

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-120-2007-26-EA

PROJECT NAME: 2007 National Public Lands Day Event – Fraser River Access Trail

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: N1/2, Sec.36, T1N R76W

APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns: The Kremmling Field Office (KFO) has been an active participant in the Grand County Interagency National Public Lands Day (NPLD) event for several years. This NPLD event is one of the largest in the United States and is unique in that several agencies work together to promote public lands throughout the county. Volunteers are able to choose a project of their choice which benefits public lands. Past BLM projects have included foot bridges for accessing Reeder Creek and the Colorado River fishing sites, the Hurd Peak Trail Reconstruction and Maintenance, fencing of the Sidewinder Technical 4x4 Route, and the Jesse Hockett Homestead fencing project. For this year's project, the KFO is proposing to provide a foot access trail accessing .75 miles of the Fraser River on BLM-administered public lands in the Strawberry Area (see Attachment #1 for project area map).

The Strawberry Area is located outside of Tabernash and is bordered by the Fraser River and private land on the west, and United States Forest Service (USFS) land on the east. This area provides one of the few public access points along the Fraser River, which is predominately bordered by private land. The proposed project site is located on a parcel of land that was acquired by the BLM through a land exchange with Colorado State Land Board in 2002. A section of the proposed trail currently exists and was identified in a 2003 inventory. The existing trail was most likely an old two-track road with little use, and was closed to motorized travel with buck and rail fencing by the BLM once the land was acquired.

Visitors currently access the BLM-administered public lands along the Fraser River from three locations, and only one of the access points provides legal access. However, there is no signage in place at any of the access points that provide the public with boundaries of BLM-administered public lands along the Fraser River. Visitors hike the railroad tracks from Tabernash, but this raises safety and trespass concerns. Visitors hike to the river from the Hurd Peak staging area,

but this also raises trespass concerns. Visitors can utilize the existing trail which is in trespass as it approaches the river. In July of 2007, a gate was installed where the existing trail crosses into private property. However, there is no signage permitting public access. In addition, a gate near the river along the newly constructed fence dividing private and public land has been locked. There are also two homes and several other private parcels that separate this access point and BLM-administered public lands that visitors must cross.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is to provide a foot access trail to a popular fishing area on BLM-administered public lands along the Fraser River while mitigating existing trespass and safety issues. The existing trail from Strawberry Road would be improved and extended to the Fraser River. The existing trail segment is approximately .33 miles in length. The proposed trail extension would be an additional .22 miles resulting in a total trail length of approximately .55 miles. The new trail would provide access to approximately .75 miles of the Fraser River. Boundaries of the BLM section of the river would be signed with appropriate boundary markers, as well as below the Hurd Peak staging area to prevent trespass on the private section of the river below. The trail would be designated for non-motorized use, and would be limited to foot travel only. No motorized or mechanized use would occur except for administrative, emergency, and authorized uses.

The existing trail would be cleared of vegetation along one of the two-track treads and improved to an average trail tread width of 24 inches. The adjacent existing tread would be hand scarified, seeded, and covered with slash to promote re-vegetation. There is an existing metal bridge along the two-track route crossing a stream that would be utilized as a crossing to protect the riparian area. A 36" culvert is lying alongside the creek just above the metal bridge that would be removed. The culvert is in good condition, but is not serving any purpose.

The new trail would have similar work done during construction and may also include rock cribbing work and back-cut into sloping hillsides and steps. The new trail alignment would follow along the existing contour with two changes in direction as it approaches the Fraser River. The change in trail direction would be required for a sustainable trail as it follows a cross slope that approaches 30% in areas as it nears its endpoint. The trail would be constructed to have a 1" to 2" outslope for every 24" of trail tread width to promote water flowing across the tread rather than following the trail alignment. A backslope would be cut on the uphill side of the tread that would mimic the original hillside. When vegetation naturally returns, the backslope would blend into the hillside.

Steps would be constructed out of 6"x 6" treated timbers that would be anchored with rebar. Improvements may include installing water bars, swales and drainage dips, removal of in-growth, downfalls and other debris. Spacing of drainage improvements would be constructed as needed to promote sustainable runoff. Other user created trail routes would be hand scarified, seeded, and covered with slash discouraging further use and resource damage.

