

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

**Categorical Exclusion
for
Grand Mesa Jeep Club Rock Junction Event**

Colorado, Northwest District Office
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506
and
Utah, Moab Field Office
82 East Dogwood
Moab, Utah 84532

DOI-BLM-CON-2013-0001-CX

May 2013



INTRODUCTION: The second annual Rock Junction event is scheduled for Wednesday May 29, 2013 through Friday, May 31, 2013. Rock Junction is a 3-day event hosted by the Grand Mesa Jeep Club (GMJC.) The event draws 4WD enthusiasts from throughout the region, and includes guided 4x4 excursions led by GMJC members. These “trail rides” are slow-paced and non-competitive. They are designed to introduce participants to the unique landscapes and 4x4 recreation opportunities in western Colorado. The proposed routes for the guided trips include roads managed by the BLM’s Grand Junction Field Office, Uncompahgre Field Office, Moab Field Office, and White River Field Office. The 2012 version of this event was analyzed under DOI-BLM-CON-2012-0005-CX. The 2013 event proposes the use of several new routes.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is to issue a Special Recreation Permit authorizing use of existing trails by the Grand Mesa Jeep Club for the Rock Junction event from Wednesday, May 29, 2013 to Friday, May 31, 2013. A complete operating plan has been submitted by the GMJC with their SRP application. The portions of that plan relevant to this document are excerpted here.

The GMJC anticipates a total of approximately 80-100 vehicles participating in the event. Participants would be split into groups according to the capabilities of their 4WD vehicle and their preferred style of 4-wheeling. Similar vehicles would be grouped together. Groups would be limited to 12 vehicles. Groups would be sent to different areas in order to disperse use. Each group would be led by a representative of the GMJC. The trip leader would be familiar with the course and would be responsible for keeping participants on the route at all times. Trail leaders would carry a spill kit, to be used in the case of any vehicle fluid spill. All trash generated by the group would be packed out by the group. The group would stay together at all times. Vehicles in each group would adhere to the minimum trail requirements for the trail, as posted by the BLM. The GMJC would contact the BLM and/or local clubs prior to the event to discuss whether there are any trail issues to be aware of. These would be day-trips, departing from Grand Junction each morning and returning to Grand Junction each evening. Participants would be responsible for their own lodging arrangements in Grand Junction. The event would not feature any camping. No campfires would be built.

Staging Area Parking Plan

- a. The event will not have spectators.
- b. Some of the participants will have tow-rigs and trailers to tow their 4WD vehicles on. Staging for the entire event will require less than 3 acres total. At each staging area, the event participants will park in such a way as to not block other non-event use of the parking areas. 4WD vehicles will be driven to the trail from their respective staging areas.
 - i. GJFO: These will be parked at the Bangs Canyon Staging Area parking lot or along 21 Rd at a location specified by the BLM. The event will not utilize the Third Flats area for parking.
 - ii. Uncompahgre FO: These will be parked at the Dry Creek staging area located near Rim Rd and Shavano Valley Rd. The group will utilize the Highway 90 staging area if running the Boulder Canyon trail.

- iii. White River FO: Parking within the Rangely Rock Crawling Park in the parking area just south of the competition site
- c. The group will follow their trail leader from Grand Junction to the trails and be directed by the trail leader on where to park.

Routes proposed for use in this event are shown in the table and maps below.

Route proposals for the Uncompahgre, White River and Moab Field Offices were reviewed during internal scoping. No new routes within the Uncompahgre Field Office will be authorized for use by this event in 2013. Moab has authorized use of the Top of the World route.

same = same route as 2012

new = new route for 2013

Table 1: Proposed Routes

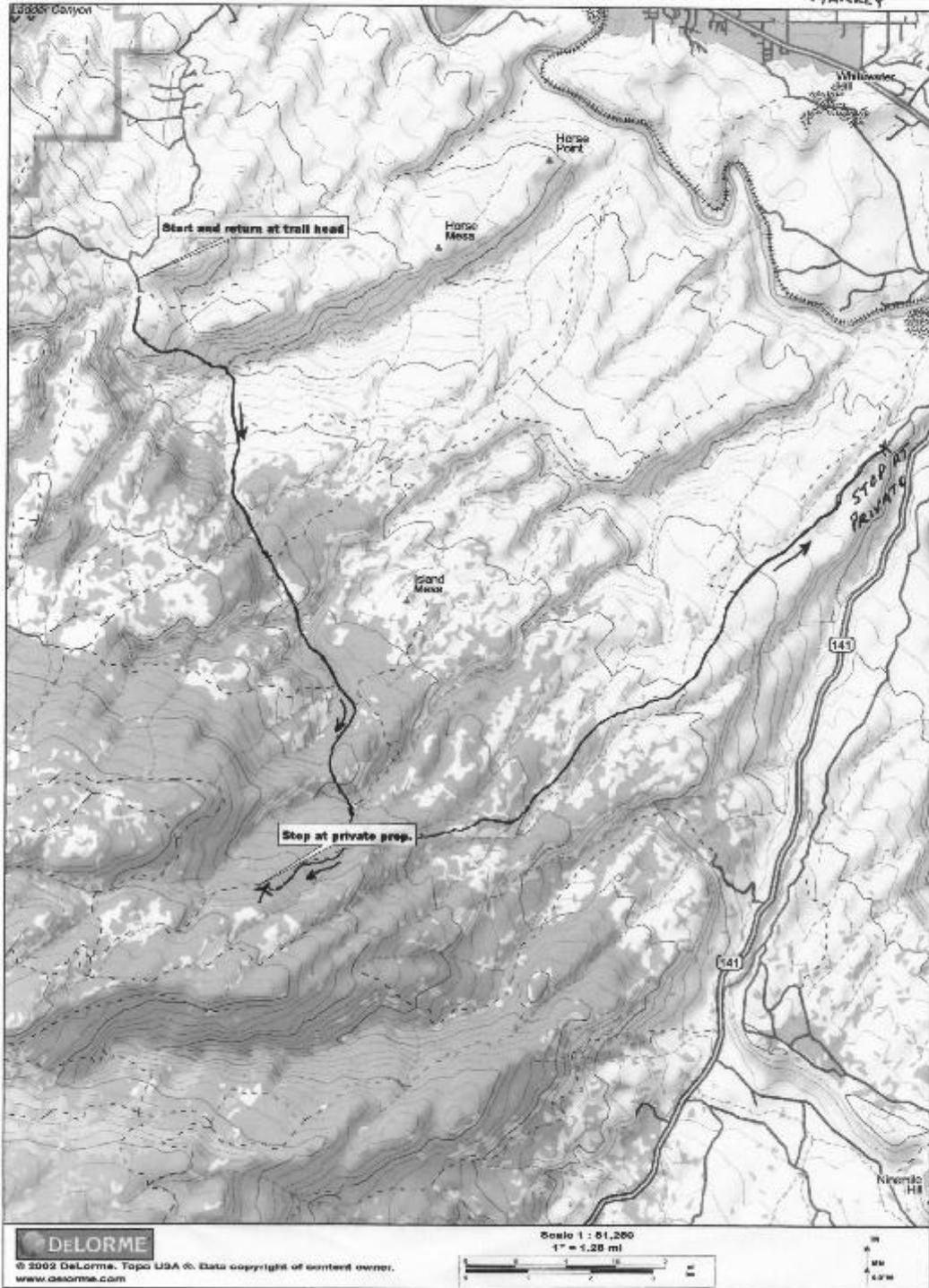
Map Number	Trail Name	Field Office
1.1	21 Road	Grand Junction same
1.2	Billings Canyon	Grand Junction same
1.2	Bangs Canyon/Windmill Loop	Grand Junction same
1.3	Tabeguache Trail	Grand Junction new
1.4	Calamity Mesa & Airstrip	Grand Junction same
1.5	Pace Lake	Grand Junction same
1.6A, 1.6B, 1.6C, 1.6D	Glade Park to Gateway	Grand Junction same
1.7A, 1.7B	Coon Hollow	Grand Junction new
1.8	Round Mountain	Grand Junction new
1.9	Cameo/Jerry Creek Overlook	Grand Junction new
1.10	Speers Access	Grand Junction new
1.12	Coal Canyon	Grand Junction same
2.1	Calamity	Uncompahgre same
2.1	Topless	Uncompahgre same
2.1	Cactus Ridge & Cactus II	Uncompahgre new
2.1	Die Tryin	Uncompahgre same
2.1	Death Row	Uncompahgre new
2.2	Boulder Canyon	Uncompahgre same
3.1	Rangely Rock Crawling Park	White River same
4.1	Top of the World	Moab new

Maps for the new routes for 2013 are shown first, followed by maps for routes analyzed and authorized for the 2012 event.

