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued survival of a listed species or result in the adverse modification or destruction of its critical habitat. This proposal was designed to avoid impacts to species listed under ESA.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of any undertaking on historic resources and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking. Federal agencies must determine whether the undertaking is a type of activity that could affect historic properties. Historic properties are ones that are included on the National Register of Historic Places or that meet the criteria for inclusion on the National Register. If the agency determines that it has no undertaking, or that its undertaking is a type of activity that has no potential to affect historic properties, the agency has no further Section 106 obligations.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) requires BLM to identify all rivers on BLM-administered lands that possess free-flowing condition or outstanding remarkable values and therefore may have potential for addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS). The Paria River, from its source on the Paunsaugunt Plateau to where it meets the Colorado River, was inventoried and approximately 112 miles of the main stem of the Paria River and its tributaries were recommended suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS as required by Section 5(d) (1) of the WSRA. BLM's policy goal

for inventoried eligible or suitable Wild and Scenic River segments is to manage and maintain their free-flowing condition, water quality, tentative classifications, and any identified outstanding remarkable values (ORV) until designated or released in a subsequent land use plan.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) provides legal criteria for the collection of recreation fees at federal campgrounds or expanded amenity sites. It also directs BLM to provide a specific set of amenities in order to collect fees in campgrounds or special management areas.

Architectural Barriers Act (Public Law 90-480)

The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), enacted in 1968, requires that all buildings and facilities constructed in whole or in part using Federal funds must be accessible to, and usable by, physically disabled persons. This includes any construction, renovation, restoration, remodeling, or site development completed by Federal agencies.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Proclamation (1996)

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative have been evaluated for consistency with the Proclamation, particularly in reference to the specific objects that were identified within the Proclamation. No effects of the proposed action, with the included design features, are anticipated on any of objects identified within the Proclamation.

BLM Manual 6220 – National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations (2012)

BLM Manual 6220 states that “BLM will inventory existing facilities within Monuments and National Conservation Areas and determine whether to remove, maintain, restore, enhance, or allow natural disintegration of each facility” (p. 1-10). White House Campground is identified in the GSENM Management Plan as one of “the only developed campgrounds” in the Frontcountry Management Zone. The proposed action will maintain and improve this existing facility.

BLM Manual 6400-National Wild and Scenic Rivers (2012)

Manual 6400-National Wild and Scenic Rivers (3.6.D.Recreation Development) states that a tentative recreational classification “does not require extensive recreation development”, but rather “should harmonize with natural and cultural settings and be screened from view of the river where possible” (p. 3-11). The proposed project is consistent with this policy direction.

Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas - Published in the Federal Register September 26, 2013. 36 CFR Part 1191 RIN 3014-AA22

The final rule amends the ABA Accessibility Guidelines by adding scoping and technical requirements for camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails, and beach access routes constructed or altered by or on behalf of federal agencies. The final rule ensures that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

BLM Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment

The BLM Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment directs BLM to provide facilities that are sustainable, attractive, functional, cost-effective, and responsive to place and setting.

Kane County Resource Management Plan-Revised February 2015

Although the White House Recreation Site is not specifically mentioned in the *Kane County Resource Management Plan*, a review of the document suggests that this proposal would not conflict with the county plan. The county plan does note support for recreation opportunities on page 73:

It is the county's position that federal and state land managers should do everything possible to enhance recreational opportunities on public lands.

Paria Canyon-Coyote Buttes Special Management Area Draft Business Plan (2016)

The proposed action is consistent with the current and future vision of fee program operations conducted at White House Campground and Trailhead contained in the Draft Business Plan currently being reviewed with approval anticipated in late 2016.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

During preparation of the EA, the public was first notified of the proposed action by posting on the BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Register on January 27, 2015. No individuals or groups contacted the BLM in response to that notice. During the interdisciplinary review by BLM specialists the following issues were identified:

Issue A: Recreation - How would the proposed upgrades and improvements at the White House Recreation Site affect the recreation experience?

Issue B: Wild and Scenic Rivers-How would the proposed upgrades and improvements affect Wild and Scenic River suitable segments or outstanding remarkable values of the Paria River?

Issue C: Visual Resources - Would the proposed site developments create visually contrasting impacts that alter the landscape character?

SUMMARY

This chapter has presented the purpose and need of the proposed project, as well as the relevant issues, i.e., those elements of the human environment that could be affected by the implementation of the proposed project. In order to meet the purpose and need of the proposed project in a way that resolves the issues, the BLM has considered and/or developed a range of action alternatives. These alternatives are presented in Chapter 2. The potential environmental impacts or consequences resulting from the implementation of each alternative considered in detail are analyzed in Chapter 4 for each of the identified issues.

CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment reviews a No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative provides a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the Proposed Action.

PROPOSED ACTION

BLM is proposing to upgrade and improve the White House Recreation Site, including providing separate areas for the campground and the trailhead. GSENM would use BLM deferred maintenance, recreation site user fees, and grants to pay for the proposed improvements. Contractor, BLM force account or maintenance staff, and/or volunteer labor could be used to perform the work. Some construction is slated to begin in summer 2016. Full implementation of the proposed action would occur as funds become available.

The proposed action (See Appendix B – Site Design) includes the following:

Campground:

- Construct up to seven camping units with adjacent parking, tent pads, picnic tables, shade shelters, and fire rings
- Designate up to five walk-in campsites with picnic tables, tent pads, and fire rings across the wash on the hill
- Designate parking spaces for five walk-in campsites
- Define a path to walk-in campsites
- Install base material to raise, define, and improve surface stability of campsites
- Install campsite numbering posts
- Install fee station with kiosk and fee tube
- Improve traffic flow by establishing a median and one way traffic flow
- Limit campground to vehicles 25 feet or less

Trailhead:

- Construct new trailhead with up to 14 standard size parking spaces and two oversize vehicle parking spaces
- Install fee station with kiosk, fee tube, and register
- Reroute access trail to Paria River from trailhead

General:

- Between campground and trailhead, install a double vault toilet with adjacent parking
- Construct two picnic sites with shade shelters and picnic tables across from the trailhead
- Install new NLCS standard site signs and other site signs as needed
- Install bike rack
- Install barriers (fencing and/or boulders) as needed to protect vegetation and define edges of parking and driving areas

- Use gravel/road base to stabilize all driving surfaces
- Relocate/replace cattle guard and install fencing around trailhead that ties into existing fencing
- Remove all old, deteriorated infrastructure and dispose of properly

During construction the recreation site would be closed to the public. This would be accomplished by blocking the access road near the Paria Contact Station since there would be no turnaround available while the site is under construction. A variety of heavy, motorized equipment would be used during construction, including but not limited to a dump truck, crane, front-end loader, skid-steer loader, and tractor. Work would be done during daylight hours (7 am to 6 pm). During construction, equipment would be parked at the project site. As the project is likely to be constructed in phases, the campground is unlikely to be closed to the public more than four weeks in any one phase.

General maintenance would be performed by BLM staff or contractors at the proposed facilities once construction is completed.

BLM's Guidelines for a Quality Environment was used to plan and would be used to design this project, seeking to meet the agency's goals of developing facilities that are sustainable, functional, accessible, cost effective, and responsive to place and setting. *Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas* would also be used to design this project to ensure that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

Design criteria to meet built environment image guidelines and other mandates would include the following:

- Natural or natural-appearing materials would be used. These could include concrete, natural stone, road base, gravels or fines, rusted or painted metal, and/or wood.
- No shiny, reflective materials would be used.
- Natural palette colors would include blacks, grays, reds, rusts, browns, and buffs. No bright colors such as whites or yellows would be used (except for lettering on signs).
- Native plant container stock and/or native plant seeds would be used to revegetate areas impacted during construction.

In order to prevent unnecessary resource impacts, the following design features would be required and incorporated into project construction, scheduling and monitoring:

- Construction limits would be staked and flagged to protect vegetation and soils during construction.
- To prevent the spread of invasive and noxious weeds, equipment would be washed before transport to the construction site.
- The project site would be monitored for noxious and invasive vegetation after construction. If noxious weeds or non-native, invasive plants are discovered, BLM-approved weed treatments would be applied in a manner consistent with current BLM practice.
- All construction would take place outside of the migratory bird breeding and brood raising period from April 15 to July 15.

To inform the public of the construction closures, BLM would do the following:

- Issue a press release to relevant media outlets.

- Publish notice on GSENM website.
- Post closure signs at visitor centers and in the local communities.
- Work with the Kane County Office of Tourism to do outreach to visitors.

No ACTION

Under the No Action Alternative, BLM would not improve and update the White House Recreation Site. BLM would not provide any of the improvements or facilities in the Proposed Action. Under this alternative the outdated vault toilets would continue to be used by the public; site functionality and accessibility would not be improved; and the recreation experience for visitors would not be improved.

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist (See Appendix C – IDT Checklist). The checklist indicates which resources are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Resources which are predicted to be impacted are described in Chapter 3 and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4. Recreation, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Visual Resources were identified by the Interdisciplinary Team as potentially affected by the Proposed Action.

The White House Recreation Site is located at the end of Monument Road #751 south of HWY 89 between Kanab, Utah and Page, Arizona. The project area is located between the Paria Plateau and the Kaiparowits Plateau adjacent to the Paria River just before it flows into Paria Canyon at an elevation of 4,400 feet. The landscape in the area is typified by colorful sandstone outcrops, a wide meandering riverbed, and open desert expanses. Predominant vegetation in the area is grasses, desert shrubs, and scattered pinyon and juniper trees. The recreation site is constrained by the river on one side and sandstone outcrops on the other.

Resource A: Recreation

White House Campground

White House Campground is one of only three developed campgrounds within GSENM and the only BLM campground on the south side of the Monument. It is a small primitive campground with five designated sites including three walk-in sites, two vault toilets, one fee station with interpretive signage, and one parking area for all users. Water and trash disposal are available year-round near the Paria Contact Station.

The loss of two large trees in 2014 removed shade from the two car camping sites; these two sites along with the three walk-in sites experience heavy sun. There is on-going soil erosion within the area from numerous social trails.

During 2015, BLM issued 444 permits for a total of 681 visitors in the campground. Average on-site visitation over the past five years indicates May, June, September, and October as the busiest months. Those using the area for recreation are typically engaged in car camping, hiking, backpacking, picnicking, biking, photography, and viewing cultural sites or geologic features in the vicinity. Increased visitation to south-central Utah brings more visitors to the area who disperse camp along many of the Monument's side roads and turn-outs.

White House Trailhead

White House Trailhead is one of four trailheads that access Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area. Paria Canyon is widely recognized as one of the longest and most stunning slot canyons in the world. Here, the river winds downward through seven geologic layers, eventually ending at the Colorado River just below Glen Canyon Dam. The route from this trailhead through the entire system is 38 miles and takes the average backpacker four to five days to complete.

Approximately 2.6 miles downstream from the recreation site, the Paria River flows across the GSENM boundary into the 20,254 acre Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes Special Management Area (SMA) established in 1997 on BLM lands in both Arizona and Utah. The SMA is entirely within the 112,190 acre Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area on lands managed by BLM in both VCNM and the KFO (See Appendix D – SMA Map). The intent of the SMA is to provide for long-term protection and preservation of wilderness character and management for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a manner that will leave wilderness unimpaired. In order to achieve these goals, the number of people allowed to visit the SMA for overnight use is limited via fee permits available through an advance online reservation system. Day-use hiking in the Paria River on GSENM for the two miles prior to the wilderness boundary is free and does not require a permit.

Historically the White House Trailhead has been used as a staging area for hikers accessing the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area. Trailhead permit data for 2015 recorded a total of 964 hikers accessing the Paria Canyon from this location. Day-use hikers who obtained a permit at the on-site fee station numbered 536. An additional 428 overnight hikers used this trailhead for Paria Canyon entry after obtaining permits through the advance online reservation system.

Fee monies are reinvested back into the sites where they are collected per FLREA which guides collection and expenditures of fee monies.

Resource B: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Approximately 122 miles of the Paria River and its tributaries are recommended as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. The proposed project area for the White House Recreation Site and the actual river bottom hiking route lies within the Lower Paria River-1 segment which is recommended as a suitable segment for inclusion in the NWSRS. The area of evaluation included in the suitability determination is usually measured 1/4 mile from the mean high-water mark on both sides of the river. This project is located within approximately 1/8 of a mile from the mean high-water mark. This segment extends downriver to the GSENM boundary and has a tentative classification as *Recreational*. The WSR suitability recommendation also identifies the following Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs): high quality scenery, narrow canyon, outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, and nature viewing.

Resource C: Visual Resources

Characteristic Landscape

The proposed project area is located in the south central portion of the Monument between the Paria Plateau and the Kaiparowits Plateau adjacent to the Paria River just before it flows into Paria Canyon. In this location the flash-flood prone Paria River flows through a wide, dynamic channel that support minimal riparian vegetation. The dominant vegetation in the project area is desert shrubs, grasses, and pinyon and juniper trees. The vegetation is a full range of greens, from light golden green to sage green to dark juniper green, and ranges from medium to coarse in texture. The built elements in this landscape include the dirt/gravel road, vault toilets, fencing, a cattle guard, a multi-panel information kiosk, picnic tables, fire rings, and signs. Most of the built elements are small in scale. The most visible elements in this landscape are the two vault toilets located in the middle of the viewshed and the vehicles used by recreationists when they are present. As the

project area is located at the end of Monument Road #751 about 2 miles down from the highway, it is only seen by those travelling to the site.

The project area is within an enclosed landscape created by the rock outcrops and other landforms that have been carved through by the Paria River. The predominant lines are rounded and horizontal created by landform edges. The river channel adds a curving band through the landscape whereas the road adds an axis focusing attention on the project area. The predominant colors of this landscape are buffs, dark reds, salmons, greens, and grays due to the landform and vegetation. The texture of the landscape varies from medium due to the upland vegetation and landforms to coarse due to the rock outcrops. This project is proposed in a classic Southern Utah, canyon country landscape with exposed red and white sandstone and desert vegetation similar to other areas within the Colorado Plateau.

Monument Road #751, the campground, and the trailhead are used primarily by recreationists. Those using the area for recreation are typically engaged in car camping, hiking, backpacking, picnicking, biking, and photography. This range of individuals defines the casual observer.

Visual Resource Management Classes and Objectives

The proposed White House Recreation Site Improvements project area is located in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II. The objective for VRM Class II is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

PROPOSED ACTION

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action to those resources described in the Affected Environment, Chapter 3, above.

Resource A: Recreation

Campground Effects

Implementing proposed upgrades and improvements at the White House Recreation Site would offer direct benefits to the visiting public. Site users would benefit from having new, updated, and more accessible campsites and toilets. The new toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, and tent pads would increase physical accessibility to site amenities. New campsite designs would meet the legal guidance for public access at the site and offer access to a wider range of users including family groups with elder members. Newly defined parking spaces would be provided to access the walk-in sites as well as immediately adjacent to the camping units which would make the site more functional and intuitive to use. Shade structures would provide much-needed respite from the heat during the high temperature months. Defined walking paths would curb erosion from social trails. Impacts to vegetation and soils would be reduced with new site designs directing or containing uses to specific areas within the site. The new campground fee station would include regulatory and orientation information as well as offer interpretation making it easier for campers to understand how to use the area. Collectively the site improvements would enhance the visual ambience of the entire site.

Providing increased and more attractive camping opportunities at this location could create increased demand in a location where use has historically been low. However, rough road access, heat, and a lack of water are anticipated to continue to limit demand for many users searching for a destination campground. Limiting the campground to vehicles 25 feet or less responds to the limited amount of space for expansion of the site and also would help retain the natural setting of the area. Private campgrounds in the area offer a greater range of amenities that would continue to have broader appeal to many campers and those with larger recreational vehicles.

Trailhead Effects

Creating trailhead parking separate from the campground would provide an obvious location to park for the large number of hikers accessing Paria Canyon, avoiding conflicts or congestion with campers. The new trailhead fee station would include regulatory and orientation information as well as offer interpretation making it easier for hikers to understand how to use the area.

Effects for Both Campground and Trailhead

Short term effects for both the campground and trailhead would include displacement of the public during construction.

Resource B: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Effects to Tentative Classification

This NWSRS segment has a tentative classification as *Recreational*. The proposed recreation facility improvements at White House Recreation Site would benefit campers and hikers recreating along this segment. The campground and trailhead will continue to be visible from the river corridor. As per the visual resources determination, facility colors and materials are anticipated to blend with the surrounding natural landscape minimizing the visual intrusion to those hiking within the river corridor. Modest development of facilities on the river bank and within the corridor would not threaten tentative classification.

Effects to Outstanding Remarkable Values

The identified ORVs of the Paria River include Recreational, Scenic, Geologic, Riparian, and Historic. Enhancing recreational use along this section of the river is consistent with the Recreational ORV which specifically identifies “outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography and nature viewing” along the Paria River. Design features insure there would be no threat to the other ORVs on this segment from the effects of the proposed facility enhancements.

Effects to Wild and Free-flowing and Water Quality

There would be no threat to the wild and free-flowing nature or water quality from this proposal.

Project implementation is not anticipated to result in any threat to NWSR suitability for this river segment.

Resource C: Visual Resources

BLM’s Visual Resource Management program includes a standardized system to review lands actions for resource management plan conformance. Visual contrast rating worksheets are completed to determine if a project impacts visual resources as well as if it conforms to the resource management plan.

In order to evaluate the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action, a linear key observation point (KOP) was established along Monument Road #751 as part of completing the contrast rating analysis. Along most of the linear KOP the project elements would not be visible until within close proximity to the site. Once the casual observer is within one mile of the project area, the toilet, shade shelters, and parked vehicles when present, would be the primarily visible elements. The remaining elements (signs, kiosk, fencing, tent pads, picnic tables, etc.) would come into view once the observer is within close proximity. The project would not be visible from HWY 89 due to the distance and topography that diminishes or obscures the view down the canyon.

During construction, temporary visual impacts could result from the visibility of construction equipment and site work. Post-construction, the contrasts in form, line, color and texture created by the site improvements when compared to the characteristic landscape would be weak, which is similar to what currently exists.

The proposed improvements would be sited in locations currently developed for the same purposes. The campground and trailhead would be located on the floor of a broad river canyon surrounded by distinct landforms. The toilet, shade shelters, and other fixtures would be constructed of materials

that blend with the natural environment minimizing the color and textural contrast they would create. By constructing the project according to the outlined design criteria and implementation measures, the weak to negligible changes to the existing character of the landscape would be appropriate to meet the visual resource management objectives of the area.

No ACTION

Resource A: Recreation

In the No Action Alternative the general public would not see any changes at the recreation site. No deferred maintenance would be implemented thereby all current facilities would remain the same. Resource and visitor impacts (i.e. vegetation and soil tramping, lack of shade, erosion, and roadway congestion) would continue. The public would continue to use dilapidated, inaccessible, and unattractive amenities and be confused as to how to use the site.

Resource B: Wild and Scenic Rivers

In the No-Action alternative impacts would remain the same and the opportunity to improve recreational opportunities and access to the Paria River would not occur. Current conditions are not expected to threaten tentative classification, wild and free-flowing nature, water quality, or outstanding remarkable values. Current conditions are not anticipated to threaten long-term suitability for designation.

Resource C: Visual Resources

In the No-Action Alternative the impacts to visual resources would remain the same.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

Resource A: Recreation

BLM has not identified any cumulative impacts for recreation related to upgrading and expanding this recreation site that has existed for decades.

Resource B: Wild and Scenic River

There are no known cumulative impacts to this Wild and Scenic River suitable segment of the Paria River.

Resource C: Visual Resources

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

Visual Resources - The cumulative impact area of analysis for Visual Resources is the viewshed along HWY 89 between the Cockscomb and Cottonwood Road extending south from the highway along Monument Road #751.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impacts to visual resources from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include recreational facilities (trailheads, contact stations, etc.), general recreational use, private property development (residential, commercial and industrial), road construction and maintenance activities, utility corridors, and livestock grazing management facilities (corrals, fences, water developments, storage buildings, etc.). The action alternative would make improvements to existing facilities using elements that would blend with the landscape. These facilities are visible only when in close proximity to the site and are small in scale within this grand scale landscape. They would not contribute to an increase in impacts to visual resources in the area.

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

The issue identification section of Chapter 1 identifies those issues analyzed in detail in Chapter 4. The IDT Checklist (See Appendix C.) provides the rationale for issues that were considered but not analyzed further.

LIST OF PERSONS, AGENCIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies, and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Allan Bate	GSENM Range Specialist	Discussions with livestock permittee about cattle guard and fencing.
Lane Little	Livestock Permittee	Replacement of cattle guard along new fence alignment necessary. Tie new fencing to old fencing that goes across Paria River.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Register on January 27, 2015. No individuals or groups contacted the BLM in response to that notice. Notification of the availability of the EA for a 30-day comment period was mailed to more than 74 individuals and organizations. The comment period began on April 19, 2016 and ended on May 20, 2016. Notification of the availability of the EA for review was also posted on the BLM NEPA Register on April 19, 2016 and a press release was sent to local area newspapers on April 21, 2016.

COMMENT ANALYSIS AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the 30-day comment period, BLM received eight emails from four individuals or organizations. One commenter supported the project as proposed. One did not support the project. The other two commenters either provided clarification regarding the site and how it is used or made suggestions for additional programming. The suggestion to construct a “gathering area” for programming such as night sky viewing was not added at this location because it did not meet the purpose and need for the project; however, BLM is considering this suggestion for future site developments along the HWY 89 corridor. Another suggestion was made to construct the project in one phase to avoid unnecessary site closures. Though BLM would also prefer to construct all improvements at once, funding for this project is only partially secured, thus it is necessary for BLM to seek additional funding and make improvements as funding becomes available. The agency

will close the recreation site for construction the minimum necessary so as to reduce the amount of time the public is unable to use it.

Substantive comments received pertained to the following and are addressed in Table 5.2. below:

- Distance of vault toilet to camping units
- Size of vehicles that would be allowed in campground
- Need to replace the cattle guard and fencing
- Potential for Paria River flooding to wash away the access road

Table 5.2. Response to Public Comments

Topic	Comment	BLM Response
Distance of vault toilet to camping units	The walk-in sites will be a fair distance away from the toilets which could cause problems with human waste.	The distance from the new toilet location to the back of the walk-in camping area is approximately 500 feet. There is no BLM standard for maximum distance from a camping unit to the toilet though some other public campground design references suggest a 400 feet maximum distance. Given the small size of this development - the new double vault toilet will service up to 12 campsites and the trailhead (with parking for up to 16 vehicles), an additional toilet for the five walk-in camping units would not seem initially warranted. Should BLM's post-construction monitoring determine that a human waste problem is occurring, the agency will take necessary steps to address the issue.
Paria River flooding and White House Road access issues	Flooding of the Paria River has the potential to wash away segments of White House Road, making access to the recreation site impossible.	The issue of the Paria River cutting into the edge of the White House Road was discussed internally by BLM at the onset of this project planning effort. BLM decided not to include the rerouting of the road to the east in this planning effort. The agency plans to analyze rerouting the road in a future planning effort.
Need for fence and cattleguard	The cattle guard has been filled in with sand (by the wind) for several years and is nonfunctional. It and the fence it is attached to are not needed and of no use because the permittee has put up a fence along the east side of the White House Road. The fence attached to the filled in cattle guard was originally strung across the Paria River, but only survived for a few months and was washed away in the first flood that came through and never repaired. Thus the fence and cattle guard are hardly necessary as they are both nonfunctioning.	The permittee of the Bunting Well allotment is still authorized under his grazing permit to graze the area east of the White House Road. Also, this area is still available for livestock grazing and the permittee has expressed a desire that he be able to use this area sometime in the future. Should that occur, the cattle guard would need to be in place to keep cattle out of the recreation site. The new segment of fence would be routed around the trailhead to join with the existing segment that goes toward the river. Maintenance of the fences would need to be completed before cattle are placed east of the White House Road.

Request for tent camping only in campground	BLM does not need to develop a RV camp in this location that has normally, almost exclusively served tent campers. RVs are not appropriate for the site due to their size, the condition of the access road, and the limited amount of space at the site.	BLM agrees that oversize vehicles are not appropriate for the campground due to the limited amount of space and setting characteristics of this location. The EA has been adjusted to include a limitation on vehicle size at the campground to 25 feet or less. The new trailhead design includes parking for two oversize vehicles. Signs will be installed to inform users of the size limitations.
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LIST OF PREPARERS

BLM staff specialists who determined the affected resources for this document are listed in Appendix C. Those who contributed further analysis in the body of this EA are listed below.

Table 5.3. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Allysia Angus	Project Lead Landscape Architect	Technical Coordination Quality Control MMP Compliance Impact Analysis for Visual Resources Site Design
David Barfuss	Engineer	Site Design Engineering
Lora Gale	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Impact Analysis for Recreation Impact Analysis Wild and Scenic Rivers
Amber Hughes Cindy Ledbetter	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance Quality Control

CHAPTER 6

REFERENCES AND ACRONYMS

REFERENCES CITED

Bureau of Land Management. *Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment*. 2010. Available at: http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Planning_and_Renewable_Resources/recreation_images/national_programs/VRM.Par.62809.File.dat/GQBE_WEB.pdf.

