

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Environmental Assessment
for Emerald Mountain SRMA
Wild Rose Connector Trail Construction**

Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, Colorado 81625

DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2014-0035-EA

May 2014



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ATTACHMENT A: Wild Rose Trail Map

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

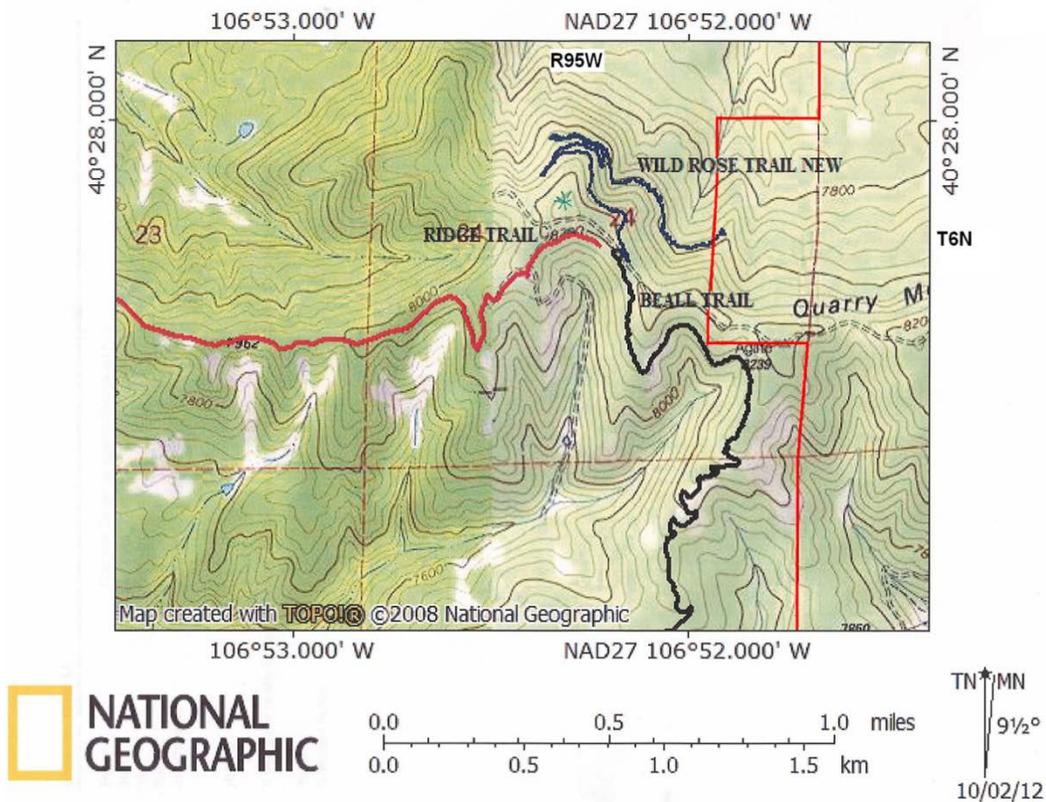
1.1 IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: Emerald Mountain SRMA Wild Rose Connector Trail Construction

PROPONENT: Bureau of Land Management

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T6N R85W Sec. 24.



1.3 BACKGROUND

The Little Snake Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision (RMP/ROD October 2011), identified the Emerald Mountain Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) as two Resource Management Zones (RMZs); Zone 1 – managed for strenuous activities and Zone 2 – managed for a nature experience.

The proposed project is located in Zone 1 where under the activity-planning framework, management is geared towards enhancing recreation opportunities for visitors to the Steamboat

Springs area that includes strenuous mountain biking and Nordic skiing, and similar activities on primitive designated roads and trails.

The Wild Rose Trail construction was approved under DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0057 EA (August 30, 2013) under the assumption that trail construction would be by hand tools (e.g., shovels, rakes, pulaskis) only, and any brush and tree clearing would be by personnel certified to operate electric equipment or with hand tools. The Routt County Riders, who are building the trail, have acquired funding which would allow them to pursue a contract to build the trail using a trail dozer. This method of construction is much more time efficient.