It is anticipated that this trail would have moderate to heavy use during the summer season and would need to be maintained as needed for public safety and resource protection. Trail maintenance that would likely need to occur includes installing/repairing/replacing water bars and drainage dips, rock cribbing work, removal of in-growth, downfalls and debris, and maintaining a trail tread average width of 24 inches.

Additionally, there is a small parking/pull-off area at the existing trailhead that would benefit from expansion to avert vehicles from parking along the roadside. The existing parking/pull-off area is on the south side of the creek and currently can accommodate 3 to 4 vehicles. The current buck and rail fencing is in disrepair and would need to be repaired. By constructing buck and rail fencing on the north side of the creek, a second delineated area would provide additional parking for 2 to 3 vehicles with limited labor and ground disturbance. To provide protection to the creek and its banks adjacent to the parking areas, fencing would be built along both sides to keep vehicles from parking within 5 feet of the creek edge. An interpretive and educational kiosk would also be erected to provide visitors with information on the recreational opportunities, access, and the Fraser River fishery. The kiosk would provide information on 'Stay the Trail' and 'Leave no Trace' ethics. Signage would also be placed limiting the fenced area for parking with no camping allowed.

The Proposed Action is planned in conjunction with Grand County National Public Lands Day, on September 29, 2007. The project would be constructed by 30 to 40 volunteers and BLM staff.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, no trail and site development would occur. The public would continue to use a network of user created trails that are in trespass, and parking would remain unrestricted and insufficient due to its size. Vehicles would continue to be able to park directly next to the creek, possibly eroding the bank edge and having vehicle fluids enter the drainage.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis: None

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a foot access trail to a popular fishing area on BLM-administered public lands along the Fraser River and to address existing trespass and safety issues. The Fraser River is a popular fishery that receives moderate to high levels of visitation within BLM lands in the south Strawberry area during most of the year. While an existing trail from the Strawberry Road provides access towards the Fraser River, it is in trespass of private property and several dispersed user created trails have been created.

There is a need for the Proposed Action to protect resources, provide for public safety and mitigate trespass. The proposed trail would prevent resource damage and erosion from multiple user created routes; establish one developed access route, and improve recreational opportunities.

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: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: P.11, 7, a

Decision Language: Objective: To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available

from other sources, to reduce impacts of recreational use on fragile and unique resource values, and to provide for visitor safety, and resource interpretation.

Standards for Public Land Health: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. The following are the approved standards:

Standard	Definition/Statement
#1 Upland Soils	Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.
#2 Riparian Systems	Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water, function properly and have the ability to recover from major surface disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.
#3 Plant and Animal Communities	Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.
#4 Threatened and Endangered Species	Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.
#5 Water Quality	The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 CCR 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in the environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements below or in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist (IDT-RRC) (Appendix 1).

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following critical elements: Air Quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns, Environmental Justice, Farmlands- Prime and Unique, Floodplains, Wastes- Hazardous or Solid, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness were evaluated and determined that they were not present or that there would be no impact to them from the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative. See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1 for further information.

The following critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Currently, there are no known invasive, non-native species found within the project area. However, past and current activities, such as livestock grazing, residential development, motorized recreation, etc., have disturbed soils in the area and have contributed to noxious weed infestations throughout Middle Park.

Environmental Consequences: All areas that would be disturbed during construction of the new trail extension, closure of existing trails, and parking area enlargement would be susceptible to the establishment or spread of invasive, non-native species. All disturbed areas would require monitoring for noxious weed establishment or spread for five years following construction. Invasive, non-native species would be controlled by the BLM in partnership with Grand County.

Mitigation:

