



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2013-0037-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Colorado River Valley Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No:
8366-02 LG

Proposed Action Title/Type: Maintenance of Lyons Gulch Developed Recreation Site

Location of Proposed Action: T 4S, R 86W, sec. 18. See Attachment A.

Background: A major storm on July 24-25, 2012 created mud/debris flows that damaged the Lyons Gulch Recreation Site area. On July 26, Eagle County opened the entrance road and the parking area to the campground and boat ramp so that users could drive to all areas that were accessible by vehicle before the storm. The mud and debris were merely pushed off of the road and parking lot so all of this material still needs to be removed from the site. The boat ramp shows significant signs of erosion and will need to be repaired.

Mike Mitrisison, BLM engineer, performed a site visit on July 27, 2012 to determine the damage. His report and photos are included in Attachment B.

The repairs will happen with a contract for the heavy equipment portion, and then volunteer work for the manual labor portion of the work.

This project will not incur any additional impact past the existing footprint of the developed area, but only repair the facilities as they were before the storm. The Proposed Action would meet Wild and Scenic eligibility management criteria because the action would not alter the preliminary classification of Recreational, the free flowing nature of the river, or the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's) associated with the river segment of Scenic, Geologic, Wildlife, Historic or Botanical. The ORV of Recreational will be enhanced and benefit through this Proposed Action.

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to repair the Lyons Gulch Recreation site by operations to:

- Grade parking lot down to its original elevation. All material generated by this grading effort will be hauled to a local landfill via a dump truck or to the dumping area as shown in Attachment A. This grading will most likely be accomplished with either a backhoe or a skid-steer loader.

- Remove all debris down around the parking lot, inside and outside of the parking bollards down to the original (pre-storm) elevation and haul off to a local landfill or to the dumping area as shown in Attachment A. Some of the organic debris may need to be cut up with a chain saw to allow it to fit into a dump truck. Some organic material may need to be collected and loaded into the dump truck by hand. The removal effort will damage as little of the existing vegetation as possible. Any rocks larger than 3 feet in the smallest dimension shall be placed along the Colorado River Road (County Road 30), pending approval by the county, to prevent vehicular access to camp sites three and four or around the existing parking lot.
- Remove all debris along the edge of the entrance road by pulling the debris into to roadway with either a backhoe or a skid-steer loader. The removal effort will damage as little of the existing vegetation as possible. Load all material generated by this effort into a dump truck and haul to a local landfill or to the dumping area as shown in Attachment A. Any rocks larger than 3 feet in the smallest dimension shall be placed along the Colorado River Road (County Road 30), pending approval by the county, to prevent vehicular access to camp sites three and four or around the existing parking lot.
- There is a debris flow that runs from west to east, perpendicular to the entrance road approximately one third of the way between the Colorado River Road and the parking lot. Remove this debris with either a backhoe or skid-steer loader down to the original (pre-storm) elevation and haul off to a local landfill or to the dumping area as shown in Attachment A. Some of the organic debris may need to be cut up with a chain saw to allow it to fit into a dump truck. Some organic material may need to be collected and loaded into the dump truck by hand. The removal effort will damage as little of the existing vegetation as possible. Any rocks larger than 3 feet in the smallest dimension shall be placed along the Colorado River Road (County Road 30), pending approval by the county, to prevent vehicular access to camp sites three and four or around the existing parking lot.
- Construct a water bar to divert runoff away from the existing boat ramp.
- Repair boat ramp by filling existing eroded areas with granular, local, native material. Compact these filled areas by running over them with tires of the excavating equipment until the fill material is at least as dense as the surrounding native material.
- Grade entire boat ramp down to the river's edge creating a smooth, uniform surface with a consistent gradient.
- The total estimate of inorganic material to be removed is 100 cubic yards or approximately ten truck loads
- The total estimate of organic material to be removed is three truck loads.
- Remove debris within the campsites and campground trails will manual labor (shovels, wheel barrows, etc.) to the parking lot and subsequently load into dump trucks/trailers and haul off site to the dumping area as shown in Attachment A.
- Repair campgrounds and trails with manual labor by digging out existing developments (metal fire rings, picnic tables), replacing damaged developments, re-surfacing the trails with road base (gravel), and delineating the trails with rocks.

Land Use Plan Conformance: The proposed action is subject to, and has been reviewed for, conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3).

Name of Plan: Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Glenwood Springs Resource Area

Date Approved: January, 1984; revised in 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 3, 34

Decision Language: The action is in conformance with "Implementation" of the RMP, which approves the "Decisions in the plan will be implemented over a period of years and must be tied to the BLM budget process". 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."

B. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, Number 1.7. Routine and continuing government business.

Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects).

