

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Little Snake Field Office  
455 Emerson Street  
Craig, CO 81625**

## **DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2012-0001-DNA

PROJECT NAME: Duffy Mountain River Access Boat Ramp Reroute

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T5N, R93W, Section 6

### **A. Describe the Proposed Action**

The Duffy Mountain River access site is public land that is managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPAW) under a Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) lease, which allows for recreational development on public land by CPAW of a recreation site primarily for river access for boaters. Changes in river flow and bank stability have washed away the existing boat ramp, and river put-in and take-out of water crafts (boats, canoes, kayaks), which has increased the safety concern for the recreating public. CPAW will relocate and construct a new boat ramp to address these concerns.

Under the Proposed Action, less than one acre will be disturbed, therefore no storm water management plan is required (per current State of Colorado regulations). Short-term sediment control will be achieved by immediately revegetating the slopes of the new ramp. A geotechnical fabric will be placed directly on the ramp and then covered by Class 6 roadbase to prevent soil movement downslope into the river. Finally, any excess soil from ramp construction will be pushed up and away from the channel, contoured to fit site topography, and possibly vegetated to further prevent off-site erosion. Construction is expected to be completed in one week during the fall of 2011.

See attached documents.

### **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name: Little Snake Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved: October 2011

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision:

The Little Yampa Canyon area, 27,310 acres, will be managed as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) to provide river boating, big game hunting, camping, wildlife viewing, and interpretation/education opportunities for local communities and visitors to the area. Section 2.15 Recreation/RMP-44.

**C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/Finding of No Significant Impact. (Environmental Assessment No. CO-016-95-048).

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?**

Yes. The current proposed action is part of the approved actions identified in the Little Snake RMP, dated October 2011 and the Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). (Environmental Assessment No. CO-016-95-048). The proposed action is within the same location as the original and current EA.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes. The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI analyzed the environmental impacts of alternatives ranging from No Action to the Approved Actions, which include this proposed action.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?**

Yes. The Proposed Action would have no disproportionate impacts on minority populations or low income communities per Executive Order (EO) 12898 and would not adversely impact migratory birds per EO 13186.

No new, threatened or endangered plant or animal species have been identified on the site, and archeological clearances have been completed.

State of Colorado surface water quality standards, list of impaired waters, and monitoring and evaluation lists have been updated since the original EA was signed in 1995. All portions of the mainstem of the Yampa River (from Elkhead Creek to the Green River) are now on the State's Monitoring and Evaluation list for suspected sediment problems and on the 303d List of Impaired Waters for high priority (total recoverable) iron impairment. The project will not result in the placement of fill materials in the river, so no Army Corps of Engineers permit is required (see attached correspondence).

**4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?**

Yes. The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI methodology and analytical approach are appropriate to this proposed action.

**5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?**

Yes. The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI analyzed the direct, indirect, and site-specific impacts of the area covered under this present proposed action.

**6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?**

Yes. The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI addressed cumulative impacts. The cumulative impacts resulting from the current proposed action are unchanged from those analyzed in the original EA.

**7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?**

Yes. All public involvement and interagency review associated with The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan and Decision Record/FONSI are adequate to this proposed action.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Resource Represented</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ecologist	Air Quality, Floodplains, Prime/Unique Farmlands, Surface Water Quality, Wetlands/Riparian Zones	10/25/11
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	10/12/11
Realty Specialist	Environmental Justice	10/17/11
Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation/Travel Management	10/14/11
Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive Non-native Species	10/25/11
Rangeland Management Specialist	Sensitive Plants, T&E Plant	10/17/11
Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animal	11/01/11

Geologist	Ground Water Quality	10/17/11
Outdoor Recreation Planner	WSA, W&S Rivers, Wilderness Characteristics	10/14/11

**STANDARDS:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Date</b>
Wildlife Biologist	Animal Communities	11/01/11
Wildlife Biologist	Special Status, T&E Animal	11/01/11
Rangeland Management Specialist	Plant Communities	10/25/11
Rangeland Management Specialist	Special Status, T&E Plant	10/17/11
Ecologist	Riparian Systems	10/25/11
Ecologist	Water Quality	10/25/11
Ecologist	Upland Soils	10/25/11