-Previously disturbed areas such as existing trails, and any disturbed areas outside of the new trail and parking lot would require seeding with a BLM approved seed mix and seeding rate.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The proposed project area provides habitat for several species of migratory birds including sage sparrows, Brewer's sparrows, vesper sparrows, northern flickers, western wood- pewees, Clark's nutcrackers, and mountain bluebirds. In addition, goshawks, sharp-shinned hawks, and Cooper's hawks occupy the area adjoining the proposed project area.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed project would eliminate some habitat for these species since vegetation would be removed for trail construction. Also, increased use of the area by fishermen as a result of the proposed project could displace some of these species from the project area. However, these impacts would be mitigated by the proposed reclamation of existing trails in the area. Also, sufficient undisturbed habitat exists in the project area that could support birds displaced by the proposed trail construction.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: The proposed project area could support Northern goshawks, a BLM designated Sensitive Species.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Northern goshawks could inhabit the proposed project area (see Migratory Bird section above), and would likely be displaced from the project area with the increased human use. However, sufficient habitat exists in adjoining areas to support goshawks which could be displaced. No other threatened, endangered, or sensitive species are known to inhabit the proposed project area.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The project area would continue to meet this land health standard.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The Proposed Trail is located along an unnamed ephemeral drainage that is tributary to the Fraser River. The drainage is fed by snowmelt and is generally dry by mid summer. This portion of the Fraser River is classified for water supply, agriculture, recreation-class 1a, and aquatic life-cold water class 1 uses. The river is considered to be meeting water quality standards and supporting its designated uses. In 2006, the local Trout Unlimited chapter and Grand County Water Information Network (GCWIN) placed a temperature sensor to record stream temperatures in this segment of the river. Due to the hot summer air temperatures and reduced streamflows, water temperatures and impacts to fisheries are a water quality concern. There are no ground water occurrences in the vicinity of the trail.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Creating a larger parking area and more easily followed trail to the river could result in increased sediment loads in the ephemeral drainage's runoff and in the Fraser River. However, the proposed trail is designed to minimize slope, to have adequate drainage to reduce soil erosion, and to have a sustainable trail. The proposed trail would have frequent drainage that would not route runoff directly into the drainage. The Soil section discusses trail drainage and the slope of the proposed trail in more detail.

Under the No Action Alternative, multiple trails would be expected to increase in both number and use, and have a greater potential to result in accelerated soil erosion and water quality impacts. The existing parking lot is too small and the public is increasing vegetation and soil disturbances by parking anywhere. The proposed parking lot expansion would help limit disturbances to one area where the location is suitable for use. There would be no impacts to ground water quality.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The Proposed Action is expected to help prevent future impacts to water quality by encouraging the public to use a designed and maintained trail and parking lot. Under the No Action Alternative, recreational use could result in less suitable trail locations needing reclamation and closure to prevent resource damage.

WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The Proposed Trail is located parallel to an ephemeral drainage down to the Fraser River floodplain. The upper portion of the trail is located on an existing two track road and utilizes an existing metal bridge to cross the drainage. The drainage is fed by snowmelt and generally is dry by mid summer. It is well vegetated and stable. The trail is located outside of wetland or riparian zones, except for the crossing, until it ends in the Fraser River floodplain. The public primarily uses the public segment of the Fraser River above the canyon. It is a wide meadow on the east side of the river with the railroad tracks on the opposite side. Due to upstream diversions, river flows are heavily controlled and the floodplain is no longer active. The meadow is well vegetated, stable, and in good condition.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The Proposed Trail would use the existing drainage crossing and would not disturb the drainage or its vegetation. By improving the trail to the river, fewer user created trails would end up in the riparian zone or crossing the drainage. Monitoring of public use along the floodplain should be done to identify if excessive trails or streambank damage occurs. Due to the limited amount of public river access, use may require that additional improvements be done along the Fraser River to protect the streambanks.

Under the No Action Alternative, the public would continue to utilize user created trails through the drainage down to the river. Riparian vegetation could be damaged and the drainage's stability decreased. User created trails and bare banks may also occur along the Fraser River.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The riparian zones of both the unnamed drainage and the Fraser River are considered to be in proper functioning condition and meeting the standard. The Proposed Action should help the drainage continue to meet the standard, while the No Action Alternative foregoes the opportunity to protect it. Regardless of which action is selected, the Fraser River floodplain may need additional management in the future to protect the streambanks.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following non-critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Soil information is from the Grand County Soil Survey (NRCS, 1983), and although the scale of the survey does not necessarily provide site specific soils, it can indicate general soil types in the area. The soil survey rates the major as having severe limitations for paths and trails due to slopes. A severe limitation indicates that “limitations can be offset only by costly soil reclamation, special design, intensive maintenance, limited use, or by a combination of these measures.” The survey maps most of the trail area as Upson stony sandy loams, 15-65% slopes. Upson soils rated as highly erodible soils by both wind and water erosion, and have a low erosion tolerance. Depth to bedrock varies between 20-40 inches, beneath about 1” of duff and a stony sandy loam surface. In the surface layer (top 18”) is about 10% stones and 15% gravels. Large stones (10-25 inches) make up about 20-25% of the ground surface.