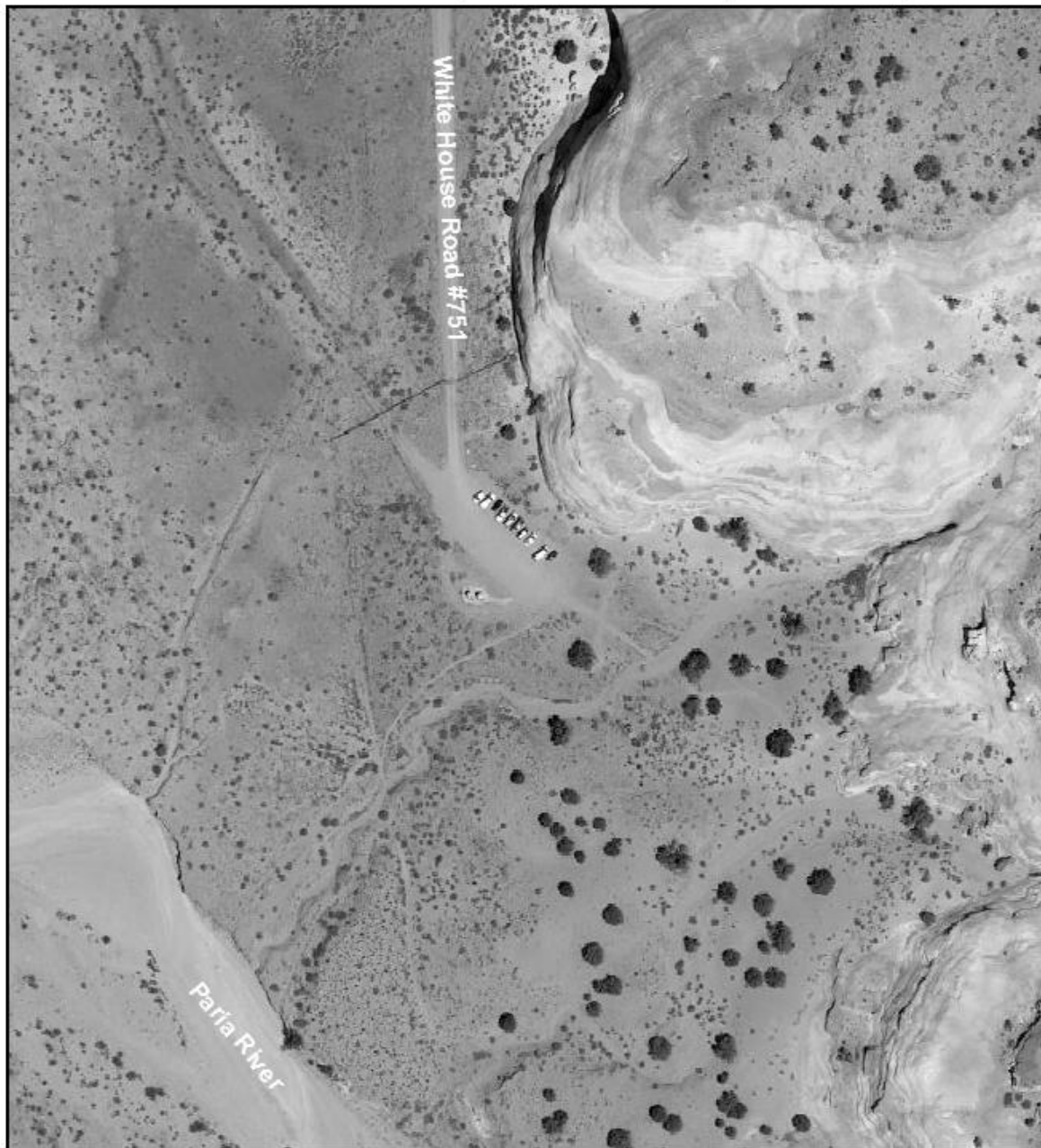
Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board. *Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines; Outdoor Developed Areas*. Washington, DC. 2013. <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BLM - Bureau of Land Management
EA - Environmental Assessment
ESA - Endangered Species Act
GSENM - Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
IDT - Interdisciplinary Team Checklist
KOP - Key Observation Point
MMP - Monument Management Plan
NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
NLCS - National Landscape Conservation System
NWSR – National Wild and Scenic River
OPLMA - Omnibus Public Land Management Act
ORV - Outstanding Remarkable Values
VRM - Visual Resource Management

APPENDIX A
WHITE HOUSE RECREATION SITE PROJECT AREA MAP

White House Recreation Site Improvements EA Project Area Map



White House Recreation Site Improvements EA
T43S R1W Sec 10

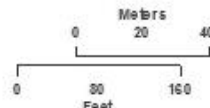
January 2016



**NATIONAL
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UTM NAD 83 Zone 12
Scale: 1:2,000

No warranty is made by the BLM
for use of the data for purposes
not intended by the BLM.



Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

BLM

APPENDIX B
WHITE HOUSE RECREATION SITE DESIGN DRAWING

APPENDIX C
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: White House Recreation Site Improvements EA

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0013-EA

Project Leader: Allysia Angus

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 impact that needs to be analyzed in detail

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

The rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

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

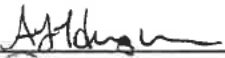

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality (Bybee)	Construction will result in surface disturbance in a small area of just over an acre in size. Particulate matter and gaseous pollutants generated during construction should be quickly dispersed and have no measurable effect on air quality.	/s/ J.Bybee	1/25/2016
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Beal/Gale)	No Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are designated within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.	/s/AAngus	3/7/2016
NI	Biological Soil Crusts (Brinkerhoff)	The proposed action will not impact the overall health of the existing biological soil crusts.	/s/R. Brinkerhoff	1/20/16
NP	BLM Natural Areas (Beal)	No Natural Areas are designated within GSENM.	/s/AAngus	3/7/2016
NI	Cultural Resources (Zweifel)	A Cultural Resources inventory has been completed for this project, no previously undocumented sites were found, and no impacts to existing site 42Ka6314 will be incurred. A report will be completed and sent to SHPO with the quarterly submission to SHPO.	/s/ M. Zweifel	2/23/2016
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Bybee)	Construction would be completed with the use of mechanized equipment. The emissions generated should be quickly dispersed and have no measurable effect.	/s/J.Bybee	1/25/2016
NI	Environmental Justice (Hughes)	The proposal would not have disproportionate effects on low income or minority communities. According to the EPA EJView Mapper, Kane Counties have been categorized as having a minority population of 0-10% and a below poverty population of 0-10%. (Accessed at: http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/ejmap.aspx?wherestr=Garfield%20County%2C%20UT on 2/6/2014.).	/s/ A. Hughes	1/13/2015
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique) (Hughes)	Prime farmland is described as farmland with resources available to sustain high levels of production. In Utah, it normally requires irrigation to make prime farmland. In general, prime farmland has a dependable water supply, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable levels of acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable content of salt and sodium, and few or no rocks. Unique farmland in Utah is primarily in the form of orchards. Based on these definitions, no prime or unique farmlands exist within the Monument. (see NRCS 1997 Results - Cropland Utah accessed at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ut/technical/dma/nri/?cid=nrcs141p2_034092 on 2/6/2014.)	/s/ A. Hughes	1/13/2015

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species (Tolbert/McQuivey)	Construction would occur outside of the migratory bird breeding/nesting season. Any other impacts to wildlife would be negligible.	/s/ C. McQuivey	1/20/16 2/18/16
NI	Floodplains (Bybee)	The proposed project sits just outside the Paria floodplain. Based on a site visit and GIS map review there is no impact to the floodplain.	/s/J.Bybee	1/25/2016
NI	Fuels/Fire Management (Bate)	This proposal would not increase or decrease fuels or fire management within the proposed areas.	/s/A.Bate	2/9/2016
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production (Titus)	Proposed Action is located in alluvial deposits surrounding outcrops of Winsor Member of the Carmel Formation. There are no valid existing mineral leases in the immediate area and it would not impact any energy production/energy corridor.	/s/Alan Titus	1/14/2016
NI	Hydrologic Conditions (Bybee)	The proposed action is not likely to impact the hydrologic conditions in the area. There will be no change in hydrologic conditions (impacts from tables and fire rings on gravel pads, sand tent pads, new toilet location, adding a vegetated island in the old parking lot along with gravel/road base, establishing gravel/road base trails for campers to walk on). Development of new trail head and parking area with gravel/road base will improve hydrologic conditions by stabilizing soils and reducing runoff.	/s/J.Bybee	1/27/2016
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (EO 13112) (Brinkerhoff)	The proposed action will not increase the threat or spread of invasive/noxious weeds. Standard stipulations will be followed throughout the construction of the site and mitigation measures will be followed	/s/R. Brinkerhoff	1/26/16
NI	Lands/Access (Foley)	Proposed action is consistent with LAND portions of MMP and would not impact land tenure, access, or potential future land uses, including renewable energy. There are no realty-related valid existing rights or non-federal land inholdings in or around the project footprint. Scoping should include courtesy notice sent to Kane County Land Use Administrator. Project should take care to preserve survey markers if present.	/s/ Mark Foley	1/16/2016
NI	Livestock Grazing (Stewart)	On February 22, 2015 I visited with the permittee on the Bunting Well Allotment. I showed him the propose site plan for the Whitehouse Camp ground and explain to him that this proposal would fence out approximately 2 acres of the allotment an also a old corral. He indicated that he would not protest the proposal, but that he would still need the use of the corral occasionally if a cow gets into the fence area and that a gate needed to be installed next to the cattleguard. The new proposal fences needs to be built along the river and hook into the existing fence. Since this proposal is not proposing to close the area where the new trailhead and parking lot to Livestock Grazing there would be No Impact because AUMs would not be reduced and if the permittee needs to use the corral it would still be available for his use.	/s/A.Bate	3/2/2016
NI	Native American Religious Concerns (Zweifel)	No cultural resource sites will be impacted. This project will be included in the GSENM/Native American consultations, but no comments are anticipated.	/s/ M. Zweifel	2/25/2016
NI	Paleontology (Titus)	Proposed Action is located in alluvial deposits surrounding outcrops of Winsor Member of the Carmel Formation. In this region the Carmel Formation has proven to be largely unfossiliferous. No known paleontological resources occur in the immediate area.	/s/Alan Titus	1/14/2016

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Rangeland Health Standards (Stewart)	The site of proposed action is in and adjacent to an existing campground and trailhead. Due to the small area and the location type there are no anticipated impacts to rangeland health standards.	/s/A.Bate	2/9/2016
PI	Recreation (Beal/Gale)	The proposed facility enhancements will enhance visitor recreational experience by providing new accessible restroom, new tent pads, defined walking paths and separation of parking will avoid overflow or blocking of campsite access from trailhead parking.	/s/L.Gale	3/11/16
NI	Socio-Economics (Hughes)	The proposed action is not likely to provide any noticeable impact to the local economy. The amount of economic activity generated by improving the campground is small.	/s/ A. Hughes	1/13/2015
NI	Soils (Bybee)	The proposed action is not likely to impact the soils in the area. There will be no net change in soil conditions (impacts from tables and fire rings on gravel pads, sand tent pads, new toilet location, adding a vegetated island in the old parking lot along with gravel/road base, establishing gravel/road base trails for campers to walk on, adding two day use sites). Development of new trail head and parking area with gravel/road base will improve soils by reducing runoff and stabilize the soils.	/s/ J.Bybee	1/27/2016
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species (Brinkerhoff)	One special status plant, <i>Astragalus striatiflorus</i> , occurs in the project vicinity. Impacts would likely be indirect and as a result of increased visitation to the expanded campground.	/s/R.Brinkerhoff	1/29/16
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species (Tolbert/McQuivey)	Although there is designated critical habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWWFL) within a mile of the proposed project area, the habitat is unoccupied except by an occasional migrant. Due to the project being completed in upland vegetation, away from any riparian area, there would be no impact to SWWFL or their habitat. Any potential impact would be further mitigated by project timing (i.e. not between April 15-July 15).	/s/ C. McQuivey	1/20/16
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid) (Pierson)	There will be no industrial wastes or toxic substances used or generated.	/s/B.Pierson	2/16/16
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground) (Bybee)	There should be no change in water resources impacts (impacts from new trailhead and parking, Day use sites and new vault toilet installation, and sand tent pads with tables and fire rings on gravel pads). The construction of these new facilities with the addition of gravel/road base will stabilize the soils and reduce runoff.	/s/ J.Bybee	1/25/2016
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones (Brinkerhoff)	The proposed action will not impact the wetland/riparian zones.	/s/ R. Brinkerhoff	1/26/16
PI	Wild and Scenic Rivers (Beal/Gale)	The proposed project occurs within the identified WSR corridor (¼ mile high from mean high water mark of main stem of the Paria River). The Paria is identified as suitable for designation as a WSR. Facility enhancements and access road need to be compatible with recreational tentative classification. Project footprint or activities also need to insure there are no impact to outstanding remarkable values.	/s/L.Gale	3/15/16 updated
NP	Wilderness/WSA (Beal/Gale)	The proposed project will not occur on any WSA parcels.	/s/L.Gale	2/8/16
NI	Woodland/Forestry (Bate)	The proposal would not remove any forestry and woodland species during the proposal activities.	/s/A.Bate	2/9/2016

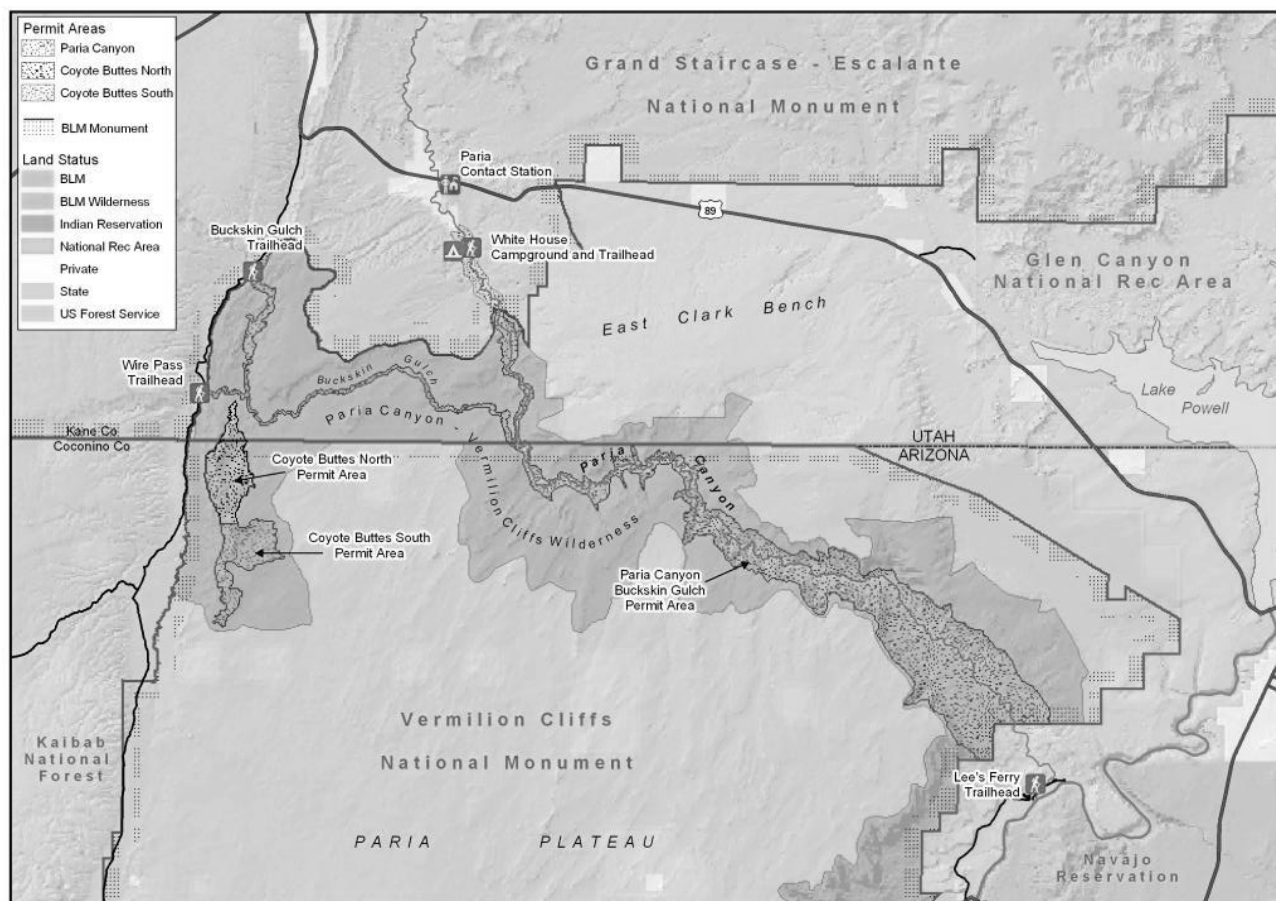
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Vegetation Excluding USFWS Designated Species (Brinkerhoff)	Some of the existing vegetation will be removed as part of the project construction and restoration to the site will be necessary. Native plants and native seed will be used to restore the site after construction is complete.	/s/R.Brinkerhoff	1/29/16
PI	Visual Resources (Angus)	The project area is in VRM Class II. A visual contrasting analysis is needed to determine impacts and conformance with MMP.	/s/A.Angus	1/12/2016
NP	Wild Horses and Burros (Stewart)	There are no Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Areas within GSENM.	/s/A.Bate	2/9/2016
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (Beal/Gale)	The proposed project will not occur on any inventoried LWC parcels.	/s/LGale	2/8/16

FINAL REVIEW

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator		4/12/16	
Authorized Officer		4/12/16	

APPENDIX D

PARIA CANYON/COYOTE BUTTES SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA MAP



United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0040-EA

December 2016

Calf Creek Recreation Area Site Improvements

Location: Along Highway 12

16 miles east of Escalante, Utah and 13 miles west of Boulder, Utah
Salt Lake Meridian, Garfield County, Utah
Township 35 South, Range 4 East, Section 1

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
669 South Highway 89A
Kanab, UT 84741
Phone: (435) 644-1200
Fax: (435) 644-1250



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

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Calf Creek Recreation Area Site Improvements DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0040-EA

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE ACTION ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Land Management proposes to update and improve the developed portions of Calf Creek Recreation Area in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). Two alternatives are being considered for implementation, one that includes modest improvements and one that includes expanded improvements. See Appendix A Project Area Map for project location and area. The recreation area is located along Highway 12 between Escalante and Boulder, Utah in Garfield County. The project area is approximately 20 acres, includes the Calf Creek Campground and Day Use Area, as well as the Lower Calf Creek Falls Trailhead, and is in the Monument's Frontcountry Management Zone. This developed portion of the Calf Creek Recreation Area is the most visited site on GSENM.

Recreational facilities at Calf Creek were initially constructed in 1962-1963 under authorization of an Accelerated Public Works Program. Those facilities included nine camping units, a group picnic area, bridges, toilets, roads, and a water system. Facilities at Calf Creek have been maintained, improved, and expanded since that time, including the construction of the Lower Calf Creek Falls Trail in 1968. The entire Calf Creek Recreation Area is 5,835 acres and was established for its recreational and scenic value by BLM in 1970, under authority of 43 CFR 2070 and the Classification and Multiple Use Act (1964). The *Calf Creek Recreation Area Management Plan* was approved in 1976 that provided uniform management direction for recreational usage and development within the recreation area. See Appendix B Calf Creek Recreation Area Map for location and boundaries of recreation area.

Currently, the developed portion of Calf Creek Recreation Area contains the following amenities and site fixtures:

- 13 campsites with tables, fire rings, grills, and site numbering posts one campsite also has a shade shelter
- A camp host site connected to utilities (electricity, water, septic)
- Two group day use areas one with tables, a fire ring, and a food prep area and the other with two shade shelters, tables, grills, and fire rings
- Paved parking for approximately 30 automobiles that serves the day use area, trailhead, and nearby walk-in campsites
- A water play area in Calf Creek
- A restroom building with flush toilets connected to a septic system

- Two vault toilets (one has not been used in years)
- A pedestrian suspension bridge
- A fee station with fee tube and bulletin boards
- A trailhead register and kiosk at the beginning of the Lower Calf Creek Falls Trail
- A paved site road; a bridge and a concrete low water crossing
- A chlorinated culinary water system with five hydrants
- Site signage
- Fabricated block retaining walls
- Post and rail fencing

The development and maintenance of facilities at the recreation site was addressed in prior planning efforts. Those include:

- *GSENM Trail/Trailhead Maintenance/Restoration EA (UT-048-98-015, 1998)*
BLM approved the maintenance and restoration of existing trails and trailheads in the Escalante area of GSENM, including Lower Calf Creek Falls Trail and Trailhead.
- *GSENM Calf Creek Campground Maintenance and Improvements CX (UT-048-98-016, 1998)*
BLM approved installing a new fee station, repairing masonry steps near the water play area, pruning and removing vegetation around campsites and roadway, and installing a buried electric line.
- *GSENM Calf Creek Campground Maintenance and Improvements CX (UT-030-99-020, 1999)*
BLM approved constructing a block retaining wall around the day use parking area, replacing all faucets and drains, insulating the water line, and filling in the old spring box.
- *GSENM Calf Creek Recreation Area Water System Replacement EA (DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2009-0008-EA, 2009)*
BLM approved the installation/replacement of approximately 3000 feet of poly waterline and five hydrants with ADA-compliant pump handles to protect human health and safety and improve accessibility.

If approved, BLM deferred maintenance funds and recreation site user fees would be used to complete the proposed improvements; many of which would be constructed only during the fall and winter months (September through March) beginning in 2017, though others would be implemented in subsequent years as funding allows.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The purpose of the action alternatives is to improve the quality of recreation facilities, improve the recreational experience for visitors, and provide better protection to riparian resources at the Calf Creek Recreation Area. These would be accomplished by replacing old, deteriorated site amenities, providing additional parking and camping, improving vehicular circulation, and improving universal accessibility and safety throughout the site.

At Calf Creek Recreation Area the existing parking capacity exceeds the current footprint during much of the visitation season. The parking overflow leads visitors to park along the entrance road and highway creating traffic flow and safety issues as well as damage to vegetation and soils. The campground is filled to capacity much of the visitation season and overflow camping occurs in the day use areas and the parking lot. This creates conflicts between those using the area for camping or day use and damages vegetation and soils.

The wooden pedestrian suspension bridge has rotted handrails and loose lateral bracing underneath the deck that needs repair. Conduit housing a power line is attached to the bottom of the bridge and has broken because of the bridge shifting. The three existing shade shelters that were constructed in the 1960s with metal overhangs do not provide the proper overhead clearances to meet current building codes and have concrete footers that are increasingly unstable. The retaining wall along the creek by the water play area was damaged by a flood event such that it slumped and blocks regularly dislodge and fall into the creek, creating hazards for those walking near the edge of the creek and for those wading and playing in the creek. The low water crossing through Calf Creek in the back of the campground is slippery and motorcycles as well as pedestrians have fallen while crossing it.

Some facilities are deteriorating, create safety concerns, and do not meet the *Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas*. The vault toilet, some of the campsites, and the masonry grill and picnic tables in the day use area are some examples of features that do not meet accessibility guidelines.

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan* (MMP), effective February 2000, and is supported by the following plan decisions:

FAC-6 *All facilities and parking areas will be designed to be unobtrusive and to meet the visual resource objectives.*

FAC-10 *Calf Creek and White House Campgrounds are the only developed campgrounds in the Frontcountry Zone.*

The project area is in the Frontcountry Zone where facilities are allowed for visitor use, safety, interpretation, and the protection of Monument resources. It is also located within the HWY 12 Special Recreation Management Area where the recreation experience is to focus on learning about geology, history, archaeology, biology, and paleontology, in addition to scenic viewing, and opportunities provided are to accommodate all visitors.

RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND OTHER PLANS

The proposed action complies with federal environmental laws and regulations, Executive Orders, and Department of Interior, BLM, and GSENM policies. It is consistent with state laws and local and county ordinances and plans, including the following:

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act (OPLMA) established the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) in order to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations. The Act goes on to require that NLCS units, of which GSENM is one, be managed in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated. The NLCS includes National Monuments, Wilderness Study Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. The proposal was designed to meet the objectives of OPLMA.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Proclamation (1996)

The proposed action and no action alternative have been evaluated for consistency with the Proclamation, particularly in reference to the specific objects that were identified within the Proclamation. No effects of the proposed action, with the included design features, are anticipated on any of objects identified within the Proclamation.

Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701-1712) directs the development of land use plans for BLM lands. Once land use plans are developed, any approved project must be provided in the land use plan or be consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions in the approved land use plan. As noted above, this project conforms to the land use plan.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The National Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of any undertaking on historic resources and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking. Federal agencies must determine whether the undertaking is a type of activity that could affect historic properties. Historic properties are properties that are included in the National Register of Historic Places or that meet the criteria for inclusion on the National Register. If the agency

determines that it has no undertaking, or that its undertaking is a type of activity that has no potential to affect historic properties, the agency has no further Section 106 obligations.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) requires BLM to identify all rivers and associated tributaries on BLM-administered lands that possess free-flowing condition or outstanding remarkable values and therefore may have potential for addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS). Calf Creek is a tributary of the Escalante River and was inventoried and recommended suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS as required by Section 5(d) (1) of the WSRA. It is managed to retain its eligibility for possible designation as part of the NWSRS.

Endangered Species Act of 1973

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides for conserving endangered and threatened species of plants and animals. It requires that federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any actions that they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued survival of a listed species or result in the adverse modification or destruction of its critical habitat. This proposal was designed to avoid impacts to species listed under ESA.

BLM Manual 6220 – National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations (2012)

The BLM will inventory existing facilities within Monuments and NCAs and determine whether to remove, maintain, restore, enhance, or allow natural disintegration of each facility (p. 1-10). Calf Creek Campground is listed in the *GSENM Management Plan* as one of “the only developed campground(s)” in the Frontcountry Zone. The proposed actions would maintain and improve this existing development.

BLM Manual 6330 - Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas (2012)

BLM is guided to manage WSAs in a manner that does not impair their suitability for designation as wilderness as directed by *BLM Manual 6330 - Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas*. Uses or facilities within WSAs should be temporary and not create any new surface disturbance.

BLM Manual 6400 - Wild and Scenic Rivers - Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, Planning and Management (2012)

BLM’s policy goal for management of inventoried suitable Wild and Scenic River segments is to manage and maintain their free-flowing condition, water quality, tentative classification, and any identified outstanding remarkable values (ORV) until designated or released in a subsequent land use plan. *Architectural Barriers Act (Public Law 90-480)*

The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), enacted in 1968, requires that all buildings and facilities constructed in whole or in part using Federal funds must be accessible to, and usable by, physically disabled persons. This includes any construction, renovation, restoration, remodeling, or site development completed by Federal agencies.

Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas - Published in the Federal Register September 26, 2013. 36 CFR Part 1191 RIN 3014-AA22

The final rule amends the ABA Accessibility Guidelines by adding scoping and technical requirements for camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails, and beach access routes constructed or altered by or on behalf of federal agencies. The final rule ensures that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

BLM Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment

The *BLM Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment* directs BLM to provide facilities that are sustainable, attractive, functional, cost-effective, and responsive to place and setting.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) provides legal criteria for the collection of recreation fees at federal campgrounds or expanded amenity sites. It also directs BLM to provide a specific set of amenities in order to collect fees in campgrounds or special management areas. FLREA also established the America the Beautiful Interagency Pass program.

Calf Creek Recreation Area and Deer Creek Campground Business Plan (2014)

The Business Plan was developed by the BLM and approved by the Utah Recreation Advisory Council in 2014. The proposed action in this EA is consistent with the vision of expenditures of campground fee program revenues which are to be directed towards improving facilities and providing enhanced visitor services at Calf Creek Recreation Area. The Business Plan also included project priorities for future health and safety upgrades proposed in this EA.

Garfield County General Management Plan (2007)

Although Calf Creek Recreation Area is not specifically mentioned in the Garfield County General Plan, a review of the document suggests that this proposal would not conflict with the county plan. The county plan does note support for expanding recreational opportunities on page 42:

"...GSENM needs to expand recreation, economic, scientific, and cultural opportunities and increase beneficial uses for residents and visitors of Garfield County to the maximum extent possible."

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

Issue 1: Cultural Resources

- How will the proposed improvements affect the identified historic sites 42Ga8060, 42Ga6091, 42Ga1431, and what mitigation measures might be required?
- Are there other sites in the vicinity that might also be affected?

Issue 2: Floodplains

- How would the proposed low water crossing and stream bank restoration and the water play area impact floodplains?

Issue 3: Hydrologic Conditions

- How would the proposed parking upgrades at Calf Creek Recreation Area impact hydrologic conditions?

Issue 4: Recreation

- How would the proposed facility upgrades and improvements at Calf Creek Recreation Area affect the recreational opportunities or experience of visitors?

Issue 5: Soils

- How would the proposed parking upgrades at Calf Creek Recreation Area impact soils?

Issue 6: Water Resources

- Would the proposed upgrades at Calf Creek Recreation Area create long term impacts to water resources (quality and quantity)?

Issue 7: Wetlands/Riparian Zones

- Would the proposed project impact riparian vegetation?

Issue 8: Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Would the proposed facility developments at Calf Creek Recreation Area affect the wild and free flowing nature, water quality or any of the identified outstanding remarkable values of Calf Creek and have any impact to long-term suitability of Calf Creek for designation in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System?

Issue 9: Visual Resources

- Would the proposed site developments create visually contrasting impacts that alter the landscape character?
- Would the proposed site developments meet the VRM Class II objectives?

Issue 10: Vegetation excluding USFWS designated species

- Would the proposed project impact vegetation?

CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment reviews a No Action alternative and two Action Alternatives. The No Action Alternative provides a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the two Action Alternatives.

ACTIONS COMMON TO BOTH ACTION ALTERNATIVES

BLM is proposing to upgrade and improve facilities within the Calf Creek Recreation Area. GSENM would use BLM deferred maintenance and recreation use fees to pay for the proposed improvements. Contractor, BLM force account and maintenance staff, and/or volunteer labor could be used to perform the work. The recreation site is approximately 20 acres. The construction of improvements proposed in both Action Alternatives would likely occur in phases over several years. Construction of the first phase would likely occur in fall 2017.

Both Action Alternatives include the following (See Appendix C for Conceptual Site Designs):

Parking and Driveway

- Widen site road up to 20 feet wide and repair/replace driveway bridge.
- Replace low-water crossing with low, end-to-end, open-bottomed concrete culverts.
- Construct overflow parking for up to 20 standard size vehicles and a small fee station near the entrance from Highway 12.
- Construct additional parking for up to 10 standard size vehicles on east side of site road between creek and site sign.
- Reclaim insufficiently sized parking space adjacent to Site #1 (Walk-in sites #1 thru #4 would be in main parking area).

Toilets

- Remove and replace vault toilet on east side of campground in same location and install new sidewalk.
- Repurpose or remove and replace old vault toilet on west side of pedestrian bridge.

Campground

- Remove old concrete pad and construct two walk-in sites in same location.
- Convert existing site closest to east side of pedestrian bridge to parking for three walk-in sites.
- Reconfigure site #11 to locate tent pad near the parking and away from the creek.
- Install base material to raise, define, and improve surface stability of campsites.
- Upgrade all existing campsites with tent pads, new fire rings, and tables (as needed some tables can be reused).

- Replace shade shelters at site #10 and install new shade shelters at sites #9 and #13.
- Replace campsite numbering posts.
- Repair wooden suspension pedestrian bridge by replacing all timber components.
- Remove electrical conduit from underside of pedestrian bridge and place it inside the abandoned metal water line piping that is supported above the creek but below the bridge.
- Reconfigure camp host site at/near the existing location.

Day Use

- Replace fee station (See Appendix C for Conceptual Design Page C503 and C504).
- Construct natural stone retaining walls that are engineered to stabilize the streambank and provide access to the creek (See Appendix C for Conceptual Design Page C502).
- Construct universally-accessible but unpaved walkways through the day use area, including to the edge of the creek.
- Construct amphitheater for up to 50 people in day use area for interpretive/educational program use.

Trailhead

- Improve hiking access and reduce erosion at the Lower Calf Creek Fall Trailhead by replacing stone stairs, stabilizing erosion prone areas, and relocating trailhead kiosk and register if needed.

Misc. Site Elements

- Install barriers (i.e. boulders and/or rail fencing) as needed to define areas and prevent vegetation and soil trampling.
- Install directional, informational, and interpretive signage as necessary.
- Replace all fabricated block retaining walls with natural stone walls.
- Plant cottonwood trees and other riparian vegetation in the lower day use area and along the creek as necessary. Plant or seed using native plants in disturbed areas outside the riparian zone.

The recreation area could be closed to the public for overnight and day use activities, including hiking the Lower Calf Creek Falls Trail, potentially for several weeks at a time when the ground is not frozen during fall and winter months (September through March) to prevent impacts to migratory birds and the hummingbird monitoring study. When it is possible for the public to safely access the site during construction, it would be allowed. A variety of heavy, motorized equipment would be used during construction, including but not limited to a dump truck, crane, front-end loader, skid-steer loader, and tractor. Work would be done during the daylight hours (7 am to 8 pm). Throughout construction, equipment would be parked at the project site and contractors, if used, would have the option of camping onsite.

Once construction is completed, general maintenance would be performed. Overnight camping would continue to be allowed only in designated campsites as consistent with federal regulations for developed recreation sites and would not be allowed in the day use areas or parking areas. Camping would be limited to one vehicle per designated site.

Under both action alternatives, *BLM's Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment* are being used to plan and design this project, seeking to meet the agency's goals of developing facilities that are sustainable, functional, accessible, cost effective, and responsive to place and setting. *Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas* (Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 2013) are also being used to plan and design this project to ensure that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

Design criteria to meet built environment image guidelines and other mandates would include the following:

- Natural or natural-appearing materials would be used. These could include concrete, natural stone, road base, gravels or fines, rusted or painted metal, and/or wood.
- Natural palette colors would include blacks, grays, reds, rusts, browns, and buffs. No bright colors such as whites or yellows would be used (except for lettering on signs).
- Native plant container stock and/or native plant seeds would be used to re-vegetate areas impacted during construction. Where practical, native plants that need to be removed during construction would be replanted in areas where re-vegetation is needed.

In order to prevent or mitigate resource impacts, the following design features would be required and incorporated into project construction, scheduling and monitoring:

- The historic features at Calf Creek Recreation Area would consist of thorough architectural and photographic documentation of the historic features, including the toilet structure, shade shelters, and day-use facilities.
- To prevent the spread of invasive and noxious weeds, the equipment used would be washed before transport to the construction site.
- The project site would be monitored for noxious and invasive vegetation after construction. If noxious weeds or non-native, invasive plants are discovered, BLM-approved weed treatments would be applied in a manner consistent with current BLM practice.
- Heavy equipment use would be avoided during wet conditions to reduce the compaction of soils.
- Erosion and sediment control structures would be used during construction to mitigate soil loss due to runoff. Erosion and sediment control structures would remain in place until gravel is laid down on the upper parking area and the area around the constructed parking area has been revegetated.

- All construction would take place from September 1 through March 31 to avoid the migratory bird breeding and brood raising period and hummingbird monitoring season.

To inform the public of the construction closures, BLM would do the following:

- Issue a press release to relevant media outlets.
- Publish a notice on the GSENM website.
- Post closure signs at GSENM visitor centers, regional state parks and in the local communities at businesses and community bulletin boards.
- Work with the Garfield County Office of Tourism to do outreach to visitors.

ACTIONS IN ALTERNATIVE A (MODEST IMPROVEMENTS)

In addition to the items noted in Common to All Action Alternatives, Alternative A includes the following (See Appendix C for Conceptual Site Designs Page C101):

- Replace two small shade shelters in lower portions of the day use area (See Appendix C for Conceptual Site Designs Page C506).

ACTIONS IN ALTERNATIVE B (EXPANDED IMPROVEMENTS)

In addition to the items noted in Common to All Action Alternatives, Alternative B includes the following (See Appendix C for Conceptual Site Designs Page C201):

- Reconfigure the main parking area to increase capacity to approximately 50 spaces.
- Construct a new flush toilet building in center of parking turnaround.
- Remove current group picnic area and move all day use functions to the lower area.
- Install three small shade shelters and one large group shelter in lower portion of day use area (See Appendix C for Conceptual Design Page C505 and C506).

COMPARISON OF ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The following table provides a comparison on the proposed improvements included in both or either Action Alternative.

Table 2.1

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	Alt A	Alt B
<i>Parking and Driveway</i>		
Widen site road up to 20 feet wide and repair/replace driveway bridge.	x	x
Replace low-water crossing with low, end-to-end, open-bottomed concrete culverts.	x	x

Construct overflow parking for up to 20 standard size vehicles and a small fee station near the entrance from Highway 12.	x	x
Construct additional parking for up to 10 standard size vehicles on east side of site road between creek and site sign.	x	x
Reclaim insufficiently sized parking space adjacent to Site #1 (Walk-in sites #1 thru #4 would be in main parking area).	x	x
Reconfigure the main parking area to increase capacity to approximately 50 spaces.		x
Toilets		
Remove and replace vault toilet on east side of campground in same location and install new sidewalk.	x	x
Repurpose or remove and replace old vault toilet on west side of pedestrian bridge.	x	x
Construct a new flush toilet building in center of parking turnaround.		x
Campground		
Remove old concrete pad and construct two walk-in sites in same location.	x	x
Convert existing site closest to east side of pedestrian bridge to parking for three walk-in sites.	x	x
Reconfigure site #11 to locate tent pad near the parking and away from the creek.	x	x
Install base material to raise, define, and improve surface stability of campsites.	x	x
Upgrade all existing campsites with tent pads, new fire rings, and tables (as needed some tables can be reused).	x	x
Replace shade shelters at site #10 and install new shade shelters at sites #9 and #13.	x	x
Replace campsite numbering posts.	x	x
Repair wooden suspension pedestrian bridge by replacing all timber components.	x	x
Remove electrical conduit from underside of pedestrian bridge and place it inside the abandoned metal water line piping that is supported above the creek but below the bridge.	x	x
Reconfigure camp host site at/near the existing location.	x	x
Day Use		
Replace fee station.	x	x
Constructing natural stone retaining walls that are engineered to stabilize the streambank and provide access to the creek.	x	x
Construct universally-accessible but unpaved walkways through the day use area, including to the edge of the creek.	x	x
Construct amphitheater for up to 50 people in day use area for interpretive/educational program use.	x	x
Replace two small shade shelters in lower portions of the day use area.	x	
Remove current group picnic area and move all day use functions to lower area.		x
Install three small, single-party shade shelters and one large group shelter in lower portion of day use area.		x

<i>Trailhead</i>		
Improve hiking access and reduce erosion at the Lower Calf Creek Fall Trailhead by replacing stone stairs, stabilizing erosion prone areas, and relocating trailhead kiosk and register if needed.	x	x
<i>Miscellaneous Improvements</i>		
Install barriers (i.e. boulders and/or rail fencing) as needed to define areas and prevent vegetation and soil trampling.	x	x
Install directional, informational, and interpretive signage as necessary.	x	x
Replace all fabricated block retaining walls with natural stone walls.	x	x
Plant cottonwood trees and other riparian vegetation in the lower day use area and along the creek as necessary. Plant or seed using native plants in disturbed areas outside the riparian zone.	x	x

No ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, BLM would not improve and update the Calf Creek Recreation Area. The BLM would not provide any of the improvements or facilities proposed in the Action Alternatives. Under this alternative the old vault toilet and shade shelters would not be replaced; access to the water play area would not be improved; additional parking and/or camping would not be provided; and universal accessibility throughout the site would not be improved.

CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist (See Appendix D IDT Checklist). The checklist indicates which resources are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Resources which are predicted to be impacted are described in Chapter 3 and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4. Cultural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Floodplains, Hydrologic Conditions, Recreation, Soils, Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Visual Resources were identified by the Interdisciplinary Team as potentially affected by the Action Alternatives.

A brief environmental setting description of the Calf Creek Recreation Area is as follows:

- **Physiographic Province:** Colorado Plateaus (Escalante Canyons)
- **Elevation:** 5,300'
- **Geology:** Early Jurassic Kayenta and Navajo formations; predominantly medium sandstone
- **Ecological Site:** Semi-wet Fresh Streambank
- **Hydrology:** Calf Creek flows into the Escalante River, which then empties into Lake Powell and the Colorado River system
- **Soil Type:** Riverwash, fine sandy loam
- **Landform:** Deep sandstone canyon with riparian area in bottom
- **Typical uses:** Recreational (hiking, camping, picnicking)
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers – Suitable Segments:** Calf Creek- 2-Scenic, Calf Creek-3 Recreational
- **Wilderness Study Areas:** Adjacent to Phipps-Death Hollow WSA
- **Visual Resource Management:** Classes II

Calf Creek Recreation Area is located along Highway 12 and adjacent to Calf Creek, a tributary of the Escalante River. The project area is 5,300 feet above sea level and is located within Calf Creek Canyon. It is within the Escalante Canyons physiographic region which is typified by colorful sandstone canyons carved by desert creeks and rivers and slickrock expanses dotted with Ponderosa pine and pinyon and juniper trees. The creeks and rivers here are lined with cottonwood trees, willows, and river birch. The recreation area is physically constrained by the highway, the creek and flood plain, sandstone cliffs, and a wilderness study area boundary.

Resource A: Cultural Resources

Both the Calf Creek Campground and the old Escalante to Boulder road are documented historic properties considered to be eligible to the National Register. Calf Creek Campground, site 42Ga8060, was established in 1963 and contains interesting architectural features and elements that would be directly impacted or entirely removed under the action alternatives. These features include shade shelters constructed on-site utilizing materials reportedly salvaged from nearby mining and/or drilling operations and a toilet structure and day-use facilities constructed using native field stone. Both construction techniques are not widely seen in our current more industrialized and technologically advanced society, and these architectural structures contribute to the site's eligibility to the National Register under criterion C in that they "embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction..."

The old Escalante to Boulder road is a CCC construction completed in 1940 and has been recorded as 42Ga6091, and is considered eligible to the NRHP. The old Escalante to Boulder road provided predictable, year-round vehicular access to the community of Boulder. This was the last community in the continental US to see such access. The road contains some interesting constructed features, such as the native stone retaining walls visible immediately above Calf Creek Campground. This site is considered eligible to the National Register under criterion A in that is "...associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history," and again under criterion C for similar reasons as Calf Creek Campground.

One other cultural resource site, 42Ga1431, is located in the immediate vicinity of the campground. This is a small rock art panel located some five meters above the campground, and will not be adversely affected by the proposed action alternatives. Calf Creek Campground also contains features of a non-historic nature, such as the current toilet facility constructed in the 1980s and the previously replaced timber elements of the footbridge; loss of these features and the replacement of the bridge timber elements are not considered an issue under cultural resource analysis.

Resource B: Floodplains

The proposed project area includes a concrete low-water stream crossing of Calf Creek at the upstream end of the project area and a water play area along approximately 60 feet of the floodplain adjacent to Calf Creek near the day-use area. The low-water crossing is a submerged concrete pad that spans the width of the stream cross-section. The low-water crossing allows for vehicles to ford the stream to reach campsites on the east side of Calf Creek.

The water play area is a small area adjacent to Calf Creek that allows swimmers and waders access to the creek. Fabricated red blocks are used as for stream bank re-enforcement on the west side of Calf Creek.

Resource C: Hydrologic Conditions

The proposed project area includes an abandoned road cut near the entrance to the campground where the overflow parking lot would be constructed. Soils on the area proposed for the overflow parking areas are shallow (i.e., < 20 inches to bedrock), fine sand and sandy loam on 15-50% slopes, and therefore are prone to runoff.

Resource D: Recreation

Calf Creek Recreation Area is the most visited recreation site in the Monument receiving

Calf Creek Recreation Area also provides the only public toilet facilities along the 28-mile stretch connecting Escalante and Boulder. The scenic overlooks along Highway 12 within GSENM are estimated to receive more than 325,000 visitors annually. Some percentage of these travelers utilizes the restrooms at Calf Creek Recreation Area, although statistics are not available for this specific use. The area offers one of the only developed recreational sites with culinary water and clean, maintained restrooms in the northern reaches of the Monument that is accessible via a paved road. Popular recreation uses at Calf Creek include hiking, camping, picnicking, fishing, water play, photography, and bird watching.

During 2016, BLM collected 2,077 fee permits for a total of 5,983 campers in the campground. The campground's daily occupancy is at or exceeds capacity from late April through September. The shaded picnic site near the fee station is used primarily by individual groups. Although it is available for advance reservation for group use of 50-75 people, there is little demand for group use and during the past 5 years, the day-use picnic site has been reserved only 2-4 times per year.

In 2016, foot counters at Lower Calf Creek Falls Trail recorded 36,437 hikers. Current day-use parking is primarily by destination visitors who spend 3-4 hours hiking the Lower Falls Trail. The trail to Lower Calf Creek Falls enters Phipps-Death Hollow Wilderness Study Area at the trailhead and is the only maintained trail on the Monument. The six-mile round trip hike ends at the spectacular 126-foot Lower Calf Creek waterfall. The waterfall is regarded as a must-see for visitors to the area and is popular for locals who bring friends or family to view the waterfall. It is also popular for large organized groups of young people from universities and scout groups who trek to visit the Lower Falls. The trail features wooden numbered posts that correspond to a free interpretive trail guide available at the trail register. Current visitation on the trail during peak months can be upwards of 300-500 people on the trail at one time and 150 people at Lower Calf Creek Falls itself.

The infrastructure at the Lower Falls trailhead includes one trailhead sign and a register box for interpretive brochures. The register box is located about 15 feet from the beginning of the trail which begins off the edge of the campground road. The location for the trailhead

sign is on a slope with physical space for only one or two people to view the sign at one time. Social trails lead up to the trailhead sign and register box creating erosion and compacted soil.

Resource E: Soils

The proposed project area includes an abandoned road cut near the entrance to the campground where the overflow parking lot would be constructed. Soils on the area proposed for the overflow parking areas are shallow (< 20 inches to bedrock), fine sand and sandy loam on 15-50% slopes, and therefore are prone to runoff and erosion.

Resource F: Water Resources

The proposed project area includes approximately 1500 stream feet of Calf Creek that flows through 20 acres of Calf Creek Campground. The section of Calf Creek located in the proposed project area was inventoried and found suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System as required by Section 5(d) (1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Calf Creek and its tributaries to the confluence of the Escalante River (approximately 8 stream miles) are listed on the EPA 303(d) list as not supporting water quality criteria for temperature.

The proposed project includes a concrete low-water stream crossing of Calf Creek at the upstream end of the project area; currently vehicles ford the stream to access camp sites on the east side of Calf Creek. A water play area along approximately 60 feet of floodplain is adjacent to Calf Creek near the day-use area. There is a retaining wall that was damaged by recent flooding next to the water play area and an access trail that descends a steep slope down to the water play area. Above the campground an abandoned road cut exists where an overflow parking lot would be constructed.

There is also inadequate parking available in the campground and vehicles currently park in undesignated areas on the side of the highway and the campground road.

Resource G: Wetlands/Riparian Zones

The riparian plant community is continuous along the Calf Creek drainage with outcroppings of rock and sand. Herbaceous riparian vegetation cover is high with woody species that are the dominant plant form. Dominant trees and shrubs include Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), Whiplash willow (*S. lucida* var. *caudata*), Yellow willow (*S. lutea*), Water birch (*Betula occidentalis*), Box-elder (*Acer negundo*), and Skunkbush (*Rhus aromatica*). Dominant herbaceous and graminoid species include sedges

(*Carex* spp.), Arctic rush (*Juncus balticus*), Common reed (*Phragmites australis*), reedgrass (*Calamagrostis* spp.), willow-herb (*Epilobium* spp.), and clover (*Trifolium* spp.)

Invasive Species

No state noxious weeds are present in the riparian area of the project area but two do occur in the Calf Creek tributary. Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*), a Class B species, occurs sporadically along the whole drainage. Salt Cedar (*Tamarisk* sp.), a Class C species and Russian olive (*Eleagnus angustifolia*) have been and are being controlled by efforts made by the Escalante River Watershed Partnership. Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) and Russian thistle (*Salsola pestifer*) are also invasive species found in the tributary but are not listed as noxious by the State of Utah.

Resource H: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Calf Creek, a spring-fed tributary of the Escalante River flows through the recreation area and was inventoried and found suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS) as required by Section 5(d) (1) of the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Calf Creek is divided into three WSR suitable segments: Segment 1 (wild classification) from headwaters to Lower Falls; Segment 2 (scenic classification) from Lower Falls to the campground; and Segment 3 (recreational classification) from the upper edge of the campground through the campground and day-use site to the confluence with the Escalante River. The area of evaluation included in the suitability determination is usually measured 1/4 mile from the mean high-water mark on both sides of the river or tributary. All eight miles of the creek are managed to retain their eligibility for possible designation as part of the 122 miles of the Escalante River and tributaries that are recommended as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS.

The proposed project area for the Calf Creek Campground and the Lower Falls trailhead lies within the Calf Creek- segment 3 with a tentative classification of recreational. The WSR suitability recommendation also identifies the following Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs): high scenic quality, bird habitat, rock art, pre-historic structures, high recreation use and riparian values.

Resource I: Visual Resources

Characteristic Landscape

The proposed project area is located in the northern reaches of the Escalante Canyons physiographic province just off Highway 12 on a narrow canyon floor straddling Calf Creek about a mile before it joins the Escalante River. The Escalante Canyons province is a landscape comprised of dramatic erosional landforms created by the Escalante River and its tributaries. High vertical canyon walls, slot canyons, domes, arches and natural bridges are common features in this landscape. Lush riparian corridors along the river and its tributaries provide contrasts to the expanses of exposed slickrock.

The dominant vegetation in the project area is riparian vegetation (cottonwood trees, river birch, and willows) growing along the creek. Other vegetation in the project area on the uplands are desert shrubs, grasses, and pinyon and juniper trees. The vegetation is a full range of greens, from light sage and yellow greens to dark juniper greens to the bright greens associated with cottonwoods and willows; the vegetation ranges from medium to coarse in texture. The built elements in this landscape include the paved highway, site road and parking area, a restroom building, a vault toilet, a large kiosk and fee station, shade shelters, fabricated-block retaining walls, pole fencing, picnic tables, fire rings, and signs. Most of the built elements are screened from view by the riparian vegetation and landforms. The primary elements that draw attention are the paved surfaces and the parked vehicles.

The project area is within an enclosed landscape created by the sandstone landforms that surround it. The predominant lines in this landscape are vertical, horizontal, or rounded as created by landform banding and edges. The highway and site road add distinct bands across the landscape that are created by the removal of vegetation and application of pavement which creates a contrast in color and texture to the existing scene and that directs the eye along their alignments. The riparian corridor also creates a distinct green band. The predominant colors of this landscape are reds, buffs and greens due to the landform and vegetation. The texture of the landscape varies from medium to coarse due to the mixes of vegetation and rugged landforms.

This project is proposed in a dramatic Southern Utah, riparian canyon landscape with exposed red and buff sandstone and riparian vegetation similar to other canyon areas within the Colorado Plateau.

This project area is at a heavily visited recreational development along Highway 12 (a National Scenic Byway). It is used primarily by recreationists who are typically engaged in hiking, camping, picnicking, fishing, bird-watching, and photography. Those travelling along the highway but not visiting the recreation area include byway travelers and local residents. This range of individuals defines the casual observer.

Visual Resource Management Classes and Objectives

The proposed Calf Creek Recreation Area Site Improvements project area is located in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II. The objective for VRM Class II is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Resource J: Vegetation excluding USFWS designated species

The upland plant community surrounding the Calf Creek drainage beyond the riparian zone has a low vegetation cover and is dominated by grasses, forbs, and shrubs. The dominant shrub species include rabbit brush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), sagebrush (*Artemesia sp.*), buffalo

berry (*Shepherdia rotundifolia*), and Mormon tea (*Ephedra viridis*). Grasses found in the area include sand drop seed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), Indian rice grass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), needle and thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), and side oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*). The forbs species include globe mallow (*Sphaeralcea parvifolia*), and tanseyleaf aster (*Machaeranthera canescens*).

Invasive Species

No state noxious weeds are present in the upland area of the project area. Puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*), yellow bluestem (*Bothriochloa ischaemum*), cheat grass (*Bromus tectorum*) occupy certain areas within the project area.

Chapter 4

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

ALTERNATIVE A (MODEST IMPROVEMENTS)

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action to those resources described in the Affected Environment, Chapter 3, above.