**REMARKS:**

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**

The rerouting and construction of a boat ramp and access road are considered undertakings under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). BLM has the legal responsibility to take into account the effects of its actions on cultural resources located on federal land. BLM Manual 8100 Series, the Colorado State Protocol and BLM Colorado Handbook of Guidelines and Procedures for Identification, Evaluation, and Mitigation of Cultural Resources provide guidance on how to accomplish Section 106 requirements with the appropriate cultural resource standards. Section 106 of NHPA requires federal agencies to: 1) inventory cultural resources to be affected by federal undertakings, 2) evaluate the importance of cultural resources by determining their eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), and 3) consult with the federal and state preservation agencies regarding inventory results, National Register eligibility determinations, and proposed methods to avoid or mitigate impact to eligible sites. Within the state of Colorado, BLM's NHPA obligations are carried out under a Programmatic Agreement between BLM, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Officer. If the undertaking is determined to have “no effect” or “no adverse effect” by the BLM Little Snake Field Office archaeologist then it may proceed under the terms of the Programmatic Agreement. If the undertaking is determined to have “adverse effects” then consultation is initiated with the SHPO.

The prehistoric and historic cultural context for northwestern Colorado has been described in several recent regional contexts. Reed and Metcalf’s (1999) context for the Northern Colorado River Basin is applicable for the prehistoric context and historical contexts include overviews compiled by Frederic J. Athearn (1982) and Michael B. Husband (1984). A historical archaeology context has also been prepared for the state of Colorado by Church and others (2007).

Cultural resources evaluated as eligible for the National Register can be directly or indirectly adversely impacted by surface disturbing activities and or the construction/modification of a building, structure, facility, or infrastructure. The proposed action also has the potential to detract from the integrity of any eligible cultural resources within the view-shed. Indirect adverse impacts to eligible cultural resources include but are not limited to collection of artifacts/cultural material, inadvertent trespass damaging integrity of cultural resources, and damage to the environmental setting.

The proposed undertaking has undergone a Class III cultural resource study:

Collins, Gary

2011 *Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Proposed Duffy Mountain Boat Ramp Project, Moffat County, Colorado*. BLM-LSFO 10.2.2012. Bureau of Land Management Little Snake Field Office, Craig, CO.

This study did not identify any cultural resources eligible for the National Register within the area of potential effect for the proposed undertaking. The proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic properties. Under the terms of the Programmatic Agreement it may proceed with the following standard mitigative measures in place.

**Mitigative Measures:**

1. Any cultural and/or paleontological (fossil) resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and the authorized officer will make any decision as to proper mitigation measures after consulting with the holder.
2. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the find and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to:
  - Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
  - The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and
  - Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-5000, and 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.

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

### References Cited

Athearn, Frederic J.

1982 *An Isolated Empire: A History of Northwest Colorado*. Bureau of Land Management-Colorado. Cultural Resource Series No. 2, Second Edition. Denver.

Church, Minette C., Steven G. Baker, Bonnie J. Clark, Richard f. Carrillo, Jonathan C. Horn, Carl D. Spath, David R. Guilfoyle, and E. Steve Cassells

2007 *Colorado History: A Context for Historical Archaeology*. Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Denver.

Husband, Michael B.

1984 *Plateau Country Historic Context*. Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Office, Denver.

Reed, Alan D. and Michael Metcalf

1999 *Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Northern Colorado River Basin*. Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Denver, Colorado.

### **NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS**

Letters were sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Utes Tribal Council, Shoshoni Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs in the spring of 2011 discussing upcoming projects the BLM would be working on in FY10 and FY11. Letters were followed up with phone calls. No comments were received (Letters on file at the Little Snake Field Office, Craig, Colorado).

### **PALEONTOLOGY**

The operator is responsible for informing all persons in the areas who are associated with this project of the requirements for protecting paleontological resources. Paleontological resources found on the public lands are recognized by the BLM as constituting a fragile and nonrenewable scientific record of the history of life on earth, and so represent an important and critical component of America's natural heritage. These resources are afforded protection under **43 CFR §3802 and §3809**, and penalties possible for the collection of vertebrate fossils are under **43**

**CFR §8365.1-5.** The operator will report all occurrences of paleontological resources discovered to the appropriate surface management AO with the Little Snake Field Office of the BLM.

**LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS**

Subject to WO-IM 2011-154 and in accordance with BLM policy, the Little Yampa Canyon SRMA was evaluated for suitability as lands with wilderness characteristics (Identifier CO-010-290) and did not meet the roadless criteria for an area greater than 5,000 acres. Therefore, the proposed action would not affect lands with wilderness characteristics.