Map 1.3
Taboguacine to Hwy 141

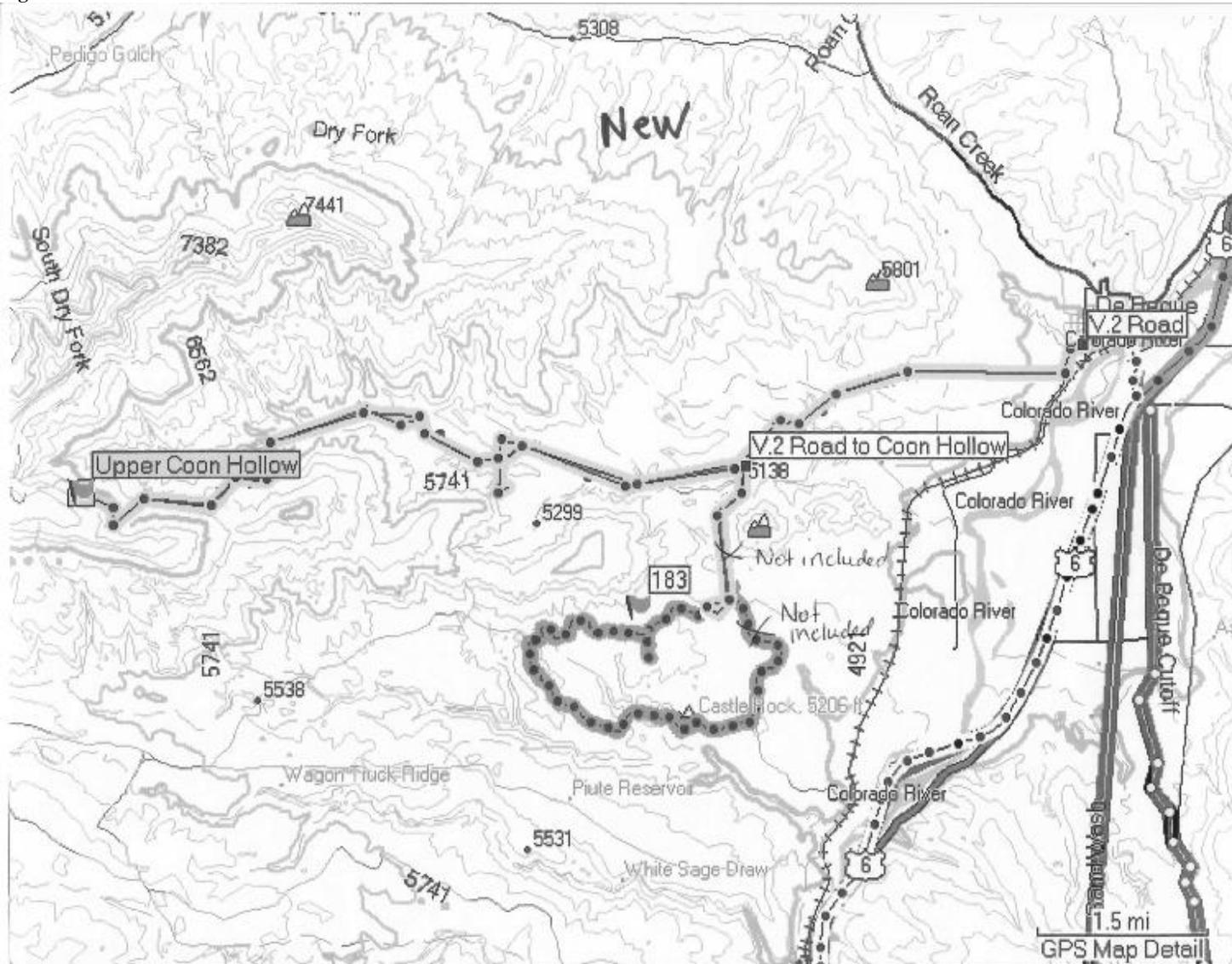
New

HARLEY



fine

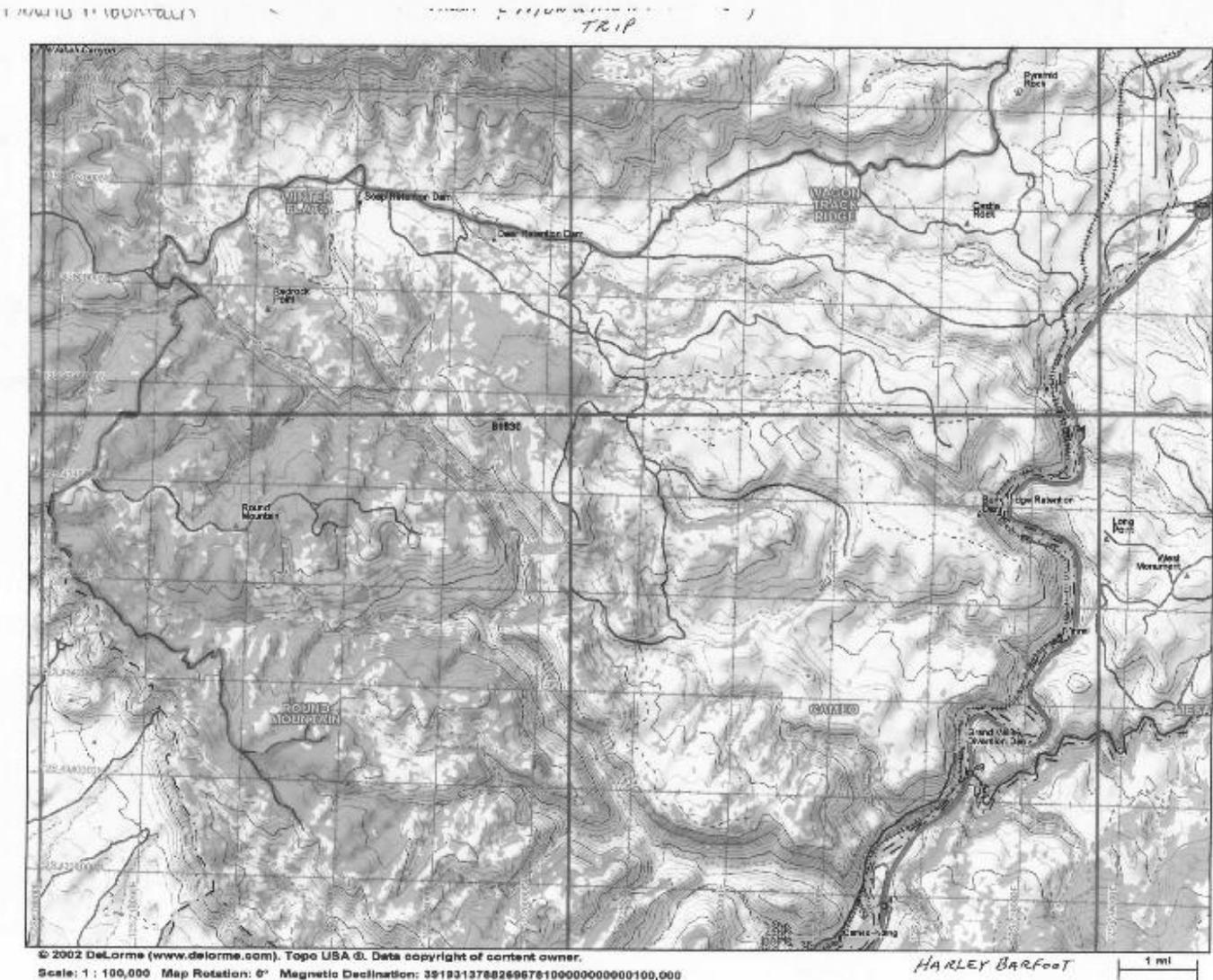
Figure 1.7 A: New - Grand Junction Field Office - Coon Hollow



© Garmin Corporation 1996-2002

Map 1.7A - Coon Hollow - overview map

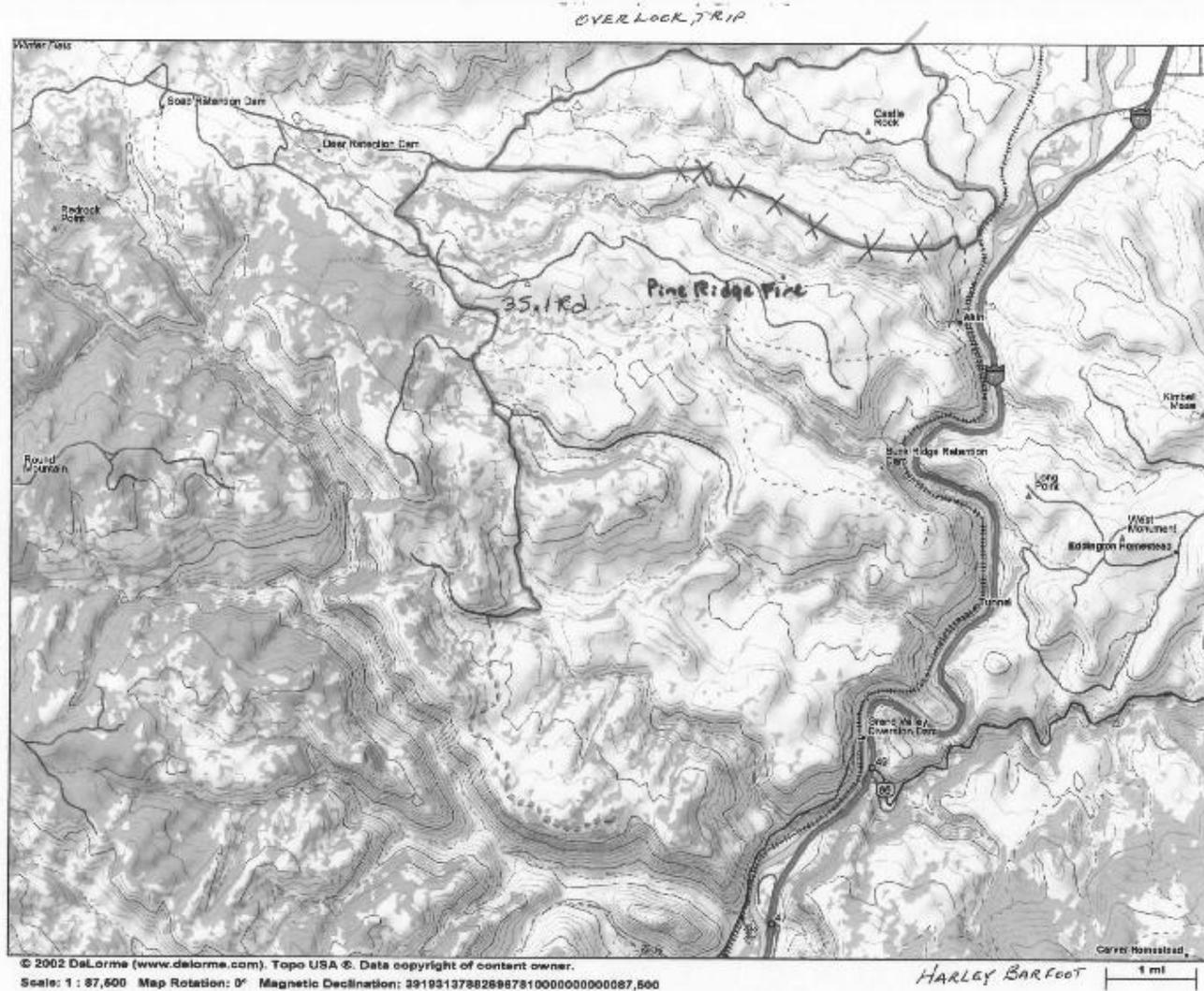
Figure 2.8: New - Grand Junction Field Office - Round Mountain