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

EXCLUSIONS	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
12. 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 (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

BLM Interdisciplinary Team Authors and Reviewers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Areas of Participation</i>
Kimberly Miller	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, Recreation
Pauline Adams	Hydrologist	Soils, Water, and Air Quality
Erin Leifeld	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns
Everett Bartz	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range Management, Riparian Zones
Kristy Wallner	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-native Species, Wildlife
Greg Wolfgang	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources, Travel
Isaac Pittman	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range Management
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	ACEC, Vegetation, T/E/S Plants, Land Health Standards

REMARKS/MITIGATION (the following mitigations will be carried forward within the permit under Special Conditions:

Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns

A records search of the general project area, and a Class III inventory of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), was completed by a Colorado BLM archaeologist (CRVFO #706 and 1277). No cultural resources have been identified in the project area and therefore no historic properties will be affected. The project inventory and evaluation is in compliance with the NHPA, the Colorado State Protocol Agreement, and other federal law, regulation, policy, and guidelines regarding cultural resources.

The Ute have a generalized concept of spiritual significance that is not easily transferred to Western models or definitions. As such the BLM recognizes that the Ute have identified sites that are of concern because of their association with Ute occupation of the area as part of their traditional lands. No traditional cultural properties, unique natural resources, or properties of a type previously identified as being of interest to local tribes, were identified during the cultural resources inventory of the project area. No additional Native American Indian consultation was conducted for the proposed project.

Cultural Resources and Native American Discovery Stipulations

If subsurface cultural values are uncovered during operations, all work in the vicinity of the resource will cease and the authorized officer with the BLM notified immediately. The operator shall take any additional measures requested by the BLM to protect discoveries until they can be adequately evaluated by the permitted archaeologist. Within 48 hours of the discovery, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and consulting parties will be notified of the discovery and consultation will begin to determine an appropriate mitigation measure. BLM in cooperation with the operator will ensure that the discovery is protected from further disturbance until mitigation is completed. Operations may resume at the discovery site upon receipt of written instructions and authorization by the authorized officer.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on federal land. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), the holder must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery that could adversely affect the discovery. The holder shall make a reasonable effort to protect the human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony for a period of thirty days after written notice is provided to the authorized officer, or until the authorized officer has issued a written notice to proceed, whichever occurs first.

DECISION AND RATIONALE:

I considered this action and determined that it may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

C. Signature

Authorizing Official: Greg Wolfgang Date: 3-21-2013
Greg Wolfgang
Acting Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Kimberly Miller, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652, (970) 876-9075.

Attachment A

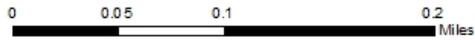


Lyons Gulch Recreation Site Repair and Maintenance 2013

- Dumping Area
- Lyons Gulch Recreation Site
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private



1:4,388



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.