**T&E SPECIES**

In the Little Snake Field Office, the Yampa River and its 100-year flood plain from the Colorado State Highway 394 bridge (T6N, R91W, Section 1) to the confluence with the Green River has been designated as critical habitat (DCH) for the Colorado pikeminnow. Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is required when DCH is modified. A biological assessment describing potential impacts to Colorado pikeminnow and DCH was sent to USFWS to complete Section 7 consultation. A determination of “May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect” Colorado pikeminnow or DCH was found for this project USFWS concurred with this determination (ES/CO:BLM/LSFO:06E24100-2010-I-0023).

**Conclusion**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM’s compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Signature of Lead Specialist /s/ Gina Robison Date 11/02/11

Signature of NEPA Coordinator /s/ Barbara Sterling Date 11/02/11

Signature of the Authorizing Official /s/ Matt Anderson for Date 11/02/11  
Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager

Note: The signed Conclusion on this document is part of an interim step in the BLM’s internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ecological Services  
764 Horizon Drive, Building B  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506-3946

IN REPLY REFER TO  
ES/CO:BLM/LSFO  
TAILS: 06E24100-2012-I-0023

October 28, 2011

### Memorandum

To: Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Office,  
Craig, Colorado

From: *for* Acting Western Colorado Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Ecological Services, Grand Junction, Colorado *Paul S. Blath*

Subject: Informal Section 7 Consultation for the Duffy Mountain Boat Ramp

This responds to your October 5, 2011, request for informal consultation on the proposed new boat ramp at the Duffy Mountain River Access Site on the Yampa River in Moffat County, Colorado. High flows during the spring of 2011 resulted in the washing away of the previous boat ramp at the Duffy Mountain River Access Site. The new boat ramp would be on BLM land, but the area is managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

We concur with your determination that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Colorado pikeminnow or their designated critical habitat. This is based on the following rationale presented in the biological assessment:

- The proposed action would not result in water depletions.
- The proposed action would not impact spawning habitat or important larvae/juvenile habitat, because these habitats are located over 50 miles downstream from the proposed boat ramp.
- The new road and boat ramp would result in disturbance of less than 0.1 acres of combined upland and riparian vegetation located within the 100 year floodplain. Therefore, effects to designated critical habitat would be insignificant.

Based on the information provided, no further section 7 consultation is required at this time. If you become aware of new information regarding the proposed project that reveals affects to listed species in a manner that was not considered or the occurrence of

other listed species within the action area, reinitiation of section 7 consultation may be required.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patty Gelatt at (970) 243-2778, extension 26.

October 28, 2011

To: Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Office, Craig, Colorado

From: P. Acting Western Colorado Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Services, Grand Junction, Colorado  
*Patty Gelatt*

Subject: Informal Section 7 Consultation for the Duffy Mountain Boat Ramp

This responds to your October 2, 2011 request for informal consultation on the proposed new boat ramp at the Duffy Mountain River Access Site on the Yampa River in Moffat County, Colorado. High flows during the spring of 2011 resulted in the washing away of the previous boat ramp at the Duffy Mountain River Access Site. The new boat ramp would be on BLM land, but the area is managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

We concur with your determination that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Colorado pikeminnow or their designated critical habitat. This is based on the following rationale presented in the biological assessment:

- The proposed action would not impact spawning habitat or important larval/juvenile habitat, because these habitats are located over 50 miles downstream from the proposed boat ramp.
  - The new road and boat ramp would result in disturbance of less than 0.1 acres of combined upland and riparian vegetation located within the 100 year floodplain. Therefore, effects to designated critical habitat would be insignificant.
- Based on the information provided, no further section 7 consultation is required at this time. If you become aware of new information regarding the proposed project that reveals effects to listed species in a manner that was not considered or the occurrence of

**From:** [Green, Nathan J SPK](#)  
**To:** [Havens, Mike](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Duffy Mountain Boat Ramp (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 27, 2011 1:33:18 PM

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Mike,

After our discussion yesterday and review of these plans I have determined that the construction of this project, if implemented as designed, will not result in the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States. Therefore, a Department of the Army permit is not required to complete the proposed work.