Map 1.8 - Round Mountain New

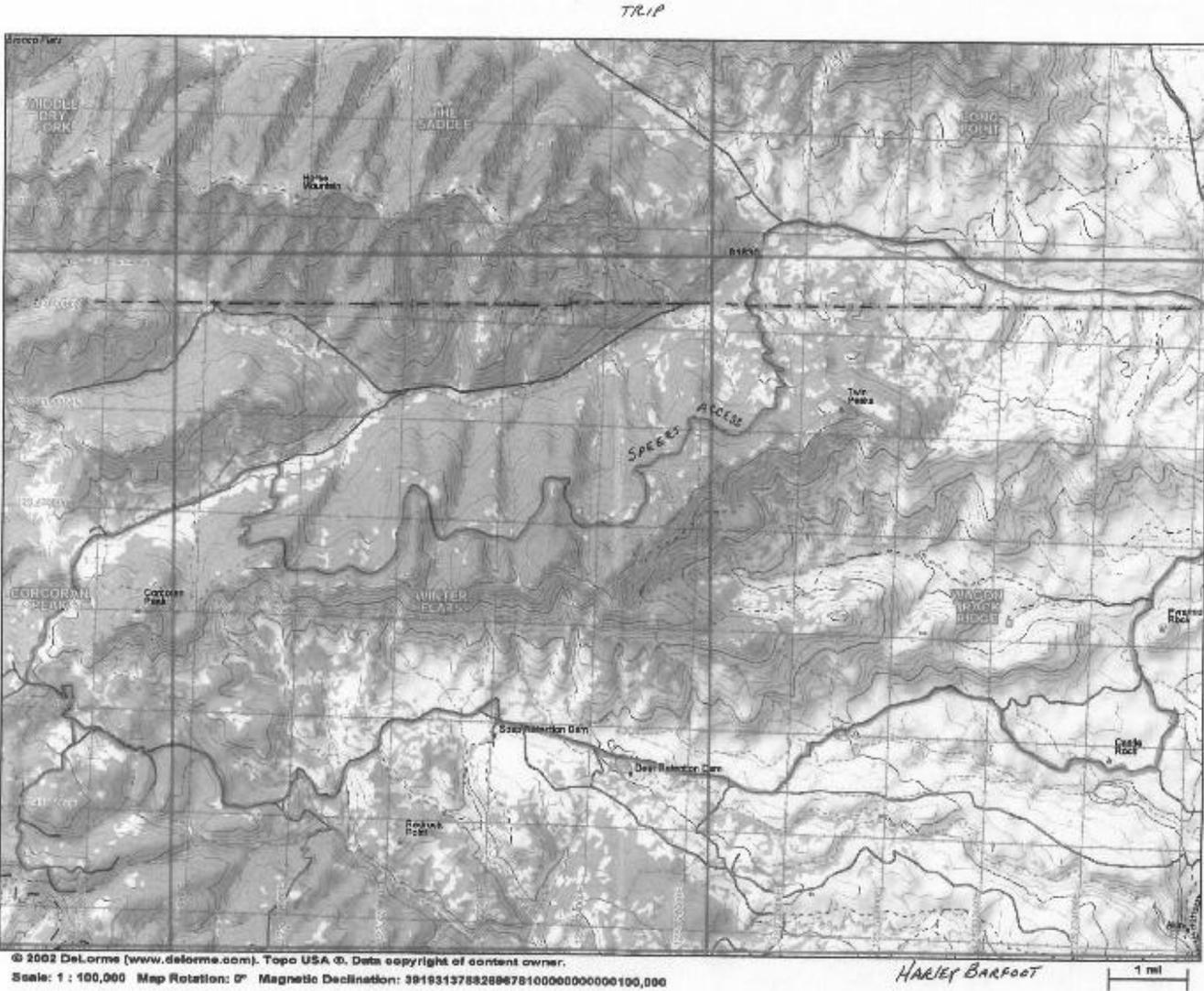
HARLEY BARFOOT 1 mi

Figure 1.9: New - Grand Junction Field Office - Cameo/Jerry Creek



Map 1.9- Cameo/Jerry Creek Overlook New

Figure 1.10: New - Grand Junction Field Office - Speers Access



Map 1.10- Speers Access

new

Figure 2.3: New - Uncompahgre Field Office - Dry Creek Trails

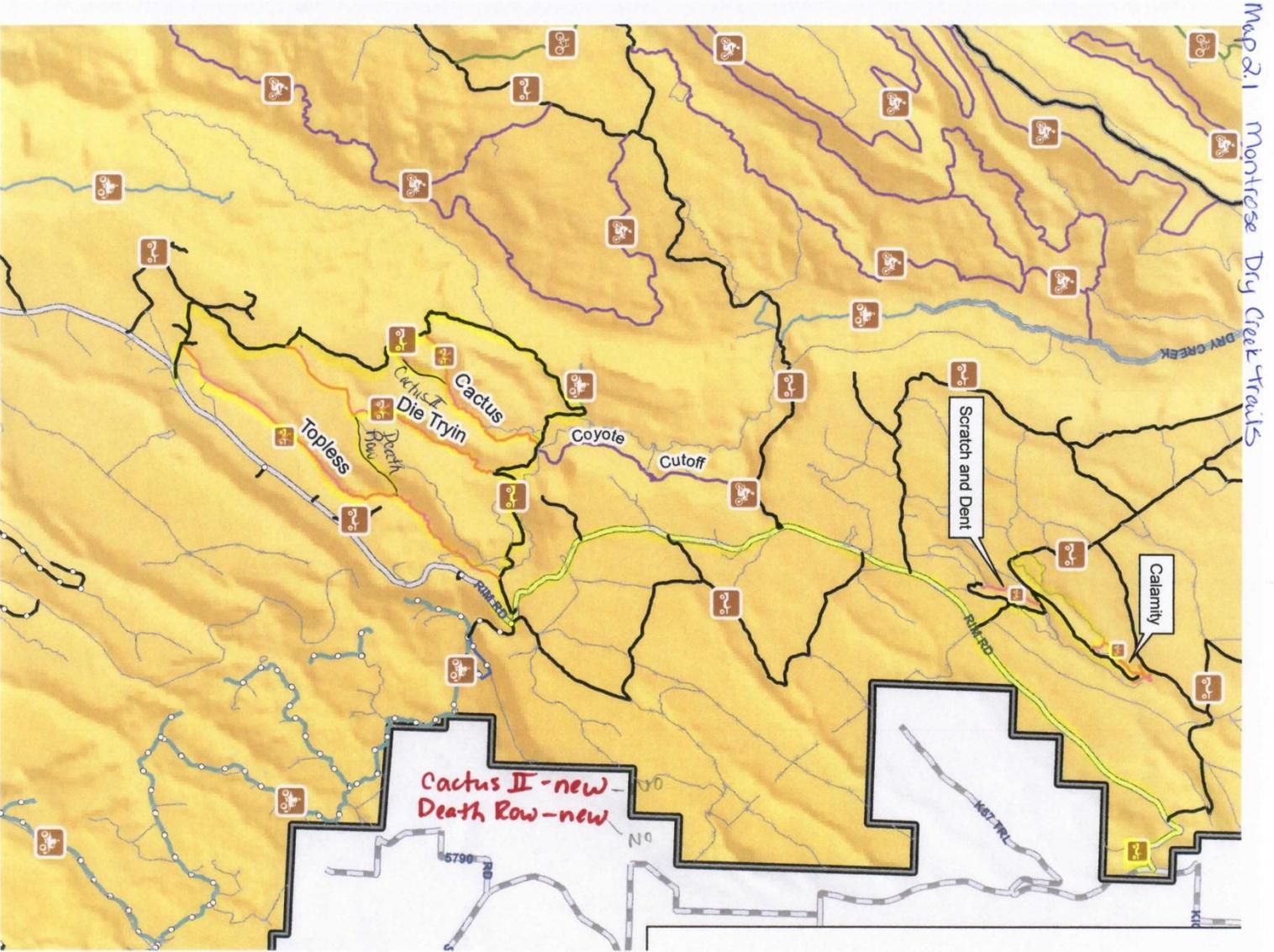
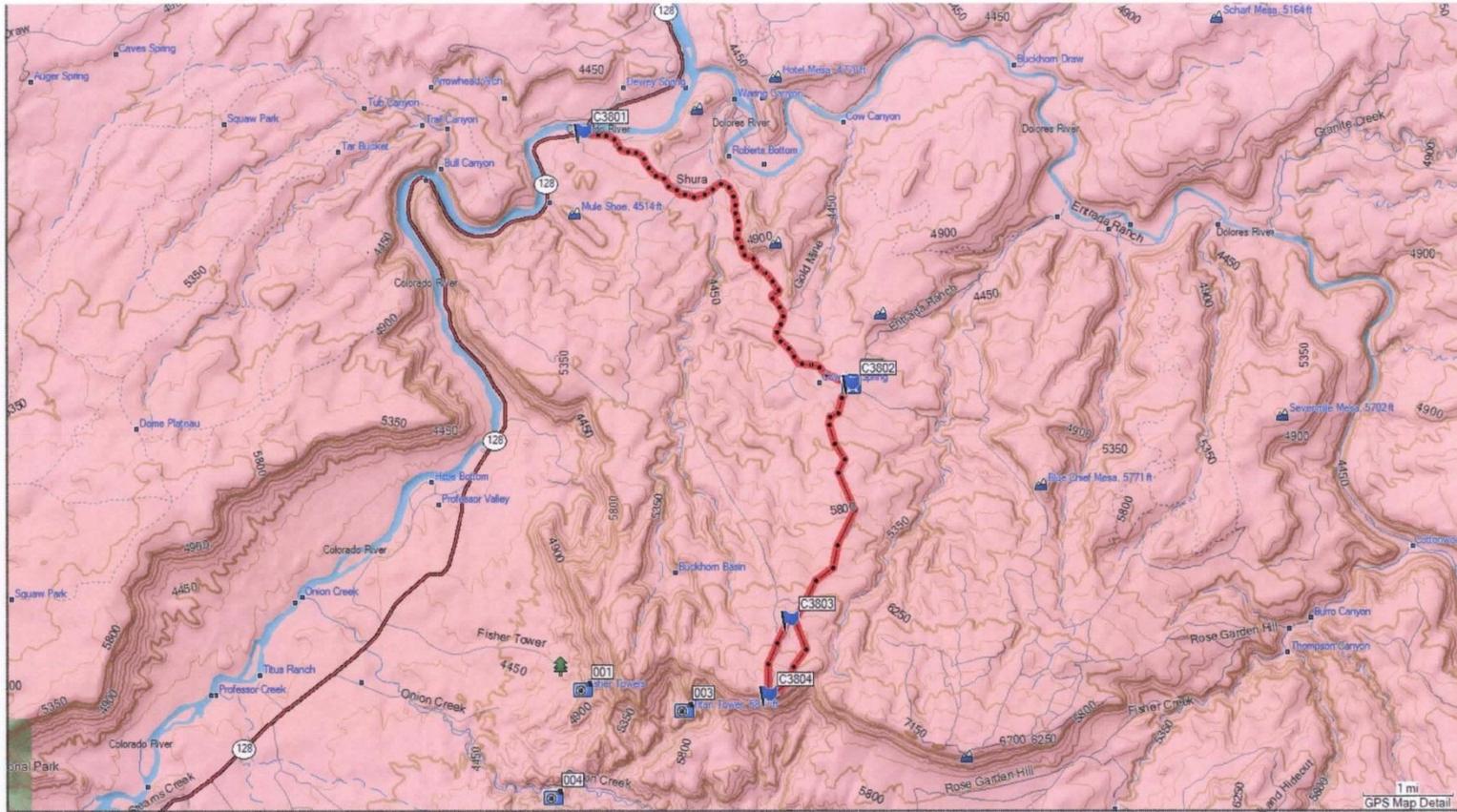