Resource A: Cultural Resources

Effects common to both alternatives

Under the action alternatives the Calf Creek Campground would see the loss of the historic shade structures and field stone day-use facilities, as well as the concrete volleyball court (an element without any unique architectural features). The field stone toilet structure would be removed or repurposed. The loss of the shade shelters and toilet facility would be considered adverse effects under 36CFR 800.5(1), and would require mitigation of some sort as per 36CFR 800.6. As proposed under the action alternatives, part of the old Escalante to Boulder road would be used as an overflow parking area to alleviate congestion at the Calf Creek trailhead. This is seen as a no adverse effect under 36CFR 800.5(d)(1), with potential beneficial effects in that a short portion of the road would be maintained rather than continuing to degrade through natural erosional processes.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has been conducted regarding both of these sites. SHPO has concurred with assessments of eligibility on both sites, and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding mitigation will be prepared under 36CFR 800.6(b)(1)(iv). Proposed mitigation for the loss of the historic features at Calf Creek Campground will consist of thorough architectural and photographic documentation of the historic features, including the toilet structure, shade shelters, and day-use facilities. No mitigation is considered necessary for the old Escalante to Boulder road in that use of this as a parking area will be a beneficial effect.

Resource B: Floodplains

Effects common to both alternatives

Alternatives A and B include removing the existing concrete pad at the low-water stream crossing and replacing it with a series of end-to-end, open-bottomed concrete culverts. The concrete culverts would allow water to pass underneath the stream crossing during normal flow conditions while also allowing vehicles to cross to the east side of the stream to access campsites without entering the water. Water would flow over the concrete culvert crossing during high flows. Removal of the concrete low-water crossing would restore the stream bed to its natural gravel/cobble bottom state. There is the potential for the stream to become blocked at the concrete culvert during flood flows that produce bedload movement and move debris, such as sediment, trees and limbs. Blocking the flow could cause water to

breach the culvert and result in scouring around the edges of the culvert, and in the worst case scenario, could cause the culvert crossing to be washed out depending on the intensity of the flood event. Material may also be deposited beneath the culvert during moderate to high flows and the area beneath the culvert would need to be maintained so that the stream remains free-flowing after such events. Changing the stream crossing from a ford to a culvert crossing would potentially reduce the amount of vehicle related contaminants, such as oil, grease, mud from tires, and brake dust, that are deposited directly into the stream due to vehicles entering the water. Erosion of the road on either side of the stream would also potentially be reduced since vehicles would not be entering and exiting the stream.

Alternatives A and B include removing the existing retaining wall adjacent to the water play area, removing the current walkway down the steep slope, regrading the steep slope adjacent to the water play area, and stabilizing the regraded slope with a combination of natural stone retaining walls and native trees and riparian vegetation(i.e., cottonwoods). There is the potential for the section of slope being graded to erode during construction therefore, design features, such as erosion and sediment control structures, would be used during construction and until the site has been revegetated and/or stabilized with retaining walls. Heavy equipment could cause compaction in the area being graded and efforts would be made to avoid operating heavy equipment during wet conditions. Relocating the current access trail away from the steep slope going down to the creek would reduce erosion due to compaction of the trail.

Resource C: Hydrologic Conditions

Effects common to both alternatives

Alternatives A and B include constructing an overflow parking area for 20 vehicles near the Highway 12 entrance to Calf Creek Campground. The overflow parking area would reduce the potential for compaction and therefore runoff and erosion on the side of roads within the campground by reducing the number vehicles that park in undesignated areas. There is the potential for the parking area to generate runoff during construction. Design features such as erosion and sediment control structures, would be used during construction to mitigate soil loss due to runoff. Erosion and sediment control structures would remain in place until gravel is laid down on the parking area and the area around the constructed parking area have been revegetated. Heavy equipment could also cause compaction in the area being graded to construct the parking area and efforts would be made to avoid operating heavy equipment during wet conditions.

Resource D: Recreation

Effects of Common to both Alternatives

Implementation of facility upgrades and improvement of physical accessibility features for both camping and day-use within the site offers critical health and safety upgrades that are a direct benefit to the visiting public. Re-construction of the stone retaining wall offers

better access to the water play area. The addition of new shade structures to several camp sites and replacement of shade at existing day use structures would be a direct benefit. Re-configuring parking throughout the campground and day-use site would benefit all users by reducing the frustration associated with current parking congestion along campground access roads and within the sites.

Both alternatives propose the addition of a new parking area near the site entrance in an old road cut that would increase existing overall total parking capacity by adding up to 20 new spaces. A fee station would be installed in the new parking lot to allow people to obtain a fee envelope close to their cars. This new parking capacity near the site entrance in both alternatives would help meet current use levels and alleviate the current parking congestion issues. It would limit vegetation and erosion impacts by reducing illegal parking on Highway 12 and along the access road into the site. There would be increased safety for pedestrians walking through the site to access the Lower Calf Creek Falls Trailhead and staff who continually monitor to discourage drivers of large vehicles from blocking access. Large vehicle congestion would be reduced. However it is anticipated that staff will continue to provide traffic control during peak periods of the day.

Implementation of either alternative might not be able to completely prevent continued parking of vehicles illegally on Highway 12. It is unknown how many visitors that are unable to find parking, continue to drive on and return at different times of day when parking is available. Turn-over within the parking area happens several times per day. Traffic enforcement would be the key to limiting parking outside of designated sites. Visitors would be encouraged to self-select to visit early in the day or late to avoid the majority of crowded conditions. A new parking lot would be expected to absorb current use and reduce congestion along Highway 12 and along the entrance to the site. There is not anticipated to be a substantially greater number of people hiking on the Lower Falls Trail to the waterfall.

New interpretive signage and a new amphitheater for guided programs would increase opportunities for visitors to learn about the resources of the area. Implementation of the proposed design features requiring use of natural materials during construction would insure that the additional parking would not unduly impact the surrounding ambience of the natural environment nor impact the inviting nature of the lush riparian setting throughout the site, preserving the existing visitor experience.

The proposed changes to the trailhead infrastructure at the beginning of the trail are included in both alternatives. Reconstructing the short stretch of steps leading to the trailhead sign and re-positioning the register and sign would allow groups to read the sign at one time and make it more attractive for hikers to access the sign and understand and comply with resource protection regulations.

Short term effects for both alternatives would include temporary displacement of the public during construction. The construction window for this project includes March, September and October which will cause the campground and the day-use hiking trail to Lower Calf

Creek Falls to temporarily close to the public either during spring break or the fall visitation season. Based on past use data, it is anticipated that approximately 7000 visitors would be displaced from the campground and Lower Calf Creek Falls trailhead during March; approximately 9000 visitors would be impacted in September and approximately 8500 visitors in October. Depending upon project phasing, walk-in access to the trailhead and campground may not be possible due to work needed on parking, campsites and bridge access. The campground will also be closed during the construction. It is anticipated that increased staffing will be required to insure the public does not park on the highway or walk into the construction site. Depending upon which of these months is targeted for construction, an average of approximately \$5,000-\$7,000 in fees would not be collected. Closures would be a negative short term impact to recreational users who are unable to visit Lower Calf Creek Falls.

Effects Specific to Alternative A

In Alternative A the group day-use picnic area would remain in its current location with no change to current use. Day-use would continue to be divided between the upper area by the parking lot and the lower section which would continue to have two small group picnic shelters and the new amphitheater for educational programs. There would be no additional group picnic shelter in the lower day-use site and no change in visitor access to either location. The current flush toilet would remain in its current location. Group use would be divided between two locations with no concentration of day-use in one site. These facility changes are not anticipated to impact recreational users.

Parking capacity in Alternative A would be provided by the existing parking area and the addition of the new overflow parking and defined parking along the access road. Parking capacity would total approximately 60 vehicles. This alternative would offer less parking capacity in the existing parking area than Alternative B. Re-configuration of the current parking lot to provide safe vehicle turn-around and alleviate congestion would not be possible resulting in greater demand for staff to direct traffic on high use days.

Resource E: Soils

Effects common to both alternatives

Alternatives A and B include constructing an overflow parking area for 20 vehicles near the Highway 12 entrance to Calf Creek Campground. The overflow parking area would reduce the potential for compaction and erosion on the side of roads within the campground by reducing the number vehicles that park in undesignated areas. There is the potential for the parking area to erode during construction. Design features such as erosion and sediment control structures would be used during construction to mitigate soil loss. Erosion and sediment control structures would remain in place until gravel is laid down on the parking area and the area around the constructed parking area have been revegetated. Heavy equipment could cause compaction in the area being graded to construct the parking area and efforts would be made to avoid operating heavy equipment during wet conditions.

Resource F: Water Resources

Effects common to both alternatives

Alternatives A and B include replacing the low-water crossing with an open-bottom concrete culvert, removing the retaining wall and regrading the steep slope down to the water play area, removing the existing access trail from the steep slope, and constructing an overflow parking area near the Calf Creek Campground entrance.

Changing the stream crossing from a ford to a culvert crossing would potentially reduce the amount of vehicle related contaminants, such as oil, grease, mud from tires, and brake dust, that are deposited directly into the stream due to vehicles entering the water. Erosion of the road on either side of the stream would also potentially be reduced since vehicles would not be entering and exiting the stream. Removing the existing concrete low-water crossing and installing the new open-bottom concrete culvert will increase turbidity and suspended sediment for a short period of time during removal construction and installation of culverts.

There is the potential for the section of slope being graded near the water play area to erode during construction which could reduce water quality in Calf Creek during storms. Design features such as erosion and sediment control structures, would be used during construction and until the site has been revegetated and/or stabilized with retaining walls to mitigate impacts to water quality. Heavy equipment could also cause compaction in the area being graded and efforts would be made to avoid operating heavy equipment during wet conditions to mitigate impacts to water quality. Relocating the current access trail away from the steep slope going down to the creek would reduce erosion due to compaction of the trail and improve water quality from water flowing into the creek from the compacted trail.

Adding the overflow parking area would reduce the potential for compaction and therefore runoff and erosion on the side of roads within the campground and improve water quality. There is the potential for the parking area to generate runoff during construction, which could impact water quality in the stream. Design features such as erosion and sediment control structures, would be used during construction to mitigate impacts to water quality. Erosion and sediment control structures would remain in place until gravel is laid down on the parking area and the area around the constructed parking area have been revegetated to mitigate impacts to water quality after construction. Heavy equipment could also cause compaction in the area being graded to construct the parking area and efforts would be made to avoid operating heavy equipment during wet conditions to mitigate impacts to water quality.

Resource G: Wetlands/Riparian Zones

Effects common to both alternatives

Within the campground an existing concrete pad would be removed and two new walk-in sites would be constructed. Vegetation would be planted in the space between and around the campsites improving vegetation conditions. Relocating the tent pad away from the creek, removing asphalt and replanting those areas at site #11 would be beneficial for vegetation. Installing a shade shelter at site #9 does not require removal of vegetation therefore there would be no impacts to vegetation. The construction of the stone retaining walls could have short term impacts to vegetation, in the long term vegetation would fill in after construction is finished. Constructing the universally-accessible, unpaved walkway would require removing vegetation for the width requirements. Constructing an amphitheater would require removing low growing vegetation such as grasses, forbs, and weedy species. The oak trees in the area would remain so negative impacts would most likely not occur. The planting of cottonwood and other riparian vegetation in the lower area would be a positive impact for vegetation; this could be used as a mitigation measure for those areas requiring potential tree removal.

Replacing the stone stairs to reduce erosion at the trailhead would improve vegetation conditions by maintaining soil. The installation of barriers to define areas could also be used as design features to prevent social trails and protect areas that are being restored; this would be a beneficial impact for vegetation.

The replacement of the fabricated block wall with natural stone, the replacement of the toilets and sidewalks, all existing shade structures, tent pads, fire rings, tables, and numbered campsite posts would not impact vegetation as these sites have been disturbed and will continue to be used for their current purposes. Replacing the timber components on the pedestrian bridge along with the electrical conduit would have no effect on vegetation. Reconfiguring the camp host site would not have an impact on vegetation as the site will continue to be used for those needs.

Resource H: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Effects Common to Both Alternatives

Effects to Wild and Free-flowing: As stated in Water Resources, Section G, the addition of new culverts for the low water stream crossing would not result in any short or long term obstruction or impact to the free flowing nature of Calf Creek Segment 3 through the Campground or downstream to the Escalante River confluence.

Effects to Water Quality: As stated in Water Resources, Section G, there could be short-term, temporary impacts to turbidity and erosion run-off during construction both in the campground and downstream. However, changing the stream crossing from a ford to a culvert crossing is expected to reduce the amount of vehicle related contaminants, such as oil, grease, mud from tires, and brake dust, that are deposited directly into the stream due to vehicles entering the water. Erosion of the road on either side of the stream would also potentially be reduced since vehicles would not be entering and exiting the stream. This

would be beneficial to the entire Segment 3 of Calf Creek through the campground and downstream to the Escalante River confluence.

Effects to Tentative Classification: BLM Manual 6400 - Wild and Scenic Rivers - Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, Planning and Management (2012) specifically addresses a recreational classification by clarifying in Section 3.6.D. Recreation Development that a tentative recreational classification *“does not require extensive recreation development”, but rather “should harmonize with natural and cultural settings and be screened from view of the river where possible”* (p. 3-11). Proposed facility upgrades associated with this project would benefit the existing campers, hikers, swimmers and anglers recreating along the Calf Creek segment. The campground and day-use facilities and trailhead infrastructure will continue to be visible from the creek corridor but design features proposed will help to screen facilities from the creek corridor. As per the visual resources determination, facility colors and materials are anticipated to blend with the surrounding natural landscape and be subservient, minimizing the visual intrusion to those recreating along the creek. The on-going presence of recreational facilities within the WSR corridor is consistent with the existing recreational classification.

Effects to Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs): The identified ORV's for Calf Creek include high scenic quality, rock art, pre-historic structures, high recreation use, bird habitat and riparian values. Revegetation of the lower section of the day-use site is anticipated to have beneficial effects to riparian and bird habitat. (See Fish and Wildlife Section B).

There are no project effects that would pose a threat to suitability of Calf Creek for future WSR designation. As discussed several features of the project would be beneficial to WSR values by providing better protection of water quality, as a key element in managing long-term suitability.

Resource I: Visual Resources

Effects Common to Both Alternatives

BLM's Visual Resource Management program includes a standardized system to review lands actions for resource management plan conformance. Visual contrast rating worksheets are completed to determine if a project conforms to the resource management plan. In order to evaluate the environmental consequences of the alternatives for this proposed project, a linear KOP along Highway 12 travelling in both directions was used to complete the contrast rating worksheet and analyze this proposal.

Along most of the narrow, winding linear KOP (Highway 12) the project elements of Alternative A would be screened from view by landform and vegetation because the highway is located above the development on a ledge cut out of the sandstone and those travelling along the highway cannot see into the bottom of the canyon and are more focused on the stunning scenery and staying safely on the roadway. For those that are

looking into the canyon, the length of time the visible project elements (parking areas, restroom, and parked vehicles) are in view is less than 20 seconds for eastbound travelers and less than 60 seconds for westbound travelers.



Left: Eastbound view along HWY 12 toward Calf Creek Recreation Area. Right: Westbound view along HWY 12 toward Calf Creek Recreation Area.

The proposed improvements associated with this alternative would be located in a recreation area that was developed in the 1960s. The renovated and/or additional built features associated with Alternative A would create similar levels of contrast to what is currently there. The recreation area is located in the floor of a narrow riparian canyon with thick vegetation and most built elements are screened from view by vegetation and landforms. During construction, temporary visual impacts could result from the visibility of construction equipment and site work. Post-construction, the negligible contrast created by the site improvements would be similar to what currently exists.

The built elements proposed would be constructed of materials that blend with the natural environment minimizing the color and textural contrast they would create. By constructing the project according to the outlined design criteria and implementation measures, the negligible changes to the existing character of the landscape would be appropriate to meet the visual resource management objectives of the area.

Resource J: Vegetation not including USFWS listed species

Effects common to both alternatives

Both alternatives propose the addition of a new parking area near the site entrance in an old road cut and an additional parking area between the creek and the site sign that would increase existing overall parking. The access road would be expanded to 20 feet wide. Removal of vegetation would occur along the edge of the current road. On busy weekends the sides of the roads serve as overflow parking. In both alternatives the proposed action would help decrease off road parking that is currently impacting vegetation. Design features will be to maintain as much vegetation as possible so as to not impact upland vegetation resources.

ALTERNATIVE B (EXPANDED IMPROVEMENTS)

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action to those resources described in the Affected Environment, Chapter 3, above.

Resource A: Cultural Resources

The impacts and management plan conformance associated with this alternative are the same as those described for Alternative A.

Resource B: Floodplains

The impacts and management plan conformance associated with this alternative are the same as those described for Alternative A.

Resource C: Hydrologic Conditions

The impacts and management plan conformance associated with this alternative are the same as those described for Alternative A.

Resource D: Recreation

Same as Alternative A except for the following:

Alternative B would move the current group picnic area in order to expand the day-use parking area and concentrate all day-use in the lower area of the campground and day-use site. The flush toilet would be moved to the middle of the parking turn-around. Moving the current location of the group picnic use would be a change for local and repeat users of the site but would result in better concentration of use provided by the new amphitheater in conjunction with the group day-use picnic area. The addition of three new shade structures and the large group structure and reconfiguring the lower area would make this new day-use area functional and inviting for group use and offers connection to the water play area. Re-vegetation of the lower area with native trees and shrubs would greatly improve the riparian setting in this location.

Increased parking capacity in Alternative B would total 80 vehicles provided by additions within the existing parking area and the addition of the new overflow parking and defined parking along the access road. This alternative would offer more parking capacity in the current lot and would re-configure the current parking lot to provide safe vehicle turn-around and alleviate congestion. Future visitor demand for parking may be unable to be completely accommodated in any alternative due to the constrained nature of the site. Staff will continue to provide parking during peak periods.

Resource E: Soils

The impacts and management plan conformance associated with this alternative are the same as those described for Alternative A.

Resource F: Water Resources

The impacts and management plan conformance associated with this alternative are the same as those described for Alternative A.

Resource G: Wetlands/Riparian Zones

There's a possibility that one or two oak trees would need to be removed to increase the size of the main parking area. The new flush toilet building would be in the center of the parking area and wouldn't impact vegetation. Relocation of the current group picnic area to the lower area would benefit vegetation as the design calls for vegetation, in particular, trees and shrubs to be installed. The installation of three small single party shade shelters plus one large shelter would be located in areas with little to no vegetation and in couple of locations weedy species such as puncture vine exist. Installing these shelters, planting native species and maintaining the site to be weed free would benefit the riparian vegetation.

The remaining project analysis would be the same as in Alternative A.

Resource H: Wild and Scenic Rivers

The impacts and management plan conformance associated with this alternative are the same as those described for Alternative A.

Resource I: Visual Resources

The impacts and management plan conformance associated with this alternative are the same as those described for Alternative A.

Resource J: Vegetation not including USFWS listed species

The impacts and management plan conformance associated with this alternative are the same as those described for Alternative A.

No ACTION

Resource A: Cultural Resources

Under the No Action Alternative Calf Creek Campground would not lose the historic structures proposed for removal under the Action alternatives, and use of these structures would continue. However, the day use area structures are in poor condition and will continue to degrade over time, and they would eventually lose structural integrity, a vital part of their eligibility to the NRHP. The existing, but non-functional, toilet facility would continue to degrade, with similar consequences to the day use area previously mentioned. The concrete volleyball court is non-functional at present due to natural deterioration, and such deterioration would only increase with time. The shade shelters are of steel construction, and would probably remain intact for the foreseeable future. The portion of the old Escalante-Boulder road would continue to degrade and not see the upkeep that would come with use as an overflow parking area.

Resource B: Floodplains

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be potential negative impacts to the floodplain adjacent to the water play area. Stone blocks that were placed to reinforce the stream bank are failing and falling into the stream. This creates a hazard for swimmers, waders, and pedestrians walking along the stream bank and exposes the soils along the stream bank. Continued failure of the reinforcement structure would lead to excessive erosion of the stream bank that the stone blocks were installed to protect, especially during high flow events.

Resource C: Hydrologic Conditions

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be the potential for negative impacts to hydrologic conditions due to soil compaction along edges of the driveway where patrons park when the existing parking lot is full. Compaction would occur from repeated instances of vehicles driving and parking on the unimproved edges of the existing road. The compacted soils would have lower water infiltration capacity and lead to excessive puddling, runoff, and erosion during storms. There would be no impacts to hydrologic conditions due to grading near the water play area or in the area designated for overflow parking under the No Action Alternative since no construction would be authorized in those areas.

Resource D: Recreation

In the No Action Alternative the general public would not see any changes at the recreation site. No deferred maintenance projects would be implemented thereby all current facilities would remain the same. The constrained geography of the site and the regional demand for developed camp sites would continue to result in camping in the day use area or in other areas not designated for camping, as well as doubling up in sites that are only physically able to accommodate groups of six people. One of the camp sites is on sloping and eroding terrain; one is exposed with no shade; two camp sites lack designated parking; and two are located close to the edge of the creek where flash flooding occurs. Conflicts,

crowding, and damage or erosion to vegetation and soils would continue. The water play area would continue to erode with no improved access.

Due to growing regional visitation, the public would continue to encounter a lack of places to park on an increasing number of days. Vehicle congestion throughout the day-use parking area, along Highway 12 and within the campground would not be alleviated. Safety hazards to staff and pedestrians would be present due to blocking of the access road by large vehicles. There would be no increase in recreational opportunities from the addition of interpretive elements such as signage or the amphitheater. Campers at several campsites would continue to experience a lack of shade structures. The open area below the campground would continue to appear wind-blown and eroded from social trails. Optimal ADA access would not be accommodated. The hillside supporting trailhead infrastructure would continue to erode.

Resource E: Soils

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be the potential for negative impacts to soils due to compaction along edges of the driveway where vehicles park when the existing parking lot is full. Compaction would occur from repeated instances of vehicles driving and parking on the unimproved edges of the existing road. The compacted soils would have lower water infiltration capacity and lead to excessive puddling, runoff, and erosion during storms. There would be no impacts to soils from construction in the water play area and the area designated for overflow parking under the No Action Alternative since no construction would be authorized in those areas.

Resource F: Water Resources

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be the potential for negative impacts to water quality due to vehicles crossing Calf Creek at the low-water crossing. Vehicles must drive through the water at the low-water crossing and have the potential to add pollutants to the stream from sediment washed from vehicles, sediment transported from the edges of the low-water crossing, leaking oil and/or road grime that washes off of vehicles, and brake dust that is washed from vehicle wheels when driving through the water.

There would be no impacts to water quality from grading of the stream bank or grading of the overflow parking area under the No Action Alternative since no construction activities would be authorized. However, continued failure of the stone blocks stabilizing the stream near the water play area could lead to excessive erosion of the stream bank and contribute sediment to Calf Creek. Erosion from compacted soils from vehicle parking in unauthorized areas along the edges of the road could also degrade water quality from sediments transported to Calf Creek during storms.

Resource G: Wetlands/Riparian Zones

Under the No Action Alternative, removal of any vegetation would not occur. The large cement pad within the campground would not be removed and revegetated. Installation of plants in the lower picnic area and identified campsites would not occur. Erosion along the banks of the play area would continue. The existing riparian vegetation would remain as is and the No-Action Alternative would not impact riparian resources.

Resource H: Wild and Scenic Rivers

In the No-Action alternative any existing riparian resource impacts (i.e. vegetation impacts from vehicle ingress, soil compaction on streamside access trails, and streamside erosion) would continue. Water quality would continue to be affected from streamside trail erosion and contaminants from oil and debris washing off vehicles upon crossing the creek. The current picnic area would remain in the same location and there would be no change to the current riparian vegetation or outstanding remarkable values.

The No-Action alternative and continuation of current conditions are not expected to pose any threat to recreational classification, wild and free-flowing nature, water quality, or outstanding remarkable values of this segment nor pose a threat to long-term suitability for designation.

Resource I: Visual Resources

In the No-Action Alternative the impacts to visual resources would remain the same.

Resource J: Vegetation not including USFWS listed species

Under the No Action Alternative, vegetation would not be removed to construct the parking areas in the upland sections. Visitors would continue to park off the road which would continue to impact vegetation. The No-Action Alternative would not impact vegetation resources.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Ongoing uses and activities in the area include travel along and maintenance of Highway 12, recreational visits, and removal of invasive/noxious plants species in the Escalante River and its tributaries.

Resource A: Cultural Resources

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

The Cultural Resources CIA for this project is the campground itself, recorded as 42Ka8060, and the short portion of adjacent 24Ka6091, the old Escalante-Boulder road.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Reasonable and foreseeable impacts to Calf Creek Campground, site 42Ga8060, would be continued maintenance and potential upgrades of facilities over time. The loss of the historic features contributing to site eligibility under NRHP criterion C will have been mitigated, so cumulative impacts to those features will not be an issue. In time, additional features at this site will become historic and contribute to eligibility, and future actions at Calf Creek Campground will need to be taken into consideration at that time.

Reasonable and foreseeable impacts to the old Escalante to Boulder road, site 42Ga6091, will consist of use and maintenance of the road portion used as an overflow parking area. This is considered a beneficial effect. This offers good interpretive potential regarding the history of Escalante and Boulder, the CCC, and transportation development between these two communities. Unfortunately, the balance of the road in the vicinity of Calf Creek Campground is not suitable for use as an interpretive trail. No adverse cumulative impacts are foreseen for this site.

Resource B: Floodplains

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

The cumulative impact areas of analysis for Floodplains are the low water crossing at the upstream end of Calf Creek Campground and adjacent to the water play area near the center of Calf Creek Campground.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impacts to floodplains from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include construction of the low water crossing and development of floodplain adjacent to the water play area. In Alternatives A & B, replacing the concrete low water crossing with a concrete culvert to allow vehicles to cross over the stream without entering the stream would restore the floodplain at the stream crossing to a more natural condition. There would be temporary disturbance in the floodplain during removal of the existing concrete pad and during construction of the new culvert crossing. Installing the culvert crossing would contribute to reduced long-term impacts to the stream banks from vehicle traffic on the east and west side of the stream crossing.

