

To: Abbie Jossie[ajossie@blm.gov]
Cc: Amber Johnson[a2johnson@blm.gov]; Tyler Ashcroft[tashcrof@blm.gov]; Pamela Jarnecke[pjarnecke@blm.gov]; Marie McGann[mmcgann@blm.gov]; Bryant, Lisa[lmbryant@blm.gov]
From: Hoffheins, Donald
Sent: 2017-10-25T15:50:09-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Cooperative project near Goosenecks State Park
Received: 2017-10-25T15:51:00-04:00
[GooseCollaborativeArea.pdf](#)
[Goosenecks ID Team Checklist 12.01.16.docx](#)
[Goosenecks.CoopAgmt.pdf](#)
[StateParksDraftMaps.pdf](#)
[Goosenecks Cooperative Management Area Briefing Paper 170122.docx](#)

Abbie, I'm "formally" asking for permission to proceed with planning on the Cooperative project near Goosenecks State Park.

Here's some background on Goosenecks.

It is located in the original Proclamation area. Ed agreed to proceed with planning (see attached Briefing Paper), but the project was subsequently put on hold because of the Secretary's Monument review.

We and the State would like to proceed with the planning and begin formal public scoping. We assumed that since Secretary has presented the report to the President we could proceed.

So, the question I have been asking is, "Can we move forward with this?". Although I have talked to numerous people informally (Lance, Gary, Anita, and I thought Ed), I haven't made a formal request.

Don Hoffheins

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Donald K. Hoffheins
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INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: Goosenecks Campground Development – BLM/Utah State Parks Cooperative Management Area

NEPA Log Number:

File/Serial Number:

Project Leader: Amber Denton Johnson

Development of Recreational Facilities Surrounding Goosenecks State Park

Purpose & Need In recent years camping and visits to Goosenecks State Park have expanded dramatically. This has resulted in numerous user developed campsites and trails along the rim of the San Juan River Canyon. These impacts occur on the state park and surrounding BLM lands. There is currently only one restroom in the state park servicing this entire area. Utah State Parks would like to develop a campground back from the rim to provide for the demand and better protect the viewshed along the rim and from the river. In order to develop an economically sustainable park and meet a primary request of visitors State Parks would like to develop a mountain bike and hiking trail system. It is envisioned that the BLM and Utah State Parks could partner in the development and management of this new development with State Parks capitalizing and operating and maintaining the new facilities while the BLM would provide oversight and direction for this new cooperatively managed area.

Visitation Data

2008	75,505
2009	85,049
2010	84,653
2011	84,479
2012	91,287
2013	100,217
2014	121,891

Location This proposal includes 2475 acres. It would include Township 41S Range 18 E Sections 27,28,29, 32, 33 & 34. Township 42S Range 18 E Section 3.

Facility Design Factors A conceptual design of the proposed campground has been submitted to BLM. It would ideally be developed directly east of the state park up against a low hill which would provide some protection from wind and be located back from the rim to protect the viewshed. The campground would provide restrooms and campsites with a picnic table, fire ring and grill. The campground road would likely be improved with road base. The trail system is proposed to be west and north of the state park and with the exception of an overlook and where limited by topography be a minimum of 50 meters back from the rim to minimize impacts to wildlife. State Parks would design the campground and mountain bike trail designers from Moab Trail Mix would design the mountain bike trail system. State Parks will work with the

BLM and State Risk Management to provide a safe recreational environment including the provision of signing warning of risks and hazards along trails.

Trails The mountain bike trail system will be a stacked loop system with two beginner loops and three additional loops of intermediate difficulty to total 14.12 miles of trail. An additional spur over to the Honaker Trailhead is included as well. Two hiking trails are proposed, one would follow a road out to a point directly to the east of the state park. State Parks would like to close the road to vehicles and designate it as a hiking trail. Another hiking trail is proposed on the low mesa directly north and above the proposed campground. This trail is proposed because it is assumed many campers would like to climb the low mesa above the campground for the view.

We expect 24 inches of 'affected environment' for the bike trails. We cut them to 24 inches and allow a line to be established within the 24 inches, that typically ends up being 18 inches wide.

Yurt Area Yurts or hogans could be added to the camping opportunities if demand warrants the construction. It is included in this proposal because these types of facilities are very popular and much in demand in other similar state parks like Dead Horse Point and Goblin Valley. This would definitely be a 'phase II' type of development based on the success, visitation and interest after operating the park with the campground, bike and hiking trails added. The proposed location is a previously disturbed site accessed by an existing road.