Figure 4.1: New - Moab Field Office - Top of the World Trail



Top of the World

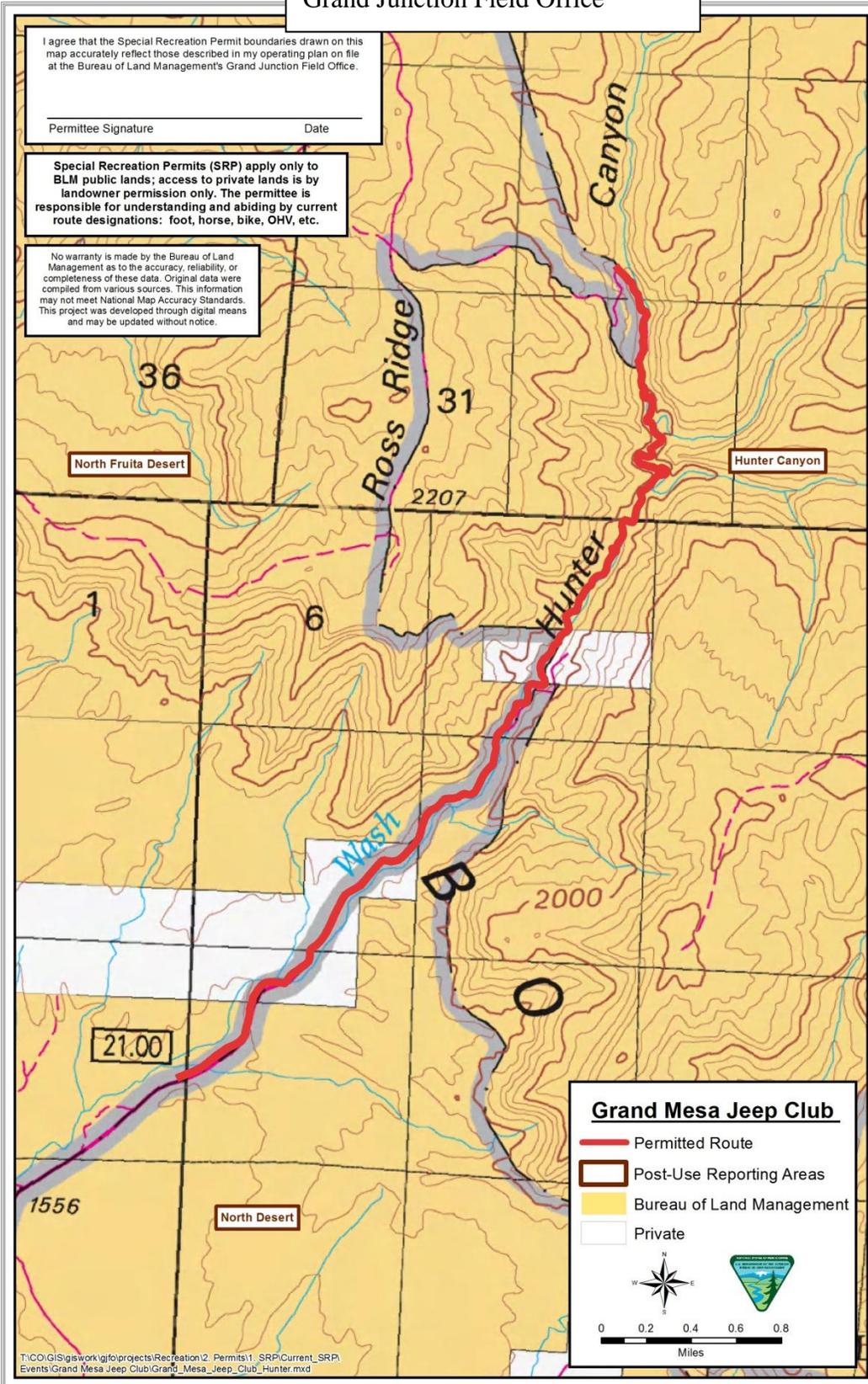
Grand Junction Field Office

I agree that the Special Recreation Permit boundaries drawn on this map accurately reflect those described in my operating plan on file at the Bureau of Land Management's Grand Junction Field Office.

Permittee Signature _____ Date _____

Special Recreation Permits (SRP) apply only to BLM public lands; access to private lands is by landowner permission only. The permittee is responsible for understanding and abiding by current route designations: foot, horse, bike, OHV, etc.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This project was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice.



Grand Junction Field Office

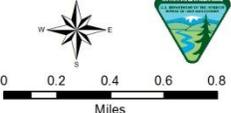
I agree that the Special Recreation Permit boundaries drawn on this map accurately reflect those described in my operating plan on file at the Bureau of Land Management's Grand Junction Field Office.

Permittee Signature

Date

Grand Mesa Jeep Club

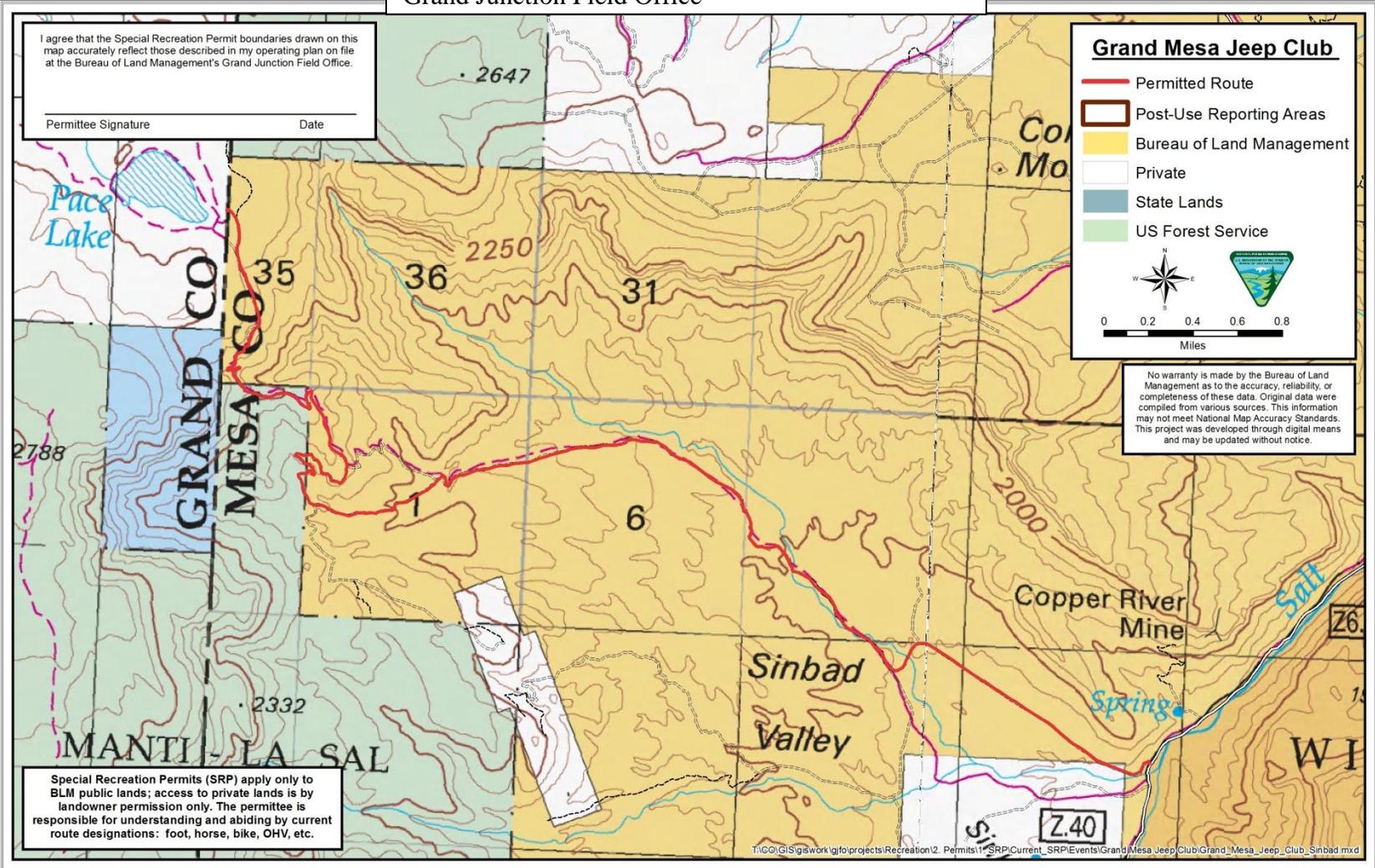
-  Permitted Route
-  Post-Use Reporting Areas
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Private
-  State Lands
-  US Forest Service



0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8
Miles

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This project was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice.

Special Recreation Permits (SRP) apply only to BLM public lands; access to private lands is by landowner permission only. The permittee is responsible for understanding and abiding by current route designations: foot, horse, bike, OHV, etc.



T:\CO\GIS\gwork\gfo\projects\Recreation\2. Permits\1. SRP\Current_SRP\Events\Grand Mesa Jeep Club\Grand Mesa Jeep Club_Sinbad.mxd

