

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Glenwood Springs Field Office
50629 US Highway 6 & 24
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-140-2008-053 EA

PROJECT NAME: Special Recreation Permit for Motorcycle Trials Event

LOCATION: Hubbard Mesa, T5S R93W S25

APPLICANT: James Solomon, Rocky Mountain Region Vintage Motorcycle Club

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is to issue a Special Recreation Permit to the Rocky Mountain Region Vintage Motorcycle Club to hold a motorcycle trials event. This event would occur during one weekend annually on approximately 75 acres in the Hubbard Open Area, and would involve approximately 30 to 40 contestants.

A motorcycle trial is a non-speed event on specialized motorcycles. Trial motorcycles are distinctive in that they are extremely lightweight, lack seating (they're designed to be ridden standing up) and are very different from motocross and enduro motorcycles. Trials events focus on balance and finesse, rather than speed.

A trial event is split into 8-12 sections, where a competitor rides through an obstacle course while attempting to avoid touching the ground with the feet. The sections are placed on rocky, challenging terrain off of trails. Existing trails are used to link the sections.

The participants would camp on site during the weekend of the event and provide self-contained restroom facilities.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: There is a demand for motorcycle trials events in Western Colorado. The club tries to disperse their events throughout the region to accommodate its members, but does not have a location in Western Colorado.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan.

Date Approved: Jan. 1984, revised 1988, amended in November 1991 - Oil and Gas Leasing and Development - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended Nov. 1996 - Colorado Standards and Guidelines; amended in August 1997 - Castle Peak Travel Management Plan; amended in March 1999 - Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final Supplemental

Environmental Impact Statement; amended in November 1999 - Red Hill Plan Amendment; and amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance.

Decision Number/Page: Pages 5, 34.

Decision Language: The action is in conformance with "Administrative Actions" of the RMP, which approves the “issuance of permits for ...competitive and commercial recreation activities.” The action is also in conformance with the Recreation Resource Management Objective Page 34: “To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other sources, to reduce the impacts of recreational use on fragile and unique resource values, and to provide for visitor safety.”

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH:

The Colorado Standards for Public Land Health consist of 5 standards: upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, special status species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands.

The BLM is in the process of completing land health assessments on a landscape basis. In 2001, the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office conducted the Rifle Creek Watershed Land Health Assessment which encompassed the project area. The assessment determined that the Hubbard Mesa allotment was not meeting several of the Standards, including Standard 1 for soils, Standard 2 for riparian resources, and Standard 3 for healthy plant and animal communities. Causal factors were determined to be sheep grazing and OHV activity.

The environmental analysis must address whether the proposed action or alternatives being analyzed would result in impacts that would maintain, improve, or deteriorate land health conditions relative to these resources.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section provides a description of the human and natural environmental resources that could be affected by the proposed action and no action alternative. In addition, the section presents comparative analyses of the direct and indirect consequences on the affected environment stemming from the implementation of the various actions.

A variety of laws, regulations, and policy directives mandate the evaluation of the effects of a proposed action and alternative(s) on certain critical environmental elements. Not all of the critical elements that require inclusion in this EA are present, or if they are present, may not be affected by the proposed action and alternative (Table 1). Only those mandatory critical elements that are present and affected are described in the following narrative.

In addition to the mandatory critical elements, there are additional resources that would be impacted by the proposed action and alternative. These are presented under **Other Affected Resources**.

Critical Elements

Table 1. Critical Elements of the Human Environment					
<i>Critical Element</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Affected</i>	<i>Critical Element</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Affected</i>

	Yes	No	Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	No
Air Quality	X		X		Prime or Unique Farmlands		X		X
ACECs		X		X	Special Status Species*	X			X
Cultural Resources	X			X	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid		X		X
Environmental Justice	x			x	Water Quality, Surface and Ground*	X		X	
Floodplains		X		X	Wetlands and Riparian Zones*				
Invasive, Non-native Species	X		X		Wild and Scenic Rivers		X		X
Migratory Birds	X		X		Wilderness/ WSAs		X		X
Native American Religious Concerns		X		X					

* Public Land Health Standard

Air Quality

Affected Environment: The proposed action area (Garfield County) has been described as an attainment area under CAAQS (Colorado Ambient Air Quality Standards) and NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards). An attainment area is an area where ambient air pollution amounts are determined to be below NAAQS standards. For more information on existing air quality in the area, refer to the Roan Plateau RMPA and EIS which describes potential effects from oil and gas development (BLM 2006:4-26 to 4-37).