1.4 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed trail has not changed from the original EA; to provide public access and multiple-use recreation opportunities of public lands within the Emerald Mountain SRMA through the construction of a 1.5 mile trail. This connector trail would provide access to the Beall and Ridge Trail systems from the adjoining City of Steamboat Springs' Stairway to Heaven Trail.

In addition to providing a connecting trail from City property to BLM public lands, the Wild Rose Trail is proposed to eliminate a section of the Stairway to Heaven Trail that is too steep and is eroding. The Wild Rose trail would provide a more sustainable trail system.

The Proposed Action has been developed to meet the following objectives:

- To avoid damage to sensitive natural and cultural resources on and around the trail system.
- To provide for user safety.
- To provide convenient access to and usage of the trail system.
- To provide for increased enjoyment of recreational opportunities.

1.5 PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

The proposed action was reviewed for conformance (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.03) with the following plans:

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

Date Approved: October 2011

Results: The proposed action is consistent with the Little Snake Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, Recreation Management goals to:

- Provide a diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities, activities, and experiences for various user groups, unorganized visitors and affected communities, their residences, economies, and the environment.
- Provide visitor services including interpretive and educational information.

- Support tourism efforts for local economic diversification associated with public and resources.

Section/Page: Section 2.15 Recreation/page RMP-42-43

Name of Plan: Emerald Mountain Special Recreation Management Area Implementation Plan Amendment

Date Approved: December 2008

Results: The proposed action is consistent with the plan amendment goals to:

- Diversify the overall recreation opportunities that can be accessed from the City.
- Enhance destination visitor marketing and add to the diversity of recreational and trail use and enjoyment by the residing and visiting public to the Steamboat Springs area.

Section/Page: Section IV. Trail and Facility Development, page 6

1.6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1.6.1 Scoping: NEPA regulations (40 CFR §1500-1508) require that the BLM use a scoping process to identify potential significant issues in preparation for impact analysis. The principal goals of scoping are to allow public participation to identify issues, concerns, and potential impacts that require detailed analysis.

External Scoping Summary: The action in this EA is included in the NEPA log posted on the LSFO web site: http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Information/nepa/lsfo.html.

The Wild Rose Trail was initially presented at a public meeting held at the Bud Werner Library in November 2011. Representatives from a horse group, ranchers, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), mountain bikers, and other attended the meeting. No opposition to the proposed trail was expressed.

In November 2013, voters in Steamboat Springs overwhelmingly supported spending lodging tax dollars on trails, which included the Wild Rose Trail. In March 2014, the 2A campaign committee unanimously voted on providing funds for the trail and ranked it as one of the top three priority projects.

Internal Scoping Summary: The proposed action was presented to the interdisciplinary NEPA team at an LSFO priorities meeting in May 2014. No issues were identified by the team at that time. In October 2012, a site visit was taken to the proposed Wild Rose Trail with Routt County Riders Club (RCR), CPW, and BLM staff.

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, Colorado Native American Commission, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.

CHAPTER 2 - PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to provide information on the Proposed Action and Alternatives.

2.2 ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN DETAIL

2.2.1 Proposed Action

The proposed action is to build the Wild Rose Trail using a combination of mechanized equipment and hand labor. A Sweco or ST240 Trail building machine (a small dozer with backhoe attachments) would be used to rough grade much of the trail, with hand labor used to accomplish the more detailed aspects of the trail construction. The proposed project would encompass approximately 1.5 miles (.73 acres) of new trail within the Emerald Mountain SRMA as outlined below.