Please bear in mind that if the construction of this project results in the placement of any material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, the project will be considered to be in violation of the Clean Water Act. Please use caution while excavating within waters of the United States to avoid the accidental discharge of dredged or fill material in Waters of the United States. Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Nathan Green  
Regulatory Project Manager, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Colorado West Regulatory Branch, 400 Rood Avenue, Room 134, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-2563  
(970) 243-1199 extension 12, cell (970) 216-5186, fax (970) 241-2358  
For more information about the Regulatory Program go to:  
[www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory) Let us know how we're doing.  
<http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>

-----Original Message-----

From: Havens, Mike [<mailto:Mike.Havens@state.co.us>]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 10:11 AM  
To: Green, Nathan J SPK  
Subject: Duffy Mountain Boat Ramp

Nathan,

Attached is the letter and supporting information for the replacement boat ramp at Duffy Mountain. It summarizes the information we discussed in our meeting yesterday. I would appreciate it if you would verify my conclusion that this activity does not require a permit from your agency.

Thanks,

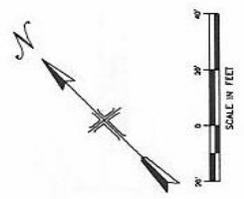
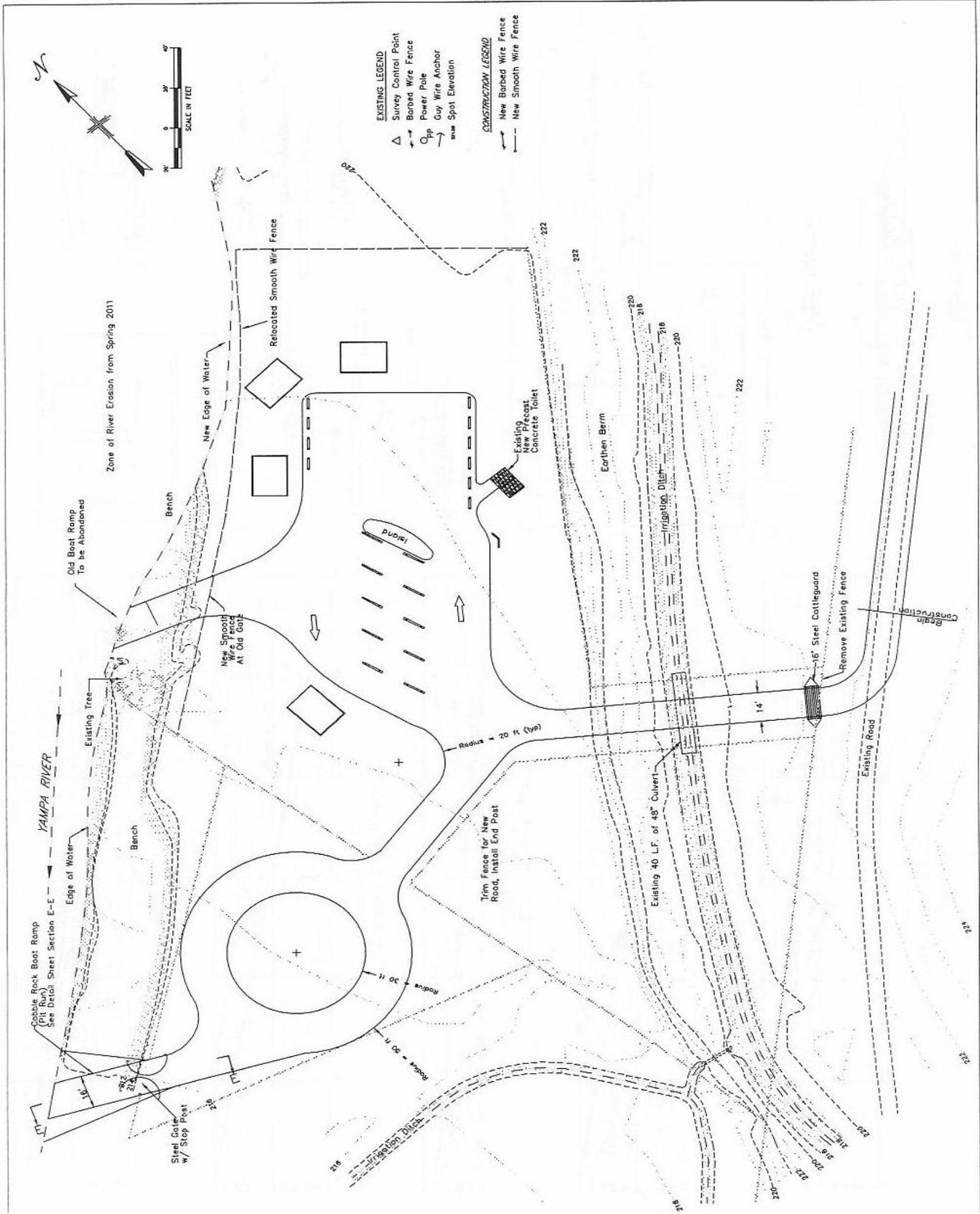
Mike



