

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

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**Categorical Exclusion  
for  
TrueSight Media Commercial Film Permit  
COC-76690**

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Grand Junction Field Office  
and  
McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

2815 H Road  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

DOI-BLM-CO-N030-2015-0002-CX

**October 2014**



LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Public lands lying within CPW Sheep Management Unit S-56 (generally bounded by I-70 and Highway 50 on the north and east, Unaweep Canyon on the south, and the Colorado-Utah state line on the west), in Mesa County.

See attached map.

APPLICANT:

TrueSight Media

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of the action is to provide legal use of public land for commercial filming of a bighorn sheep hunt. The need is established by the BLM's responsibility under FLPMA to respond to a request for a short-term permit on federal lands.

BACKGROUND:

The applicant originally proposed using the Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area, but later revised their proposal to include the area authorized by their bighorn sheep hunting permit, which is the CPW Sheep Management Unit S-56.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

TrueSight Media has filed a film permit application for 1-4 days of commercial video photography between the dates of November 1 and November 4, 2014. The company would document 1 to 2 hunters on their quest to find and hunt bighorn sheep for their reality TV series "Pure Hunting." The activity would take place on public lands in sheep management unit S-56, within the Grand Junction Field Office and McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area.

The filming crew would consist of 2-3 people including a cameraman and the hunter(s). The crew would park their vehicle in designated areas or pullouts and hike to the hunting locations, camping overnight and continuing the next day until they have killed a sheep or the allotted time for their hunting and filming permit is up. No special equipment or props are proposed, and there would be no set-up or breakdown required. The hunter(s) have acquired all necessary hunting permits.

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 (GJ RMP) and McInnis Canyons (formerly Colorado Canyons) National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan (MCNCA RMP).

Date Approved: JANUARY, 1987 and September, 2004, respectively

Decision Number/Page: GJ RMP: P. 2-29, MCNCA RMP: 2-11

Decision Language:

GJ RMP: Although the plan is silent regarding film permits, it is consistent with the following land use plan decision: To respond, in a timely manner, to requests for utility authorizations on public land while considering environmental, social, economic, and interagency concerns. Film permits are considered a land use authorization.

MCNCA RMP: Although the plan is silent regarding film permits, it is consistent with the following land use plan decision: Right-of-way proposals will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to constraints, sensitive resource areas, and issues identified in the MCNCA plan and other applicable documents and policies. Right-of-way grants and film permits are both realty program land use authorizations.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under H-1790-1, Appendix 4, Number: E. Realty (19). This reference states: "Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations... where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition."

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):

Note: add all comments about resources below under the appropriate question. Do not add a remarks or analysis section.

**1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.**

The proposed action is not expected to impact public health and safety because it involves filming a hunter with a valid hunting license in a designated bighorn sheep hunting unit.

**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:

While sensitive cultural resources and cultural landscapes have been recorded in the project area, the proposed action is unlikely to impact cultural resources or have an impact on Native American concerns. The attached cultural resource stipulation (permit stipulation #5) should protect any cultural resources known or unknown to the agency.

**SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS:** The proposed action is located within the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area and the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. Due to the nature of the use, the group size, and the length of hunt; the impacts would be minimal. When camping in a dispersed campsite, Leave No Trace principles must be followed.

**DRINKING WATER AQUIFERS; WETLANDS, FLOODPLAINS:** Because the project does not involve any surface disturbing activities, no impacts to soil, water or air resources are anticipated.

**MIGRATORY BIRDS:** The issuance of this permit will have no effect on nesting or important migratory stopover areas. The project does not involve surface disturbing activities.

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

The impacts of commercial filming (in this case a cameraman using a hand-held camera on foot) and hunting are generally well known and documented in the academic and practicing communities. 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.**

Commercial filming has a long history in the region and poses 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.**

While sensitive cultural resources and cultural landscapes have been recorded in the project area, the proposed action is unlikely to impact cultural resources or have an impact on Native American concerns. The attached cultural resource stipulation (permit stipulation #5) should protect any cultural resources known or unknown to the agency.

**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.**

While the Colorado hookless cactus has been recorded in Bangs Canyon, areas along the Gunnison River, and Highway 141, the proposed action is not likely to result in an increase in effects to the federally listed species. The proposed action would occur during the dormant season for the cactus, and would not include any motorized cross country travel. Since motorized travel would be limited to designated roads, and the proposed action is not likely to result in impacts beyond what occurs daily without permits, no mitigation measures would be required for the film permit.