1. Trail Construction

The Wild Rose Trail has been identified for designation and implementation with the Emerald Mountain SRMA Management Plan. This trail would be designated and available for foot, horseback and mechanized (i.e. mountain bikes) use only unless otherwise marked. Motorized (i.e., ATVs, motorcycles, etc.) use would not be allowed. The proposed trail is located in Zone 1 of the SRMA, which is identified as managed for strenuous activities.

BLM staff and authorized contractors/cooperators would provide trail flagging, GPS/GIS records, and cultural clearances. Trail construction would be performed by an approved contractor and volunteers. BLM would provide oversight and direction on all phases of the trail construction. The trails would meet or exceed all applicable BLM trail construction standards. The standards include minimum 3-foot width cleared to dirt or surface vegetation, follows land contours at or below 10% grade, side slanted surface or water dips for drainage where needed. Trail drainage design would take advantage of rocky areas and natural drainage areas to

minimize erosion and maintenance requirements. Constructed splash guards or other energy dissipaters would be utilized as required where natural features do not occur. The vegetation canopy would be cleared to minimum 4 foot width and 9 foot height. Drainage crossings would be natural or improved with rocks and gravel where needed. No bridges would be required.

Trail construction would be a SWECO 450 trail dozer or a ST240 furnished on a fully operable basis, with experienced operator. The equipment would have sufficient horsepower to complete the work within the prescribed time using appropriate attachments. Net horsepower would be at manufacturer's certified net horsepower at flywheel and at rated governed RPM of fully equipped engine at standard ambient temperature and barometric conditions according to ANSI J 1349. Equipment would have spark arrester as defined in the U.S. Forest Service Spark Arrester Guide 1995.

2. Standard operating procedures and project design features employed in project implementation:

Several operating procedures would be employed during project implementation to protect a variety of resources at the Emerald Mountain SRMA. These procedures are:

Impacts to cultural resources would be mitigated through a range of practices as necessary from project avoidance to research design guided cultural data recovery excavations.

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered during trail construction shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Construction operations shall be suspended 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.

Project activities which remove migratory bird nesting and sage grouse habitat will not be permitted during the months of May 15 through July 15 to prevent disturbance to nesting migratory birds.

Spring and seep sources will be avoided during construction of new trail segments. New trail segments will be located to avoid all wetland areas if possible. Site specific mitigation will be developed for areas that cannot be avoided.

The dozer and other equipment used on the project would be cleaned to help prevent spread of noxious invasive weeds before and after the project.

3. Compliance Plan(s):

Compliance Schedule: Compliance would be conducted during the construction phase and maintenance phase to ensure that all terms and conditions are followed. This would be done on a five-year compliance schedule after completion of the project.

Monitoring Plan: The SRMA use and condition of the trail would be monitored during the life of the project for compliance with all stipulations and pertinent regulations as well as achievement of identified recreation objectives within each zone. The trail would be monitored for noxious/invasive weeds during the growing season.

Corrective action such as mechanical or chemical treatments would be identified and implemented. Mechanical treatment and/or hand pulling of noxious/invasive weeds would be implemented by RCR and volunteers during trail maintenance, and all noxious/invasive weeds would be removed from the area at that time. If chemical treatments are implemented, appropriate application permits would be obtained. BLM would consider the availability of staffing and funding and pursue additional funding and/or partnerships with Routt County or the City of Steamboat Springs to actively assist in weed abatement.

Assignment of Responsibility: Responsibility for implementation of the compliance schedule and monitoring plan will be assigned to the recreation staff in the Little Snake Field Office. The primary inspector will be the recreation specialist.

2.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Wild Rose Trail would be constructed using methodology as approved in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0057 EA.

CHAPTER 3 – AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND EFFECTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Affected Resources:

The CEQ Regulations state that NEPA documents “must concentrate on the issues that are truly significant to the action in question, rather than amassing needless detail” (40 CFR 1500.1(b)). While many issues may arise during scoping, not all of the issues raised warrant analysis in an environmental assessment (EA). Issues will be analyzed if: 1) an analysis of the issue is necessary to make a reasoned choice between alternatives, or 2) if the issue is associated with a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impact, or where analysis is necessary to determine the significance of the impacts. Table 1 lists the resources considered and the determination as to whether they require additional analysis.