In Alternatives A & B, removing the retaining wall and regrading the slope adjacent to the water play area would cause a temporary disturbance to the floodplain during construction. Removing the retaining wall and regrading the slope would improve the stability of the floodplain over the long-term.

Resource C: Hydrologic Conditions

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

The cumulative impact area of analysis for Hydrologic Conditions is the proposed overflow parking area for 20 vehicles near the Highway 12 entrance to Calf Creek Campground.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impacts to hydrologic conditions from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include an abandoned road cut from previous right of way development and the addition of an overflow parking area. There is the potential for short-term impacts to hydrologic conditions from construction of the parking area. Development of the road cut previously disturbed the hydrologic function of the area and additional development of the overflow parking area is not expected to increase long-term impacts to hydrologic conditions.

Resource D: Recreation

Cumulative Impact Area

The cumulative impact area of analysis for recreation includes Highway 12 corridor from Red Canyon to Capitol Reef National Park.

Cumulative Impact Analysis (CIA)

Effects of both alternatives

The impacts to recreational opportunities and the visitor experience from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include the potential effects of any new recreational facilities or potential for changes in visitor use patterns along Highway 12. Implementing the project actions in either alternative is not expected to create any new recreational uses or displace current users along Highway 12 in the CUA. Increased parking capacity and facility upgrades insure the site is best equipped to meet the growing demand for recreational use along Highway 12.

There are no known potential cumulative effects of the project within the CIA.

Resource E: Soils

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

The cumulative impact area of analysis for Soils is the proposed overflow parking area for 20 vehicles near the Highway 12 entrance to Calf Creek Campground.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impacts to soils from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include an abandoned road cut from previous right of way development and the addition of an overflow parking area. There is the potential for short-term impacts to soils from construction of the parking area. Development of the road cut previously disturbed soils in the area and additional development of the overflow parking area is not expected to increase long-term impacts to soils.

Resource F: Water Resources

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

The cumulative impact area of analysis for Water Resources is approximately 1500 stream ft. of Calf Creek that flows through 20 acres of Calf Creek Campground.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impacts to water resources from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include the low water stream crossing with a culvert crossing, the floodplain retaining wall adjacent to the water play area, an abandoned road cut from previous right of way development, and the addition of an overflow parking area. Actions under Alternatives A & B are expected to have short-term negative impacts to water resources (i.e., an increase in runoff and turbidity) during construction. The action alternatives would make improvements to the low water crossing, water play area, and parking capacity and are expected to have long-term beneficial impacts to water resources.

Resource G: Wetlands/Riparian Zones

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

The cumulative impact area of analysis is the riparian zone through the entire Calf Creek tributary. This begins at the springs in the upper reaches of the tributary to the confluence with the Escalante River.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impacts to riparian resources from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include general recreational use and vegetation treatments to remove primarily Russian olive and salt cedar within the Calf Creek Tributary. The action alternatives would make improvements to the riparian zone with the design features of restoring parts of the campground with native vegetation. Areas along Calf Creek would most likely see a decrease in soil erosion where plants would be used for restoration or vegetation would naturally fill in due to placement of social trailing barriers. With a defined path system in the campground there would be less social trailing which would improve

vegetation restoration success. The proposed facility upgrades would not contribute to an increase in impacts to the riparian system of Calf Creek.

Resource H: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

The CIA for Wild and Scenic Rivers includes Segment 2 that begins at Lower Calf Creek Falls and extends down to the campground and the entire stretch of Segment-3 of Calf Creek that begins at the upper edge of the campground and flows to the confluence of the Escalante River. The CUA would include the WSR eligibility width of 1/4 mile from the mean high-water mark on both sides of Calf Creek.

Cumulative Impacts Analysis

The cumulative impacts from past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions on WSR segments are required to address the following elements:

Wild and free-flowing nature: As stated above in Water Resources Section G, the addition of new culverts for the low water stream crossing would not result in any short or long term obstruction or impact to the free flowing nature of Calf Creek Segment 2 or Segment 3 from the waterfalls through the Campground or downstream to the Escalante River confluence.

Water quality: As stated above in Water Resources, there could be short-term impacts to turbidity and run-off during construction both in the campground and downstream. However, changing the stream crossing from a ford to a culvert crossing is expected to reduce the amount of vehicle related contaminants, such as oil, grease, mud from tires, and brake dust, that are deposited directly into the stream due to vehicles entering the water. Erosion of the road on either side of the stream would also potentially be reduced since vehicles would not be entering and exiting the stream. This would be beneficial to the entire Segment 3 of Calf Creek downstream to the Escalante River confluence and would have no impact on Segment 2 above the campground.

Tentative classification: Facility upgrades associated with this project and any future proposed actions at this site or along Highway 12 are not anticipated to pose any impact to recreational classification for the entire segment 3 or have any impact on the scenic classification of Segment 2 above the campground.

Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs) identified as high scenic quality, rock art, pre-historic structures, high recreation use, bird habitat and riparian values: There are no known anticipated threats to the ORVs.

There are no known cumulative effects that would pose a threat to suitability of all Calf Creek segments for future WSR designation.

Resource I: Visual Resources

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

Visual Resources - The cumulative impact area of analysis for Visual Resources is the viewshed along Highway 12 from Escalante to Boulder (approximately 40 miles) through the Escalante Canyons.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impacts to visual resources from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include establishment of residential and commercial development, recreational facilities (trailheads, day use areas, etc.), general recreational use, livestock grazing management facilities (corrals, fences, water developments, storage buildings, etc.) and road construction and maintenance activities. The action alternatives would make improvements to an existing development using elements that would blend with the landscape and be largely screened from view. Additionally, the viewshed along Highway 12 from Escalante to Boulder encompasses a landscape of 100,000s of acres. These facilities are visible only when in immediate proximity to the site and are small in scale within this grand scale landscape. They would not contribute to an increase in impacts to visual resources in the area.

Resource J: Vegetation not including USFWS listed species

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

The cumulative impact area of analysis is the upland zone through the entire Calf Creek tributary. This begins in the upper reaches of the tributary to the confluence with the Escalante River.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impacts to vegetation resources from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include recreational use throughout the Calf Creek tributary, livestock grazing at New Home Bench, and the Highway 12 and utility corridor construction and maintenance needs. The action alternatives would make improvements to an existing development and this would have short term impacts on upland vegetation with the construction of parking areas and widening of the access road. Long term impacts would be positive as vehicles will not be allowed to park off the road and will be required to park in the designated parking lots therefore reducing impacts on the surrounding vegetation. The proposed facility upgrades would not contribute to an increase in impacts to vegetation resources of Calf Creek.

CHAPTER 5

PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the BLM NEPA Register on XXX. No individuals or groups have contacted the BLM in response to the notice. A 30-day public comment period is being offered so the public can review the EA.

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies, and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Utah SHPO	Consultation of NHPA, Section 106.	Adverse effect with appropriate mitigation to be applies. SHPO consultation completed on July 22, 2016

LIST OF PREPARERS

BLM staff specialists who determined the affected resources for this document are listed in Appendix D. Those who contributed further analysis in the body of this EA are listed below.

Table 5.2. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Allysia Angus	Project Lead Landscape Architect	Site Designs, Technical Coordination, Impact Analysis for Visual Resources
David Barfuss	Engineer	Site Designs, Engineering
Northwind Resource Consulting	Engineering Contractors	Site Designs, Engineering
Matthew Zweifel	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources
Lora Gale	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Impact Analysis for Recreation and Wild and Scenic Rivers
Amber Hughes	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance Quality Control Impact Analysis for Vegetation
Ken Bradshaw	Soil Scientist	Impact Analysis for Floodplains, Hydrologic Conditions, Soils, and Water Resources

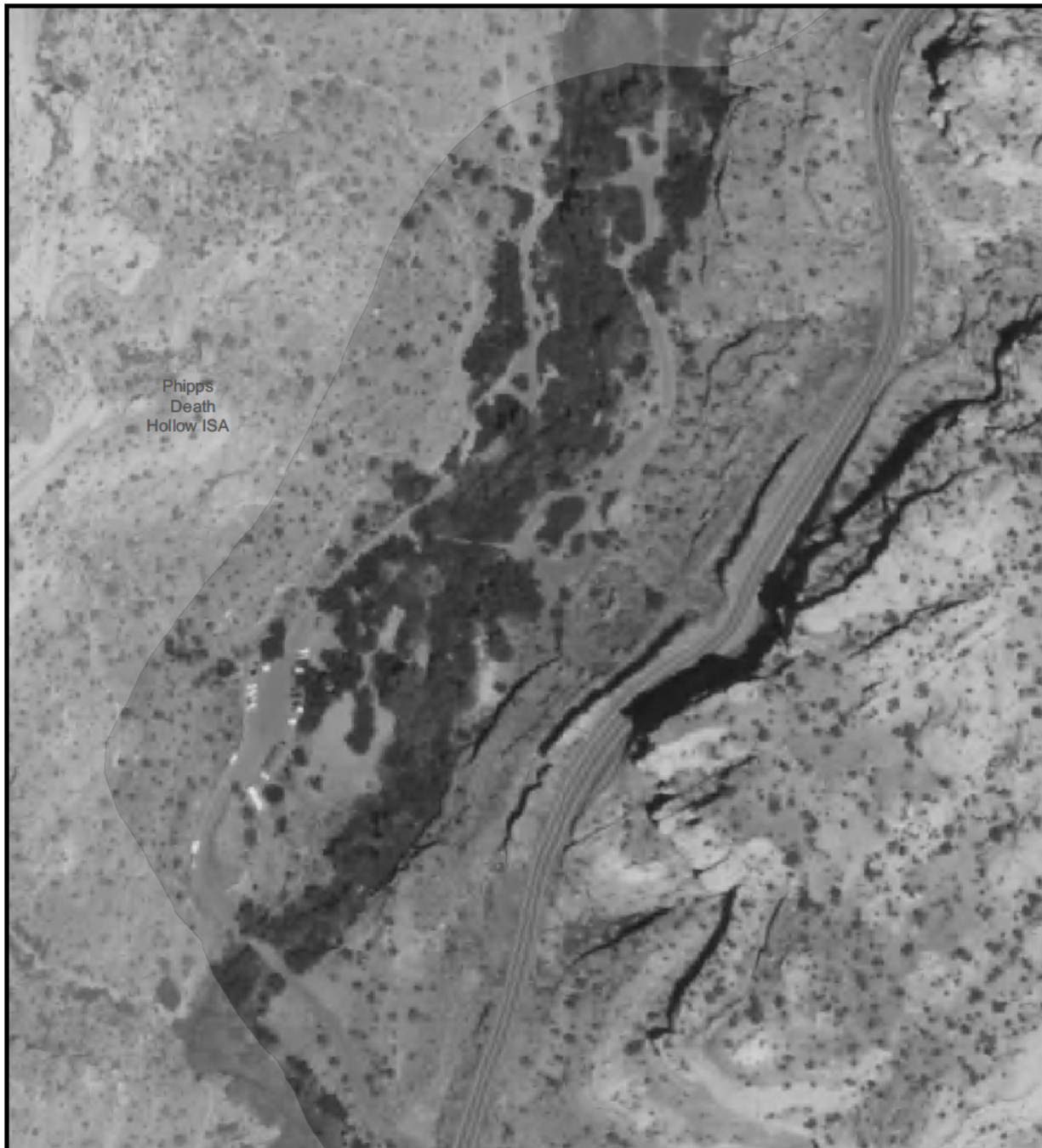
APPENDIX A
CALF CREEK RECREATION AREA PROJECT AREA MAP

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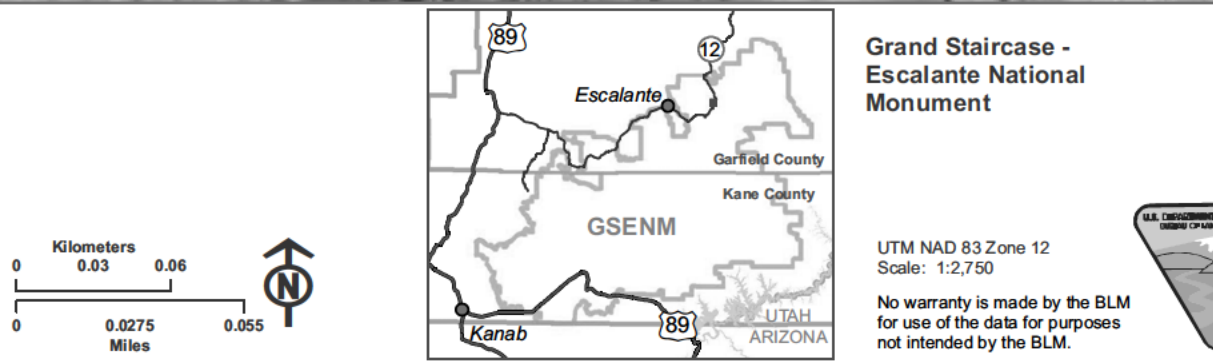
Calf Creek Recreation Site - Improvements Project

08/2015

BLM



GSENM



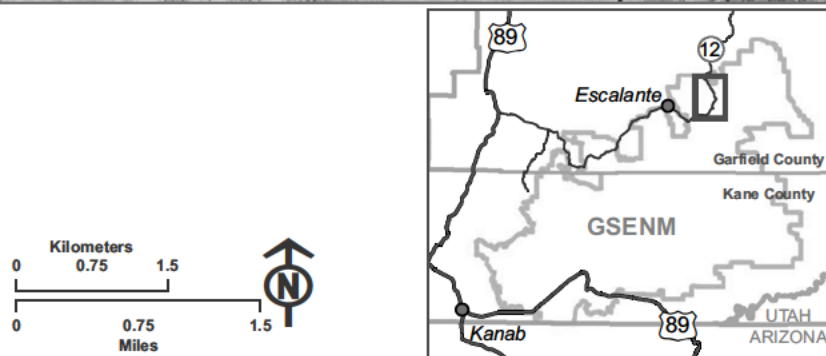
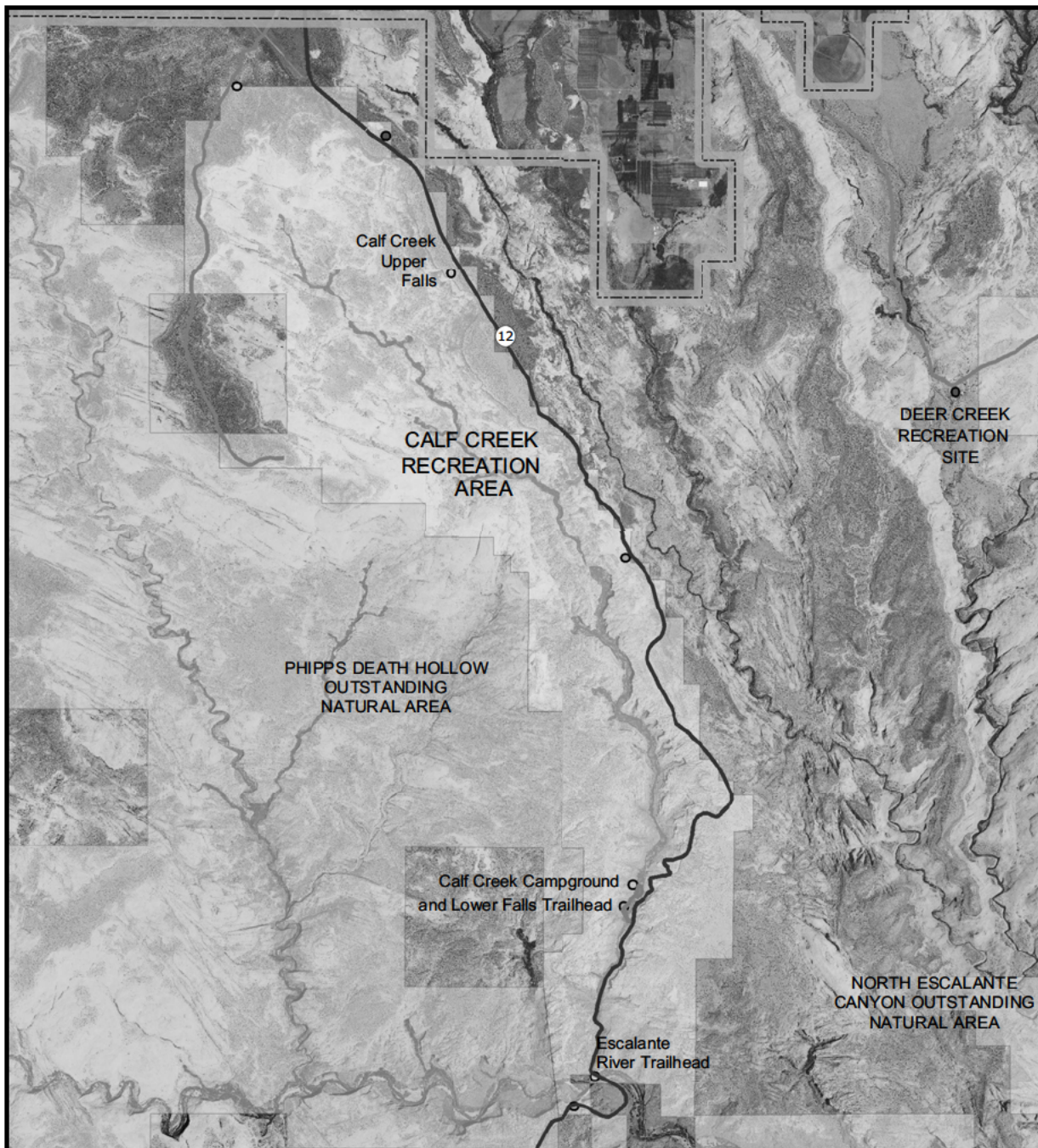
APPENDIX B
CALF CREEK RECREATION AREA MAP

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Calf Creek Recreation Area Map






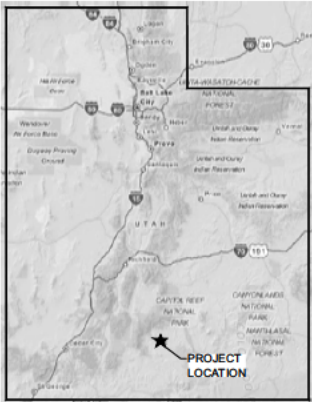
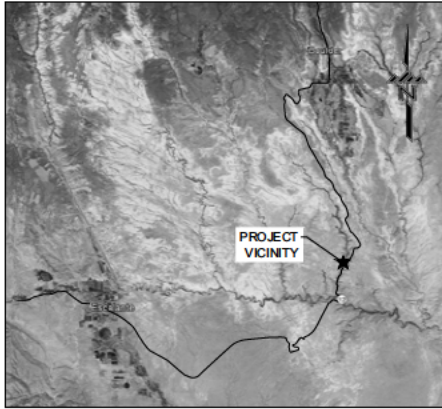
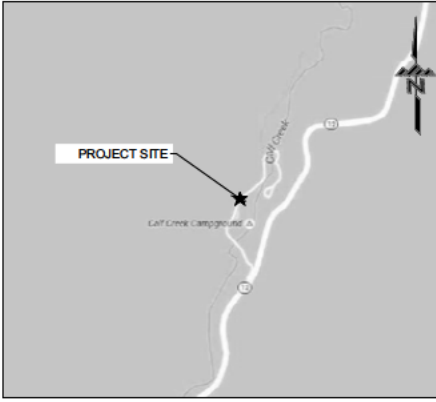
08/2016

BLM - GSENM

Grand Staircase -
Escalante National
MonumentUTM NAD 83 Zone 12
Scale: 1:70,000No warranty is made by the BLM
for use of the data for purposes
not intended by the BLM.

APPENDIX C
CALF CREEK RECREATION AREA CONCEPTUAL SITE DESIGNS

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 <p align="center">U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT CALF CREEK RECREATION AREA REDEVELOPMENT</p>		<p>INDEX OF DRAWINGS</p> <p>GENERAL G001 COVER SHEET</p> <p>CIVIL CONCEPT C101 CONCEPT 1 PLAN OVERALL C201 CONCEPT 2 PLAN OVERALL C302 WATER PLAY AREA ACCESS C303 KIDSK PLAN & ELEVATION C304 KIDSK CONCEPT C305 PAV LICH CONCEPT C306 PICNIC SHELTER CONCEPT</p> <p align="center">  <small>Recreation Building Call before you dig Call 24 hours a day in advance before you dig to avoid consequences for the violation of federal regulations STAY 88</small> </p> <p>DESIGNERS</p> <p align="center">   </p>	 <p align="center">COVER SHEET</p> <p align="center">CALF CREEK RECREATION AREA REDEVELOPMENT</p> <p align="center">UTAH</p>																																			
<p>PROJECT LOCATION</p> 	<p>PROJECT VICINITY</p> 	<p>SITE ACCESS</p> 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PROJECT NO.</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>DESCRIPTION</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>APPROVED</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PROJECT NO. 2019-013</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DESIGN OFFICE: NORTH WIND AND JUB</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DESIGNED BY: J. THOMPSON</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHECKED BY: S. THOMPSON</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>APPROVED BY: S. THOMPSON</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DATE: 02/02/2019</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p align="right">G001 SHEET 1 OF 8</p>	PROJECT NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED	PROJECT NO. 2019-013					DESIGN OFFICE: NORTH WIND AND JUB					DESIGNED BY: J. THOMPSON					CHECKED BY: S. THOMPSON					APPROVED BY: S. THOMPSON					DATE: 02/02/2019				
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PROJECT NO. 3013-213

PROJECT NAME: GRAND FALLS

DESIGNED BY: B. GARDNER

DRAWN BY: A. RICE

CHECKED BY: B. GARDNER

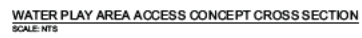
APPROVED BY: G. MICHAM

DATE: 10/27/2018

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EX-2

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WATER PLAY AREA ACCESS

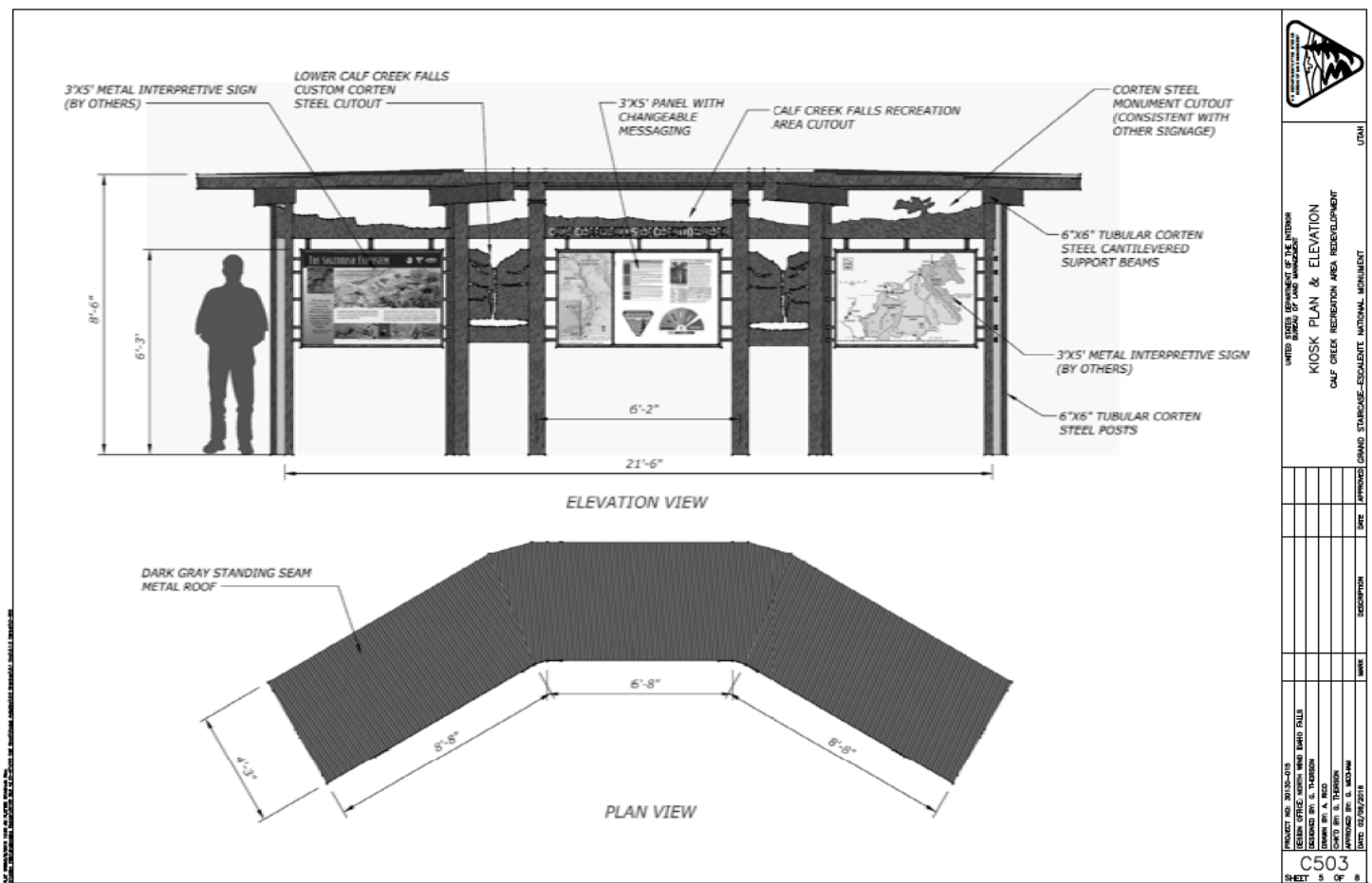
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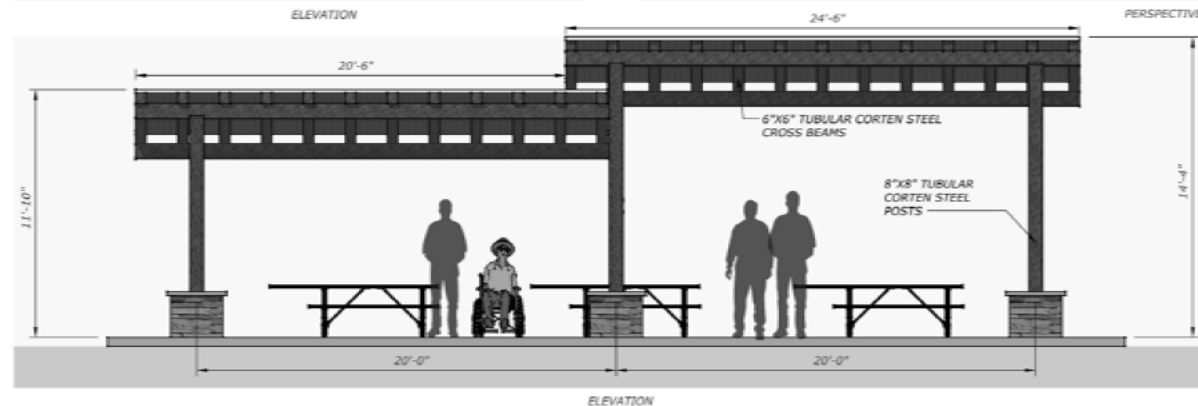
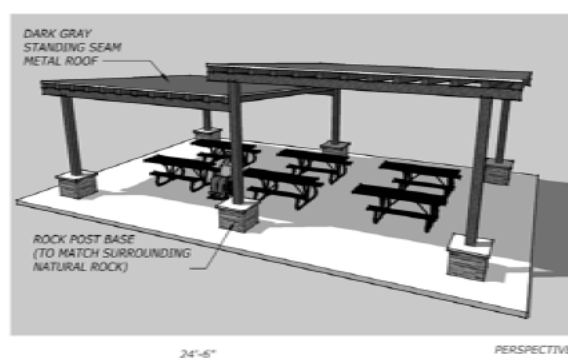
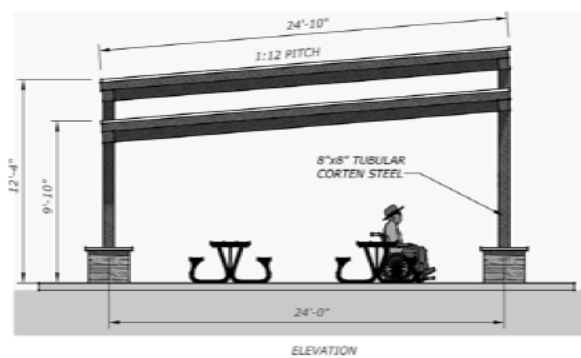
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APPROVED BY: G. THORSON				
DATE: 02/05/2018				
NAME				
DESCRIPTION				
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APPROVED				

