

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

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**Categorical Exclusion for  
Mike's Geology Interpretation Trail**

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McInnis Canyons Conservation Area  
2815 H Road  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

DOI-BLM-CO-134-2013-0006-CX

**March 2014**



LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Affected Area:

Ute PM, T. 1 N., R. 2 W., Section 19  
Ute PM, T. 1 N., R. 3 W., Sections 24 and 27

APPLICANT:

Felicie Williams

INTRODUCTION:

The applicant is requesting to install interpretation kiosks on existing trails.

The proposed action qualifies as a BLM categorical exclusion Handbook 1790-1, Appendix 4, Number: G. Transportation (4), based on the qualifying criterion "Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices."

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Mike's Trail will be an interpretive geology hike, on existing trails, through Opal Hill and Devils Canyon in the MCNCA. 23 aluminum signs with a sun-protective coating will be placed in pedestal kiosks. The kiosk will be constructed of steel. The sign frame will be 18" High X 30" Wide and sit on four foot posts. It will be buried two feet in the ground, except for rocky areas, where it will be secured using rock bolts. The materials will be transported by motor vehicle to the sites that are accessible and transported by horseback to single track sections. The signs will be assembled with their frames onsite. All installation will be conducted using volunteers.

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: Colorado Canyons NCA Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision.

Date Approved: September 2004

Decision Number/Page: 2-10

Decision Language:

Expand education and interpretation opportunities in all areas.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:

The proposed action qualifies as a BLM categorical exclusion Handbook 1790-1, Appendix 4, Number: G. Transportation (4), based on the qualifying criterion "Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices."

## 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. The kiosks have no sharp edges and will be placed off to the side of trail.

**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.**

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES: Survey for 20 of the 23 signs has previously been conducted for the area of potential effect under reports CRIR 15407-06 and 7110-01. Only one cultural resource (5ME11931, a not eligible prehistoric quarry and open camp) was located within the APE. Three of the proposed signs (sign nos. 1 & 2 and 12) are located within this site; however, the site has been determined not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). It is suggested that a BLM or BLM-permitted archaeologist be present for the installation of signs 1 & 2 and 12 in Devil's Canyon in case of inadvertent discoveries. The three northeastern-most signs (near Snook's Bottom Road, sign nos. 1-3) have not been surveyed for cultural resources. These sign locations are within previously disturbed City of Fruita land, within a parking lot and on a road; therefore, no further cultural resource inventory is required.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS: In 2011, the GJFO, in accordance with the BLM "Policy on Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands" under Section 201 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, updated its inventory of lands with wilderness character. This project is in an area that did not meet the initial criteria for establishing a wilderness character inventory unit. Therefore, the proposal would have no impact on wilderness characteristics.

DRINKING WATER AQUIFERS; WETLANDS, FLOODPLAINS: The proposed action would result in less than 1 acre of surface disturbance therefor storm water permitting through the State will not be necessary. Excavated material should be utilized to backfill the signs and not side casted to adjacent terrain. The use of heavy equipment should be limited to periods when roads are unsaturated (less than 3 inch rutting depth) to prevent rutting and deterioration of the road surface.

MIGRATORY BIRDS: Impacts to migratory birds are not expected as no additional habitat will be disturbed.

- 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.**  
Placing kiosks, on public land, is widely accepted practice. Therefore the environmental effects are not likely to be controversial.
- 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.**  
Placing kiosks, on public land, is a common practice and have no unique or unknown 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 land use authorizations on public lands. The decision is within the scope of the Resource Management Plan 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 project. There are no projects 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.**  
No historic properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, exist in the project area.
- 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.**  
Site visits have confirmed that the area does not contain suitable habitat for any listed species, proposed listed species, nor have any adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species.
- 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.**

The minority and low-income populations of the county are small relative to state-wide averages and such populations are dispersed throughout the county. Therefore, 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 proposed action would not restrict access and ceremonial use of sacred sites for American Indian practitioners. There are no sacred sites present in the proposed area.