Grand Junction Field Office

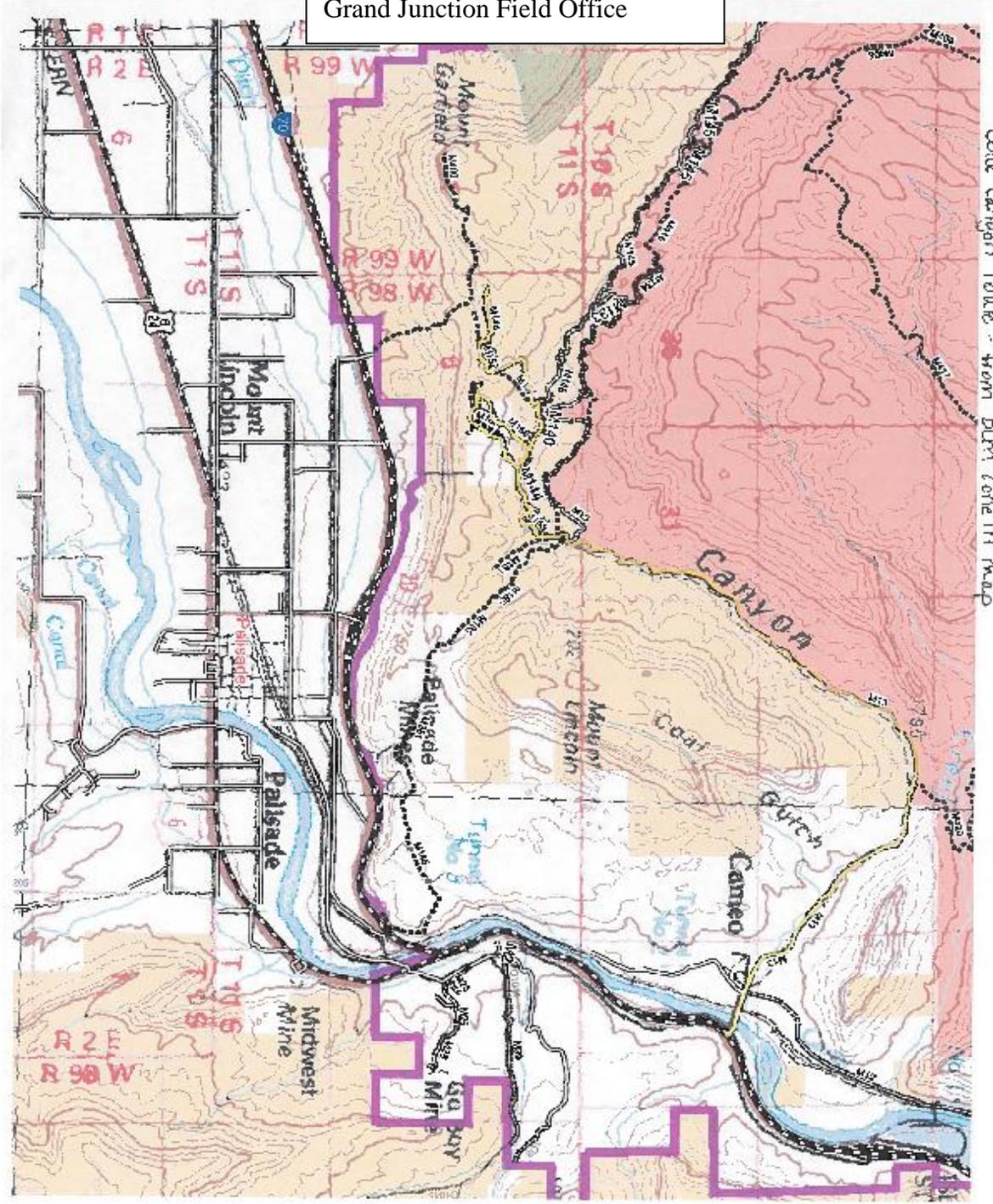
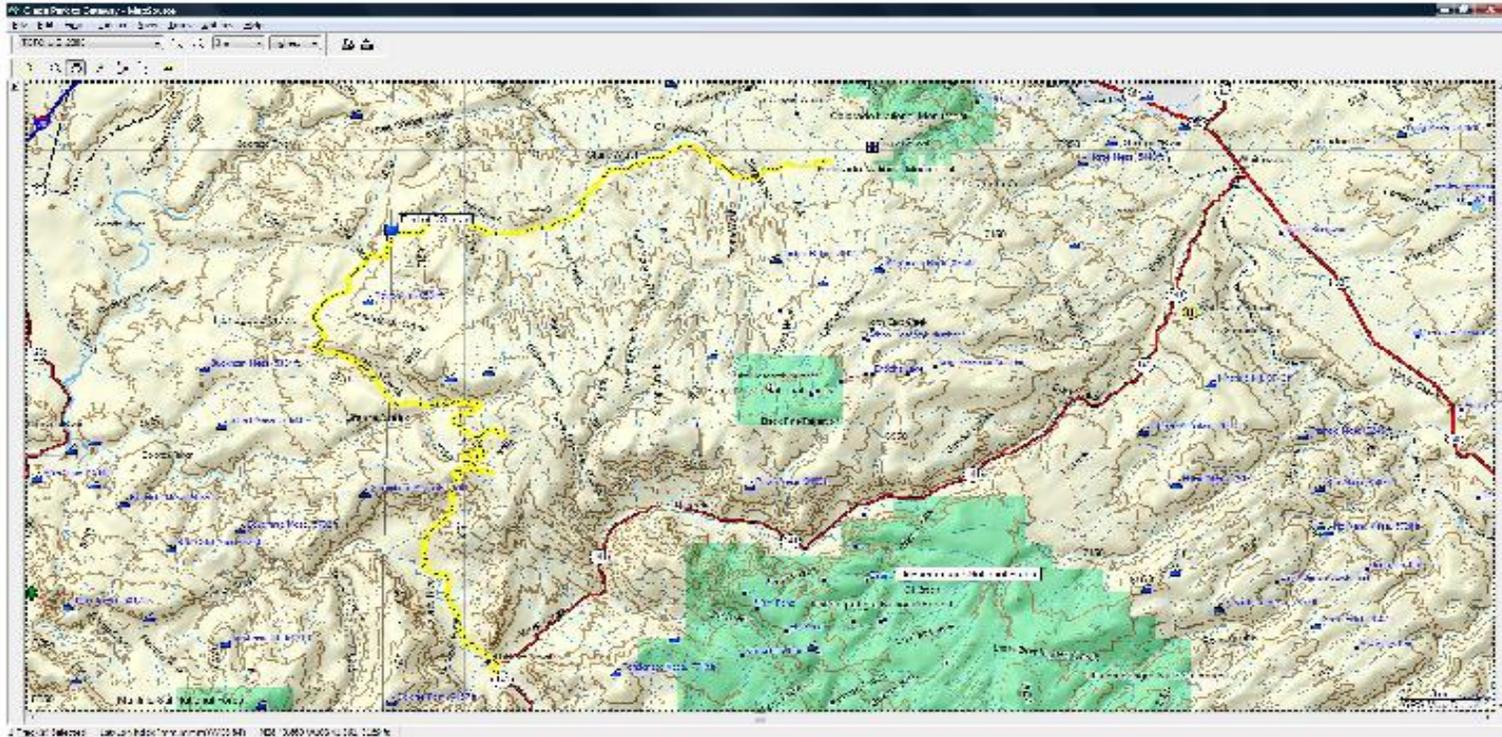
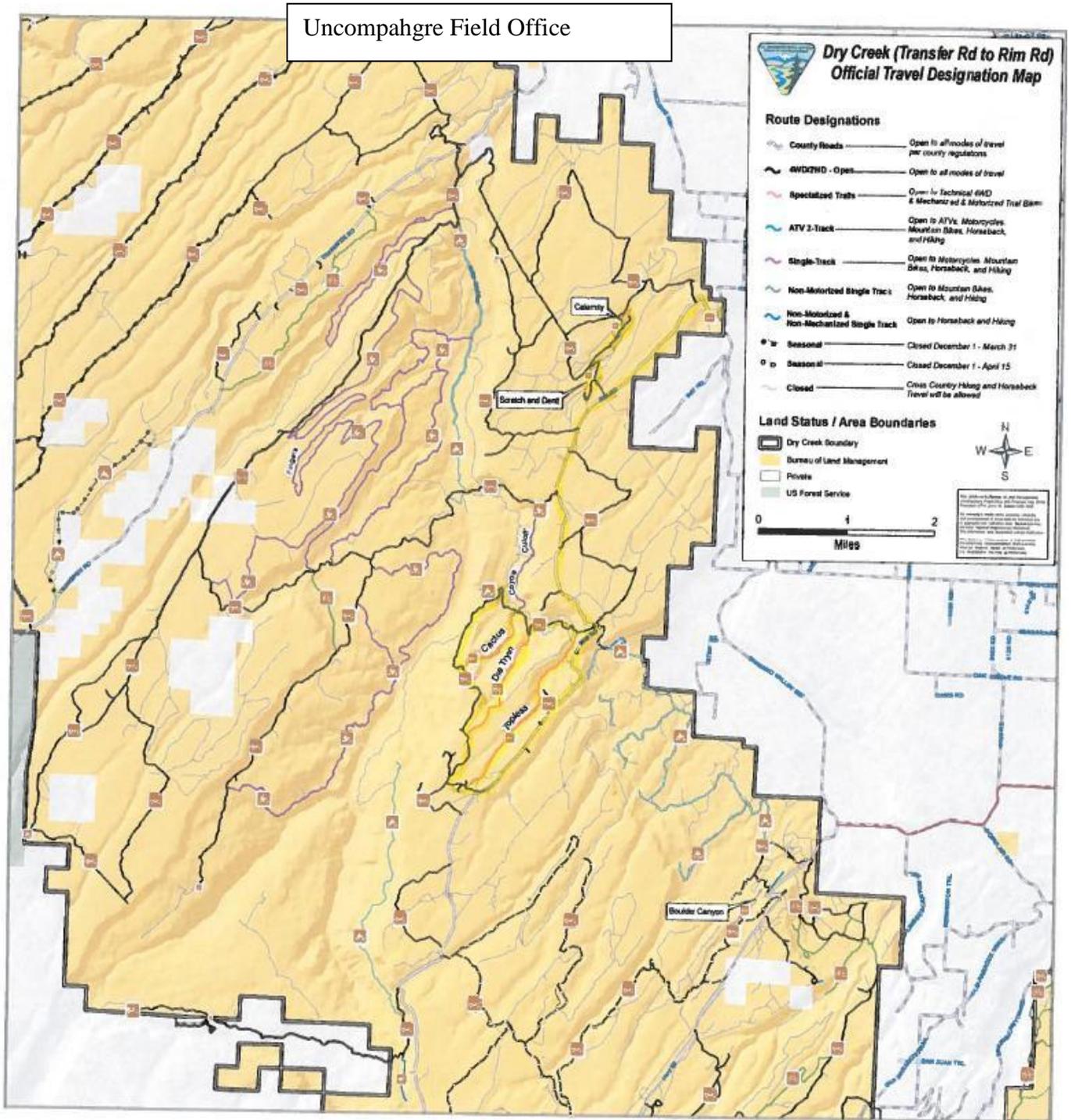


Figure 1.6A, 1.6 B, 1.6 C, & 1.6 D: Grand Junction Field Office - Glade Park to Gateway