Affected Environment Based on GIS shape files the projected acres of disturbed soils for the requested developments are as follows:

Campground	3.03 acres
Restrooms	.01 acre
Yurt area	.05 acre
Bike trails	3.44 acres
Hiking trails	.9 acre
Total	7.43 acres

Construction materials and offloading of equipment for the campground will take place on the state park to minimize impacts to BLM administered lands. The mountain bike trail will be constructed with a crew using hand tools. No heavy equipment will be used to construct the trails. No materials will be brought in from off site to cover the trails.

Construction of the Facilities Utah State Parks would capitalize all the developments. Much of the campground would be constructed by a State Park construction crew. Construction of the mountain bike trail would be by a contractor hired by state parks. Any hiking trails would be constructed by state parks.

The preliminary campground design has one way loops, the road to the loops (access road) is a two way road. The one way loops are designed to be 12 feet wide (as are the camp sites) and the access road is 24 feet wide. The access road is preexisting; the loops and camp spurs would be completely new. It is however misleading to call the existing road totally preexisting. It is a two

track road, not a 24 foot wide road like we are proposing. The road along the rim is definitely preexisting and requires no widening.

Resource Values and Environmental Concerns BLM would ensure the NEPA process is followed. Utah State Park archaeologists would provide for the cultural clearance with SHPO. State Parks will work with the BLM and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to minimize and mitigate any impacts to wildlife. The mountain bike trail and campground would be located back from the rim to minimize impacts to the viewshed, river corridor and canyon habitats. The project is proposed in part to better manage impacts from dispersed recreation.

Stabilization and Rehabilitation Ground disturbance would be kept as a minimum. Any areas identified by the BLM to be reseeded would be done. Erosion should be minimized as the topography is quite flat.

Operation and Maintenance Utah State Park would operate this new facility and provide for all maintenance. It is expected that user fees would cover these costs. The facilities would be open year around for the public.

Partnership It is requested that the affected BLM lands would be cooperatively managed as a partnership between BLM and Utah State Parks much like the Sand Flats

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

- NP not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions
 NI present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required
 PI present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA
 NC (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality	<p>The proposed action conforms to the Monticello FO RMP as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals and Objectives: To provide for multiple recreational uses of the public lands and to sustain a wide range of recreation opportunities and potential experiences for visitors and residents while supporting local economic stability and sustaining the recreation resource base and other sensitive resource values. RMP decision REC-2 includes: Coordinate management of recreation use with other agencies, state and local government, and tribal units to provide public benefits, help assure public safety, and make effective use of staff and budget resources. The Monticello FO RMP Decision REC-3 states: Allow development of hiking paths and trails within the 	CGiffen	10.25.16

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
		<p>PA subject to site-specific NEPA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Monticello FO RMP Decision REC-5 states: Existing developed recreation sites will be maintained. New sites/facilities/trails will be developed in response to user demand, amenity value, and critical resource protection needs. Monticello FO RMP Decision TM-6 states: Appendix O outlines the processes and procedures for making modifications to the travel plan designated route network. <p>Impacts to air quality from recreation decisions were adequately analyzed in the Monticello PRMP/FEIS. As summarized on page 4-30:</p> <p>Recreation and mineral management (oil and gas development) decisions would emit pollutants during operation (i.e., vehicle emissions, well operations, compressor engines, etc.), along with fugitive dust from public vehicle use, OHVs, construction and mineral development activities. Impacts to air quality from prescribed fire management decisions would likely be related to particulate matter (primarily PM2.5) and carbon dioxide (CO2). Impacts would likely be short term and would result in long-term benefits for other resources.</p> <p>Impacts to air quality from the proposed action need not be analyzed in detail in the EA.</p>		
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	The proposed action is not located in any areas of critical environmental concern.	CWorth	11/2/16
NP	BLM Natural Areas**	The proposed action is not located in any BLM natural areas.	CWorth	11/2/16
PI	Cultural Resources	Consultation will need to occur	J h C	
NI	Environmental Justice	There would be no impact to Environmental Justice with approval of the proposed action.	C. Worth	09/12/16
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	The Monticello Field Office does not include any designated prime and unique farmlands administered by the BLM (MFO FRMP/FEIS, pg 4-7).	J. Carling	9/9/16
PI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	The proposed project is within critical habitat for desert bighorn sheep. The sheep primarily use the river corridor, but during certain seasons may rely on the talus slopes and uplands. The proposed action would potentially impact 2,475 acres of habitat. Activities and construction may temporarily or permanently displace some species of wildlife depending on species and sensitivity to disturbance.	M. Scott	9/6/16
NP	Floodplains	The proposal is located in the uplands and is not situated in any immediate active floodplains. The proposed action does not result in any permanent fills or diversions, or placement of permanent facilities in floodplains or special flood hazard areas. Thereby, floodplains are not present in the immediate vicinity of the action and there are no larger scale effects to a degree that detailed analysis is required.	J. Carling	9/9/16
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	The proposed action falls within the San Juan Basin Fire Management Unit. This FMU is mostly a desert shrub and	P. Plemons	10/18/16