Proposed Action:

Environmental Consequences: Implementation of the proposed activities would have very little effect on regional air quality. Short-term localized vehicle emissions would result from the proposed event and associated activities. There is however potential for some dust generation if these activities occur in dry conditions. Overall, vehicle emissions and dust generation associated with the proposed activities would be minor in comparison to existing emissions and dust generation associated with Highway 13 traffic, the City of Rifle, and existing oil and gas development in the vicinity.

No Action:

Environmental Consequences: The no action alternative would have no effect on existing air quality conditions.

Cultural Resources

Affected Environment: Three cultural resource inventories (GSFO# 591, 8202-1, and 2204-1) have been conducted in the area proposed for the event. No cultural properties were identified that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no formal consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) was needed and a determination of “**No Historic Properties Affected**” was made in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NRHP), as amended (16 USC 470f), National BLM/SHPO Programmatic Agreement (1997), and Colorado Protocol (1998).

Environmental Consequences: As no historic properties were identified there will be no beneficial or adverse affect on cultural resources. However, indirect long-term cumulative impacts from the increased

presence of the public could result in a range of impacts to undiscovered cultural resources in the vicinity. These impacts could range from illegal collection and excavation to vandalism.

Mitigation: The Education/Discovery stipulation needs to be added and stressed to individuals within and observing the event informing them of their responsibilities to protect and report any cultural resources encountered. Additionally they should be made aware of requirements under the American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

No Action Alternative

Environmental Consequences: Under this alternative the event would not take place somewhat reducing the potential impacts to undiscovered cultural resources would continue.

Environmental Justice

Affected Environment:

Review of 2001 data from US Census Bureau indicates the median annual income of Garfield County averages \$43,560 and is neither an impoverished or wealthy county. Median annual income of Eagle County averages \$51,578 and is not impoverished but is considered a wealthy county. U.S. Census Bureau data from July, 2004 shows the minority population of Garfield and Eagle County comprises less than 3 % of the total population¹.

Garfield County		Eagle County	
Median Household Income		Median Household Income	
Estimate	90% Confidence Interval	Estimate	90% Confidence Interval
\$50,119	\$ 47,045 to \$53,393	\$59,037	\$55,067 to \$63,294

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed action and alternatives are not expected to create a disproportionately high and adverse human health impact or environmental effect on minority or low-income populations within the area.

Environmental Consequences:

None

Invasive, Non-native Species

Affected Environment: Cheatgrass and bur-buttercup were documented in the project area during a land health assessment conducted in 2001. Furthermore, the assessment determined that the Hubbard Mesa allotment was not meeting several of the Standards, including Standard 3 for healthy plant communities. Causal factors were determined to be sheep grazing and OHV activity.

Environmental Consequences: Wind, water, vehicles, animals, and people transport weeds. Weeds generally germinate and become established in areas of surface disturbing activities such as road construction and maintenance, vehicular traffic, big game and livestock grazing. Due to the

¹ Table CO-EST2002-ASRO-02-08-County Population Estimates by Race Alone and Hispanic or Latino Origin: July 1, 2002
 Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
 Release Date: September 18, 2003
 03

current heavy use of OHV activity, the proposed action would minimally increase the presence of invasive species.

No Action: Under the No Action alternative, no special recreational event would be authorized. However, invasive species will continue to be impacted due to the existing level of off-road vehicle use in this “open” area.

Migratory Birds

Affected Environment: Vegetation in the permit area is comprised of sagebrush stands and pinyon/juniper woodlands. Several species listed on the USFWS's Bird of Conservation Concern List, sage sparrow, pinyon jay and black-throated gray warbler, nest in these habitat types. Additional high interest birds that may nest in this habitat type include grey flycatcher and juniper titmouse.

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would have minimal impacts to migratory bird species. Although recreational activities can have impacts to migratory birds, the Hubbard Mesa area already receives a heavy amount of recreational use, primarily off trail motorcycle and atv riding. It is likely that some bird species are already avoiding the area due to noise and human disturbances. The motorcycle event would have a minimal increase in disturbance levels when considering the amount of recreation use the area already receives.