The lower portion of the existing trail appears to cross Frisco-Peeler gravelly sandy loams, 25-65% slopes. These soils formed in glacial drift, and are predominantly Frisco soils on steep slopes. The Peeler soils tend to be about 25% of the soil mapping unit and occur on concave slopes. Peeler soils are highly erodible by water erosion. Both soils have gravelly sandy loams at the surface, with about 15% gravel by volume.

As the proposed trail drops into the Fraser River floodplain, it would cross Cryoborolls-Rock outcrop complex (very steep), and end in Cumulic Cryaquolls (nearly level). Cryoborolls generally make up 70% of the complex, and formed in material weathered from metamorphic rocks (similar to the Upson soils). Soil textures can vary greatly with stone and gravel contents ranging from 20-60%, but the top 18 inches have high organic content. Cryoborolls are also rated as highly erodible by water erosion. Cumulic Cryaquolls are wetland soils that formed in alluvium or alluvial outwash. Due to their location, these soils may have variable soil horizons and sand or gravel layers throughout their horizon. They also have high organic contents in the top 18 inches and at least a seasonally high water table within 10-24 inches of the surface.

Environmental Consequences: A well designed trail encourages hikers to use the trail due to easier walking and marked legal access. The Proposed Action would benefit soil resources by replacing numerous trails with a less erosive, more sustainable trail. The proposed trail location crosses soils with sandy loams, gravel, and rock components, which all help reduce the amount of displacement and compaction of the trail surface. Foot traffic generally has low to medium compaction and medium displacement, with the center of the tread most compacted.

The trail design should ideally have narrow tread width with minimal vegetative disturbance, and avoid long steep segments of trail. Where the route is under the forest canopy, raindrop impact and runoff potential would be reduced. Due to the terrain’s slopes, to make a sustainable trail would require minimizing the amount of runoff that might occur. This would require frequent drain spacing that routes water off the trail to the downslope side. Utilizing the natural slope and frequent dips would reduce tread erosion and maintenance needs, as it reduces the contributing drainage area to any one dip or drain. Where the trail grades exceed 8%, drains should be spaced much more frequently to help the segment be sustainable.

Under the No Action Alternative, the public would continue to create trails to the river. The existing trail would not be improved and parking areas would be user-created in other adjacent areas. Soil erosion would be expected to increase as the increased traffic and increased number of trails would expose more bare ground and runoff would remain in the tread, eroding the soils.

Mitigation:

-Due to the terrain's slopes, to make a sustainable trail would require minimizing the amount of runoff that might occur. This would require frequent drain spacing that routes water off the trail to the downslope side. Utilizing the natural slope and frequent dips would reduce tread erosion and maintenance needs, as it reduces the contributing drainage area to any one dip or drain. Where the trail grades exceed 8%, drains should be spaced much more frequently to help the segment be sustainable.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The area is considered to be meeting Standard #1, as there are no known areas of accelerated erosion currently and overall conditions are good. The Proposed Action would help the area continue to meet the standard by reducing new trails and creating a sustainable trail. Under the No Action Alternative, over time, resources conditions could degrade and segments of trails could have areas of excessive erosion and soil loss.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The trail extension would wind through mostly coniferous forests, with a small stretch of sagebrush steppe and grassland near the Fraser River. The forest is mostly lodgepole pine, many of which are dead or dying. The area closer to the river is open and consists of an overstory of sagebrush, bitterbrush, and snowberry with an understory of a variety of grasses and forbs. The grasses consist of western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), bluegrasses (*Poa* spp), needle grasses (*Stipa* spp), and fescues (*Festuca* spp). The forbs are highly dependent on recent precipitation timing and amounts and are highly variable in species and number from year to year. The area along the river has riparian vegetation species such as grasses, rushes, sedges, and willows.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The Proposed Action would only disturb a small area to expand the trail and enlarge the parking area. The vegetation in these small areas would be disturbed but no impact to the overall vegetation of the area would occur. All disturbed areas outside of the trail and the reclaimed trails would be seeded with a BLM approved seed mix and seeding rate.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The project area is not authorized for livestock grazing. Therefore, the project area has not been assessed for compliance with the Standards.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed project would provide improved access to the Fraser River where trout fishing is a popular activity. The Fraser River supports rainbow trout, German brown trout, and brook trout. In addition beavers and mink inhabit the Fraser River.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed project would not impact aquatic habitat, however, improved access could attract more fishermen and increase fishing pressure. Increased fishing pressure could adversely impact trout species in the Fraser since they would be subjected to stress associated with sport fishing.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The project area would continue to meet this standard if the proposed project is implemented as planned.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed project would occur in upland habitat dominated by lodgepole pine and sagebrush. Some pine trees and sagebrush would be removed as a result of trail construction. Forest species including mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, pine marten and pine squirrels, and several species of songbirds and woodpeckers inhabit the project area.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed project would remove a small amount of lodgepole pine, sagebrush, grass, and forbs. An increase in trail use by humans could cause wildlife to move from habitat adjoining the proposed trail. However, sufficient habitat exists to support those species which could be displaced by human using the proposed trail to access the Fraser. Also, other trails would be obliterated and reseeded and would provide additional cover and forage for most species using the project area.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project area would continue to meet this public land health standard.