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
		grass community. Fuel loadings are very light. Fire occurrence is very low with an average of 2 fires and 26 acres burned per year. The addition of camping infrastructure and trail network will not impact fire response or influence accidental fire occurrence to a degree that warrants further analysis in this E.A. Fuels treatments are not currently necessary in this area.		
NI	Mineral Resources/Energy Production	According to the Monticello RMP, the area of the Proposed Action is available for mineral leasing and development with standard conditions. The Proposed Action does not include amending the RMP. Therefore, since no new restrictions would be imposed on leasing or future mineral resource development, the Proposed Action would not encumber or interfere with mineral resource exploration and production.	T. McDougall	9/8/16
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (EO 13112)	Presence of invasive species will need to be inventoried, monitored and treated during and after construction of trails and facilities. If weeds are found to be present they will be managed in accordance with existing agreements with State Parks and San Juan county.	B Quigley	10/24/16
PI	Lands/Access	Analyze potential road closure and change to the travel plan. Doesn't impact any existing rights-of-ways.	B Quigley	10/24/16
NI	Livestock Grazing	<p>The proposed campground and trails are located in the Perkins South Allotment, which is permitted for 340 cows from 10/01 through 5/31. This grazing period overlaps much of the season of use for the proposed recreational use.</p> <p>The proposed campground would disturb an additional 3.09 BLM acres of development at the existing Gooseneck State Park. This would not measurably influence livestock grazing management, cattle distribution, and/or available forage; because the area is already developed and utilized by the public, no fencing / livestock exclusion is proposed, and the limited amount of disturbance (3.09 acres) is nominal in relation to the scale of the allotment (~41,199 BLM acres).</p> <p>The proposed trail system would disturb approximately 4.3 acres dispersed across a large area. Dependent upon the level of use of the trails by the public, it could have some influence on livestock distribution and utilization of the area. However, it is anticipated the level of public use would be low and not appreciably influence livestock's distribution into the area. Also, it would not measurably influence livestock grazing management and/or available forage for the same reasons as shown for the proposed campground.</p> <p>Overall, for reasons listed above, there are no impacts to a degree that detailed analysis is required.</p>	Jed C	
NI	Migratory Birds.	There is a known nest sites within 0.5 miles of the project area. The project is within 0.5 miles of bald eagle winter roosting habitat. The area does provide suitable habitat for nesting raptor species. A survey was done on February 2016 and no species of concern were detected. To protect nesting and potential nesting areas seasonal and spatial buffers should be considered.	M. Scott	9/6/16
PI	Native American Religious Concerns	THPO consultation will be required	C	

Commented [SAM1]: Raptor survey report is not adequate. We will need the full report including data.