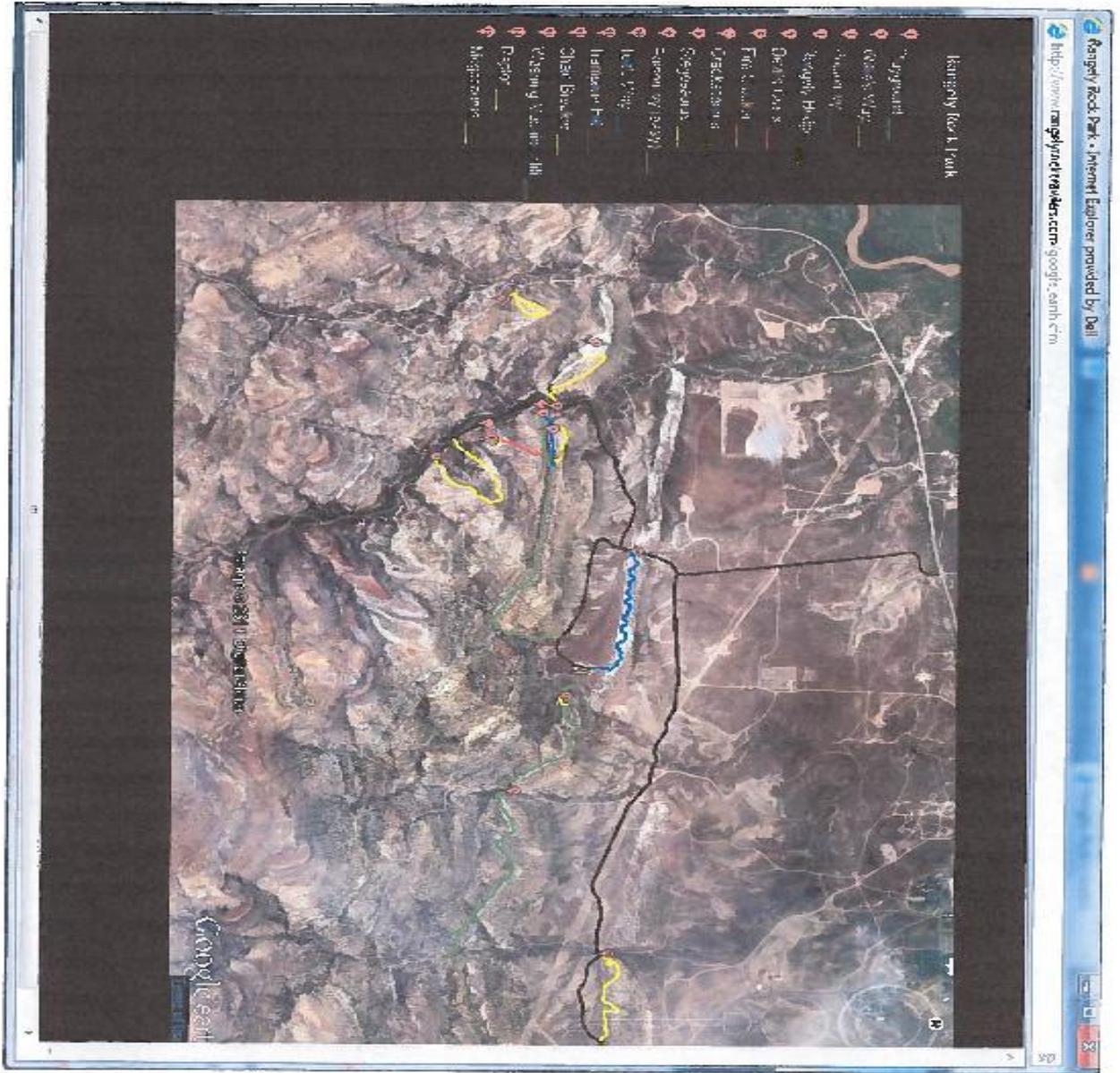
Grand Junction Field Office

Glade Park to Gateway – Overview Map:





White River Field Office



PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Grand Junction Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: JANUARY, 1987

Decision Number/Page: 2-20

Decision Language:

Objective:

To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other public or private entities.

Name of Plan: Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment For the Uncompahgre Field Office Dry Creek Travel Management Plan

Date Approved: 12/9/2009

Decision Number/Page: 23

Decision Language:

Applications for Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) would be considered, subject to the approved Travel Management Plan designated route system, the existing approved Resource Management Plan and Amendments, and appropriate environmental documentation and stipulations that would be developed during the processing of these applications.

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 7/1/1997

Decision Number/Page: 2-43

Decision Language:

Special recreation permits (SRPs) will be issued to qualified commercial guides and outfitters based on need and demand for services. Use limits or allocations will be made based on services provided, prior use history, responsiveness, and proven responsibility of applicants. Allocations may also be used to resolve conflicts, protect resources, or reduce impacts to resources, clients and other public land users.

Commercial operations would be encouraged to diversify the services and opportunities offered on the public lands. Permits would be issued for competitive events and other services as required.

Name of Plan: Moab Record of Decision and approved Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: October 31, 2008

Decision Number/Page: REC - 46 (page 97)

Decision Language: SRPs are issued as a discretionary action as a means to : help meet management objectives, provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreational use of the public lands, control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors. Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs will be applied where appropriate.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under: NEPA Handbook CX H-1, Appendix 4, and Page 153:

Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for “Special Area” management (43 CFR §2932.5).

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

There are no extraordinary circumstances having effects, which may significantly affect the environment. I considered the following resource conditions in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action warranted further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS (516 DM 2, Appendix 2):

1. **Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.**
The proposed action is not expected to impact public health and safety because adequate safety measures are planned and included in the event operating plan.
2. **Have adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.**

There are no significant impacts to riparian vegetation, parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, or wild and scenic rivers within the project area. The event will follow designated trails so impacts to cultural and historic resources will be avoided. There are no municipal water supplies in the project area. This project is not within a

congressionally designated wilderness area.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

The event will follow designated 4WD trails. Therefore, environmental effects are not likely to be controversial, nor are there any unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

The event will follow designated 4WD trails. Therefore, environmental effects are not likely to be controversial. There are no unique environmental risks.

5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

This decision is like one of many that have previously been made and will continue to be made by BLM responsible officials regarding recreation events and use of designated trails. The decision is within the scope of the Resource Management Plans and is not expected to establish a precedent for future actions. The decision does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

This is a stand-alone recreation event. There are no related actions with significant environmental impacts known to BLM that would result directly or indirectly from implementation of this project.

7. Have adverse effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.

The event will follow designated 4WD trails. Therefore, historic resources will not be impacted.

8. Have adverse effects on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

There are no listed or proposed species or critical habitat impacted by this event.

9. Have the potential to violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

This decision complies with other Federal, State, or local laws and requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.

No minority or low-income populations would suffer disproportionately high and adverse effects as a result of the Proposed Action.

11. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

The event will follow designated 4WD trails. Therefore, the event will not restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

12. Significantly, contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.

This event will follow designated trails, so should not disturb new infestations of noxious weeds. The field office routinely treats weed infestations when they are found, therefore we do not expect this event to contribute to invasive species infestation.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
-------------	--------------	-------------------------------

COLORADO**GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE**

Alissa Leavitt-Reynolds (GJFO)	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Anna Lincoln (GJFO)	Ecologist	Special Status Species
Heidi Plank (GJFO)	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Fisheries, Special Status Species
Nate Dieterich (GJFO)	Hydrologist	Hydrology/Soils/Air Quality
Christina Stark (GJFO)	Project Manager/ Riparian Coordinator	Riparian & Wetlands
Chris Pipkin (GJFO)	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
Jim Dollerschell (GJFO)	Rangeland Management Specialist	Grazing, Wild Horses, Vegetation

UNCONPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE

Ken Holsinger (UFO) Species	Biologist	Wildlife, Special Status
Glade Hadden (UFO)	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Jedd Sondergard (UFO)	Hydrologist	Water Quality
Julie Jackson (UFO)	Recreation Planner	Travel Management

WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE

Michael Selle (WRFO) American Religious Concerns	Archeologist	Archeology, Paleontology, Native
Laura Dixon(WRFO)	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Species

UTAH

MOAB FIELD OFFICE

Katie Stevens (MFO)	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Visuals
Ann Marie Aubry (MFO)	Hydrologist	Wetlands, Riparian
Pam Riddle (MFO)	Biologist	Wildlife, T and E Species
Bill Stevens (MFO)	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Travel
Aron King (MFO)	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources
Kim Allison (MFO)	Range Management Specialist	Vegetation, Grazing

NAME OF PREPARER: Chris Pipkin

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE: 5/21/13

References Cited:

Armstrong, Harley J., and David G. Wolny

1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junctionm, Colorado.

Bilbey, Sue Ann

2006 Paleontological Field Report for Rangely Rock Crawl Area on Bureau of Land management properties in the Northwest ¼ of Township 1 North, Range 102 West, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Uinta Paleontological Associates, Vernal Utah. (06-115-07: SHPO #RB.LM.R957)

Selle, Michael

2010a Archaeological Inventory of the Proposed New Picnic Area and parking Lot for Rangely Rock Crawlers in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado. (10-10-15: SHPO #RB.LM.NR2175

2010b Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for Additional Trails in the Rangely Rock Crawling Park, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado. (10-10-23: SHPO # RB.LM.R1193)

In prep Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of Proposed Trails for the Proposed Rangely Rock Crawl Park. Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden

1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE
DECISION DOCUMENT**

**GRAND MESA JEEP CLUB ROCK JUNCTION EVENT
DOI-BLM-CON-2013-0001-CX**

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of the action is to enable the applicant to use roads on public lands identified in the proposed action of categorical exclusion (CX) DOI-BLM-CON-2013-0001 for commercial recreation activities. The need for the action is established by Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to respond to a request for public use of routes on BLM for commercial recreation activities.

The second annual Rock Junction event is proposed for Wednesday May 29, 2013 through Friday, May 31, 2013. Rock Junction is a 3-day event hosted by the Grand Mesa Jeep Club (GMJC.) The event draws 4WD enthusiasts from throughout the region, and includes guided 4x4 excursions led by GMJC members. The proposed routes for the guided trips include roads managed by the BLM's Grand Junction Field Office, Uncompahgre Field Office, Moab Field Office, and White River Field Office. The 2012 event was analyzed under DOI-BLM-CON-2012-0005-CX. The 2013 event proposes the use of several new routes described in the CX.

DECISION:

I have reviewed this document and have decided to authorize the GMJC Rock Junction Jeep Event as described in the proposed action of DOI-BLM-CON-2013-0001-CX with the exception of the proposed Coon Hollow route (CX Map 1.7 A), and with the attached stipulations identified to minimize impacts to sensitive resources. This event is categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS under H-1790-1 - National Environmental Policy Act Handbook, Appendix 4, H (1), (page 153).

RATIONALE:

This action is listed in the NEPA Handbook as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist, with the exception of the Coon Hollow route which, through field evaluation, was determined to be a route primarily used by 50 inch or smaller all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). While there is some evidence of full-size vehicle use on this route, that use results in impacts (vegetation trampling and trail widening) outside the primary footprint of the existing tread and trail corridor. The current condition and use patterns of this route may trigger extraordinary circumstance criteria number 4 (Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks) and number 5

(Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects). Authorizing use of this route for a permitted event would further widen the route and change its recreational setting character. The Coon Hollow route would need to be reviewed in greater depth in order for the proposed use to be authorized. It also has the potential to set a precedent of promoting inappropriate trail use.