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION:

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located on a parcel of land that was acquired by the BLM through a land exchange with Colorado State Land Board in 2002. The existing trail was most likely an old two-track road with little use, and was closed to motorized travel with buck and rail fencing by the BLM.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The Proposed Action would improve access to the Fraser River and mitigate trespass concerns in the area. No motorized or mechanized use would be permitted on the access trail.

RECREATION:

Affected Environment: The project area's Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Roaded Natural. The activity characterization includes fishing, hiking, photography, waterfowl

hunting, big game hunting, and picnicking. The setting is characterized by predominantly natural appearing environments with moderate evidences of the sights and sounds of man. The experience characterization includes an equal probability of experiencing affiliation with other user groups and for isolation from sights and sounds of human use. The route has been closed to motorized travel by the BLM since 2002.

Under the Proposed Action, the public would benefit from an improved trail that would enhance the opportunities for fishing, hiking, photography, waterfowl hunting, big game hunting, and picnicking. The setting character would remain the same and have the potential to become more natural appearing as re-vegetation takes place. The probability of encountering other users could increase slightly with the proposed interpretation kiosk and improved parking areas.

Under the No Action Alternative, recreational use would continue. The public would continue to create a system of braided trails on the slopes and adjacent to the Fraser River. Trails would continue to be created causing erosion and resource damage. Motorized impacts would continue to increase in the parking areas. Trespass on private property would continue due to the lack of signage and a defined public trail.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: All resource values have been evaluated for cumulative impacts. It has been determined that there would be no cumulative impacts from the Proposed Action.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: Forest Service, Headwaters Trail Alliance, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and Jean Miller.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

FONSI

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Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA. This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: The Proposed Action will provide an improved foot access trail to a popular fishing area on BLM-administered public lands along the Fraser River and will also address existing trespass and safety issues. The Proposed Action was selected to address public safety and trespass concerns, to improve recreation opportunities and benefits, and to protect the natural resources within the project area.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Cultural & Paleontological:

The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any and all antiquities, or other objects of historic, paleontological, or scientific interest including but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins or artifacts DISCOVERED as a result of operations under this authorization (16 U.S.C. 470.-3, 36 CFR 800.112). The holder shall immediately suspend all activities in the area of the object and shall leave such discoveries intact until written approval to proceed is obtained from the Authorized Officer. Approval to proceed will be based upon evaluation of the object(s). Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the Authorized Officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable (BLM Manual 8142.06E). When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days the Authorized Officer will inform the holder as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
- A timeframe for the Authorized Officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the Authorized Officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the Authorized Officer will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation costs. The Authorized Officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the Authorized Officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside of the authorization boundaries but directly associated with the impacted resource will also be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization will also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources, which are related to the authorizations activities, will be mitigated at the holder's cost.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization 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. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer.

Invasive/Non-native species:

-Previously disturbed areas such as existing trails, and any disturbed areas outside of the new trail and parking lot will require seeding with a BLM approved seed mix and seeding rate.

Soils:

-Due to the terrain's slopes, to make a sustainable trail will require minimizing the amount of runoff that might occur. This will require frequent drain spacing that routes water off the trail to the downslope side. Utilizing the natural slope and frequent dips will reduce tread erosion and maintenance needs, as it reduces the contributing drainage area to any one dip or drain. Where the trail grades exceed 8%, drains must be spaced much more frequently to help the segment be sustainable.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:

Invasive/Non-native species:

-All disturbed areas will require monitoring for noxious weed establishment or spread for five years following construction.

