



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-N040-2013-0048-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Colorado River Valley Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No:
CO-078-06-91-06-0 and CO-140-08-01-0

Proposed Action Title/Type: Renaissance Adventure Guides and Turtle Tubing; New river access point at East Glenwood Canyon trailhead area

Location of Proposed Action: T 5S, R 87W, sec. 12. See Attachment A.

Background: Renaissance Adventure Guides requested through the Special Recreation Permit renewal process to use the East Glenwood Canyon bike path access as a river access point for Guided Inflatable Kayak, Sit-On-Top Kayak, Hard Shell Kayak, (including Swift Water Rescue instruction) trips (day use only). These trips do include a medical support raft.

Turtle Tubing LLC also has requested to use this site for guided tubing trips. CDOT has already granted authorization for Turtle Tubing to use the bike path to access the parking area on the north of I-70.

Both operations would like to use the already existing dirt road to the river to take-out or put-in their river trips. They would access the dirt road from the bike path under I-70 south of the East Glenwood Canyon trailhead parking area.

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to amend Special Recreation Permits CO-078-06-91-06-0 and CO-140-08-01-0 for Renaissance Adventure Guides and Turtle Tubing LLC to include authorization to use the river access point as a put-in or take-out south of the East Glenwood Canyon trailhead parking as shown in Attachment A.

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; amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance; and amended in 2012 – Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States.

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."

B. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11, Appendix 4, Number H. Recreation Management.

Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.

This 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	Soil, Water, Air Quality
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Vegetation, Special Status Plants
Darren Long	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Threatened and Endangered and Sensitive Species Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife
Kristy Wallner	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-native Species
Erin Leifeld	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns
Everett Bartz	Rangeland Management Specialist	Riparian, Rangeland Management
Greg Wolfgang	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources, Travel Management

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 was completed for proposed project and a total of 18 cultural resource inventories (CRVFO# 280) have been conducted at a Class III level covering the Area of Potential Effect (APE). One cultural resource has been documented within the APE and is the historic Glenwood Canyon Corridor (5GF.2752). The site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places but will not be impacted by project use because the project is very limited use and will occur on an existing disturbed road/trail. 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.

Cultural resources known to hold special significance to Native Americans are located within the proposed project area. No additional Native American Indian consultation was conducted for the proposed project.

Cultural Resource 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.

Native American Human Remains

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.

Additional Special Stipulations will be applied to this permit as shown in Attachment B.

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.

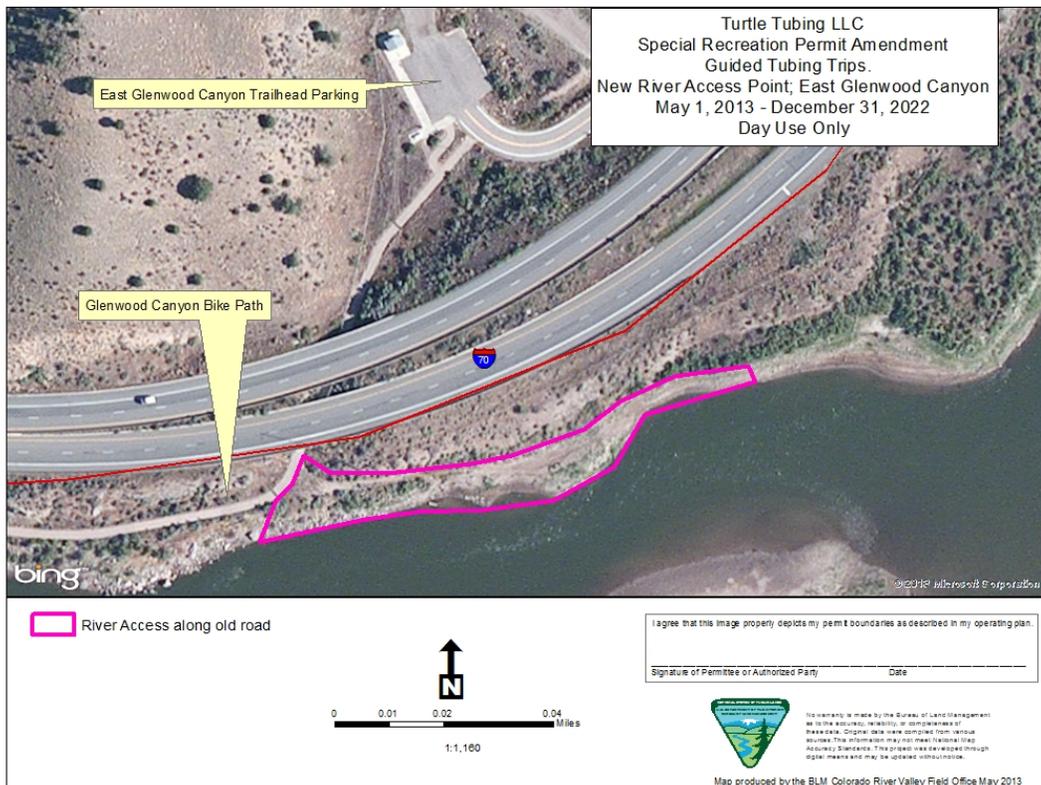
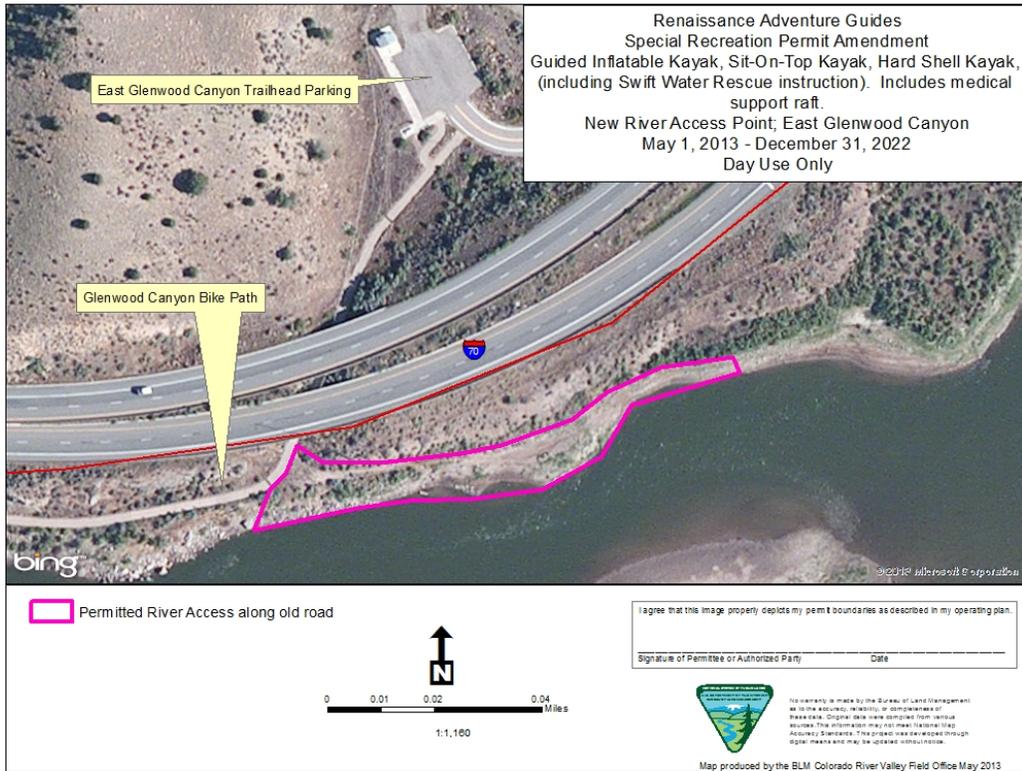
C. Signature