No intentional take of native bird species is anticipated under the proposed action. If the event occurs during the nesting season, accidental destruction of ground nests through trampling may occur anywhere there is a congregation of people and vehicles. The event may create some new trails in the open area, leading to isolated resource damage and may increase habitat fragmentation. As Hubbard Mesa is an open travel area, there is already potential for these impacts to occur.

Native American Religious Concerns

Affected Environment: The Ute tribes claim this area as part of their ancestral homeland. At present, no Native American concerns are known within the project area and none were identified during the inventory. The Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Bands, the primary Native American tribe with ties to this area of the GSFO, have indicated that they do not wish to be consulted for small projects or projects where no Native American areas of concern have been identified either through survey or past consultations. Therefore, formal consultation was not undertaken. If new data are disclosed, new terms and conditions may have to be negotiated to accommodate their concerns.

Environmental Consequences: Although there would be no direct impacts from the proposed action, indirect impacts from increased access and personnel in the vicinity of the proposed event could result in impacts to unknown Native American resources ranging from illegal collection to vandalism.

Mitigation: A standard Education/Discovery stipulation for the protection of Native American values. The importance of this stipulation should be stressed to the individuals in the event and/or observers informing them of their responsibilities to protect and report any cultural resources encountered. Additionally they should be made aware of requirements under the American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

No Action Alternative

Environmental Consequences: Under this alternative the event would not take place somewhat reducing the potential of damage to Native American resources.

Special Status Species (includes an analysis of Public Land Health Standard 4)

Affected Environment: According to the latest species list from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/endspp/CountyLists/COLORADO.pdf>), the following Federally listed, proposed, or candidate plant and animal species may occur within or be impacted by actions occurring in Garfield County: Uinta Basin hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Ute Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), Parachute beardtongue (*Penstemon debilis*), DeBeque phacelia (*Phacelia submutica*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*), and humpback chub (*Gila cypha*).

The BLM sensitive plant, DeBeque milkvetch is reported to occur in the western portion of the Hubbard Mesa allotment, however, the specific project area does not provide habitat for any federally listed or BLM sensitive plant or wildlife species. Three BLM sensitive fish species (roundtail chub, flannelmouth sucker, and bluehead sucker) occur downstream in the mainstem Colorado River and in lower Rifle Creek approximately 3.5 miles downstream of the project area.

Environmental Consequences: There would be no impacts to any federally listed or BLM sensitive species since no habitat for these species exists within the project area.

Roundtail chub, flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker:

These three native fishes would not be impacted as the minimal amount of anticipated sediment from the proposed action should be well within background levels carried by Government Creek. These native fish thrive in the sediment rich waters of the Colorado River and require sediment input coupled with high seasonal flows to maintain and create important micro-habitats.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for Special Status Species: In 2001, a formal land health assessment was conducted on the landscape which includes the project area. The assessment determined that the Hubbard Mesa allotment was meeting Standard 4 for special status species. The proposed special event would not result in a failure to achieve this standard.

Water Quality, Surface and Ground (includes an analysis of Public Land Health Standard 5)

Affected Environment: Proposed activities would occur north of the City of Rifle within the 5,222 acre Lower Government Creek 6th field watershed. Approximately 550 feet northeast of the project area boundary is the perennial Government Creek. This highly erosive drainage experiences low flows in the summer and is subjected to multiple uses that include heavy OHV use and grazing activities. South of the project area and north of the City of Rifle, Government Creek is tributary to the perennial Rifle Creek.

Government Creek is not currently listed on the State of Colorado's *Stream Classifications and Water Quality Standards* (CDPHE, Water Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 37) list, *303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments Requiring TMDLS* (CDPHE, Water Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 93) or the *Monitoring and Evaluation List* (CDPHE, Water Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 94) as a waterbody suspected to have water quality problems. At this time limited water quality data are available for Government Creek.

In 2001, the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office collected water quality samples on Government Creek as part of the Rifle Creek Watershed Land Health Assessment (see table below). Generally, water quality data collected on Government Creek suggests that it is high in total dissolved solids and sediment loads. Major ions present include calcium, magnesium, and sulfate. These water quality conditions are controlled by the geology, vegetative type and density, heavy OHV use, and sheep grazing.