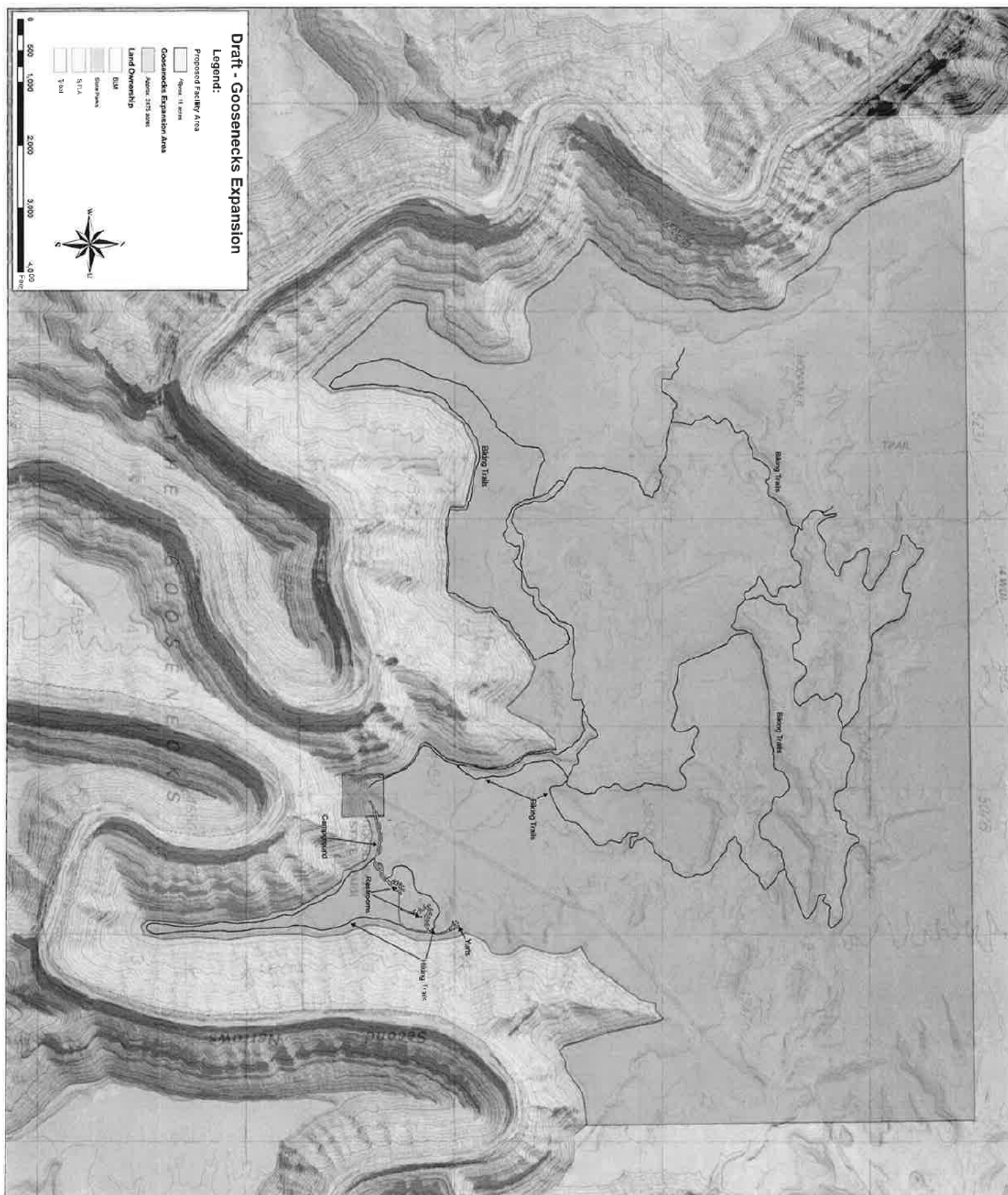
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Paleontology	Area is a PFYC 2, and contains the Permian Cutler Group, which has been known to produce vertebrate fossils. A monitor is not required at this time, but if fossils are found, work must stop in that area and the BLM district paleontologist will be contacted to clear the area.	R. Hunt-Foster	12/1/2016
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	Utah Standards for Rangeland Health are individually addressed as separate resources for determination of impacts in this checklist (Standard #1-Soils, #2-Riparian, #3-Biotic (vegetation/wildlife), and #4-Water Quality). Thereby, there are no impacts that require detailed analysis to Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines that are not already being considered by the individual resource.	J. Carling	9/9/16
PI	Recreation	This project would change recreational opportunities (increase non-motorized use/hikers and increased opportunities for mountain bike users) while at the same time including scenic improvements on the river corridor by organizing campsites away from the rim to help limit visual impacts. Factors that may cause a negative reaction to the proposed plan include the closure of road D4074 which people use to drive out to the rim and the removal of dispersed camping in the project area.	A Johnson	10/24/16
NI	Socio-Economics	There would be no impact to Socio-Economics with approval of the proposed action.	C. Worth	9/12/16
NI	Soils	<p>The soil survey report for San Juan County, Utah, Central Part describes most of the proposed project area soil mapping unit as 17 - Limeridge gravelly very fine sandy loam, 4 to 12 percent slopes. The campground and all trails would be located on this soil.</p> <p>This soil is described as a gravelly very fine sandy loam, fine sandy loam, gravelly fine sandy loam (0 to 16 inches depth), well drained, and supporting the Desert Shallow Sandy Loam (Shadscale)(R035XY130UT) ecological site.</p> <p>Construction of roads, campsites, trails and other proposed facilities to appropriate standards (proper drainage, appropriate surfacing, etc.) will mitigate impacts to the soil resource.</p> <p>Total surface disturbance for the construction of roads, campsites, and trails would be approximately 7.5 acres. Much of this disturbance will be located on previously disturbed areas (existing roads and dispersed campsites). This amount of surface disturbance is small when compared to the acreage of this soil mapping unit in the general area.</p> <p>The proposed action will not affect soil stability or productivity to the degree that would require detailed analysis in the EA.</p>	C Giffen	10.25.16
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	There are no known threatened, endangered or candidate plant species within 0.5 miles of the proposed project area.	M. Scott	9/6/16
PI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	The potential project is within 0.5 miles of potential Mexican spotted owl nesting habitat. Section 7 Consultation would be required.	M. Scott	9/6/16
NI	Wastes ()		J ff B wn	