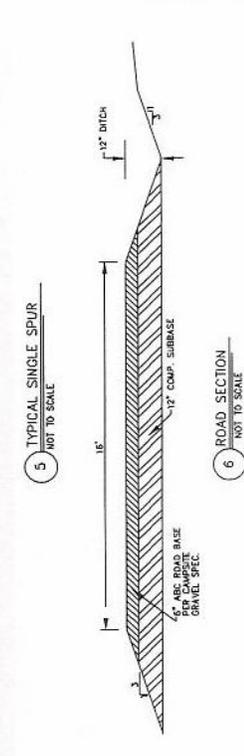
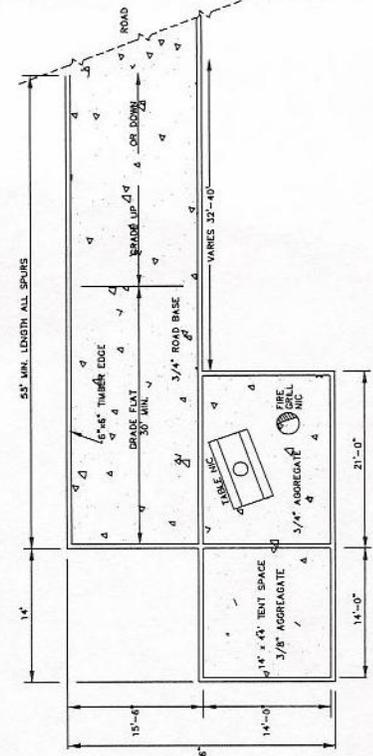
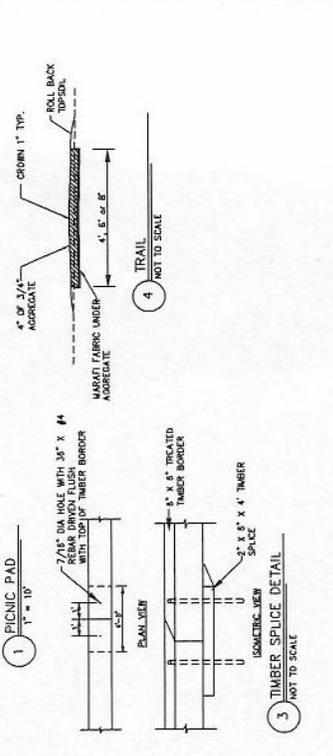
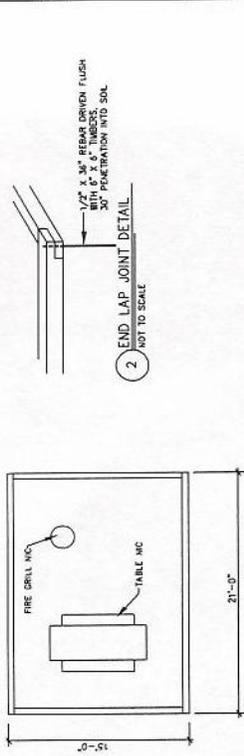
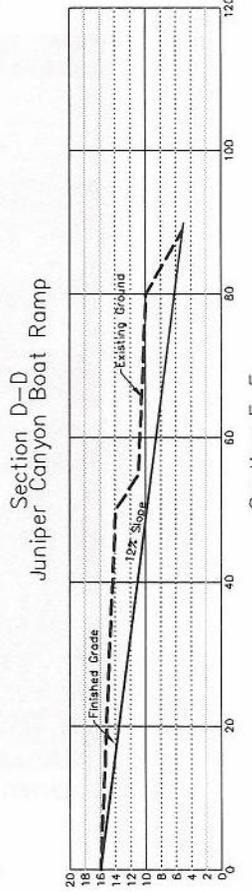