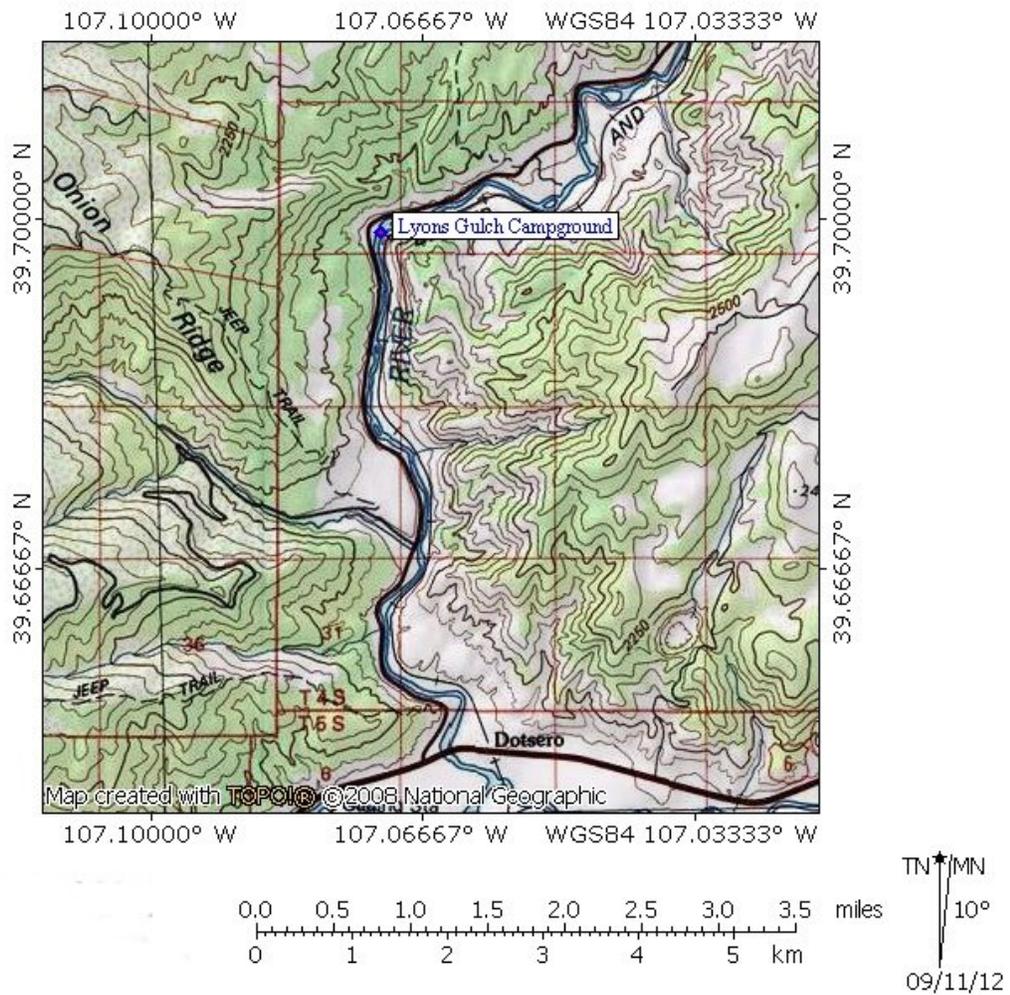
Attachment B

Lyons Gulch Campground Site Visit

mpm 9.11.12

Introduction:

On July 27, 2012 I visited the Red Dirt Creek Road as shown on the following map. I was accompanied by Jeff Steck from the Colorado River Valley Field Office. The purpose of this visit was to evaluate the damage from a major storm on July 24/25, 2012. This campground was effectively closed by mud/debris flows resulting from that storm.



General:

On July 26, 2012 the entrance road to the campground was reopened by Eagle County crews so when we arrived on site we could drive to all areas that were accessible by vehicle before the storm. The mud and debris was merely pushed off the road and parking lot by the county crews so all of this material still needs to be removed from the site.

Although the boat ramp is showing significant signs of erosion, while I was visiting the site an outfitter stopped and used the boat ramp to put rafts on the river. While the boat ramp is still functional the erosion damage will need to be repaired.

The CXT toilet on site was flooding by approximately two inches of mud but the toilet was still usable. The mud was primarily confined to the entrance vestibule so that it was difficult to open and close the door. The mud could be removed with a shovel and broom in a half an hour.

Many of the camping areas within the campground were covered with mud and large rocks and many of the foot trails internal to the campground were obliterated by mud and debris flow. Even with the mud and debris, the trails and campgrounds are still usable. Removing the mud and debris from inside the campground will prove to be problematic as it will require hand labor as all of the trails and campsites are too small for access by machine.

Site Conditions:

The following photos show the current condition of the entrance road and in the campground.



Figure 1: Entrance Road after cleared by County



Figure 2: Debris around parking lot



Figure 3: Debris around parking lot



Figure 4: Typical campsite debris



Figure 5: Typical campsite debris



Figure 6: Typical trail debris



Figure 7: Boat ramp damage



Figure 8: Mud in toilet

Safety Considerations:

Aside from increased tripping hazards due to the erosion of the boat ramp and from debris in the campground there are no significant safety hazards resulting from the effects of the storm.

General Recommendations:

Entrance Road and Parking lot: All of the material pushed off the entrance road and parking area should be loaded into dump trucks and hauled offsite. The CRVFO may be able to recommend a location to dump these materials or they could be hauled to the local landfill. All of these materials could probably be loaded and hauled away in one day for approximately \$1600.00

Campsites and campground trails: All of this debris from the storm will need to be hauled with manual labor (shovels, wheel barrows, etc.) to the parking lot and subsequently loaded into dump trucks and hauled off site. The cost is not easy to predict as we typically have a hard time contracting for hand labor. This work may be better suited to some type of volunteer group with the material hauled away from the parking lot by contract.

Boat ramp: The boat ramp will need to be re-graded and resurfaced with road base. This could be accomplished in one day for approximately \$1200.00 plus the cost of hauling/spreading road base. The cost of the road base will be determined by the distance to the nearest gravel pit.

Toilet: I'm assuming that the mud has already been removed from the toilet vestibule but if not it could probably be removed by hand in an hour with a shovel and a broom.

Storm Proofing the site:

The campground is in a poor location being directly in the path of any debris flow emanating from Lyons Gulch. Depending on the CRVFO's requirements for NEPA a plan should be developed and executed to build berms around the upstream side of the campground to divert all future debris flows from Lyons Gulch around and away from the campground.