**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.**

No such impacts have been identified.

**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 does not involve surface disturbing activities. Overland travel would be on foot, and vehicles would remain on designated trails, turnouts, and parking areas. Therefore, there is no concern for the spread of noxious weeds.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

| Name                    | Title                         | Area of Responsibility                                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Alissa Leavitt-Reynolds | Archaeologist                 | Cultural Resources,<br>Native American<br>Religious Concerns |
| Anna Lincoln            | Ecologist                     | Special Status Species                                       |
| Heidi Plank             | Wildlife Biologist            | Wildlife, Fisheries,<br>Special Status Species               |
| Shane Dittlinger        | Outdoor Recreation<br>Planner | Special Designations/Wilderness<br>Characteristics           |

**Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources – (From NEPA Notification)**

| 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"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ND 8/25/14                   |          |
| Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ND 8/25/14                   |          |
| Soils                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ND 8/25/14                   |          |
| Geological/Mineral Resources                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | DSG 8/12/14                  |          |
| <b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>                 |                                     |                                     |                          |                          |                              |          |
| Special Status Plants                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ARL 10/15/14                 |          |
| Special Status Wildlife                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | HLP 10/3/14                  |          |
| Migratory Birds                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | HLP 10/3/14                  |          |
| Other Important Wildlife Habitat            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | HLP 10/3/14                  |          |
| Vegetation, Forestry                        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | JD 8/25/14                   |          |
| Invasive, Non-native Species                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MT 8/25/14                   |          |
| Wetlands/Riparian Zones                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | CS 8/25/14                   |          |
| <b>HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENV.</b>    |                                     |                                     |                          |                          |                              |          |
| Cultural or Historical                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ALR 8/28/14                  |          |
| Paleontological                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | DSG 8/12/14                  |          |
| Tribal & American Indian Religious Concerns | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ALR 8/28/14                  |          |
| Visual Resources                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | CPP 8/25/14                  |          |
| Social/Economic                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | CS 8/25/14                   |          |
| Transportation and Access                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | CPP 8/25/14                  |          |
| Wastes, Hazardous or Solid                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | AK 8/12/14                   |          |
| <b>LAND RESOURCES</b>                       |                                     |                                     |                          |                          |                              |          |
| Recreation                                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | CPP 8/25/14                  |          |
| Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs, WSR)      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | KSD 10/16/14                 |          |

**Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources – (From NEPA Notification)**

| Resources                               | Not Present On Location             | No Impact                           | Potentially Impacted                | Mitigation Necessary ?   | BLM Evaluator Initial & Date | Comments                       |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Wilderness & Wilderness Characteristics | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | KSD<br>10/16/14              | See comments under No. 2 above |
| Range Management                        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | JM 8/25/14                   |                                |
| Wild Horse and Burros                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | JD 8/25/14                   |                                |
| Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | RBL 8/25/14                  |                                |
| Fire/Fuels                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | JP 8/25/14                   |                                |

NAME OF PREPARER: Robin Lacy

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE: 10/17/14

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE  
MCINNIS CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

DECISION DOCUMENT

TRUESIGHT MEDIA COMMERCIAL FILM PERMIT

DOI-BLM-CO-130-2014-0033-CX

DECISION:

I have reviewed this document and have decided to issue film permit COC-73722 to TrueSight Media as described above in the proposed action, with additional conditions included in the attached stipulations. The permit will authorize 1 to 4 days of commercial video photography of a bighorn sheep hunt. This project is categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS under H-1790-1, Appendix 4, Number E. Realty (19).

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.

Approving the project will allow TrueSight Media to conduct commercial filming activities on public land. No surface disturbing activities are authorized under this decision, and motorized travel will be limited to designated roads and trails. Approval of the proposed project will have negligible impacts on public lands and natural resources in the immediate and surrounding project area.