Overall, this event provides public lands users an avenue to enjoy and appreciate public lands with other enthusiasts. The event, with the described modifications and attached permit stipulations, will cause no adverse impacts to land, wildlife, cultural resources, plants, public safety or water quality.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION:

The BLM Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) coordinated with three other BLM field offices that would be affected by the proposed action. The other field offices that were consulted include Colorado's White River Field Office and Uncompahgre Field Office, as well as the Utah Moab Field Office. All of the offices that were consulted reviewed the proposed action and concurred with approval of the routes with specified mitigation.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Public scoping was conducted by posting the project information on the Grand Junction Field Office NEPA website, this was the primary mechanism used by the BLM to initially identify issues from the public. Internal scoping for the project included presentation and discussion of the project at BLM interdisciplinary meetings (IDT).

PLAN CONSISTENCY:

Based on information in the CX, the project record, and recommendations from BLM specialists, I conclude that this decision is consistent with the 1987 Grand Junction Resource Management Plan, White River Field Office Resource Management Plan, Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan, and Moab Resource Management Plan as amended, the Endangered Species Act; the Native American Religious Freedom Act; other cultural resource management laws and regulations; the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; the Clean Water Act; the Clean Air Act; the National Historic Preservation Act; Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice; and Executive Order 13212 regarding potential adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES:

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.

The effective date of this decision (and the date initiating the appeal period) will be the date this notice of decision is posted on BLM's internet website.



District Manager
Colorado Northwest District

5-22-13

Date

/s/ Lisa Bryant (acting)

Field Manager
Moab Field Office

May 22, 2013

Date

Attachments:

1. Special Recreation Permit
2. Resource Specialist Remarks

ATTACHMENT 1: Special Recreation Permit stipulations identified to minimize impacts to sensitive resources



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Rd
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506
www.co.blm.gov/gjra/gjra.html



In Reply Refer To:
8372 (LLCON03000)

**Special Recreation Permit (SRP) Stipulations
Grand Mesa Jeep Club
CO-130-13-013**

This permit is approved subject to the following special stipulations for the 2013 Rock Junction Event:

1. Event operating plan, safety plan and communications plan on file at the Grand Junction BLM Field Office will be followed
2. Permittee is responsible for adhering to and promoting the Tread Lightly principles.
3. Permittee is required to be aware of and disseminate information to participants regarding the protection and treatment of cultural resources on public lands.
4. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during permitted activities, the permittee is to immediately stop activities in the area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO).
5. Permittee is responsible to report inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources to the AO in the Grand Junction Field Office.
6. Pursuant to 43 CFR §10.4(g) the holder of the authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR §10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery.
7. No vehicle will travel or park off of the designated roadway or parking areas. If vehicles need to stop in areas with no designated parking then they must park single file in the roadbed. Temporary parking within the roadbed that blocks the roadway should only occur during emergencies and the roadway should be cleared as soon as possible.
8. All tours will remain on existing roads and trails
9. Event will follow routes identified on the map on file at the Grand Junction BLM office
10. Vehicles will not travel off the primary travel route at creek crossings.
11. Vehicles will avoid driving through pools of water and riparian habitats in Hunter Canyon to avoid impacts to Great Basin Spadefoot.
12. Vehicles will not park in riparian areas. Trip participants should not congregate at riparian areas. Rest or lunch breaks should take place outside of riparian areas.

13. The Rock Junction Event will be cancelled if soils are saturated and rutting depths of 3” or more occurs.
14. Post event report is due within 30 days of event.
15. All trash generated by the group will be packed out.
16. This permit does not authorize any vending at the event.

ATTACHMENT 2: RESOURCE SPECIALIST REMARKS

GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE

CULTURAL RESOURCES (GJFO)

The roads and trails selected for this event have not been specifically inventoried for cultural resources and all occur in locations with known historic and prehistoric sites. There are National Register listed and eligible sites and known locations within the event area.

If participants remain on the roads, impacts will be minimal to cultural resources. Location selected as overlooks, lunch locations, turn-around, etc. could result in the unauthorized collection of historic and prehistoric archaeological items, particularly in the historic mining locations. Any off roads travel could result in new surface disturbance which could increase erosion and impact sites. A discussion regarding the protection and treatment of cultural resources will be required as part of the permit and information will be given to participants either verbally or in writing at the beginning of the event. Additionally, the stipulations listed in the Cultural resources UFO section will help protect cultural resources during this event.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (GJFO)

PLANTS:

21 Road (Hunter Canyon): While no rare plants are known to occur immediately adjacent to 21 Road, records indicate that the Grand Junction suncup and Grand buckwheat occur in the Salt Wash area.

Billings Canyon, Bangs Canyon/Windmill Loop: Numerous areas along this loop (that starts and ends at Bangs Canyon Trailhead) are known to contain the Grand Junction milkvetch. The milkvetch is expected to be in bloom during the proposed event. The portion of the loop adjacent to the Gunnison River may contain the federally listed Colorado hookless cactus.

Tabeguache Trail: The Tabeguache to Highway 141 trail contains potential habitat for the Colorado hookless cactus and Grand Junction milkvetch.

Calamity Mesa & Airstrip, and Pace Lake: The lower portion of the route in Sinbad Valley crosses through occupied Gypsum Valley cateye habitat. The cateye is restricted to gypsum outcrops. No rare plants are known to occur in the upper elevations above Sinbad Valley.

Glade Park to Gateway: Numerous rare plants occur along the southern portion of this route (Horseshoe milkvetch, Dolores River skeletonplant, Fisher Towers milkvetch, and Osterhout cryptantha).

Coon Hollow: Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque phacelia, and DeBeque milkvetch are all known to occur along the Coon Hollow route. Approximately half of this route is within DeBeque phacelia designated critical habitat.

Round Mountain: Two federally listed (Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque phacelia) and two BLM sensitive plant species (DeBeque milkvetch, Naturita milkvetch) are known to occur along the Round Mountain route. The majority of the rare plants occur along the County Road V 2/10 Rd. All four plants have the potential to be in bloom during the timing of the proposed event, however all but the Naturita milkvetch should be at the end of their blooming period. A small portion of this route is within DeBeque phacelia designated critical habitat.

Cameo/Jerry Creek Overlook: The Cameo/Jerry Creek Overlook route overlaps with a portion of the Round Mountain route, and contains the same special status plants: Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque phacelia, DeBeque milkvetch, Naturita milkvetch. The majority of the known rare plants occur along V 2/10 Rd. A small portion of this route is within DeBeque phacelia designated critical habitat.

Speers Access: The Speers Access route overlaps with a portion of the Round Mountain route, and contains the same special status plant species (Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque phacelia, DeBeque milkvetch, Naturita milkvetch). The majority of the known rare plants occur along County Roads V 2/10 Rd, and CR 200. County Road 200 bisects DeBeque phacelia designated critical habitat.

Coal Canyon: Coal Canyon may contain Colorado hookless cactus and Narrow-stem gilia, however surveys will not be completed in this area until early May. If any species of concern is recorded in areas likely to be impacted by the proposed jeep event, protective measures or changes to the route may be required to avoid and/or minimize impacts.

Proposed routes within GJFO are currently open during the time of the proposed event. Sensitive plants are not likely or known to be present in these existing roadways. Sensitive plants are known to be near some of the proposed routes, particularly in the Bangs Canyon and Sinbad Valley areas.

While numerous Special Status plant Species are known to occur along portions of the proposed course, the proposed jeep day-trips are not anticipated to represent an increase in overall use. Since the proposed activity is not a competitive event, and group sizes are limited to 12 vehicles, with no more than 3 groups travelling any one route, impacts are expected to be minimal. The proposed trail rides are limited to existing routes and no cross country travel or trail maintenance is authorized. For these reasons the proposed activity is not anticipated to represent an increase in impacts to Special Status plants or designated critical habitat. If route maintenance (including vegetation removal and surface disturbance) is required biological surveys may be required to ensure no rare plants are impacted by the proposed activity.

ANIMALS:

21 Road (hunter canyon) Hunter canyon, at the upper end of the 21 road route, contains a breeding population of Great Basin Spadefoot (BLM sensitive species). During the time of this event hunter canyon is expected to contain breeding Great Basin Spadefoots as well as egg masses and tadpoles in portions of the route are within the hunter canyon drainage. The portions of the route where Great Basin Spadefoots occur are the same portions where the route follows the bottom of the drainages, therefore vehicles utilizing the route will be driving in the drainage

where breeding is occurring and tadpoles and egg masses are likely to occupy pools. Golden Eagles have also been documented as nesting in close proximity to the proposed route.

Billings Canyon, Bangs Canyon, Windmill Loop. This loop begins and ends at the Bangs canyon trailhead. The loop is summer and winter range for Desert Bighorn sheep, Canyon Treefrogs inhabit Rough Canyon, upstream of the proposed loop, and numerous breeding birds including raptors occur in the area.

Calamity Mesa and Pace Lake (Sinbad valley)

Townsend Big eared Bats, Fringed Myotis and Midget Faded Rattlesnake have been recorded along the proposed routes.

Glade Park to Gateway

The proposed route crosses some Gunnison sage grouse habitat on existing trails that are currently in use.

Coal Canyon

Golden Eagles have been documented as nest along the Coal Canyon route, though current status of these nests is unknown.

21 Road (Hunter Canyon) The proposed action is not expected to impact Golden Eagles or their habitat because these routes are currently in use and the proposed additional traffic is not expected to displace individuals or cause any additional habitat degradation for the cliff nesting Golden Eagles. Driving through the bottom of hunter canyon may cause mortality of tadpoles and/or egg masses of the Great Basin Spadefoot in pools within the bottom of the canyon. Adults may also be impacted by driving activities however mortality is less likely because adults are able to disperse from the area in use. Currently the route is open to vehicle use. Use numbers have not been quantified, however it is believed that only a few vehicles travel this route each week and the addition of 36 vehicles traveling this route represents a significant increase from background levels of use in the area. Drivers will be asked to avoid driving in pools which should mitigate the majority of impacts to the Spadefoot.

Billings Canyon, Bangs Canyon, Windmill Loop. The proposed action of utilizing existing, primarily upland routes is not expected to impact special status wildlife.

Calamity Mesa and Pace Lake (Sinbad Valley)

The proposed action of utilizing existing, primarily upland routes is not expected to impact special status wildlife. Though individual midget faded rattlesnakes could be impacted if they are basking on the roads when in use this threat currently exists as the roads are currently open, therefore the proposed action is not expected to increase the probability of road related mortality.

Glade Park to Gateway

The proposed action is not expected to impact Gunnison sage grouse or their habitat because these routes are currently in use and the proposed additional traffic is not expected to displace individuals or cause any additional habitat degradation.