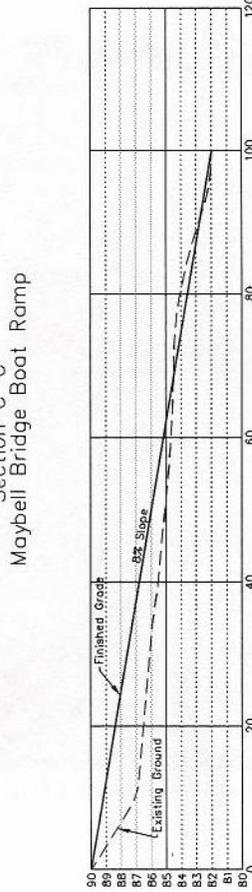
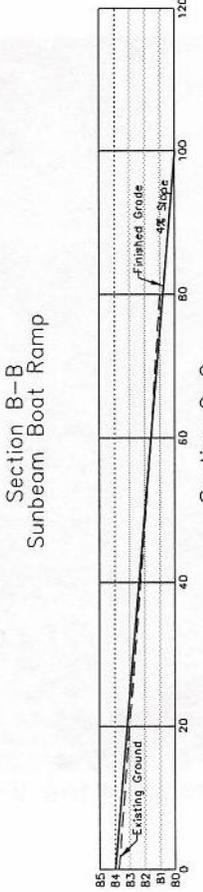
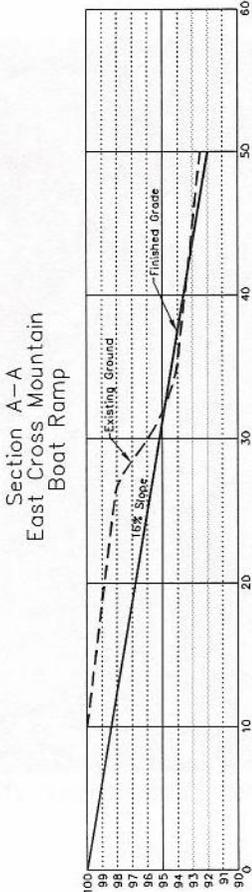
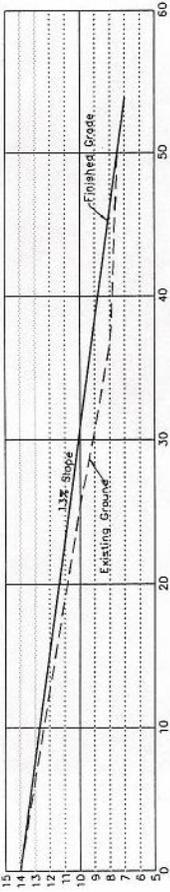
PROJECT MANAGER  
REGIONAL MANAGER