Stream Name	Date	Flow (cfs)	Temp. (C)	Cond. (uS\cm)	pH	Salinity 0/00	Sediment (mg/l)
Government Creek near Magpie Gulch	5/23/2001	0.26	11	1730	8.6	1.25	
Government Creek blw Magpie Gulch	5/23/2001	0.53	12	1400	8.6	1.1	
Government Creek abv JQS Road	5/7/2001	1.97	23	1100	8.4	1	
Government Creek nr 32 Mesa Rd	5/7/2001	1.6	20	1305	8.6	1	
Government Creek (6 samples)	4/8/1981	0.2-3.4	11.5-22	1290-3950	8.6		5260 & 8370

Proposed Action:

Environmental Consequences: The proposed activities would result in some soil compaction and displacement that increase the likelihood of erosional processes, especially on steep slopes and areas devoid of vegetation. Soil detachment and sediment transport are likely to occur during runoff events associated with spring snowmelt and short-duration high intensity thunderstorms. Due to the close proximity of the proposed activities to Government Creek, there is a high potential that additional sediment associated with the proposed activities would reach this drainage. However, given the existing grazing and OHV use experienced in this area; these impacts would be minimal by comparison.

No Action:

Environmental Consequences: The no action alternative would have no effect on the existing watershed conditions.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 5 for Water Quality: As mentioned above, the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office conducted the Rifle Creek Watershed Land Health Assessment in 2001 in which water quality samples were taken on Government Creek. The results suggest that water quality in Government Creek is heavily influenced by the geology, vegetative type and density, OHV use, and sheep grazing. Based on the existing conditions in Government Creek, the proposed activities would not likely prevent Standard 5 for Water Quality from being met.

Wetlands and Riparian Zones (includes an analysis on Standard 2)

Affected Environment:

Not applicable

Environmental Consequences:

Not applicable

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems:

Not applicable.

Other Affected Resources

In addition to the critical elements, the resources presented in Table 2 were considered for impact analysis relative to the proposed action and no action alternative. Resources that would be affected by the proposed action and no action alternative are discussed below.

Table 2. Other Resources Considered in the Analysis.			
<i>Resource</i>	<i>NA or Not Present</i>	<i>Present and Not Affected</i>	<i>Present and Affected</i>
Access and Transportation		x	
Cadastral Survey		x	
Fire/Fuels Management		x	
Forest Management	x		
Geology and Minerals	X		
Law Enforcement		x	
Paleontology	X		
Noise	X		
Range Management			X
Realty Authorizations	x		
Recreation		x	
Socio-Economics	x		
Soils*		x	X
Vegetation*		x	
Visual Resources		X	
Water Rights	X		
Wildlife, Aquatic*			X
Wildlife, Terrestrial*			X

*Public Land Health Standards

Access and Transportation

Affected Environment:

Access to the area will be via the JQS road or Hubbard road. Both roads are well traveled.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

No transportation conflicts are expected.

Recreation

Affected Environment:

The area proposed for use is within the Hubbard Open Area, where motorcycles and ATVs are permitted to travel cross-country, off trails. This area is extremely popular for that type of use; motorcycles and ATVs commonly use the area for riding both on and off trails.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Given that motorcycle riding is the predominant use of the area, conflicts between users or safety issue are not expected.

Range Management

Affected Environment: The proposed action would occur in the Hubbard Mesa allotment which is currently grazed by a cattle permittee and a sheep permittee. Permitted use on the allotment is outlined in the table below:

Allotment Name & Number	Livestock Number & Kind	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	AUMs
Hubbard Mesa 18093	60 Cattle	05/16 – 06/15	100	61
Hubbard Mesa 18903	1500 Sheep	04/01 – 05/31	50	301

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: There are possible conflicts with the proposed event and the authorized livestock use. These would arise only if the event is authorized during the time livestock may be in the area. Conflicts may include but are not limited to herder and sheep camp being located in the vicinity of the event displacing event and campers, harassment of livestock that may be using the area at the time of the event, dogs used for protecting and herding the sheep would be unpredictable and may attack if approached, etc. Mitigation to prevent such conflicts would be to permit the motorcycle event after June 15.

Soils (includes an analysis of Public Land Health Standard 1)

Affected Environment: According to the *Soil Survey of Rifle Area, Colorado: Parts of Garfield and Mesa Counties* (USDA 1985), the proposed activities would be located on the soil map units Arvada loam, Torriorthents-Camborthids-Rock outcrop complex, and Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex. Following is a brief description of the three soil map units encountered in the proposed action area.