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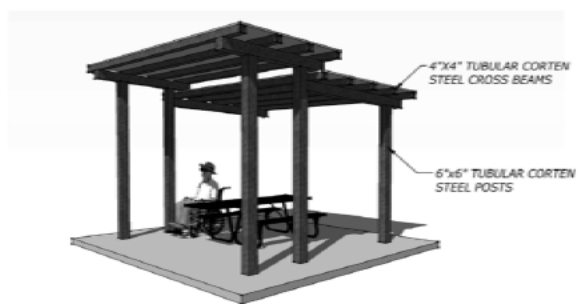




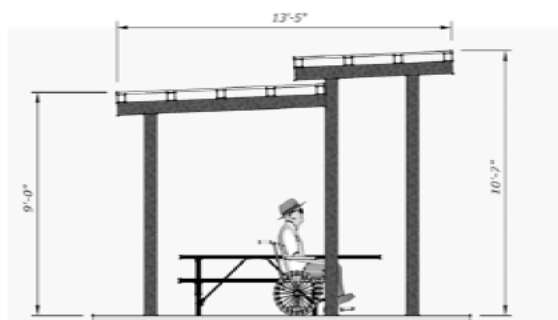


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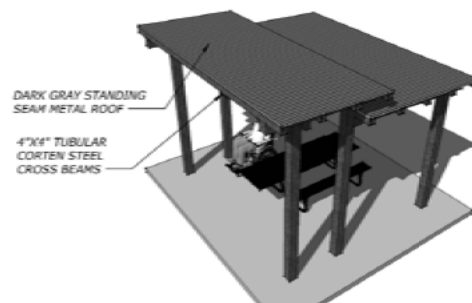
PROJECT NO.	30135-019
ESTIM OFFICE NUMBER	WHD DASH FALLS
DESIGNED BY	G. T. THORSON
DRAWN BY	A. REED
CHECKED BY	G. T. THORSON
APPROVED BY	G. MCDONAM
DATE	02/06/2018
MARKS	
DESCRIPTION	
DATE	APPROVED



PERSPECTIVE



ELEVATION



PERSPECTIVE



GRAND STAIRCASE - ESCALANTE MONUMENT - INSPIRATION FOR STAIR DESIGN



UDM

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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CALF CREEK RECREATION AREA REDEVELOPMENT

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

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APPENDIX D
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

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INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: Calf Creek Recreation Area Site Improvements

NEPA Log Number: DOI BLM UT 0300 2015 0040 EA

Project Leader: Allysia Angus

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 impact that needs to be analyzed in detail

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

The rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

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

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality (Bybee)	Particulate matter and gaseous pollutants generated during construction should be quickly dispersed and have no measurable effect on air quality.	/s/ J.Bybee	5/23/2016
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Beal/Gale)	No Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are designated within Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument.	J.Beal	5/24/2016
NI	Biological Soil Crusts (Brinkerhoff)	The proposed action will not impact the overall health of the existing biological soil crusts.	/s/R. Brinkerhoff	5/24/2016
NP	BLM Natural Areas (Beal)	No Natural Areas will be impacted for this project.	J. Beal	5/24/2016
PI	Cultural Resources (Zweifel)	SHPO consultation indicates that mitigation will be required for the structures in excess of 50 years old, but that this will consist of detailed documentation. Some additional consultation will be required for the old Escalante Boulder CCC road (proposed overflow parking area). No Native American sites were found in the course of the APE cultural resource inventory.	/s/ M. Zweifel	5/12/2016
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Bybee)	Construction would be completed with the use of mechanized equipment. The emissions generated should be quickly dispersed and have no measurable effect.	/s/ J.Bybee	5/23/2016
NI	Environmental Justice (Hughes)	The proposal would not have disproportionate effects on low income or minority communities. According to the EPA EJView Mapper, Kane Counties have been categorized as having a minority population of 0 10% and a below poverty population of 0 10%. (Accessed at: http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/ejmap.aspx?wherestr=Garfield%20County%2C%20UT on 2/6/2014.).	/s/ A. Hughes	5/20/2016

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique) (Hughes)	Prime farmland is described as farmland with resources available to sustain high levels of production. In Utah, it normally requires irrigation to make prime farmland. In general, prime farmland has a dependable water supply, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable levels of acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable content of salt and sodium, and few or no rocks. Unique farmland in Utah is primarily in the form of orchards. Based on these definitions, no prime or unique farmlands exist within the Monument. (see NRCS 1997 Results Cropland Utah accessed at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ut/technical/dma/nri/?cid=nrcs141p2_034092 on 2/6/2014.)	/s/ A. Hughes	5/20/2016
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species (Tolbert)	The proposed project would be done outside the migratory bird breeding and brood raising period (August 31 - March 31) when the birds and other animals in the project area will be mature and mobile enough to escape any activities that would adversely affect them. There are no anticipated adverse impacts to wildlife species populations from activities associated with this project.	/s/ T. Tolbert	11/21/2016
PI	Floodplains (Bradshaw)	The proposed action would improve stability of floodplains in areas of Calf Creek where the existing retaining walls are repaired or replaced.	/s/ K. Bradshaw	5/23/2016
NI	Fuels/Fire Management (Bate)	There would not be an increase or decrease to fuels and fire management as a result of this proposal.	/s/A,Bate	5/25/2016
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production (Titus)	The proposed action and alternatives are entirely sited within recent alluvium in the valley bottom. No bedrock geologic features would be impacted. No valid existing mineral or energy production leases are in the immediate area.	/s/ Alan Titus	5/25/2016
PI	Hydrologic Conditions (Bradshaw)	The proposed action could impact hydrologic conditions. The use of heavy equipment has the potential for compacting wet soils and decreasing infiltration capacity. Constructing unpaved walkways instead of concrete walkways would improve hydrologic conditions in those areas. Removing concrete campsite pads would improve local hydrologic conditions by increasing the area available for infiltration.	/s/ K. Bradshaw	5/23/2016
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (EO 13112) (Brinkerhoff)	The proposed action will not increase the threat of or spread of invasive/noxious weeds. The equipment will be prewashed prior to arriving on site to mitigate any spread of unknown, invasive, noxious weeds.	/s/R.Brinkerhoff	5/24/16
NI	Lands/Access (Foley)	Project area is within the Front Country Zone along the Highway 12 corridor. Project as described would have no negative impacts to land tenure, adjacent land owners, or additional potential future uses. Access to adjacent public lands would be negatively impacted on a short term basis during the construction phase of the project, and would be improved over the long term. Project design and construction should take care to preserve survey markers, bearing trees, and witness corners, if present. Design and implementation should also take care to avoid impacts to valid existing rights in the project area, including an aerial power line right of way issued to Garkane under UTU 52880 and a co located communication line right of way issues to South Central under UTU 52881.	/s/ Mark Foley	05/02/2016
NP	Livestock Grazing (Stewart)	This proposed project in an area that is unavailable for livestock grazing.	/s/ S. Stewart	5/24/16

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NP	Native American Religious Concerns (Zweifel)	A cultural resource inventory was completed on 5/11/2016, and no Native American sites were found. This project will be included in GSENM/Native American consultations, but no comments are anticipated.	/s/ M. Zweifel	5/12/2016
NI	Paleontology (Titus)	The proposed action and alternatives are entirely sited within recent alluvium in the valley bottom. No bedrock geologic features would be impacted and therefore no paleontological resources would be affected.	/s/ Alan Titus	5/25/2016
NI	Rangeland Health Standards (Stewart)	The proposed project is in a designated recreation/camping area and the size and scope of the project will not impact rangeland health standards	/s/ S. Stewart	5/24/16
PI	Recreation (Beal/Gale)	The proposed action is expected to have an impact on recreational users.	/s/LGale	5/24/16
NI	Socio Economics (Hughes)	The proposed action is not likely to provide any noticeable impact to the local economy.	/s/ A. Hughes	5/20/2016
PI	Soils (Bradshaw)	The proposed action could impact soils during construction. The use of heavy equipment has the potential for compacting wet soils. Grading of soils has the potential for increasing erosion and BMPs for sediment and erosion control during construction and replacing vegetation after construction should mitigate soil loss.	/s/ K. Bradshaw	5/23/2016
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species (Brinkerhoff)	There are no known threatened, endangered or candidate plant species within the proposed project area.	/s/R.Brinkerhoff	5/24/16
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species (Tolbert)	No threatened, endangered, or candidate species have been detected in the campground area. However suitable habitat is located there for Mexican spotted owls, yellow billed cuckoos and Southwestern willow flycatchers. Mexican spotted owls have been detected in the Calf Creek drainage and Southwestern willow flycatchers have been detected in the Escalante river drainage. The project area does not occur in designated critical habitat for any of these species. If the work is completed outside the breeding and brood raising period (April 1 – August 31) for these animals there will be no impact to the species, if the work must be done within the breeding and brood raising period consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service will be required and the NI will need to be changed to a PI.	/s/ T. Tolbert	6/01/2016
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid) (Pierson)	Heavy equipment will be used for this project The reportable quantity of Fuel and hydraulic fluid high. If spill containment is available for use there is little or no risk of contaminating stream or surrounding soil.	/s/B. Pierson	5/25/16
PI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground) (Bradshaw)	The proposed action could decrease water quality for a short period of time while construction occurs. BMPs for sediment and erosion control during construction should mitigate impacts to water resources. After visiting the site it was determined that there may be potential impacts to water quality. The area is used heavily by vehicles entering and exiting the campground and the replacement of the low water crossing with a culvert crossing could be beneficial to water quality by keeping vehicles and associated contaminants (e.g., fluids and mud) out of the stream. Construction of a new parking area and grading the area adjacent to the water play area are expect to have only short term insignificant impacts to water resources.	/s/ K. Bradshaw	6/2/2016

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
PI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones (Brinkerhoff)	The proposed action will not impact the over all health of the existing wetland/riparian system. Project was designed to accommodate natural flows and not impact the functionality of the system.	/s/R.Brinkerhoff	5/24/16
PI	Wild and Scenic Rivers (Gale)	The proposed project occurs adjacent to a river segment that is managed for WSR suitability. The segment has a tentative classification of recreation where it flows through the campground. Design features or BMPs should protect wild and free flowing nature of Calf Creek, water quality and outstanding remarkable values; high quality scenic, bird habitat and riparian habitat, and prehistoric site. The suitable segment has a tentative classification of scenic below the Lower Falls down to the campground site and recreational classification within the campground and below to the Escalante River.	/s/LGale	5/23/16
NI	Wilderness/WSA (Beal/Gale)	The footprint of the proposed action as shown is outside of the boundaries of the Phipps Death Hollow WSA, which lies on the edges of the developed footprint containing the campground and day use facilities.	/s/LGale	5/23/16
NI	Woodland/Forestry (Bate)	The propose action dose identify that any Forestry/Woodland species would be removed.	/s/A.Bate	5/25/2016
PI	Vegetation Excluding USFWS Designated Species (Hughes)	The proposed action could potentially impact the existing vegetation.	/s/ A. Hughes	5/20/16
PI	Visual Resources (Angus)	Project is located in a VRM Class 2 area. Contrast ratings to be conducted to determine impacts and conformance with VRM objectives.	/s/AAngus	5/2/2016
NP	Wild Horses and Burros (Stewart)	There are no Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Areas within GSENM.	/s/S. Stewart	5/24/16
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (Beal/Gale)	There are no inventoried units of Lwc present in the project area.	/s/LGale	5/23/16

FINAL REVIEW

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			

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

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0016-EA**

October 2015

Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead Improvements

Location: Burr Trail Road, 8 miles southeast of Boulder, Utah
Salt Lake Meridian, Garfield County, Utah
Township 34 South, Range 5 East, Section 16, NE 1/4

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
669 South Highway 89A
Kanab, UT 84741
Phone: (435) 644-1200
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**NATIONAL
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Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead Improvements

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to update and improve the Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). See Appendix A – Project Area Map for project location and area. These existing recreation facilities are located in the Monument's Passage Zone approximately 8 miles southeast of Boulder, Utah in Garfield County and are included within the Deer Creek Recreation Site which was established on Wednesday, December 23, 1970 as published in Federal Register Notice, Volume 35, No. 248. See Appendix B – Deer Creek Recreation Site and WSAs Map for location and boundaries of recreation site.

Deer Creek Campground is located on the north side of Burr Trail Road adjacent to Deer Creek and contains the following amenities and site fixtures:

- 7 campsites with tables, fire rings, grills, and site numbering posts
- A single vault toilet
- A fee station with fee tube and bulletin board
- A gravel/natural surface site road
- Post and rail fencing around the perimeter
- A cattle guard
- A few small signs

The site road for the campground is also used to access private inholdings across the creek further up the canyon.

The development of facilities at the campground was addressed in prior planning efforts and environmental assessments (EA). Those include:

- Deer Creek Campground Fence EA (UT-030-01-011, 2002)

BLM approved the construction of 1,122 feet of pole fencing to prevent livestock from entering Deer Creek Campground to protect facilities and prevent recreation and livestock conflicts.

- Deer Creek Recreation Site Accessibility, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation EA (UT-048-98-030, 1998)

BLM approved completing construction of Deer Creek Campground and continuance of routine maintenance. Work included constructing three additional campsites, replacing picnic tables,

leveling areas for tents, installing fire rings and grills, constructing accessible walkways to the toilet, installing numbered posts at campsites, and installing a fee collection box and a site sign.

Deer Creek Trailhead is located in close proximity to Deer Creek on the south side of Burr Trail Road across from the campground. It is a small, user-created parking area with gravel/natural material surfacing. It currently accommodates approximately five to seven automobiles plus two trucks with stock trailers if all are parked in an organized manner to efficiently use the space. A trailhead register and small signs are installed on the edge of the site where user-created trails lead down canyon.

Maintenance of the trailhead was addressed in the following planning and compliance document:

- *GSENM Trail/Trailhead Maintenance/Restoration EA (UT-048-98-015, 1998)*

BLM approved the maintenance and restoration of existing trailheads in GSENM, including Deer Creek Trailhead. Work at the Deer Creek Trailhead was focused on resource protection and included installation of rock barriers to protect riparian vegetation and signage to prevent vehicle encroachment into the adjacent Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

BLM has secured deferred maintenance funds to complete the proposed campground improvements and recreation site user fees will be used to improve the trailhead. If approved, the proposed recreation site improvements could be implemented as soon as Fall 2015.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action is to replace old, deteriorated site amenities, improve vehicular circulation and site drainage, improve accessibility, reduce vegetation and soil trampling, prevent encroachment into an adjacent WSA, and improve the recreational experience.

At Deer Creek Campground the facilities are deteriorating; none of them meet the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas; the site road and some campsites do not drain water well; and vegetation and soils are being trampled because of disorganized and insufficient vehicular circulation and parking. Both issues also diminish the quality of the recreational experience for campground users.

The vault toilet in the campground does not meet accessibility standards and has settled to the degree that opening and closing the door is difficult. The concrete path that leads to the toilet begins in the parking area for the adjacent campsite and is often blocked by parked vehicles. Only one of the campsites has a picnic table that is designed to meet accessibility standards and that picnic table sits on a concrete pad that prevents it from being used by someone in a wheelchair. None of the fire rings in the campground meet accessibility standards. One of the campsites does not have enough space for a tent. Another campsite is accessed by parking on the opposite side of the site road and climbing up slope over tree roots. At another campsite the parking area and the camping unit are separated by a soggy depression. The site road averages 12 feet wide forcing motorists to encroach on vegetation or use campsite parking spaces to allow passage.

At Deer Creek Trailhead the disturbed area currently used for parking extends from the edge of Burr Trail Road into an abandoned section of the old Burr Trail Road alignment. It is surrounded on all sides – on the east by Deer Creek, on the west by a steep bank, on the north by Burr Trail Road and

a steep grade change, and on the south by vegetation and the WSA. Vehicles often park in a disorganized fashion and reduce the already limited parking capacity of the site. The parking area is in soft sand and drainage from along the edge of Burr Trail Road floods across the parking area during storm events, periodically depositing more sand. The native and regularly deposited sand in the parking area makes for an unstable parking surface. Incremental encroachment towards the WSA occurs as the perimeter boulders are either shifted or covered with sand. Social trailing from all points around the southern edge of the parking area occurs as users head down canyon, trampling vegetation and soils.

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan* (MMP), effective February 2000, and is supported by the following plan decisions:

FAC-11 *The condition of routes and distance from communities in the Passage Zone makes it a secondary zone for visitation. Similar facilities as allowed in the Frontcountry Zone could be provided for resource protection, visitor safety, or for the interpretation of Monument resources. Information kiosks approximately the size of two 3 foot by 5 foot panels will be located at major trailheads (e.g., The Gulch, Deer Creek, and Dry Fork), and smaller kiosks or signs will be located at less used trailheads.*

FAC-12 *Existing parking areas may be better delineated with barriers to prevent further expansion. Parking areas could accommodate up to 30 vehicles, but most will be designed for fewer than 10 cars. Construction of small spur routes or trails may be allowed to access parking areas or other facilities. Trails and parking areas will not be paved.*

FAC-15 *The existing Deer Creek Campground will be the only developed campground in this (Passage) zone.*

The project area is in the Passage Zone where facilities are allowed for safety, interpretation, and the protection of Monument resources.

RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND OTHER PLANS

The proposed action complies with federal environmental laws and regulations, Executive Orders, and Department of Interior, BLM, and GSENM policies and is consistent with state laws and local and county ordinances and plans, including the following:

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act established the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) in order to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations. The Act goes on to require that NLCS units, of which GSENM is one, be managed in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated. The NLCS includes National Monuments, Wilderness Study Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. The proposal was designed to meet the objectives of OPLMA.

Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1701-1712) directs the development of land use plans for BLM lands. Once land use plans are developed, any approved project must be provided in the land use plan or be consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions in the approved land use plan. As noted above, this project conforms to the land use plan.

Endangered Species Act of 1973

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides for conserving endangered and threatened species of plants and animals. It requires that federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any actions that they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued survival of a listed species or result in the adverse modification or destruction of its critical habitat. This proposal was designed to avoid impacts to species listed under ESA.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The National Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of any undertaking on historic resources and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking. Federal agencies must determine whether the undertaking is a type of activity that could affect historic properties. Historic properties are ones that are included on the National Register of Historic Places or that meet the criteria for inclusion on the National Register. If the agency determines that it has no undertaking, or that its undertaking is a type of activity that has no potential to affect historic properties, the agency has no further Section 106 obligations.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Proclamation (1996)

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative have been evaluated for consistency with the Proclamation, particularly in reference to the specific objects that were identified within the Proclamation. No effects of the proposed action, with the included design features, are anticipated on any of objects identified within the Proclamation.

BLM Manual 6220 – National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations (2012)

The BLM will inventory existing facilities within Monuments and NCAs and determine whether to remove, maintain, restore, enhance, or allow natural disintegration of each facility (p. 1-10). Deer Creek Campground is listed in the GSENM Management Plan as “the only developed campground” in the Passage Zone. The proposed action will maintain this existing facility.

BLM Manual 6330 - Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas (2012)

BLM is guided to manage WSAs in a manner that does not impair their suitability for designation as wilderness as directed by *BLM Manual 6330 - Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas*. No effects of the proposed action are anticipated to impair the suitability of the adjacent WSAs for designation.

BLM Manual 6400 - Wild and Scenic Rivers - Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, Planning and Management (2012)

BLM is guided to manage any inventoried eligible Wild and Scenic River segments to maintain their suitability and tentative classifications until designated or released in a subsequent land use plan. Interim project activities on Wild and Scenic River (WSR) eligible segments are guided by *BLM Manual 6400 Wild and Scenic Rivers-Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation,*

Planning and Management (2012). No effects of the proposed action are anticipated to affect the suitability of the WSR segments of Deer Creek for designation.

Garfield County General Management Plan (1998, updated 2010)

Although Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead are not specifically mentioned in the Garfield County General Plan, a review of the document suggests that this proposal would not conflict with the county plan. The county plan does note support for recreation opportunities and facilities on page 5-3:

- *Planning Assumption:* Therefore, in an effort to strengthen its economic base, the county desires to increase its revenue opportunities through enhancing county recreational opportunities and developing destination-related activities.
- *Policy Statements:* Garfield County supports creating new attractions and recreational facilities within the county.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Register on May 9, 2015. No individuals or groups contacted the BLM in response to that notice. During the interdisciplinary review the following issues were identified:

Issue A: Recreation - How would the proposed upgrades and improvements at Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead affect the recreation experience?

Issue B: Lands and Realty - How would the proposed upgrades and improvements affect the ability of Right of Way (ROW) holders to access private property?

Issue C: Wilderness Study Areas - How would the proposed upgrades and improvements at Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead affect WSAs?

Issue D: Wild and Scenic River Suitable Segments - How would the proposed upgrades and improvements at Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead affect the Wild and Scenic River Suitable segments?

Issue E: Visual Resources – Would the proposed site developments create visually contrasting impacts that alter the landscape character?

Issue F: Threatened and Endangered Plant Species - How would the upgrades and improvements at Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead affect Ute Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) a species listed under ESA?

Issue G: Floodplains – How would the upgrades and improvements at Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead affect the floodplain of Deer Creek?

SUMMARY

This chapter has presented the purpose and need of the proposed project, as well as the relevant issues, i.e., those elements of the human environment that could be affected by the implementation of the proposed project. In order to meet the purpose and need of the proposed project in a way that resolves the issues, the BLM has considered and/or developed a range of action alternatives. These alternatives are presented in Chapter 2. The potential environmental impacts or consequences resulting from the implementation of each alternative considered in detail are analyzed in Chapter 4 for each of the identified issues.

CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment reviews a No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative provides a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the Proposed Action.

PROPOSED ACTION

BLM is proposing to upgrade and improve the Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead. GSENM would use BLM deferred maintenance and recreation site user fees to pay for the proposed improvements. Contractor, BLM force account or maintenance staff, and/or volunteer labor could be used to perform the work. The campground is approximately 2 acres and the trailhead is approximately 0.25 acres. Construction is slated to occur in late October/early November 2015 and should be completed in 4 weeks or less.

The proposed action (See Appendix C – Site Design) includes the following:

Campground

- Replace the vault toilet
- Construct a parking space adjacent to toilet
- Remove concrete walkway to toilet
- Construct new accessible walkway to toilet
- Reorganize fee station area including parking, new information/interpretive kiosk, and fee station
- Reorient parking for all campsites from parallel to 90 degrees orientation
- Split the first campsite on the left into two (use parking from one and camping area of the other)
- Abandon the last campsite on the left which has no place to pitch a tent
- Install base material to raise, define, and improve surface stability of campsites
- Replace campsite numbering posts
- Remove picnic tables and concrete pads
- Install new picnic tables
- Remove all grills and fire rings
- Install new fire rings
- Install tent pads at all sites
- Install new NLCS standard site sign on masonry base and other site signs as needed
- Widen site road to up to 15 feet wide and install gravel/road base on it to improve drainage
- Install two culverts under site road to improve drainage
- Raise cattle guard
- Designate a vehicle turnaround area on the north end of the campground that is not to be used for parking

The proposed parking improvements at the campground would limit each campsite to one vehicle 20 feet or less in length. Signs would be installed to educate visitors about space limitations and lack of turnaround for oversized vehicles. Owners of vehicles parked along the road or in the turnaround would be notified of the need for access along road. Egregious violations or failure to comply could result in additional actions taken such as towing the vehicle.