*Ralph O. Kent*

Field Manager  
Grand Junction Field Office

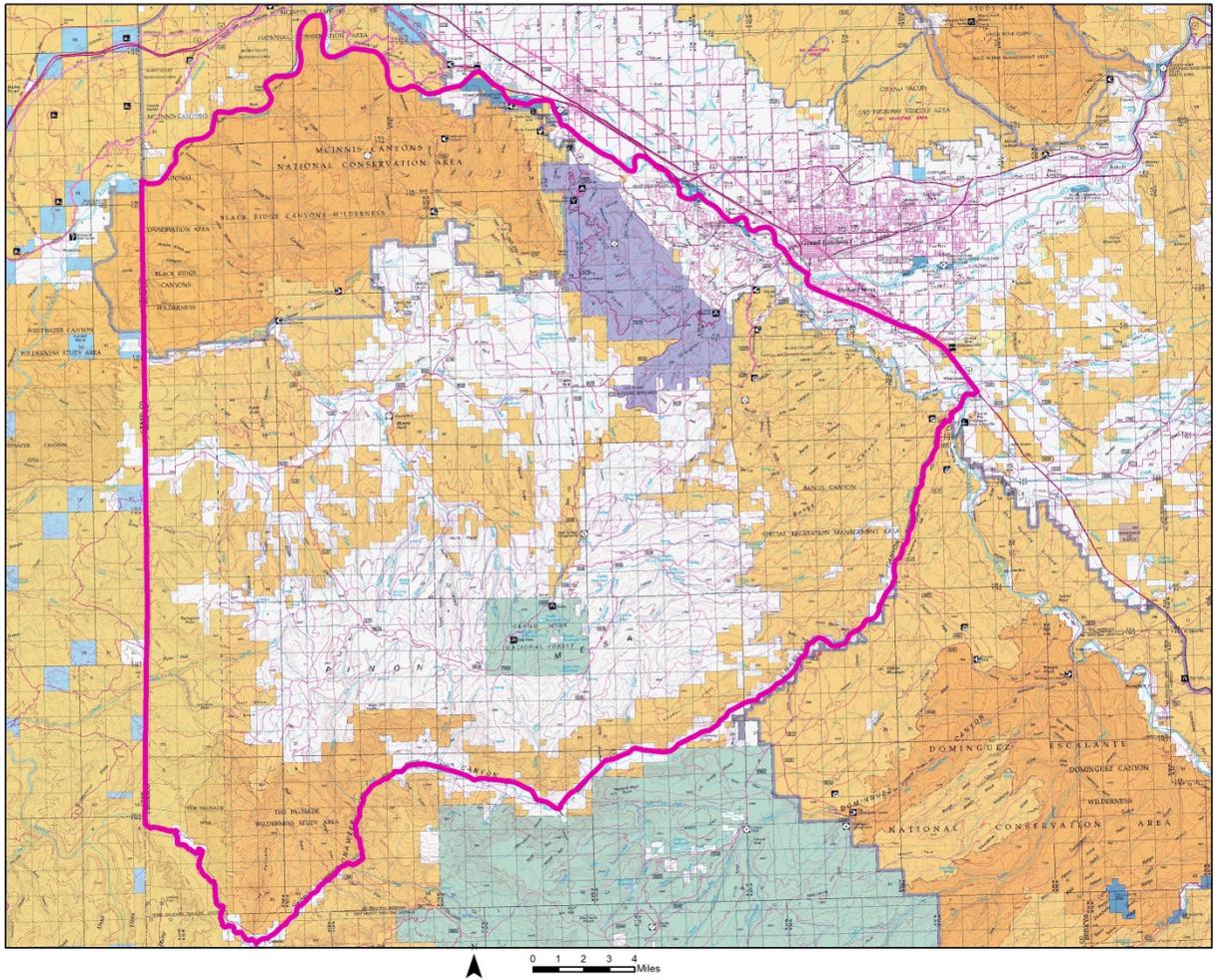
*10/22/14*

Date

*Act's*

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A: Map  
Exhibit B: Stipulations

EXHIBIT A  
COC-76690



Sheep Management Unit S-56

## STIPULATIONS

1. All personnel and vehicles shall travel and stage on existing roads or trails designated for the specified type of use. At no time may motorized vehicles travel across country, on closed roads or trails, or on trails with restricted use.
2. A copy of the complete film permit, including all stipulations, shall be kept on site when filming on public lands.
3. Proper recognition shall be given to the Bureau of Land Management in the film credits for the use of public lands.
4. The permit holder shall promptly remove and dispose of all waste caused by its activities. The term "waste" as used herein means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, petroleum products, ashes and equipment. No burning of trash, trees, brush, or any other material shall be allowed.
5. All persons in the area who are associated with this film permit shall be informed that any person who, without a cultural resource use permit, injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law (16 USC 433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361). Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources would be required of the permittee and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh).
6. The holder shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way (see 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR, Part 761.1-761.193). Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.
7. The holder shall comply with applicable State standards for public health and safety, environmental protection and activities, if these State standards are more stringent than Federal standards for similar projects.