**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 project is designed to minimize disturbance to avoid new infestation of noxious weeds.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
Natalie Clark	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Nikki Grant-Hoffman	Ecologist	Special Status Species Plants and Wildlife
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Hydrology
Shane Dittlinger	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation

NAME OF PREPARER: Shane Dittlinger

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE: 3/31/14

**Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources**

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	Potentially Impacted	Mitigation Necessary?	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date	Comments
<b>PHYSICAL RESOURCES</b>						
Air and Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ND 9/24/13	
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ND 9/24/13	
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ND 9/24/13	
Geological/Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DSG 9/23/13	
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>						
Special Status Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MNH 3/31/2014	
Special Status Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MNH 3/31/2014	
Migratory Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MNH 3/31/2014	
Other Important Wildlife Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MNH 3/31/2014	
Vegetation, Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MNH 3/31/2014	
Invasive, Non-native Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MNH 3/31/2014	
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CS 9/23/13	
<b>HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENV.</b>						
Cultural or Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	NFC 9/20/13	
Paleontological	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DSG 9/23/13	Paleo survey was completed on 10/18/13.
Tribal& American Indian Religious Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	NFC 9/20/13	
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KSD 3/28/14	
Social/Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CS 9/23/13	
Transportation and Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KSD 3/28/14	
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AEK 9/27/13	
<b>LAND RESOURCES</b>						
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KSD 3/28/14	
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs, WSR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KSD 3/28/14	
Wilderness & Wilderness Characteristics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KSD 3/28/14	
Range Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KSD 3/28/14	
Wild Horse and Burros	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KSD 3/28/14	
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KSD 3/28/14	
Fire/Fuels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JP 9/23/13	

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

**DECISION DOCUMENT**

**Mike's Geology Interpretation Trail**

**DOI-BLM-CO-134-2013-0006-CX**

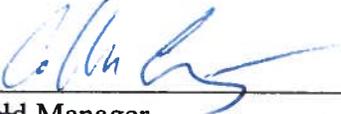
DECISION:

I have reviewed this document and have decided to implement the Mike's Teacher's Trail project described above that the proposed action. This project is categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS under H-1790-1, Appendix 4, Number: G. Transportation (4).

RATIONALE:

This action is listed in the NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 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.

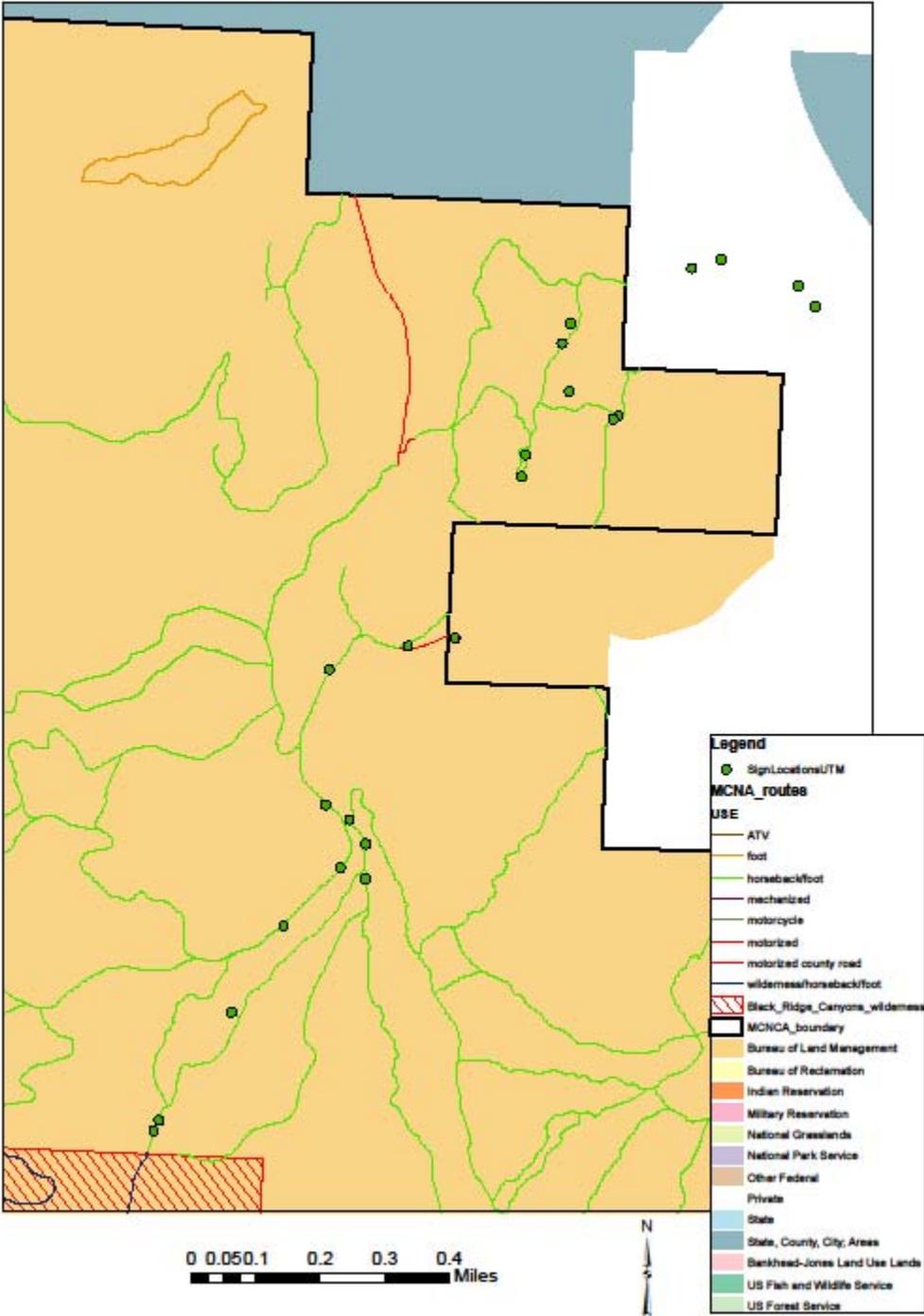
The applicant has demonstrated a need for this action. The proposal is within an area suitable for interpretive trail under the current Resource Management Plan.