Authorizing Official:  Date: 5-6-2013
Matthew Thorburn
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



Attachment B
SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT AMENDMENT
ADDITIONAL SPECIAL STIPULATIONS
River Access at East Glenwood Canyon Trailhead

Use authorized under this permit amendment will be subject to standard SRP terms, conditions and stipulations and the special stipulations described below:

1. The river access location of East Glenwood Canyon is authorized for 2013 - 2022 only. See attached map for location verification.
2. This authorization does not preclude the general public from using the site.
3. Trip sizes that use this site are limited to no more than 30 people per trip.
4. Camping, loafing, barbecuing, resting and all associated activities will only be authorized to occur within approved site locations and not in riparian areas. (Riparian areas are defined as the interface between land and a river or stream which support riparian vegetation; i.e. the river bank.) Use only approved and hardened trails within riparian areas. Do not create new trails.
5. Riparian areas along the Colorado River may provide suitable habitat for rare plants, and as such, activities associated with this permit are restricted to hardened trails and shall not disturb riparian vegetation.
6. Pet owners must clean up and properly dispose of pet feces within the site to maintain site sanitation.
7. When making vessel landings on the Colorado River banks, use gravelly or rocky sites along the bank that are naturally hardened to this activity. Groups with multiple vessels must keep the landing site to its absolute minimum necessary and must not spread out up and down the river bank. Keep landing areas and sites to the minimum area necessary to complete your activity safely.
8. The permit holder must take precautions not to spread noxious weeds or invasive aquatic species to public lands or waters.
9. Since this site is a dispersed site, the BLM will require that you make sure Leave No Trace ethics are strictly adhered to by both guides and clients. Leave the sites better than you found it. (This includes packing out all trash, including any food particles that may attract insects or animals.) If the BLM starts to see that the sites start to diminish or the footprint of these sites expand either through public use or commercial use, the BLM retains the right to terminate this authorization at any time.
10. Cultural Resource 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.
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Date

Permittee



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DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: Renaissance Adventure Guides and Turtle Tubing; New river access point at East Glenwood Canyon trailhead area

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2013-0048-CX

DECISION: It is my decision to amend the special recreation permits as described in the proposed action in the categorical exclusion DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2013-0048-CX. BLM has authority to grant such permits in accordance with 43 U.S.C. 1201; 43 U.S.C. 1701; 16 U.S.C. 460 L-6(a); and 43 CFR Group 2930.

PROCESS FOR APPEALS: Notice of the decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office NEPA website. The action is subject to appeal under 43 CFR 2931.8, parts 4 and 1840 of this title. A decision made under this part will go into effect immediately while appeals are pending unless a stay is granted under 4.21 (b) of this title.

An appeal is an opportunity for a qualified party to obtain a review of a BLM decision by an independent board of Administrative judges within the Department of Interior's Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). The IBLA determines whether the BLM followed applicable laws and regulations, adhered to established policies and procedures, and considered relevant information in reaching a decision.

Individuals, who believe they are adversely affected by a BLM decision to deny, modify or cancel a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) may appeal the decision. Appeals are made to the IBLA under Title 43 C.F.R., Part 4, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. 4.411. A person who wished to appeal to the IBLA must file in the office of the officer who made the decision a notice that he wished to appeal.

See Information on Taking Appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Form 1842-1) for further information. A copy of this form is available at the Colorado River Valley Field Office.

Authorizing Official: _____

Matthew Thorburn
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

Date: 5-6-2013