Wetlands and Riparian Zones:

-Monitoring of public use along the floodplain will be done to identify if excessive trails or streambank damage occurs.

NAME OF PREPARER: John Monkouski

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Joe Stout

DATE: 8/21/07

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ David Stout

DATE SIGNED: 8/23/07

ATTACHMENTS:

1). Project Map

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: 2007 National Public Lands Day Event – Fraser River Access Trail

Project Leader: John Monkouski

Date Submitted for Comment: 2/27/2007

Due Date for Comments: 7/31/2007

Need for a field Exam: Summer 2007

Scoping Needs/Interested or Affected Publics: See Persons/Agencies consulted section.

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO		8/17/07	BBW	Standard BLM discovery stipulations made part of the E.A. and the authorization to construct.
Native American	2/16/07	8/17/07	BBW	
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	CC	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	N/A	N/A	PB	The trailwork represents 0.15 acres and would not require a NPDES permit. Enlargement of the parking area entails fencing only. No known wetland impacts that would require a 404 permit.

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name		Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
NI	Air Quality	Belcher	7/3/07	PB	There would be no impacts to air quality from the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	J. Stout	8/21/07	JS	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Cultural Resources	Wyatt	8/17/07	BBW	No effect, no historic properties affected.
NP	Environmental Justice	J. Stout	8/21/07	JS	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique	Belcher	7/03/07	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Floodplains	Belcher	8/13/07	PB	The trail itself is outside of the floodplain, along an intermittent drainage, and ends when it reaches the floodplain. The proposed trail would not alter the functionality of the flood-

					plain, nor increase the flood hazard. There are no permanent structures or improvements proposed within the floodplain.
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	Johnson Torma	7/9/07	RJ	See analysis in EA.
PI	Migratory Birds	Cesar	7/16/07	CC	See analysis in EA.
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Wyatt	8/17/07	BBW	Of the five federally-recognized Native American tribes contacted no tribe to date none has stated that they have concerns regarding the 2007 National Public Lands Day Event – Fraser River Access Trail. Thus, there would be no impacts.
PI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	Cesar McGuire	7/16/07	CC	See analysis in EA.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Hodgson	7/17/07	KH	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
PI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5)	Belcher	7/03/07	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	Belcher	7/03/07	PB	See analysis in EA.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Sterin	4/26/07	BGS	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	Monkouski	2/22/07	JM	There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements)					
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1)	Belcher	7/03/07	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	Johnson	7/9/07	RJ	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	Cesar	7/16/07	CC	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	Cesar	7/16/07	CC	See analysis in EA.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
PI	Access/Transportation	Monkouski	2/22/07	JM	See analysis in EA.
NI	Forest Management	Rosene	3/16/07	RR	No impact. Some dead trees may need to be removed periodically for safety reasons.
NI	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson	5/2/07	KH	No impact.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	7/03/07	PB	See Water Quality & Wetlands write-up. No impacts to water rights.
NP	Paleontology		8/21/07	FGR	The proposed project area is mapped as Biotite schist. This formation is classified as Class IV (Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis by Harley J. Armstrong and David G. Wolny). Class IV formations are defined as, “Fossils are not known for this geologic unit and there is little likelihood of their occurrence.” There are no known fossil occurrences in the Area of Potential Affect (APE), and only very slight expectations that any would occur within the APE. The project is recommended to

				proceed with standard BLM cultural and Paleontological discovery stipulations made part of the E.A. and the authorization to construct.	
NI	Noise	Monkouski	2/22/07	JM	No impacts
NP	Range Management	Johnson	7/9/07	RJ	Livestock grazing is not authorized in the project area.
NP	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	3/1/07	SC	There are no leases, permits or ROW's in the location of the proposed action
PI	Recreation	Monkouski	2/22/07 4/26/07	JM BGS	See analysis in EA.
NI	Socio-Economics	J. Stout	8/21/07	JS	There would be no impacts.
NI	Visual Resources	Straub	4/18/07	RS	Class II. The trail is winding through trees and would not be visible from any distance.
NI	Cumulative Impact Summary	J. Stout	8/21/07	JS	There would be no impacts.
FINAL REVIEW					
	P&E Coordinator	J. Stout	8/21/07	JS	
	Field Manager	D. Stout			