  
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Field Manager  
McInnis Canyons NCA

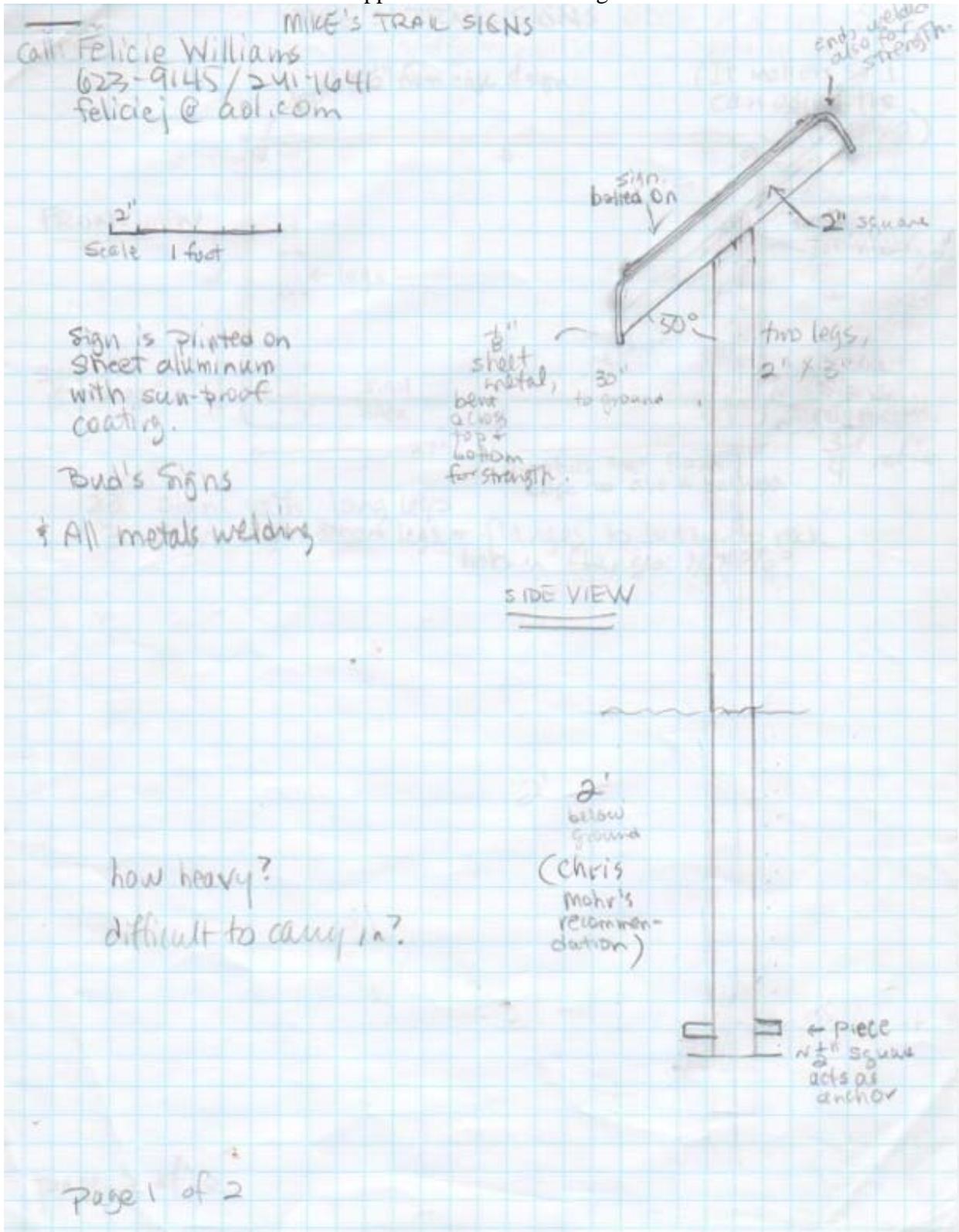
4/1/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTACHMENTS: Appendix A: Project Map  
Appendix B: Kiosk Design