Trailhead

- Upgrade parking area using gravel/road base to stabilize the surface and accommodate up to 11 standard size automobiles and one vehicle pulling a trailer
- Install barriers (fencing and/or boulders) to define edges of parking area and protect vegetation
- Remove register box and install new one
- Install information/interpretive kiosk
- Install NLCS standard site sign, "No Camping" signs, and other needed signs on posts
- Overnight camping would not be allowed at the trailhead.

The trailhead parking surface would be stabilized and the area would be defined by barriers to reduce its expansion. The barriers would also direct hikers and equestrian users toward the desired hiking route reducing multiple braided trails departing from the trailhead. Fencing would be installed during initial construction but should it prove to be unmaintainable, BLM will remove it and install additional boulders. Improvements to the trailhead would aid BLM in keeping vehicles within the parking area.

Applicable to Both Campground and Trailhead

Once construction begins on either the campground or trailhead, the sites would individually be closed to the public until construction is completed. A variety of heavy, motorized equipment would be used during construction, including but not limited to a dump truck, crane, front-end loader, skid-steer loader, and tractor. Work would be done during the daylight hours (7 am to 6 pm). Throughout construction, equipment would be parked at the project site but not on the site road. It is anticipated the project would take no more than 4 weeks to complete. General maintenance would be performed at the proposed facilities once construction was completed.

BLM's Guidelines for a Quality Environment was used to plan and design this project, seeking to meet the agency's goals of developing facilities that are sustainable, functional, accessible, cost effective, and responsive to place and setting. *Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas* (Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 2013) was also used to plan and design this project to ensure that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. A sign plan would be developed to comprehensively address installation of signs at the campground and trailhead.

Design criteria to meet built environment image guidelines and other mandates would include the following:

- Natural or natural-appearing materials would be used. These could include concrete, natural stone, road base, gravels or fines, rusted or painted metal, and/or wood.
- No shiny, reflective materials would be used.

- Natural palette colors would include blacks, grays, reds, rusts, browns, and buffs. No bright colors such as whites or yellows would be used (except for lettering on signs).
- Where practical, native plants that need to be removed during construction would be replanted in areas where re-vegetation is needed. Otherwise, native plant container stock and/or native plant seeds would be used to re-vegetate areas impacted during construction.

In order to prevent unnecessary resource impacts, the following design features would be required and incorporated into project construction, scheduling and monitoring:

- Construction limits would be staked and flagged to prevent encroachment into Ute Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) habitat and to protect other vegetation and soils during construction.
- To prevent the spread of invasive and noxious weeds, the equipment used would be washed before transport to the project site.
- The project site would be monitored for noxious and invasive vegetation after construction. If noxious weeds or non-native, invasive plants are discovered, BLM-approved weed treatments would be applied in a manner consistent with current BLM practice.
- All construction would take place outside of the migratory bird breeding and brood raising period from April 15 to July 15.

To inform the public of the construction closures, BLM would do the following:

- Issue a press release to relevant media outlets.
- Publish notice on GSENM website.
- Post closure signs in the local communities at businesses and community bulletin boards.
- Work with the Garfield County Office of Tourism to do outreach to visitors.

To coordinate with and minimize construction impacts on ROW holders, BLM would do the following:

- Provide advanced notice about and coordinate construction scheduling.
- Limit wait times to an average of 15 minutes or less but no longer than 30 minutes during construction, with the exception of the days when the vault toilet is being installed or the cattle guard is being adjusted, which could take longer.
- Establish a parking area for ROW holders to use when passing through the site is not necessary.

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, BLM would not improve and update the Deer Creek Campground or Trailhead. The BLM would not provide any of the improvements or facilities proposed in the Action Alternative. Under this alternative the outdated vault toilet would continue to be used by the public; vehicular circulation would continue to be disorganized and congested; accessibility would not be improved; impacts to soils and vegetation would continue; and incremental encroachment toward the WSA would not be additionally restricted.

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist (See Appendix D – IDT Checklist). The checklist indicates which resources are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Resources which are predicted to be impacted are described in Chapter 3 and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4. Recreation, Lands and Realty, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Visual Resources, and Threatened and Endangered Plant Species were identified by the Interdisciplinary Team as potentially affected by the Proposed Action.

Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead are located along the Burr Trail Road and adjacent to Deer Creek, a tributary of the Escalante River. The project area is 5,700 feet above sea level and is located within Deer Creek Canyon. It is within the Escalante Canyons physiographic region which is typified by colorful sandstone canyons carved by desert creeks and rivers and slickrock expanses dotted with ponderosa pine and pinyon and juniper trees. The creeks and rivers here are lined with cottonwood trees, willows, and river birch. Both the campground and trailhead sites are constrained by the roads, the creek and flood plain, and sandstone outcrops.

Construction of Deer Creek Campground began in the 1980s when four of seven planned campsites were constructed. The additional sites were constructed after GSENM was designated in the late 1990s. Deer Creek Trailhead was formally established in 1998.

Resource A: Recreation

Deer Creek Recreation Site was designated in December 1970 under the authority of the Multiple Use Act of 1964. Deer Creek Campground was built along an existing road that accesses private in-holdings and an access road right-of-way (ROW) was granted in 1984 that begins on the north end of the campground. Improvements to the campground have been made incrementally over the years. This small, seven-site campground is one of only three developed campgrounds in GSENM and one of two in the Escalante Canyons region. During 2014, GSENM recorded 2,510 visits equating to 5,104 visitor days in the campground. The busiest months for visitation averaged over the past 5 years are May, June, September and October.

The narrow, single-lane campground road is capped with gravel and vehicle parking spaces were created by use patterns rather than by formal design. In more recent years, travel trailers and recreational vehicles (RVs) have become more common although the campground and parking areas were not sized for these vehicles. To accommodate these larger vehicles, vegetation and soils have incrementally been damaged to expand the parking footprints. These larger vehicles have also created congestion along the roadway as identified by BLM, ROW holders, and the general public.

Deer Creek Trailhead is minimally developed with a trail register and two small regulation signs. The parking area is a barren core of approximately one quarter acre comprised of mostly compacted native sand. It can currently accommodate approximately five to seven automobiles plus two trucks

with stock trailers if all are parked in an organized manner to efficiently use the space. The trailhead parking area is used throughout the year by hiking, backpacking, and equestrian users. An established foot trail as well as several braided, user-created routes leave the parking area along the southern edge. BLM recorded 460 visits accounting for 1,454 visitor days as the 5 year averages at this trailhead.

Resource B: Lands and Realty

The Deer Creek Campground site road abuts an established Title V ROW granting access to private property inholdings. The ROW (UTU-054541) was originally issued in 1984. The road pre-dates the development of the campground although the ROW was established during the same time as the development of the campground. The ROW grant begins on the north end of the campground, is 24-foot ROW wide, and totals 2,650 feet of road length.

Deer Creek Trailhead is immediately adjacent to Burr Trail Road which was adjudicated to Garfield County under R.S. 2477 in 1989. A review of the case file for UTU-066242 does not reference or establish a ROW width; however the *Burr Trail Paving EA* (UT-040-89-6, 1989) identifies a surface travel width of 24 feet.

Resource C: Wilderness Study Areas

The project area is adjacent to two WSAs (See Appendix B – Deer Creek Recreation Site and WSAs Map). Deer Creek Recreation Site is directly adjacent to the boundaries of Steep Creek WSA which encircles the campground, as well as private inholdings, on the northern side of Burr Trail Road. Deer Creek Trailhead provides access into North Escalante Canyons-The Gulch Instant Study Area (ISA) which is also a WSA. The North Escalante Canyons-The Gulch ISA encompasses 120,204 acres and is characterized by spectacular plateaus, benches and canyons and is bisected by the deep winding corridor of the Escalante River and its tributaries, including Deer Creek. Steep Creek WSA encompasses 21,896 acres and is noted for five south-trending canyons with many scenic sandstone features.

As guided by the Wilderness Act, both WSAs were inventoried and identified as having the following wilderness characteristics: Untrammeled, Natural, Undeveloped, Solitude, and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. Both WSAs were studied under Section 603 of FLPMA and included in the *BLM Statewide Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)* (1990).

Previous work on the Deer Creek Trailhead was analyzed as part of a *GSENM Trail/Trailhead Maintenance/Restoration EA* (UT-048-98-015, 1998). At that time BLM determined that the trailhead was located in the historic alignment of the Burr Trail Road on the edge of the WSA. Trailhead work approved in that analysis created a better defined parking area using native materials to prevent vehicle ingress into the WSA and protect riparian vegetation.

Resource D: Wild and Scenic River

Both segments of Lower Deer Creek in the vicinity of this project were inventoried and recommended as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) as required by Section 5(d) (1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The study and suitability recommendation were analyzed as part of the MMP/EIS. The Lower Deer Creek-1 segment runs

along the western edge of Deer Creek Campground and is tentatively classified as *Recreational*. The Lower Deer Creek-2 segment runs adjacent to the Deer Creek Trailhead and is tentatively classified as *Wild*. These segments were recommended as worthy additions to the NWSRS and include the following identified outstanding remarkable values (ORVs): Scenic, Recreational, Geological, Riparian, and Historic.

Resource E: Visual Resources

Characteristic Landscape

The proposed project area is located in the northeastern portion of the Escalante Canyons physiographic province along Burr Trail Road and Deer Creek in Deer Creek Canyon. The dominant vegetation is riparian vegetation (cottonwood trees, river birch, and willows) growing along the creek. Other vegetation in the project area on the uplands are desert shrubs, grasses and pinyon and juniper trees. The vegetation is a full range of greens, from light sage green to dark juniper green to bright cottonwood leaves green, and ranges from medium to coarse in texture. The built elements in this landscape include the paved road, a gravel road, a vault toilet, pole fencing, a kiosk, picnic tables, fire rings, and a few signs. Since most of the built elements are screened from view by the riparian vegetation, the paved road is the primary element that draws attention.

The project area is within an enclosed landscape created by the sandstone landforms that surround it. The predominant lines are rounded and horizontal created by landform edges. The road and riparian vegetation add distinct curving bands through the landscape. The predominant colors of this landscape are salmons, greens, buffs, and grays due to the landform and vegetation. The texture of the landscape varies from medium due to the upland vegetation and landform to coarse due to the sandstone outcrops and the riparian vegetation.

This project is proposed in a classic Southern Utah, canyon country landscape with exposed red and white sandstone, sand dunes, and desert vegetation similar to other areas within the Colorado Plateau.

Burr Trail Road, the campground and the trailhead are used primarily by recreationists, cattle permittees, and private property owners. Those using the area for recreation are typically engaged in scenic touring, car camping, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, biking, and photography. This range of individuals defines the casual observer.

Visual Resource Management Classes and Objectives

The proposed Deer Creek Campground and Trailhead Improvements project area is located in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II. The objective for VRM Class II is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Resource F: Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

Adjacent to the proposed project in the Deer Creek Campground is a known population of the Ute Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service has this plant species listed

under the ESA as Threatened. Ute Ladies' Tresses populations fluctuate widely in numbers of individuals visible on a year to year basis.

Resource G: Floodplains

The campground is built mostly on a structural bench, although the entrance and edges closest to the stream are on alluvium. The toilet and all but parts of three campsites are located on the bench (above the floodplain). The soil survey shows the bench as soil map unit 5086 (Mespun-Bispen-Santrick complex, 2 to 15 percent slopes). These soils are composed of aeolian sand (not alluvial) and are excessively drained. The entrance and edges are mapped as soil map unit 5088 (Calcree-Bowington-Mespun complex, 0 to 20 percent slopes). These soils are probably either Calcree or Bowington or a mix, both of which are alluvium (the difference is that Calcree is poorly drained while Bowington is moderately well-drained: both profiles are fine sand throughout, but Bowington is much deeper).

The floodplain mapping for Garfield County (FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps--FIRM) does not include Deer Creek. There was formerly a stream gauge on Deer Creek near the Burr Trail crossing. USGS reports annual peak stage and discharge from 1959-1974 and 2002-2007, and mean daily discharge from Sept 2001-May 2007 (http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/dv?site_no=09338900). These data alone are insufficient to accurately estimate flood return intervals. Regardless, certainly some areas within the campground are subject to flooding at least some of the time.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

PROPOSED ACTION

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action to those resources described in the Affected Environment, Chapter 3, above.

Resource A: Recreation

Campground Effects

Implementing deferred maintenance at Deer Creek Campground would have direct benefits to the recreating public. The general public would benefit in having new, updated, and more accessible sites in the campground. A new toilet, tables, fire rings, and tent pads would be installed and a single parking space would be provided at each site. These improvements would reduce resource impacts by directing uses to specific areas in the campground. Removing the existing site with no tent pad and relocating the parking for the last site on the right out of the flood prone area would improve the functionality and safety of using the campground.

One of the goals of the redesign of the campground is to minimize and/or alleviate the issues associated with traffic flow, congestion (especially for those using the ROW to access private property), and vegetation and soil displacement by larger and more vehicles attempting to fit into a campground that does not physically accommodate them. Larger vehicles and multiple vehicles cramming into single sites have made it difficult if not impossible at times for vehicles to pass through the campground on the site road. Actions proposed to address these problems include slightly increasing the width of the road, limiting use of each campsite to one vehicle, and providing a perpendicular parking stall in each campsite for one vehicle.

The redesigned parking spaces would provide better parking delineation and reduce trampling of vegetation and soils. They would also provide space for the public to park completely off the edges of the site road but would not accommodate vehicles over 20 feet in length. The campground was never designed to accommodate oversize vehicles and does not have the physical space to allow for expanding the existing footprint to accommodate these types of vehicles. Oversize vehicles would continue to be diverted to other locations outside of Deer Creek Campground, whether in RV parks in nearby communities, in developed campgrounds operated by both federal and state agencies, or in primitive campsites on public lands in the area. The scale of the proposed campground improvements is not anticipated to significantly contribute to increasing the level of dispersed primitive camping in the area. The current congestion and configuration of the campground is already causing oversize vehicles and oversize groups to camp elsewhere. Another benefit of limiting campsite use to one vehicle is that large groups would not cram into sites exceeding capacity by two or three times and creating conflicts with other users (noise, crowding, etc.).

Trailhead Effects

The goal of the redesign of the trailhead, (including the perimeter fencing) is to organize the parking area so it is more efficient and does not continue to expand, as well as to direct hiking and equestrian traffic unto the existing route to minimize social trailing and the associated soil and

vegetation trampling. The trailhead currently accommodates five to seven standard size vehicles and two trucks pulling stock trailers if all parties park for maximum efficiency. Vehicles are commonly parked haphazardly and at times perpendicular to each other reducing the capacity of the site. The redesigned trailhead would accommodate up to 11 standard size vehicles and one truck pulling a stock trailer. Numerous social trails leave from all edges of the parking area headed down canyon. Fencing physically and psychologically provides an edge that most users recognize and can organize themselves next to. Edging the parking area with boulders would not provide a similar edge and does not prevent social trailing.

The proposed parking improvements at the trailhead would slightly increase the number of standard size vehicle spaces while reducing the number of spaces for vehicles pulling trailers from two to one. The physical (Burr Trail Road, surrounding steep banks, Deer Creek) and administrative (WSA) constraints of the site do not allow for expanding the site to provide parking for additional oversize vehicles.

The natural drainage as well as additional drainage created by Burr Trail Road goes across the trailhead parking area. The drainage is currently and would continue to be diverted toward the road and away from the parking area to the degree it is possible. Sand would continue to be deposited on the parking area during flood events. It is not feasible to construct a drainage ditch around the parking area that would prevent this from occurring due to physical (rock outcrops) and administrative constraints (WSA boundary). Elevating the parking surface slightly by installing several inches of road base will provide a more stable surface to address vehicles getting stuck in deep sand.

Short and Long Term Effects for Both Campground and Trailhead

Short term effects for both sites would include displacement of the public during construction. The construction is proposed for mid-October into early November when visitation is transitioning from high to low season.

Long term effects include improved facilities making the public's stay more enjoyable. Impacts to vegetation and soils would be reduced with new site designs directing or containing uses to specific areas within the sites.

Resource B: Lands and Realty

The Deer Creek Campground site road abuts an established Title V ROW granting access to private property inholdings and is used by both campers and the ROW holders and their visitors. The campground improvements would not affect the ROW grant. Benefits to the ROW holders would include reduced congestion along the road due to providing a single, 90 degree parking space within each campsite so that oversize and additional vehicles are not parked parallel to and partially in the travel lane.

Short term effects would include limited access for ROW holders during construction. BLM would communicate construction schedules and coordinate with ROW holders. BLM would also park equipment off the site road when not in use to maintain access.

Resource C: Wilderness Study Areas

The deferred maintenance activities at Deer Creek Campground do not occur within the boundaries of either WSA. Implementing the proposed work at Deer Creek Campground would have no direct or indirect impact on the adjacent Steep Creek WSA or North Escalante Canyons-The Gulch ISA.

The parking area improvements at the Deer Creek Trailhead would have potential to impact the North-Escalante Canyons-The Gulch ISA. The project design features would prioritize a natural setting and reduce the size of the current disturbed footprint. The design features and criteria include the use of natural or natural-appearing materials, establishment of construction limits, protection of the existing island of vegetation that is currently overrun by vehicles, and pulling the parking back from the riparian edge. These would all serve to benefit the natural setting adjacent to the WSA. Installing barriers would prevent vehicle ingress into the WSA. Installing barriers would also direct visitors to the established trail and reduce the braided, user-created routes thus improving the natural character of the WSA adjacent to the trailhead.

Resource D: Wild and Scenic River

The proposed action would not increase development beyond the existing footprint of the campground and would slightly reduce the footprint of the existing trailhead parking area. There is no threat to the wild and free flowing nature of either WSR suitable tributary or threat to identified outstanding remarkable values (ORVs). Implementation of the project features in the campground such as improving site drainage, closing off one creek-side camp site, reducing the potential for vehicle congestion, and protecting riparian vegetation all serve to maintain the suitability of Lower Deer Creek Segment-1 (tentatively classified *Recreational* section). Lower Deer Creek-2 segment (tentatively classified *Wild* section) begins adjacent to the Deer Creek Trailhead and would benefit from the trailhead redesign which would protect riparian vegetation, one of the ORVs. Implementation of the proposed action including design features and criteria would protect vegetation and help restore the riparian edge in this location.

Resource E: Visual Resources

BLM's Visual Resource Management program includes a standardized system to review lands actions for resource management plan conformance. Visual contrast rating worksheets are completed to determine if a project conforms to the resource management plan.

In order to evaluate the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action, a linear key observation point (KOP) was established along Burr Trail Road as part of completing the contrast rating analysis. Along most of the linear KOP the project elements would be screened from view by landform and vegetation. When the casual observer is immediately adjacent to the campground entrance, the signs, fencing, and cattle guard would be visible, and when passing by the trailhead all its features and any parked vehicles would also be in view. The length of time the few visible project elements are in view is less than 30 seconds for those travelling along the road.

During construction, temporary visual impacts could result from the visibility of construction equipment and site work. Post-construction, the negligible contrast created by the site improvements would be similar to what currently exists.

The proposed improvements would be sited in locations currently developed for the same purposes. The campground and trailhead are located in the floor of a narrow riparian canyon with thick

vegetation and are screened from view by vegetation and landforms. The toilet and other fixtures would be constructed of materials that blend with the natural environment minimizing the color and textural contrast they would create. By constructing the project according to the outlined design criteria and implementation measures, the negligible changes to the existing character of the landscape would be appropriate to meet the visual resource management objectives of the area.

Resource F: Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

BLM manages threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required if the species or habitat will be impacted. Ute Ladies' Tresses has a recovery plan which guides management decisions and mitigates any impacts to the species.

The proposed project was designed to avoid any adverse effects to the known Ute Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) population or its habitat. Habitat for this species would be avoided.

Resource G: Floodplains

Given the topography and the soils, there is certainly flood risk near the entrance and exit (to private property) and on the edges closest to the stream, less so on the bench. The site road through the campground enters the stream at the northern end of the campground, providing a high-flow channel into the campground; this likely increases flood risk. The natural levee at that point has been eroded, probably from both traffic and high flows.

The redesign of the campground relocated overnight parking for Site #7 out of the area prone to flooding and designated it as turnaround only with no parking allowed. BLM's sign plan for the campground would educate users regarding flood risk. As designed the project would not result in any net change in floodplain impacts and would not alter flood risk.

While it would be possible to abandon the campground to eliminate flood risk entirely, that seems unwarranted at this time.

No Action

Resource A: Recreation

In the No Action Alternative the general public would not see any changes in the campground. No deferred maintenance would be implemented thereby all current facilities would remain the same. Resource and visitor impacts (i.e. vegetation and soil trampling, erosion, and roadway congestion) would continue.

The trailhead parking would also remain the same. The parking area would remain undefined and the parking surface would not be improved. No delineating barriers would be installed in the parking area to reduce vegetation and soil trampling.

Resource B: Lands and Realty

In the No Action Alternative the ROW holders would not see any changes in the campground. No deferred maintenance would be implemented thereby occasional roadway congestion would continue during busy times. Impacts would be expected to remain the same.

Resource C: Wilderness Study Areas

In the No-Action Alternative, there would continue to be the potential for further vehicle ingress at the Deer Creek Trailhead and trampling of native vegetation lying on the boundary of the WSA. Impacts would remain the same. Although potential exists for further ingress on the boundary, current conditions are not expected to threaten long-term suitability.

Resource D: Wild and Scenic Rivers

In the No-Action Alternative impacts would remain the same and the opportunity to improve riparian vegetation along the segment would be lost. Current conditions are not expected to threaten long-term suitability.

Resource E: Visual Resources

In the No-Action Alternative the impacts to visual resources would remain the same.

Resource F: Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

In the No-Action Alternative the Ute Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) population is expected to continue to fluctuate on an annual basis.

Resource G: Floodplains

In the No-Action Alternative the impacts associated with the floodplain of Deer Creek would remain the same. Parking for Site #7 would remain in a location of periodic flooding.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

Resource A: Recreation

BLM has not identified any cumulative impacts for recreation. The campground and trailhead have existed for decades and the disturbed footprints would remain the same while the layouts would be slightly altered.

Resource B: Lands and Realty

BLM has not identified any cumulative effects related to lands and realty actions with this project.

Resource C: Wilderness Study Areas

There are no known cumulative impacts to WSAs.

Resource D: Wild and Scenic River

There are no known cumulative impacts to Wild and Scenic River suitable segments.

Resource E: Visual Resources

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

Visual Resources - The cumulative impact area of analysis for Visual Resources is the viewshed along Burr Trail Road.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impacts to visual resources from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include recreational facilities (trailheads, day use areas, etc.), general recreational use, private property development, road construction and maintenance activities, and livestock grazing management facilities (corrals, fences, water developments, storage buildings, etc.). The action alternative would make improvements to existing facilities using elements that would blend with the landscape and be largely screened from view. Additionally, the paved portion of the Burr Trail Road through GSENM runs for more than 30 miles through a viewshed that encompasses a landscape of 100,000s of acres. These facilities are visible only when in immediate proximity to the site and are small in scale within this grand scale landscape. They would not contribute to an increase in impacts to visual resources in the area.

Resource F: Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

There are no known cumulative impacts to Ute Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*).

Resource G: Floodplains

The cumulative impacts associated with the floodplain from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include the development of the campground and trailhead and the construction and continued use of the driveway access to private property. The action alternative would make improvements to existing facilities in the campground and at the trailhead. Erosion associated with use of the driveway access would continue but to the degree that it cumulatively increases floodplain impacts is unknown.

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

The issue identification section of Chapter 1 identifies those issues analyzed in detail in Chapter 4. The IDT Checklist (See Appendix D.) provides the rationale for issues that were considered but not analyzed further. Issues were identified through the public and agency involvement process described below.

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies, and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Craig Sorenson	Retired GSENM Outdoor Recreation Planner	Provided background on trailhead location, WSA boundary, and prior trailhead EA.
Sue Fearon	ROW holder, private property owner	Provided a background perspective of long term use and public attachment to the campground.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Register on May 9, 2015. No individuals or groups contacted the BLM in response to that notice. Notification of the availability of the EA for a 30-day comment period was mailed to more than 65 individuals and organizations. The comment period began on June 5, 2015 and ended on July 6, 2015. Notification of the availability of the EA for review was also posted on the BLM NEPA Register on June 4, 2015 and a press release was printed in *The Garfield and Wayne Counties Insider* on June 11, 2015.

COMMENT ANALYSIS AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the 30-day comment period, BLM received seven emails from six individuals or organizations. Comments received pertained to the issues associated with the following:

- design of the campground and trailhead improvements
- non-accommodation of oversize vehicles and groups
- enforcement of campground use rules
- floodplains
- interpretation and outreach
- recreation planning in the vicinity
- campground access road that is also a driveway ROW providing access to private property

- signage

BLM's responses to public comments are included in Table 5.2. below.