- Arvada loam – This deep, well drained, sloping soil is found on fans and high terraces at elevations ranging from 5,100 to 6,200 feet and on slopes of 6 to 20 percent. This soil is derived from sandstone and shale and was formed in saline alluvium. Surface runoff for this soil is moderately rapid and erosion hazard is severe. Primary uses for this soil include wildlife habitat and limited grazing.
- Torriorthents-Camborthids-Rock outcrop complex – This soil map unit consists of sandstone and shale bedrock and soils of variable depth occurring on slopes of 15 to 70 percent. About 45 percent of this complex is Torriorthents, 20 percent is Camborthids, and 15 percent is Rock outcrop. The Camborthids occur on the lower toe slopes on foothills and mountainsides while the Torriorthents are found on the foothills and mountainsides below the Rock outcrop. The Torriorthents are shallow to moderately deep, and clayey to loamy with gravel, cobbles, and stones. The Camborthids are shallow to deep and clayey to loamy. Rock outcrop primarily consists of Mesa Verde sandstones and Wasatch shales with occasional basaltic boulders and stones. This complex is characterized by moderate to severe erosion hazard. Primary uses for this complex include grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation.
- Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex – This complex consists of stony soils and exposed outcrops of Mesa Verde sandstone and Wasatch shale that occur on slopes of 15 to 70 percent. Approximately 60 percent of this complex is Torriorthents and 25 percent is Rock outcrop. The Torriorthents are clayey to loamy and contain gravel, cobbles, and stones; many of which are basaltic in origin. They are found on mountainsides below the Rock outcrop. Erosion hazard for this complex varies from moderate to severe. Primary uses for this complex include limited grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation.

Proposed Action:

Environmental Consequences: The proposed activities would occur on soil map units that are classified as having severe erosion hazards. These activities would result in some soil compaction and displacement

that increase the likelihood of erosional processes, especially on steep slopes and areas devoid of vegetation. Soil detachment and sediment transport are likely to occur during runoff events associated with spring snowmelt and short-duration high intensity thunderstorms. Due to the close proximity of the proposed activities to Government Creek, there is a high potential that additional sediment associated with the proposed activities would reach this drainage. However, given the existing grazing and OHV use experienced in this area; these impacts would be minimal by comparison.

No Action:

Environmental Consequences: The proposed activities would have no effect on soil resources.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 1 for Upland Soils: In 2001, the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office completed the Rifle Creek Watershed Land Health Assessment in which they determined that the Hubbard Mesa Allotment was not meeting Standard 1. Grazing practices and heavy OHV use in the area have resulted in loss of vegetative cover and accelerated erosion. The proposed activities would not likely prevent Standard 1 for Upland Soils from being met.

Vegetation (includes an analysis of Public Land Health Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed activity would occur within pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush shrublands. The diversity and cover of herbaceous and shrubby vegetation in this area is already poor due to heavy livestock grazing and OHV use.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action: The Hubbard Mesa area, where this event would occur, is already designated as “open”, which allows for motorized and mechanized vehicle travel on and off road. The proposed activity would result in some trampling and crushing of vegetation from participants and observers which would lead to some additional losses of vegetation. However, since the area is already “open” and receives a high level of recreational use, the proposed activity would lead to a negligible increase in vegetative impacts.

No Action: Under the No Action alternative, no special recreational event would be authorized. However, vegetative losses would continue to accrue due to the existing level of off-road vehicle use in this “open” area.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for Plant and Animal Communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): In 2001, a formal land health assessment was conducted in the project area. The assessment determined that the Hubbard Mesa allotment was not meeting several of the Standards, including Standard 3 for healthy plant communities. Causal factors were determined to be sheep grazing and OHV activity. The proposed action would likely contribute to these factors.