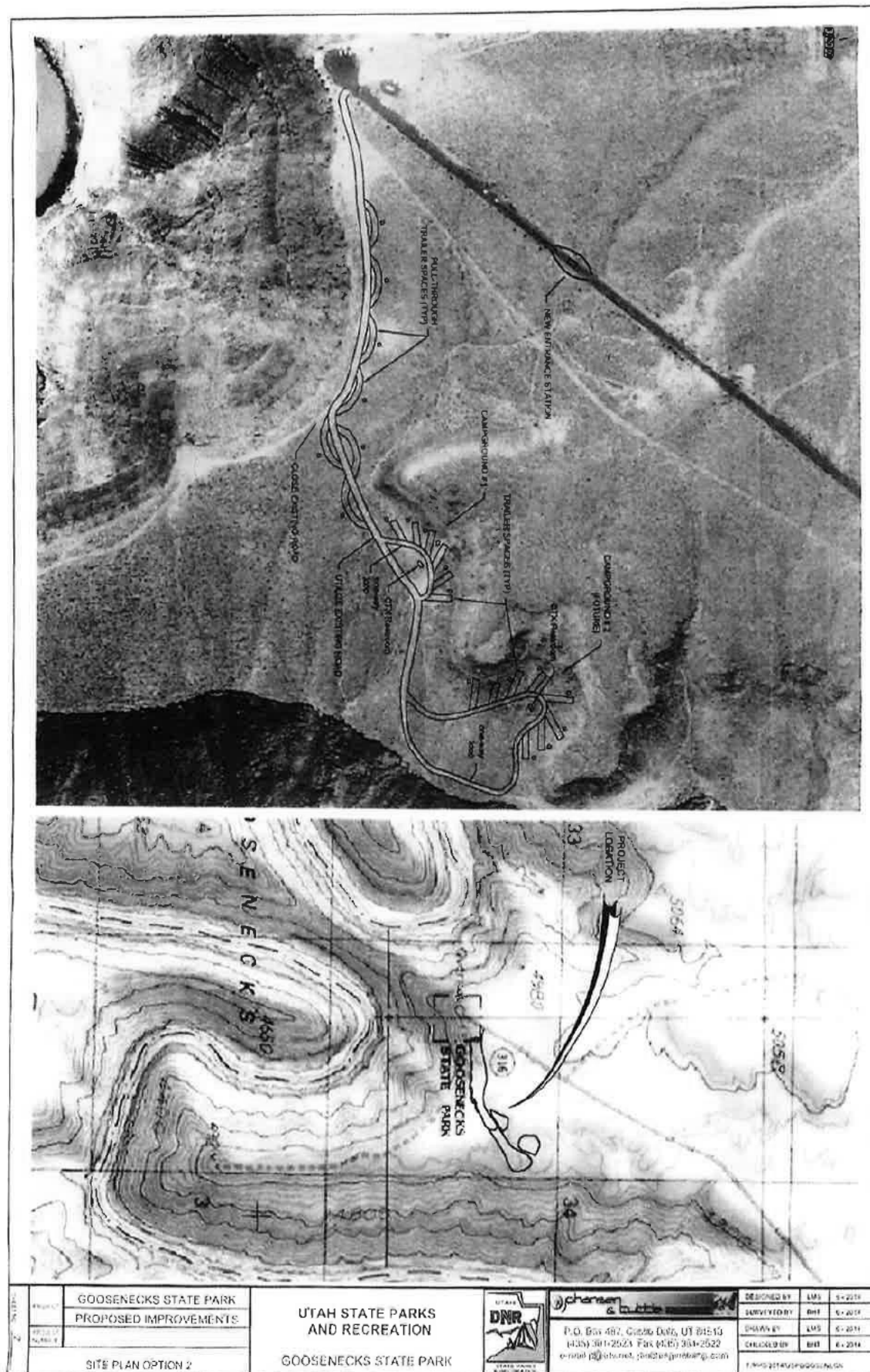
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking surface/ground)	Need more information about erosion control and bathroom facilities.	M. Scott	9/6/16
NP	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	The proposed site is in the uplands and lacks appreciable surface and/or sub-surface waters for the establishment and maintenance of wetlands/riparian zones. The ecological site is typically classified as a Desert Shallow Sandy Loam. As such, vegetation on site consists of upland plants (e.g. Blackbrush) with no riparian obligated species. Therefore, wetlands / riparian zones are not present at the site.	J. Carling	9/9/16
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	The San Juan River Segment 5 is identified as having a recommendation for suitable-wild for designation in the National Wild and Scenic River system but is not designated. Removing dispersed camping from the rim would improve the visuals from the river.	C. Worth	9/12/16
NP	Wilderness/WSA	The proposed project area is not located in any wilderness or WSA's	C. Worth	9/12/16
NP	Woodland / Forestry	There are no woodland or forestry resources within the proposed project area.	M. Scott	9/6/16
NI	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species	<p>The proposed campground and trail system area typically located in a Desert Shallow Sandy Loam ecological site. This site has an overstory composed primarily of blackbrush with an understory of Indian Ricegrass, sand dropseed, and galleta grass. Blackbrush site are generally slow to recover naturally.</p> <p>The proposal would disturb approximately 3.09 BLM acres connected to the campground and an additional 4.34 acres associated with the trails.</p> <p>These actions would not impact vegetation to a degree that detailed analysis is required, because the scale of disturbances is nominal in relation to available ecological site and other vegetation in the immediate area, biotic integrity would continue and be maintained at a level appropriate for the site and species involved, it would have no negative influence on the landscape's ability to achieve the Standards for Rangeland Health, the trail is a linear feature across a large area that disperses the 4.34 acres of disturbance, and the area is already developed for public use as part of Utah Goose-neck State Park.</p>	Jed Carling	10/6/16
NI	Visual Resources	<p>The project is located in VRM Class I, II, and III lands. The objective of Class I is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention. The objective of Class II is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. The objective of Class III is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.</p> <p>The portions of the project area in Class I consists of a portion of the campground road and a road on a point. The Campground Loops themselves are situated in VRM Class II and III, and the bike loops are entirely within VRM Class III.</p> <p>By removing camping from the rim in the VRM Class I at the</p>	M. Haines	11/2/16