Table 5.2. Public Comments and BLM Responses

Topic	Comment	BLM Response
Campground Design	<p>First, as context I travel through the campground regularly to access the private land to the north. I have on numerous occasions been blocked by vehicles on the main drive. These are most often trailers trying to turn around, but I have more than once been blocked by vehicles simply parked at the end of the drive where it enters Deer Creek, people effectively choosing this spot as a campsite.</p> <p>I am unable to discern from the site plans in the EA if the "turnaround" will be adequate to handle the inevitable trailers that will be required to turn around at the end of the campground.</p> <p>The limitation of the campsite to 20' vehicular length is I believe also problematic. Again, I travel through this campground regularly. I also live in Boulder and see the traffic representative of the visitors to the monument. More and more visitors are pulling smaller camp trailers and popups. By eliminating instead of accommodating their use in the campground, you are effectively pushing them elsewhere.</p>	<p>Please see Pages 14-15 regarding Recreation Impacts .</p> <p>Deer Creek Campground does not have the physical space to allow for expanding the existing footprint to accommodate oversize vehicles or vehicles pulling trailers. The dimensions of a standard size vehicle are approximately 6 feet by 16 feet, and it needs turning radii of 13 feet (inside) and 23 feet (outside). The dimensions of a vehicle pulling a camp trailer can be double to triple that of a standard size vehicle with turning radii of approximately 20 feet or more (inside) and 35 feet or more (outside). On the bench areas out of the riparian zone, Deer Creek Campground measures approximately 150 feet at its widest location. In most locations the width is approximately 100 feet. The turnaround area is approximately 30 feet across.</p>
Campground Design	<p>The campers are continuously parked in our way. We have to squeeze and weave between the cars nearly every time we pass through. This new design ignores the fact that over half of the campers have multiple cars and all different users park in the last space on the left which will be the turnaround. I have a very hard time driving my 30 foot long 10 wheeler through without asking people to move. After the road is widened and parking is limited to one vehicle there will be cars lining the road and parked in the turnaround.</p>	
Non-accommodation of oversize vehicles and oversize groups	<p>I also live in Boulder and see the traffic representative of the visitors to the monument. More and more visitors are pulling smaller camp trailers and popups. By eliminating instead of accommodating their use in the campground, you are effectively pushing them elsewhere. Where is this? Two locations immediately come to mind. The first is the old county road maintenance staging area a few</p>	<p>Please see Pages 14-15 regarding Recreation Impacts .</p> <p>BLM agrees that dispersed camping has become a problem along the Burr Trail and in other areas of the Monument. An unknown number of users who have traditionally used Deer Creek Campground may not be able to continue camping here with multiple or oversize vehicles</p>

	<p>miles west on the Burr Trail, locally known as "Lone Pine" named after the mature Ponderosa tree that grows there. The other is the dispersed camping area a mile or so east of Deer Creek on the Burr Trail (between the Gulch and Deer Creek). Both are heavily used already, but represent the obvious default camping area for those pulling trailers. Human waste and trash are <i>always evident</i> in these areas. Is it wise to keep focusing and potentially increasing the use of these areas without planning for the increase? Are pit toilets warranted in these areas? Will they be warranted when camping pressure increases as trailers are eliminated from Deer Creek. Is elimination or "non accommodation" of trailers in the campground improvement plans warranted when they will likely cause increased pressure in non developed areas? What has more impact on undeveloped areas, a tent or a trailer?</p>	<p>or large groups, but again, we think many users already are diverting to other locations better suited to their needs, and that those who are accommodated at the site will appreciate the reduced crowding and congestion.</p> <p>The project area is located within the Escalante Canyons Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). BLM anticipates initiating a number of NEPA proposals in the next few years including an Escalante Canyons SRMA planning effort to address increasing visitation in the Escalante Canyons and associated issues noted in public comments such as the need for designated primitive camp sites, group camp sites, and sanitation facilities.</p>
Non-accommodation of oversize vehicles and oversize groups	Start saving some money for a toilet at the old gravel pit with the ponderosa pine tree between the Draw and DC. I think that this is the area that will pick up the trailer folks and larger groups.	
Enforcement	There is no enforcement...	
Enforcement	Protocol for violating campground rules of use? Enforcement of rules of parking and camping?	
Enforcement	I do not want to be in the position of having to enforce BLM rules about parking and traffic movement so that I can access my home and no one wants or welcomes conflicts.	BLM does have a limited number of Law Enforcement Rangers. When Law Enforcement Rangers are in the area they do patrol Deer Creek Campground. Garfield County Sheriff's Office is also available to assist in resolving conflicts. BLM also has a number of Park Rangers who can educate visitors and resolve issues. Most user conflicts arise from a lack of information. Proper signing (see section on signing below) and management can reduce the number of conflicts. Violations of proposed management actions would be resolved with less conflict because of clear rules.
Floodplains	My other concern is the current location of the campground on potentially active floodplain. While Deer Creek has not flooded significantly in the life of the campground, a flood event this spring did go over the Burr Trail, as well as entering the campground from the north and partially moving/floating a trailer parked there. What intensity was this flood event? Was it a 30 year flood? A 50 year flood? 100? Although, I saw no mention in the EA, I wonder if a hydrogeologic study is warranted. What are the sediments that the campground is built on? I would wager that they are alluvial, and reflect a	Sections on Floodplain Impacts were added to EA. Please see Pages 13 and 17.

	<p>floodplain built by periodic flood events. Given that current climate models predict increasingly severe weather events, I feel planning based on "the campground hasn't flooded historically" is not prudent. Is there a hydrogeologic study related to the construction of the original campground? What does it say? What is the flood periodicity of the site? What were the flood magnitudes? What does modelling say would happen in a 100 year flood event? A five hundred year event? If there is not a study why hasn't one been done? A nighttime monsoon deluge in the upper Deer Creek basin could be devastating to a full campground. Is this wise? Since the "improvement" of the campground is nearly a complete rebuilding, would it be smarter to use current funding to move the campground to a safer location perhaps one of the existing dispersed camping areas I mention above? Accommodation issues due to space limitations as well as exposure to natural hazards could both be addressed.</p>	
Floodplains	The turnaround floods even in smaller events and will pose a hazard.	
General	In response to your letter regarding the proposed improvements, the Kaibab Tribe does not submit any comments regarding the proposed project. Thank you for your time and for contacting the Kaibab Tribe for consultation.	N/A
Interpretation/ Outreach	<p>In general I think that this is going to be a PAINFUL change for some very long time users of the campground.</p> <p>I think that making this transition easier for users should be a goal so I recommend a simple handout for the Escalante VC and the BLM station at the Anasazi SP. I think that this brochure (two fold, maybe) should have a map and all the rules and lots of interpretive information for this beautiful spot.</p> <p>Also, because this is a beautiful riparian area I would love for you to have some natural history info (at least enough so that they stop thinking the buffaloberry is Russian olive :)</p>	BLM is developing interpretive messaging related to this project and will take into account the suggestions provided by the public. We are also initiating increased campground patrols.
Recreation Planning	While I understand the need to upgrade the current facilities to reflect current statutory use standards, I also feel that Deer Creek Campground does not stand in isolation, but fits into a bigger picture of land use in the Monument. More specifically, perhaps it would be more prudent to think about how current	Per the <i>GSENM Monument Management Plan</i> (MMP), Deer Creek Campground is to be the only developed campground in the Monument's Passage Zone. It goes on to note that up to 25 designated primitive camping sites may be identified in this zone but toilets and other amenities are not to be provided at those

	<p>plans fit into the patterns of visitor use that show (I believe), increased visitation, increase use of small camping trailers by visitors, and changes in climate just to mention a few. Is the Monument going to have to rebuild the campground due to flooding in the future and potentially how soon (where are the studies)? <i>What are the liabilities?</i> Maybe, to alleviate increased pressure, the Monument will have to build pit toilets in the currently heavily used dispersed camping areas (similar to the issues at the Peekaboo and Spooky parking lot)? I believe it would be wise to step back and think about these issues before significant money is spent on a project that in its current form has the potential to increase use in areas already heavily used but containing no facilities, or simply not accounting for natural hazards like periodic flooding.</p>	<p>locations. These decisions are partially predicated on retaining the undeveloped, frontier character of the Monument and also encouraging economic development in the local communities. With this in mind, BLM determined that upgrading the existing facilities was warranted.</p> <p>BLM recognizes that visitation has increased to the point that existing management prescriptions may need to be revisited. Any changes to the MMP would require a plan amendment. The project area is located within the Escalante Canyons Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), and BLM anticipates initiating a number of NEPA proposals in the next few years including development of a recreation area management plan for the Escalante Canyons SRMA to address the growing visitation in the Escalante Canyons and associated issues noted in public comments such as the need for designated primitive camp sites, group camp sites, and sanitation facilities. Plan amendments could be addressed in this planning effort if determined to be warranted.</p>
ROW	<p>Now is the time for the BLM to restore 1,600 feet of riparian area by moving our road to the original route across the creek. Doing this would only impact about 150 feet of riparian while allowing the restoration of 1600 feet of riparian and our road would not have to ford the creek where the campers waded and put their chairs. The new road alignment would be below the archeological sites so there would be no impact to them and would only require one culvert, would use the original existing gate and dug way and would need to be graveled. This would give the campers a less impacted experience, keep us from driving in the creek and allow for the restoration of 1600 feet of riparian area.</p>	<p>Though BLM is aware of the issues associated with the driveway ROW and campground site road, the agency decided against including a ROW action in this project analysis. An application to issue a ROW in another location has not been received by BLM. Moving the ROW would be complicated and needs to address numerous issues (i.e. potential T&E plants species habitat, a Wilderness Study Area that surrounds the campground and private property, Wild and Scenic River suitable segments, riparian concerns, etc.).</p> <p>Processing a new ROW application would slow down the process for moving forward on upgrading the recreation sites for which BLM has secured deferred maintenance funds that need to spend in the near future. Moving the ROW would need to be addressed in a separate lands action and environmental review.</p>
ROW	<p>I have a concern about the current roadway that travels initially up the stream and then through a marshy area. I've seen that roadway battered by flash floods and subsequent traffic and wondered if any consideration is given during this time of work on Deer Creek Campground of putting that road just on the other side of the stream, to avoid the sensitive wet ground near the stream. Another benefit of that is that our residential traffic would not be routed through the campground which sometimes can be disturbing to campers. It</p>	

	would seem that now with the equipment already available it would be a logical time to address the problems associated with the road.	
ROW	<p>Our ROW - I am so sorry that we have not made progress toward getting this ROW out of the campground. I think that the landowners and BLM should work together toward this goal. I realize that this issue is beyond the scope of this EA but...</p> <p>Lastly, and on the ROW note: I would be happy to work with BLM to try to make this transition as painless as possible on the upstream landowners as possible. If there is anything that we can do to help, let us know.</p>	
ROW	<p>I am surprised that the Deer Creek Ranch road access rerouting was not part of this plan. As someone who drives through the camp ground almost daily in the summer time I see and have contact with the campers. There are many small camper units using the campground. I think that widening the road would be helpful but I really see the biggest issue is that the access for the ranch runs right through the campsite. It is not really compatible with the campers recreational experience and it can frustrating for those who have access through as there are folks parked or stuck in the access right away.</p> <p>I propose you look at the rerouting of the ranch access as part of your plan. I believe that a solution could be found, that would benefit the campers enjoyment of the site more profoundly than any other plan on this EA (well the bathrooms, are probably a high priority).</p>	
Signage	<p>First, as context I travel through the campground regularly to access the private land to the north. I have on numerous occasions been blocked by vehicles on the main drive. These are most often trailers trying to turn around, but I have more than once been blocked by vehicles simply parked at the end of the drive where it enters Deer Creek, people effectively choosing this spot as a campsite. This happens irrespective of any signage notifying users not to block the private drive and that the campground is not suited to trailers. Current signage is clearly not effective. My experience is that people will still attempt to use trailers in the campsite regardless of signage, but I am unable to discern from the site plans in the EA if</p>	<p>BLM is developing a detailed sign plan for the project area and will take into account the suggestions provided by the public. A detailed sign plan was not included in the EA to allow for flexibility in adjusting signs in the future as the need arises.</p> <p>Unfortunately, BLM has no control over whether or not users read the signs the agency installs. We plan to use the best communication theory possible to insure their readability by a wide variety and demographic of users, including international visitors.</p>

	the "turnaround" will be adequate to handle the inevitable trailers that will be required to turn around at the end of the campground. I saw mention of new signage in the EA, but no description. What will the new signs be like? Will they be able to reduce the influx of trailers? Will they stop people from parking in the private drive? Again, current signage clearly does not.	
Signage	...most don't read signs.	
Signage	<p>Overall, my comments reflect the fact that this is a self serve area with little oversight that has been chronically undersigned. Generally, I think that BLM should maximize every opportunity to direct and educate the public as to BLM's goals regarding size (vehicle and party) suitability at this site.</p> <p>signs, signs and more signs.... A big ole' 'no trailers allowed' on the outside of the campground would be a good start.</p> <p>If you want people to have one tent per site on the one pad per site and one car in each site you have to make this clear. I am sure that at the fee station you will have a list of rules but I would also have an introductory piece that explains why you are limiting the groups size (if you are) and the vehicle numbers. I would also like to have campers know that there is a through road through the campground and that they are not to block access, 2 3 signs indicating this should be adequate (maybe).</p> <p>Signing at the north end is going to be critical. This site often has 16 boy scouts, 4 vehicles and a trailer augered in.</p>	
Signage	The best thing would be for the campground to be very effectively sign. Personally, I think that education can go a long way but in the absence of educated people, what's the protocol going to be for violating your campground rules regarding use? How is BLM going to enforce the rules on parking and camping?	
Trailhead Design	The trailhead gets buried with sand each time it floods and sometimes with rocks and debris from the south drainage of the road coming down the hill. A wood fence will restrict the county from cleaning up the debris and will become buried. The parking area has been graveled before but is now buried. Also if the BLM has a designated parking area and Deer Creek floods over the road as it has and ruins	<p>Please see Pages 14-15 regarding Recreation Impacts .</p> <p>BLM is aware that the trailhead is used by both day users and overnight visitors. We agree that day use seems to be growing at greater rates within the Escalante Canyons than overnight backpacking. Trailhead registers record an average of 460 visits annually accounting for</p>

	the vehicles, is the BLM responsible?	1,454 visitor days as the 5 year average for use at this trailhead. A combination of tools including increased ranger patrols and new signage should help visitors to comply with use regulations. If significant parking issues occur, law enforcement would also play a role in assisting with compliance.
Trailhead Design	<p>I think that this trailhead parking was, at one time, gravelled but has since been covered with sand from flooding. The western side of the parking lot is flooded from down the road and from the adjacent cliff with great frequency. Because there is no drainage work to direct the water away from the parking lot, the floods deposit sand, rocks and make gullies in the lot. Occasionally, someone with a blade (the county?) grades the parking lot. Also, on the east side Deer Creek has twice in 30 years inundated this end of the parking lot.</p> <p>My recommendation is that you define the parking lot not with a fence but with large (2x) boulders and do not gravel the lot. Both a gravel surface and a fence are maintenance items. In this way the blade can still clear the flood debris without impacting a fence, the fence will not get buried by flood debris and you won't create a continuous drainage maintenance item for BLM that a fence would require. If you gravel the lot you will need to design drainage for flood waters. If you put the boulders close together then you may eliminate the social trailing issue as well. Additionally, a small directional sign would be helpful for people to get on the one and only track.</p> <p>The plan indicates that the lot will be smaller but fit more cars. If parking is to be delineated as per the plan, then I recommend signs. Otherwise you will have willy nilly parking and fit less cars. Years ago BLM reduced the size of the Escalante x Highway 12 parking lot by about 75% and this has clearly resulted in parking up and down the highway. It would be good to avoid this situation as the DC parking lot is on a blind sweep in the road and people approach this turn pretty fast from the Circle Cliffs side. Reducing capacity at the Escalante TH lot was not a good strategy for reducing the number of parked cars and I don't think it will be at DC either.</p> <p>I think that day use is more common than you think. I recognize local cars in the lot frequently.</p> <p>Lastly, I think that it is likely that people who show up to camp at the campground in groups with 2 cars will leave one at this lot.</p>	

LIST OF PREPARERS

BLM staff specialists who determined the affected resources for this document are listed in Appendix D. Those who contributed further analysis in the body of this EA are listed below.

Table 5.3. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Allysia Angus	Project Lead Landscape Architect	Technical Coordination Quality Control MMP Compliance Impact Analysis for Visual Resources
David Barfuss	Engineer	Site Designs
Jabe Beal	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Impact Analysis for Recreation
Raymond Brinkerhoff	Botanist	Impact Analysis for Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Katherine Farrell and Amber Hughes	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance Quality Control
Mark Foley	Realty Specialist	Impacts to Lands and Realty
Lora Gale	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Impact Analysis for Wilderness Study Areas Impact Analysis for Wild and Scenic Rivers
Eric Matranga	GIS Specialist	Maps

CHAPTER 6

REFERENCES AND ACRONYMS

REFERENCES CITED

Bureau of Land Management. Guidelines For A Quality Built Environment. 2010. Available at: http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Planning_and_Renewable_Resources/recreation_images/national_programs/VRM.Par.62809.File.dat/GQBE_WEB.pdf.

Bureau of Land Management. Recreation Management Information System. 2012. Web-based system.

Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board. Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines; Outdoor Developed Areas. Washington, DC. 2013. <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BLM – Bureau of Land Management
EA – Environmental Assessment
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
ESA - Endangered Species Act
FLPMA – Federal Land Policy and Management Act
GSENM – Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
IDT - Interdisciplinary Team Checklist
ISA - Instant Study Area
KOP – Key Observation Point
MMP – Monument Management Plan
NCA – National Conservation Area
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NLCS – National Landscape Conservation System
NWSRS - National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
OPLMA - Omnibus Public Land Management Act
ORV – Outstanding Remarkable Values
ROW - Right of Way
VRM – Visual Resource Management
WSR - Wild and Scenic River
WSA – Wilderness Study Area

APPENDIX A
DEER CREEK CAMPGROUND AND TRAILHEAD PROJECT AREA MAP

APPENDIX B
DEER CREEK RECREATION SITE AND WSAs MAP

APPENDIX C
DEER CREEK SITE DESIGN DRAWINGS

APPENDIX D

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: Deer Creek Campground Improvements

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0016-EA

Project Leader: Allysia Angus

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 impact that needs to be analyzed in detail

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

The rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

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

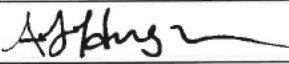
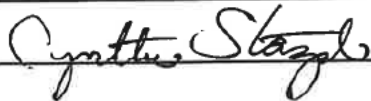
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality (Miller)	Construction will result in surface disturbance in a limited area. Particulate matter and gaseous pollutants generated during construction should be quickly dispersed and have no measurable effect on air quality. During normal operations, both particulate and gaseous pollutants should be minimal.	/s/ khmiller	04/28/2015
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Beal/Gale)	No Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are designated within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.	/s/ J. Beal	4/21/2015
NI	Biological Soil Crusts (Brinkerhoff)	The majority of the surface disturbance is within an existing disturbance area therefore the impacts to the existing soil crusts would be minimal.	/s/R. Brinkerhoff	4/29/15
NI	BLM Natural Areas (Beal)	This project is not within a Natural Area.	/s/ J. Beal	4/21/2015
NP	Cultural Resources (Zweifel)	Previous inventory work and recent field inspections for this project have found no cultural resource sites in the campground area. However, monitoring of excavations for the proposed vault toilet is recommended in the event that an unidentified, sub-surface site exists at this location.	/s/ M. Zweifel	4/24/2015
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Miller)	Emissions generated during construction should be quickly dispersed and have no measurable effect. During normal operations, emissions should be minimal.	/s/ khmiller	04/28/2015
NI	Environmental Justice (Farrell)	The proposal would not have disproportionate effects on low income or minority communities. According to the EPA EJView Mapper, Garfield and Kane Counties have been categorized as having a minority population of 0-10% and a below poverty population of 0-10%. (Accessed at: http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/ejmap.aspx?wherestr=Garfield%20County%2C%20UT on 2/5/2015.)	/s/ K. Farrell	3/26/15

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique) (Farrell)	Prime farmland is described as farmland with resources available to sustain high levels of production. In general, prime farmland has a dependable water supply, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable levels of acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable content of salt and sodium, and few or no rocks. Unique farmland in Utah is primarily in the form of orchards. Based on these definitions, no prime or unique farmlands exist within the Monument. (See NRCS 1997 Results - Cropland Utah accessed at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ut/technical/dma/nri/?cid=nrcs141p2_034092 on 2/5/2015.)	/s/ K. Farrell	3/26/15
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFWS Designated Species (McQuivey)	The size, scope and timing of the project are appropriate to minimize potential harmful impacts to wildlife species, including migratory birds, for which there will be no direct impact due to timing. No measurable impacts anticipated.	/s/ C. McQuivey	4/28/15
NI PI	Floodplains (Miller)	There will be no net change in floodplains impacts (impacts from road widening; new fee station, toilet and information kiosk pullouts; new sand tent pads, tables and fire rings on gravel pads; offset by removing existing concrete pads and walkways and one campsite, and reclaiming existing parking layouts). Conversion of trailhead parking area from dirt to gravel/road base within the same footprint is not expected to result in any change in floodplains impacts. Impact analysis for Floodplains was added after public comments were provided regarding this resource.	/s/ khmiller	05/18/2015 10/06/2015
NI	Fuels/Fire Management (Bate)	Fuels and Fire Management would remain as it is currently, the proposed action would not increase or decrease fuel or fire management for the Deer Creek Campground.	/s/ A.Bate	4/23/2015
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production (Titus)	Site of proposed action is located among outcrops of Navajo SS. No special geologic features are identified in the area. No geological hazards identified in area. Energy and mineral production would not be affected as there are no valid existing leases at the site.	/s/ Alan Titus	4/21/2015
NI	Hydrologic Conditions (Miller)	There will be no net change in hydrologic conditions (impacts from road widening; new fee station, toilet and information kiosk pullouts; new sand tent pads, tables and fire rings on gravel pads; offset by removing existing concrete pads and walkways and one campsite, and reclaiming existing parking layouts). Conversion of trailhead parking area from dirt to gravel/road base within the same footprint may improve hydrologic conditions by stabilizing soils and reducing runoff.	/s/ khmiller	05/18/2015
NP	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (EO 13112) (Brinkerhoff)	Standard weed washing stipulations will be implemented prior to any equipment arriving on site. This will decrease the threat of invasive or noxious weeds.	/s/R. Brinkerhoff	4/29/15
PI	Lands/Access (Foley)	Lands and Realty issues have been addressed in the EA.	/s/ Mark Foley	9/9/2015
NI	Livestock Grazing (Stewart)	Livestock are excluded from campground portion of the proposed action therefore the action would not impact livestock grazing. The size and scope of the proposed trail head work would not have any anticipated impacts to grazing.	/s/ S. Stewart	4/26/2015

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Native American Religious Concerns (Zweifel)	No cultural resource sites are found at this location, and no restrictions of any sort will be applied. This project will be included in the annual GSENM/Native American consultations, but no comments are anticipated.	/s/ M. Zweifel	4/24/2015
NI	Paleontology (Titus)	Site of proposed action is located among outcrops of Navajo SS with no documented fossil sites. Project work would be done on Holocene alluvium and modern dirt with no potential for fossils.	/s/ Alan Titus	4/21/2015
NI	Rangeland Health Standards (Stewart)	The site of proposed action is in and adjacent to an existing campground and trailhead. Due to the small area and the location type there are no anticipated impacts to rangeland health standards.	/s/S. Stewart	4/26/2015
PI	Recreation (Beal/Gale)	Recreation issues are addressed in the EA.	/s/ J. Beal	5/6/2015
NI	Socio-Economics (Farrell)	The proposed action is not likely to provide any noticeable impact to the local economy. The amount of economic activity generated by improving the campground is small. Once improvements are completed, the amount of use and activity is not expected to increase from that generated by use of the campground today.	/s/ K. Farrell	3/26/15
NI	Soils (Miller)	There will be no net change in soils impacts (impacts from road widening; new fee station, toilet and information kiosk pullouts; new sand tent pads, tables and fire rings on gravel pads; offset by removing existing concrete pads and walkways and one campsite, and reclaiming existing parking layouts). Conversion of trailhead parking area from dirt to gravel/road base within the same footprint may stabilize soils and reduce runoff.	/s/ khmiller	05/18/2015
PI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species (Brinkerhoff)	There is one known plant species of concern within the proposed project site. <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> is currently listed as threatened. Prior to work taking place the known populations will be flagged and avoided to minimize any impacts to the plants.	/s/R. Brinkerhoff	4/29/15
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species (McQuivey)	There are no known individuals, populations or critical habitat for any federally listed Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate wildlife species within the project area.	/s/ C. McQuivey	4/28/15
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid) (Pierson)	There will be no industrial wastes or toxic substances used or generated.	/s/ B. Pierson	4/23/15
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground) (Miller)	There will be no net change in water resources impacts (impacts from road widening; new fee station, toilet and information kiosk pullouts; new sand tent pads, tables and fire rings on gravel pads; offset by removing existing concrete pads and walkways and one campsite, and reclaiming existing parking layouts). Conversion of trailhead parking area from dirt to gravel/road base within the same footprint may improve water resources by stabilizing soils and reducing runoff.	/s/ khmiller	05/18/2015
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones (Brinkerhoff)	The proposed project is located within existing disturbed areas therefore no impacts to the riparian areas are expected from this action.	/s/R. Brinkerhoff	4/29/15

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
PI	Wild and Scenic Rivers (Beal/Gale)	This project occurs on Deer Creek, a WSR tributary of the Escalante River, tentatively classified within the campground as <i>recreational</i> and tentatively classified below the campground as a <i>wild</i> section. Project needs to insure no obstruction of wild and free flowing nature of the river or threats to identified Outstanding Remarkable Values which are documented to include threatened plants such as Ute Ladies Tresses and overall protection for high quality scenery and riparian areas.	s/LGale	4/21/15
PI	Wilderness/WSA (Beal/Gale)	The project footprint and construction boundaries as proposed are not expected to occur within the WSA boundaries which lie proximate to the campground and trailhead. The Deer Creek trailhead is located within an abandoned road alignment for the historic Burr trail which borders the North Escalante Canyons-The Gulch WSA. However, inclusion of language in the EA regarding actual boundaries of construction, contract construction oversight, and protection of WSA boundaries is needed to insure no impact to WSA's..	/s/L.Gale	04/21/15
NI	Woodland/Forestry (Bate)	No Forestry or tree species would be removed or cut in this proposal.	/s/A. Bate	4/22/2015
NI	Vegetation Excluding USFWS Designated Species (Brinkerhoff)	Some vegetation will be removed or disturbed but the overall health of the existing vegetation within the area will not be impacted by the proposed action.	/s/R. Brinkerhoff	4/29/15
PI	Visual Resources (Angus)	Contrast analysis needed to determine conformance with VRM Class objectives.	/s/AAngus	3/26/2015
NP	Wild Horses and Burros (Stewart)	There are no Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Areas within GSENM.	/s/S. Stewart	4/26/2015
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (Beal/Gale)	There are no sections of LWC in the project area.	/s/L.Gale	4/21/15

FINAL REVIEW

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator		10/6/15	
Authorized Officer		10-6-15	