Wildlife, Aquatic (includes an analysis of Public Land Health Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

The proposed event would occur within .2 miles of perennial Government Creek. This stream, although perennial, is not known to contain fish due primarily to low seasonal flows and lack of habitat complexity. Aquatic insects are present. The nearest fishery is Rifle Creek located downstream 2.5 miles.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Proposed Action:

The event area is already heavily impacted due to OHV activity. The area is designated as open which allows for cross country travel. The event would likely increase off road trail use and would result in some site-specific soil compaction and displacement. Soil compaction and displacement would increase the likelihood of erosional processes such as soil detachment and sediment transport on steep slopes and areas devoid of vegetation. Soil detachment and sediment transport are likely to occur during runoff events associated with spring snowmelt and short-duration high intensity thunderstorms.

Due to the close proximity of the proposed activities to Government Creek, there is potential that additional sediment resulting from the event could be transported to the creek. Sediment can negatively impact aquatic insect productivity which can reduce food sources for resident fishes and terrestrial animals and birds. Government Creek does not contain any fish and is a flashy system that carries large amounts of sediment; any additional sediment caused by the proposed activity should be well within background levels for the area. No mitigation is recommended.

No Action:

Under the no action alternative, no special event would be authorized, and no activity would occur. No additional impacts to aquatic wildlife would result.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 3 for Plant and Animal Communities (partial, see also **Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial**):

In 2001, a formal land health assessment was conducted in the project area. The assessment determined that the Hubbard Mesa allotment was not meeting several of the Standards, including Standard 3 for healthy plant and animal communities. Causal factors were determined to be sheep grazing and OHV activity. The proposed action would likely contribute to the further decline in land health in the area.

Wildlife, Terrestrial (includes an analysis of Public Land Health Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed action lies within pinyon/juniper woodlands and sagebrush stands. These habitat types provide cover and forage for a variety of wildlife species, including big game, small mammals, reptiles and birds. The area provides important winter habitat for mule deer.

Environmental Consequences: An increase in human presence in the Hubbard Mesa area may stress or disturb wildlife species. However, as this area already receives a high amount of recreational use, several species are likely habituated to some level of human disturbance or are already avoiding the area. The event would likely be held during the spring, summer or fall. During this time, big game and other wildlife species can exist in a wider array of habitats and are not under as much stress as in the winter months. The event would occur in an open travel area, where motorcycles and atvs are already allowed to go off trail. The event may create some new trails in the open area, leading to isolated resource damage and may increase habitat fragmentation. As Hubbard Mesa is an open travel area, there is already potential for these impacts to occur.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also **Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic**): In 2001, a formal land health assessment was conducted on the landscape which includes the Hubbard Mesa area. The assessment determined that the Hubbard Mesa allotment was not meeting several of the Standards, including Standard 3 for healthy plant communities.

Causal factors were determined to be sheep grazing and OHV activity. The proposed action may contribute to these factors.

SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are the incremental effects caused by management actions considering all other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions affecting a resource. These can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taken over time and the effects can be either additive or subtract from the effects of other actions. In summary, the proposed action is not expected to result in cumulative impacts.

<u>INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: Name</u>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Isaac Pittman	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Michael Kinser	Rangeland Management Specialist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Kay Hopkins	Outdoor Recreation Planner	ACEC, WSR, Wilderness, VRM
Cheryl Harrison	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns
Desa Ausmus	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, T&E, Terrestrial Wildlife
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	Vegetation, T/E/S Plants, Land Health Stds
Jeff O'Connell	Hydrologist/Geologist	Soil, Air, Water, Geology
Dereck Wilson	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Brian Maiorano	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Project Leader, Recreation

REFERENCES:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 1984. *Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan*. Glenwood Springs Field Office.

FONSI

CO-140-2008-053 EA

The environmental assessment, analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action, has been reviewed. The proposed action with mitigation measures result in a finding of no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

Rationale: The analysis of the proposed action with mitigation measures did not identify any impacts that would be significant in nature either in context or intensity. The permit provides for the availability of recreational opportunities which are not readily available from other sources, without harming other resources. In addition, there is nothing to indicate the action is highly controversial or that it is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant actions.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. To prevent conflicts with livestock grazing in the area, the event will occur after June 15 in each year.
2. The permittee will provide self-contained restroom facilities for event participants and spectators.