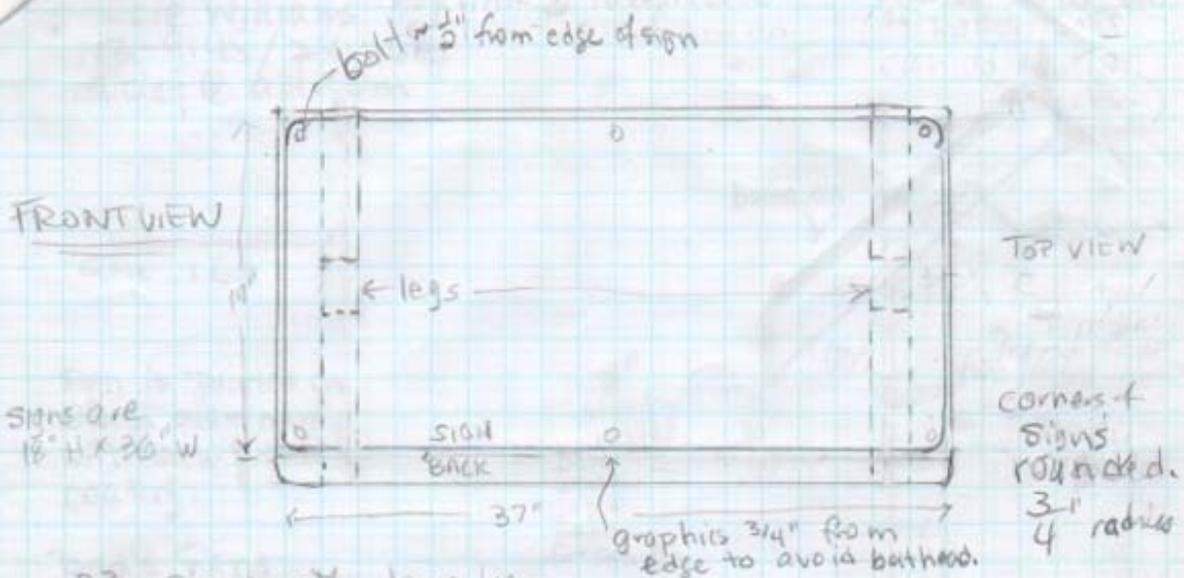
# Appendix A - Project Map



Appendix B - Kiosk Design



# MIKE'S TRAIL SIGNS



signs are 18" H x 37" W

23 Signs with long legs

3 Signs with short legs

flanges to bolt into rock.  
holes in flanges: 3/4" > 5/8"  
Chris muhr will advise on this.