DESIGNED: EDH/MLH  
DRAWN: DCD/MLH  
APPROVED BY: EDH/MLH  
DATE: 9/9/09, 8/21/11  
FILENAME: jpmpp05.dwg

SHEET  
6



- EXISTING LEGEND**
- △ Survey Control Point
  - Barbed Wire Fence
  - Power Pole
  - Guy Wire Anchor
  - Spot Elevation
- CONSTRUCTION LEGEND**
- New Barbed Wire Fence
  - New Smooth Wire Fence



55' MIN. LENGTH ALL SPURS

14'-0"

19'-6"

29'-6"

14'-0"

21'-0"

3/4" ROAD BASE

3/8" AGGREGATE

16"x4" TENT SPACE

TABLE, INC.

FIRE GRILL, INC.

3/4" AGGREGATE

3/4" ROAD BASE

OR ROAD

SPUR UP

VARIES 32'-40"

14'-0"

55' MIN. LENGTH ALL SPURS

Upstream

Facility

Corner

Existing

Ramp

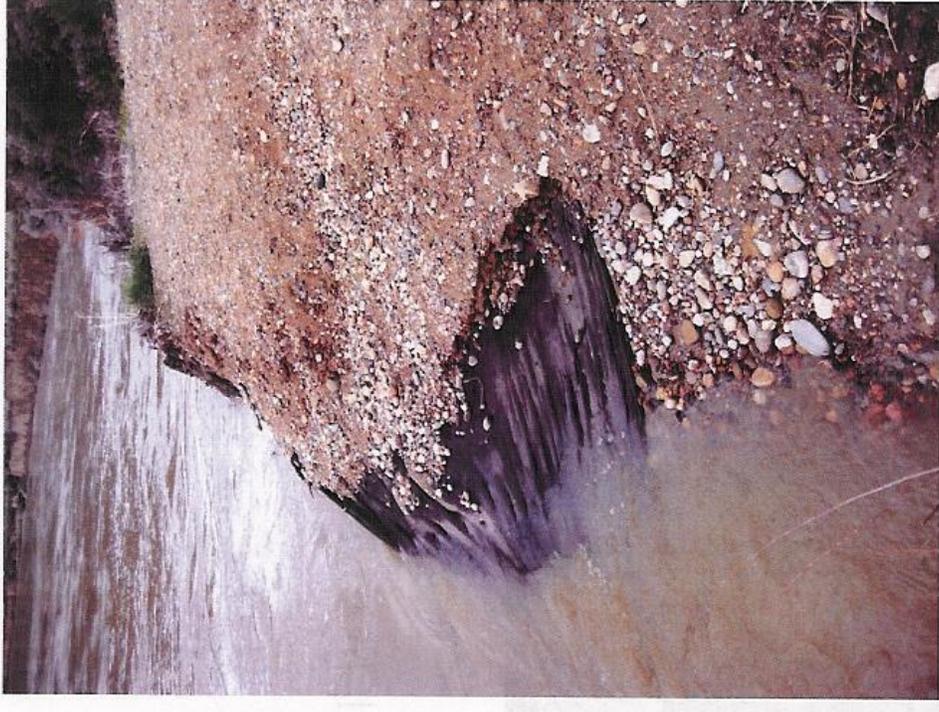
Location

Proposed New

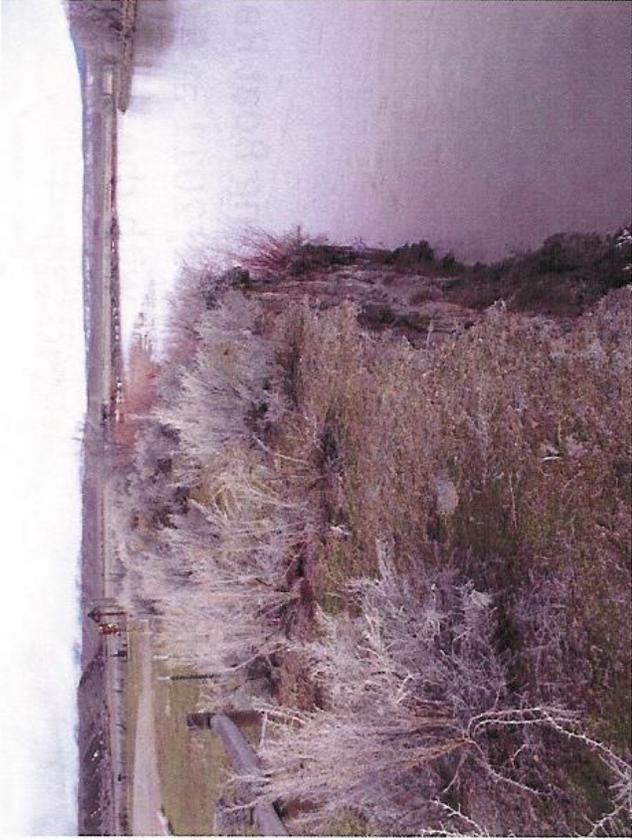
Ramp Location



Duffy Mountain Boat Ramp Overview. River runs right to left through picture.



Existing Boat Ramp. Toe of the ramp has been undercut by the river. River was flowing at 8,000 cfs when pictures were taken on 05/11/11



Upstream Facility Corner in 2007 and 2010. Picture on the left is looking downstream, and was taken in March 2007. Picture on the right is looking upstream, and was taken in May 2011.



View Downstream From Existing Boat Ramp Toward Proposed New Ramp. Picture on the left was taken on May 11, 2011 at 8,000 cfs. Picture on the right was taken in March 2007 at low water, with the gravel bank exposed.



View of Proposed New Ramp Location. View is upstream from property corner



View of Proposed New Ramp Toe Looking Upstream. Boats would launch over the gravel bar shown in March 2007 low water photo.