Coal Canyon

The proposed action is not expected to impact Golden Eagles or their habitat because these routes are currently in use and the proposed additional traffic is not expected to displace individuals or cause any additional habitat degradation.

Vehicles should stay on established routes. Vehicles should not park or travel off of the primary travel route. Where routes coincide with the drainage bottom drivers will be asked to avoid driving through pools.

WILDLIFE (GJFO)

The proposed routes cross over 200 miles of land in a variety of habitats, utilized primarily by terrestrial wildlife. These routes are currently open for public use.

The proposed action of authorizing a maximum of three groups per route may result in higher use than typically occurs in these areas in a three day period, however the use of these existing routes is not expected to measurably impact wildlife species in these areas.

RIPARIAN (GJFO)

The proposed routes cross over 200 miles of land with mixed ownership. Portions of the routes are on established county roads or highways, while other portions are on rugged 4 wheel drive routes located immediately within and adjacent to creeks. Most of the 4 wheel drive routes follow intermittent or ephemeral creeks. The amount of riparian vegetation located along the routes is limited and tends to occur primarily near springs or along routes that follow creeks. A description of the riparian habitat along the routes is provided below. The Hunter Canyon trail follows Little Salt Wash for approximately 5 miles after 21 Road ends. The condition of the riparian zone along Little Salt was assessed in 1993. During the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment it was determined that the creek was functioning at risk. Some of the human uses that have influenced the health of the creek include historic mining, road encroachment, cattle grazing, oil and gas activities, and recreation use. There are also multiple springs and seeps located along this section of the route. These springs support a range of riparian vegetation including: cottonwoods, sedges, willow, and tamarisk. During a recent assessment in 2010 it was determined that use by cattle has been minimal and that there are some signs of recreational use near the springs.

Bangs Canyon/Billings – Riparian habitat along the Bangs Canyon and Billings Route is very limited. One of the routes in this area crosses Rough Canyon. The crossing of Rough Canyon has experienced heavy recreation use and is braided with a width of up to 50 feet. It appears as though this area may be used for parking and other recreation uses. There is also one spring located in close proximity to one of the trails. The spring immediately adjacent to one of the proposed routes has been developed for use by cattle. Historic use of the spring by cattle has been frequent.

Riparian and wetland zones along the Calamity Mesa route are located adjacent to county road 19.5. Crossings of Calamity Creek occur on the county road. There are no known springs or seeps along this route.

The Pace Lake route is located primarily on a county road. The route veers off of the county road and follows a 4-WD road to Pace Lake. The 4WD road parallels North Fork Salt Creek with 3 creek crossings. Riparian vegetation along this creek is limited due to low flows or the seasonality of the creek. A PFC assessment was conducted on this creek in 1993 and it was determined to be Functioning at Risk (FAR). There is one spring located off of the 4WD road that supports riparian vegetation.

Use of the proposed route would have a negligible impact on wetland or riparian zones along where routes co-occur with county roads. Impacts may be higher on 4WD routes, especially on routes that are located within or immediately adjacent to creeks or drainages. Impacts to riparian zones along these creeks may include compaction of banks and floodplains from vehicle traveling or parking across these areas. Compaction of floodplains decreases the amount of water that is available to riparian plants and facilitates encroachment of upland plants into riparian zones. Riparian vegetation could also be directly impacted from vehicles driving over or crushing them. Indirect impacts to the riparian zone could include accelerated erosion from soil compaction within and adjacent to creeks and side drainages. Increased sediment transport into creeks can bury small herbaceous riparian vegetation and can disrupt flow patterns within and into creeks. Bank failure due to erosion can result in the immediate or slow removal of riparian vegetation and stability of the riparian zone.

Out and back routes located in within and adjacent to creeks would have increased direct and indirect impacts to riparian vegetation. The route that would most heavily impact riparian zones is Hunter Canyon. This is an out and back route that would have 50 to 60 vehicles traveling along the route for a total of 100 to 120 vehicle trips within a short time period. Although the riparian zone is limited along this route the proposed use may impact the short-term health of this system. Long-term impacts may increase if new recreational visitors are drawn to the route after this guided trip.

Vehicles should stay on established routes that are located outside of creeks where routes parallel creeks. Vehicles should not park or travel off of the primary travel route at creek crossings (especially at Rough Canyon crossing). Trip participants should not congregate at riparian areas. Rest or lunch breaks should also take place outside of riparian areas.

WATER QUALITY (SURFACE AND GROUND) (GJFO)

Water quality within all stream segments directly affected by the proposed action (segment 13e of the Lower Colorado, segment 4a of the Lower Gunnison River and segments 3b and 4 of the Lower Dolores) currently meet water quality standards set by the State. All of the proposed routes are existing and currently being utilized by motorized forms of recreation. Six seasonal springs are documented in the Hunter Canyon portion of the proposed action. These springs were inventoried in June of 2010 and appeared to have bedrock sources adjacent to the active stream channel. Riparian vegetation was documented at each site but the extent of riparian habitat is naturally limiting in Hunter Canyon given lack of consistent flow, stream channel morphology and high mobility of bed material during periods of flow.

Routes proposed for utilization in Bangs Canyon, Sinbad Valley, and Calamity Mesa are not anticipated to result in any additional impacts to water resources. Standard 5 for water quality will continue to be met in each of these areas following implementation of the proposed action.

The proposed route up Hunter Canyon is situated in the active channel and has numerous ingress/regress points. Activities affecting stream channels and banks can result in morphologic destabilization, destruction of riparian plants/habitat, and ultimately degrade water quality. In the case of Hunter Canyon, erosion rates are naturally high and channel geometry changes are common following periods of flooding. For this reason increased sedimentation resulting from the proposed action would be difficult to distinguish from natural conditions. Some riparian vegetation and habitat may be temporarily lost due to recreational uses but these impacts are not anticipated to ultimately affect water quality or overall stability of the channel. Spring sources would not be impacted by the proposed action since all spring sources are from bedrock outcroppings adjacent to the channel. Spills or leaks of engine coolants, lubricants, or fuels could directly degrade water quality. However, design features listed under the safety plan require the trip leader to carry and effectively implement the use of a spill kit in these situations to protect against environmental impacts. Therefore, implementation of the proposed action is not anticipated to degrade water quality and Standard 5 will continue to be met.

Mitigation: Trip leaders should direct members of the group to avoid saturated areas and riparian habitats in Hunter Canyon.

WILDERNESS AND LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS (GJFO)

The routes proposed for use during this event do not cross any designated Wilderness areas within the Grand Junction Field Office. The proposed Coal Canyon route would utilize an existing road along the southwest boundary of the Little Bookcliffs wilderness study area. The proposed Gateway to Glade Park route would utilize the Sheep Creek Road along the western boundary of the Palisade wilderness study area.

The proposed routes are within or directly adjacent to five units identified as having wilderness characteristics in a 2011 wilderness characteristics inventory of the Grand Junction Field Office. Those units include Bangs Canyon (Unit 1), Bangs West (Unit 2), Granite Creek (Unit 11), Hunter Canyon (Unit 13), and Sagebrush Pillows (Unit 24). The currently ongoing GJFO Resource Plan revision will analyze alternatives for management of these units. Current management guidance from the 1987 GJFO RMP does not prescribe management for preservation of wilderness characteristics within these units.

The proposed event would result in a short-term increase in human activity along the routes designated for the event, thereby impacting the wilderness characteristics of naturalness, and opportunities for solitude in the areas directly adjacent to the routes. All routes identified for use in the proposed event are currently authorized for use by full-sized motorized vehicles, so no long-term impacts to wilderness values would result from the proposed action.

UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE

CULTURAL RESOURCES (UFO)

The roads and trails selected for this event have been inventoried for cultural resources by BLM archaeologists Glade Hadden and Carol Patterson on various dates between 2006 and 2011 as part of the Dry Creek Travel Management Plan. There are no National Register or otherwise eligible historic properties within the event area.

No impacts are anticipated. The following stipulations are to be attached to the permit when issued:

- 1) If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during permitted activities, the permittee is to immediately stop activities in the area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the construction may proceed.
- 2) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of the authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (UFO)

Threatened and Endangered Species: No federally listed or BLM sensitive species are known to inhabit or derive important use of the areas within or adjacent to the proposed activity area, within the UFO. In addition, impacts to federally protected and BLM sensitive species within the UFO were analyzed in the RMPA/EA for the Uncompahgre Field Office Dry Creek Travel Management Plan CO-150-2008-33 April 2009. The proposed action is in conformance with what was analyzed in UFO RMP amendment.

WATER QUALITY (SURFACE AND GROUND) (UFO)

The trails in Dry Creek Canyon were analyzed in the RMPA/EA for the Uncompahgre Field Office, Dry Creek Travel Management Plan CO-150-2008-33 April 2009. The proposed action is in conformance with what was analyzed in UFO RMP amendment, however, the following measures should be included as design features:

- Care should be taken by participants to stay on the designated trails to minimize unnecessary erosion of the ephemeral stream beds in the Dry Creek Canyon area.
- All participants must carry shovels and buckets to immediately clean any spills of automotive fluids.

WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (WRFO)

WRFO Special Status Plant Species: There are no special status plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action in WRFO.

WRFO Special Status Wildlife:

There are no special status animal species that inhabit or derive important use from the project area. Migratory birds and other wildlife species may be temporarily displaced by activities associated with the use of off-highway vehicles. However, because activities are taking place on designated trails in a developed recreation area, long term effects to migratory birds and other wildlife species are not expected.

CULTURAL RESOURCES (WRFO)

WRFO Cultural Resources: The specific routes used for rock crawling at the Rangely Rock Park have been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Selle, in prep, 2010a compliance dated 7/21/2010, 2010b compliance dated 11/29/2010). No NRHP listed or eligible sites were located during the inventory effort. The Proposed Action will not have any adverse impacts to any National Register of Historic Places listed or potentially eligible cultural resources.

WRFO Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

WRFO Paleontological Resources: The Proposed Action is located in two formations, the Sego Sandstone and the Upper Mesa Verde Formations (Tweto 1979) which the BLM, WRFO has classified as Potential Fossil Yield Classifications (PFYC) 3 and 5 respectively. A PFYC 3 formation indicated that the potential for scientifically noteworthy fossils is undetermined in the White River Field Office (WRFO). A PFYC 5 classification means the formation is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c f. Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Inventory of the project area identified a locality of bedded *inoceramus* clams (Bilbey 2006) and a locality with petrified wood and an unidentified bone fragment (Selle 2010 compliance dated 11/29/2010). The trails were rerouted to avoid the locality containing the bone and exposures of the locality containing the clams. If travel is strictly limited to the mapped and approved trails there will be no impacts to scientifically noteworthy fossil resources.