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
		edge of the road, the proposed project will reduce visual impacts to river runners that is currently caused by casual use camping. The visual impacts caused by vehicles on the roads will be temporary. The campsites within VRM Class II are largely situated on the east side of a small knoll, making them virtually invisible from Moqui Dugway and the Trail of the Ancients Scenic Backway. If the proposed yurts are built, they may be minimally visible from Highway 163. Although the distance will make them fade into the landscape considerably, it is recommended that colors are tested from that distance.		
NP	Areas with Wilderness Characteristics**	The proposed project isn't located in any areas determined to possess wilderness characteristics	C. Worth	09/12/16

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			





COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
AND
STATE OF UTAH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND
RECREATION
PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) PURSUANT TO THE
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
FOR
Creation of a Goosenecks Area Cooperative Management Area

August 2016

Introduction

The Utah Parks and Recreation Goosenecks State Park (UDPR) and the Bureau of Land Management Monticello Field Office (BLM-MFO) administered lands surrounding the park have seen a dramatic rise in visitation in recent years. This has resulted in many user developed campsites and trails on the public lands surrounding the state park. Frequently, during the busy season (March – October) numerous RV campers line the rim, marring the view from the state park and from the San Juan River. This growth in visitation creates a dilemma for BLM management and offers an opportunity for Utah Division of Parks and Recreation (UDPR) to develop a self-sustaining park with additional amenities for the visitors to this area.

The BLM's 2008 Resource Management Plan (RMP) directed the BLM-MFO to work with other agencies to resolve issues of mutual concern. Once completed, this plan will enable the BLM-MFO and UDPR to more actively manage the intensity, diversity, and potential incompatibility of recreation uses while protecting the resources that visitors come to enjoy.

The planning area offers expansive vistas of dramatic landscapes ideal for a range of non-motorized recreational activities to provide visitors the chance experience remote, expansive, intact landscapes in this visually stunning setting.

The BLM-MFO and UDPR has delineated a planning area boundary to assist in the management of these lands. The area contains 2,465 acres of public lands managed by BLM-MFO and 10 acres managed by UDPR. See planning area map (attachment).

The BLM-MFO, in cooperation with UDPR will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address recreation management issues in the planning area. The EA, when completed, will form the basis for developing a Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) for the planning area. This MOU will provide the framework for providing the funding to complete the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The BLM-MFO and UDPR acknowledge the importance of maintaining the intrinsic qualities of the area and the need to manage recreational use of the area in a safe and sustainable manner.

Through this agreement, the BLM-MFO and UDPR will collaborate on developing a third party contract to select a qualified firm to complete the required EA.

This agreement does not alter BLM's responsibilities for management of non-recreational resources on the public lands nor alter any existing established rights or agreements with the State of Utah, San Juan County, or public land users.

I. Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to:

- a. Establish an administrative foundation for a cooperative partnership between the BLM-MFO and UDPR, by completing an EA, in compliance with NEPA, that will address future recreation management of the area surrounding Goosenecks State Park. The EA will be completed by a third party contractor selected by the BLM and UDPR.
- b. After completing the process, implementation of the resultant CMA will necessitate a new agreement to outline the roles, responsibilities and operational details of jointly implementing the recreation management plan.

II. Authorities

a. Bureau of Land Management

-Section 307 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provides the authority to enter into cooperative agreements involving the management, protection, and the development of the public lands.

-2008 Monticello Field Office RMP

- Consideration of Other BLM Plans And Policies - This Plan recognizes the many ongoing programs, plans, and policies that are being implemented in the Monticello PA by other land managers and government agencies. The BLM seeks to be consistent or complementary with other management actions whenever possible. Plans and policies that need to be considered are outlined below (Utah's Rules for Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum and Gooseneck State Park).

- General Recreation Management (REC-3) *Allow development of hiking paths and trails within the PA subject to site-specific NEPA.*
 - Management of Existing and Development of Future Recreation Facilities (REC-5) *Existing developed recreation sites will be maintained. New sites/facilities/trails will be developed in response to user demand, amenity value, and critical resource protection needs.*
- b. State of Utah Division of Parks and Recreation

Interlocal Cooperation Act, Utah Code Annotated Title 11, Chapter 13, Section 101 et seq.; see also Title 79, chapter 4, section 204

III. Responsibilities and Provisions

A. UDPR agrees to:

1. Provide up to \$30,000.00 in funding to support completion of the EA and supporting studies for completing the EA for the identified Goosenecks planning area.
2. Select a qualified third party contractor following a standard procurement process as identified in the Utah state code who can perform the EA.
3. Work with BLM to facilitate the preparation of the EA for Goosenecks planning area.
4. Work together with BLM, interested entities, and the public to develop a future CMA that will result from completion of the EA and the NEPA decision.

B. BLM agrees to:

1. Work with UDPR to guide the preparation of the EA for the Goosenecks planning area.
2. Work together with UDPR, interested entities, and the public to develop a CMA that will result from completion of the EA and the NEPA decision.
3. Lead Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and tribal consultation with affected tribes.
4. Lead Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

C. It is mutually agreed and understood by and between said parties that:

1. UDPR and BLM will approve a schedule for completion of the EA.
2. This agreement may be revised as necessary by mutual consent of both parties, by the approval of a written amendment, signed and dated by both parties.
3. Any party may terminate this agreement without cause by providing sixty (60) days written notice to the other party.

IV. Term

This agreement is effective upon execution by all parties and will remain in effect until April 30, 2018. Modifications to this agreement must be forwarded by the authorized representatives for signature approval by the manager positions of each party as signed below.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this agreement shall be effective as of the date herein and upon execution by the parties hereto:

State of Utah Division of Parks and Recreation

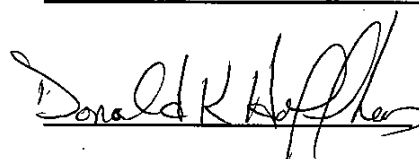


Director

18 August 2016

Date

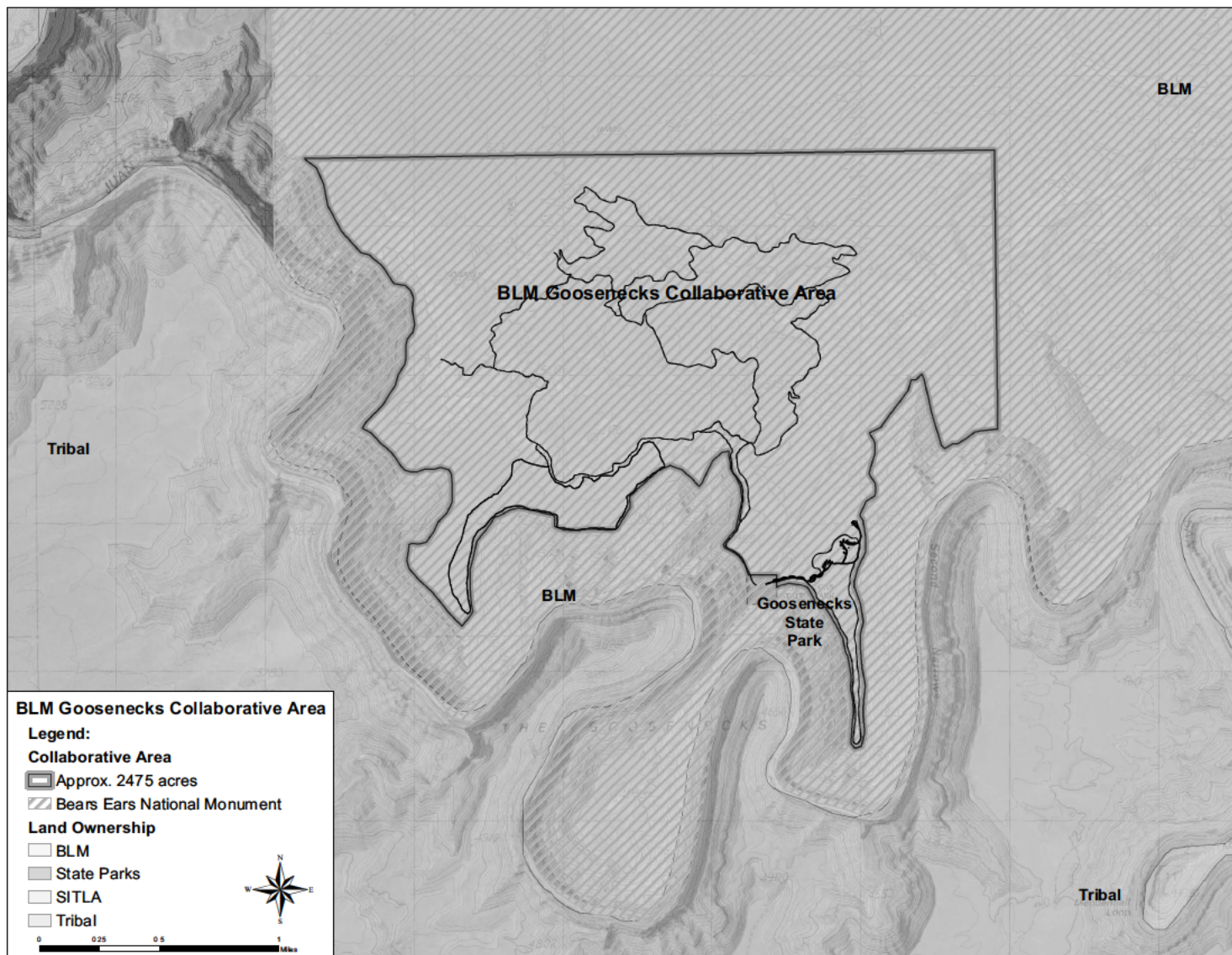
Bureau of Land Management



Monticello Field Manager

8/10/2016

Date



INFORMATION/ BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR STATE DIRECTOR

DATE: January 22, 2017
FROM: Don Hoffheins, Field Manager
SUBJECT: Goosenecks Cooperative Management Area

The Bureau of Land Management, Monticello office (BLM) proposes to move forward with the existing planning effort to construct a campground and trail system adjacent to the existing Goosenecks State Park. In light of the recent designation of Bears Ears National Monument BLM has to consider whether the proposal appears in conformance with the Proclamation language in relation to Objects and Values.

BACKGROUND

Recreational use in the Goosenecks area has expanded dramatically. There is currently only one restroom in the state park servicing this entire area. Utah State Parks would like to develop a campground adjacent to Goosenecks State Park to provide for the demand and better protect the viewshed along the rim and from the river. In order to develop an economically sustainable park and meet a primary request of visitors State Parks would also like to develop a mountain bike and hiking trail system. BLM and Utah State Parks have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to partner in the development and management of these new facilities with State Parks funding the necessary analysis, capitalizing the construction, and operating and maintaining the new facilities while the BLM would provide oversight and direction for this new cooperatively managed area.

DISCUSSION

A conceptual design of the proposed campground has been submitted to BLM. The campground would include three loops or camping areas; each would provide restrooms and campsites with a picnic table, fire ring and grill. In one of the loops yurts or hogans could be added to the camping opportunities because these types of facilities are very popular and much in demand in other similar state parks like Dead Horse Point and Goblin Valley. The trail system is proposed to be west and north of the state park and with the exception of an overlook and where limited by topography be a minimum of 50 meters back from the rim to minimize impacts to wildlife. State Parks would design the campground and mountain bike trail designers from Moab Trail Mix would design the mountain bike trail system. State Parks will work with the BLM and State Risk Management to provide a safe recreational environment including the provision of signing warning of risks and hazards along trails. An initial determination has been made at the Field Office level that the Objects and Values for which the monument was designated could be protected and possibly even enhanced.

NEXT STEPS

Confirmation of whether the Objects and Values for which the monument was designated could be protected and possibly even enhanced. Future scoping and analysis would address these Objects and Values with a final determination made in the decision step of the process.

ATTACHMENTS

Map of Goosenecks Cooperative Management Area