NAME OF PREPARER: Brian Maiorano

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



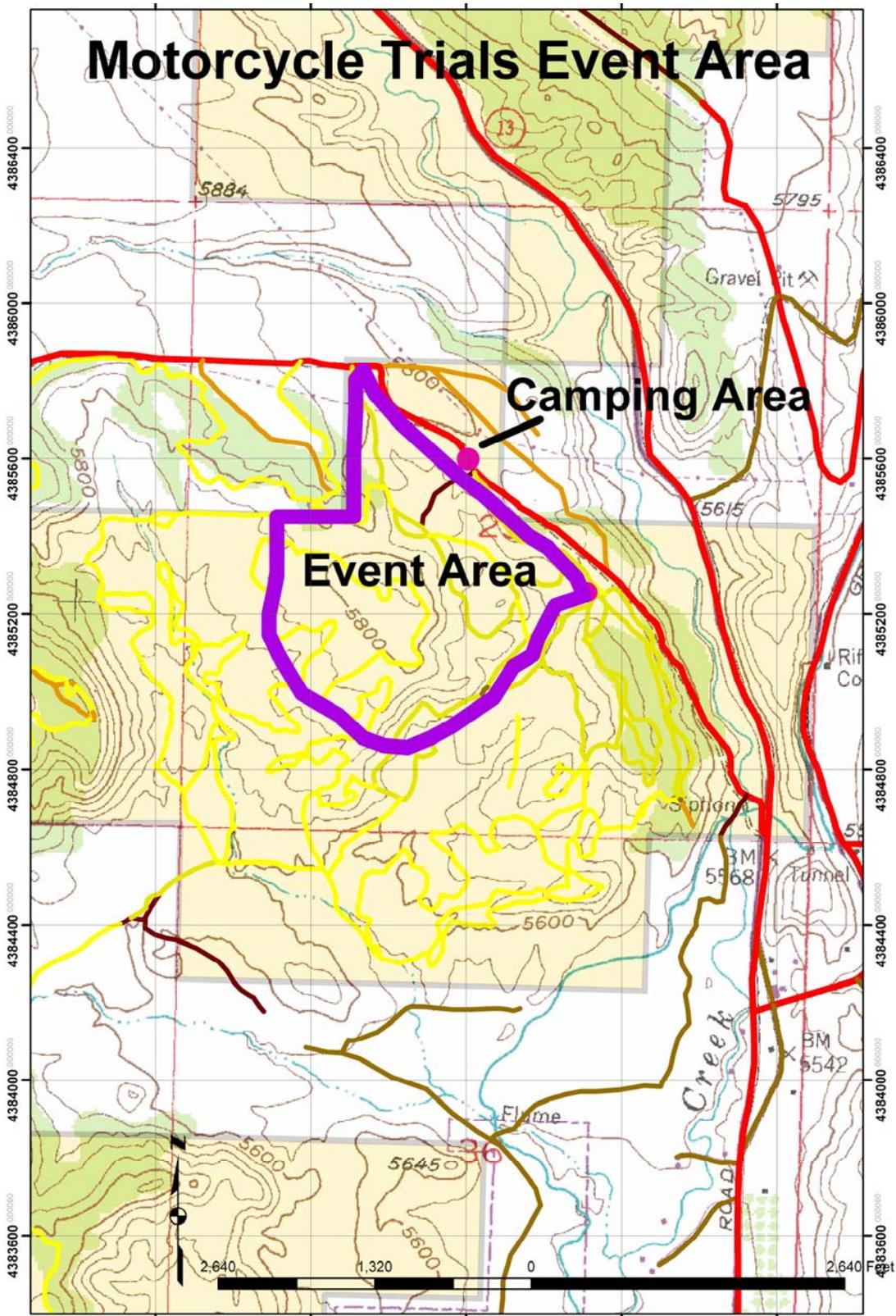
DATE SIGNED:

4/16/2008

APPENDDICES: None

ATTACHMENTS:

Permit Area Map
Education/Discovery/NAGPRA Stipulation



Education/Discovery Stipulation/NAGPRA Stipulation

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires that if newly discovered cultural resources are identified during project implementation, work in that area must stop and the agency Authorized Officer notified immediately (36 CFR 800.13). The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), requires that if inadvertent discovery of Native American Remains or Objects occurs, activity must cease in the area of discovery, a reasonable effort made to protect the item(s) discovered, and immediate notice made to the BLM Authorized Officer, as well as the appropriate Native American group(s) (IV.C.2). Notice may be followed by a 30-day delay (NAGPRA Section 3(d)). Further actions also require compliance under the provisions of NHPA and the Archaeological Resource Protection Act.