Table 1. Resources and Determination of Need for Further Analysis

Determination¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
Physical Resources		
NI	Air Quality	Activities associated with trail development that may affect air quality, namely dust and exhaust from non-motorized and motorized trail building tools, fall below EPA emission standards for the six criteria pollutants of concern (sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, particulate matter [both PM2.5 and PM10], and lead). Furthermore, non-motorized recreation is not a source of these pollutant emissions that do occur in Routt County. Impacts to air quality caused by either alternative are therefore considered negligible.
NI	Floodplains	There are no FEMA-identified 100-year floodplains present within the proposed project area.
NI	Hydrology, Ground	There would be no impact to ground water hydrology with implementation of either alternative.
PI	Hydrology, Surface	See discussion under Soils in Section 3.2.1 for analysis
NI	Minerals, Fluid	There would be no impact fluid minerals from either alternative.
NI	Minerals, Solid	There would be no impact to solid minerals from either alternative.
PI	Soils	See Section 3.2.1 for analysis.
NI	Water Quality, Ground	There would be no impact to groundwater quality with implementation of either alternative.
NP	Water Quality, Surface	There are no surface water sources present within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area.
Biological Resources		
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	See Section 3.3.1 for analysis
PI	Migratory Birds	Impacts to migratory bird species and their habitats would be similar to impacts described in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0057EA.
NP	Special Status Animal Species	The proposed trail area does not provide habitat for any T&E or BLM sensitive species.
NP	Special Status Plant Species	There are no federally listed threatened, endangered, or BLM sensitive plant species populations identified within the proposed project area.
PI	Upland Vegetation	Impacts to upland vegetation would be similar to impacts described in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0057-EA.
NP	Wetlands and Riparian Zones	There are no riparian resources (wetlands, streams, etc.) identified on public lands within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area.
NP	Wildlife, Aquatic	There are no aquatic wildlife resources located in the project area.
PI	Wildlife, Terrestrial	Impacts to migratory bird species and their habitats would be similar to impacts described in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0057EA.
NP	Wild Horses	This area is not within a Herd Management Area (HMA).
Heritage Resources and the Human Environment		

Determination ¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
NP	Cultural Resources	The proposed trail alignment was subject to a Class 3 cultural resources inventory. No cultural resources were identified within the Area of Potential Effect. Therefore, the undertaking may proceed with a project effect determination of no historic properties affected.
NP	Environmental Justice	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income populations within the LSFO.
NP	Hazardous or Solid Wastes	There are no known Hazardous or Solid Waste issues within the allotments under the Proposed Action.
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Subject to WO-IM 2011-154 and in accordance with BLM policy, the Emerald Mountain SRMA was evaluated for suitability as lands with wilderness characteristics and did not meet the size criteria for an area greater than 5,000 acres.
NP	Native American Religious Concerns	There are no known items, sites, or landscapes determined as culturally significant to the tribes within or immediately adjacent to the project area. The proposed action does not prevent access to any known sacred sites, prevent the possession of sacred objects, or interfere with the performance of traditional ceremonies and/or rituals.
PI	Paleontological Resources	Impacts to paleontological resources would be similar to impacts described in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0057-EA.
NI	Social and Economic Conditions	There would not be any significant changes to local social or economic conditions.
NI	Visual Resources	Proposed project area is located in Recreation Management Zone 1, which is designated as VRM Class II where low change to the characteristic landscape would be allowed as long as any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
NI	Access and Transportation	The only impacts resulting from the proposed action would be positive in nature. Additional trails provide alternate access thus minimizing multiple use and user conflicts.
NI	Fire Management	The Proposed Action would have no impact to fire management.
NP	Forest Management	There are no forest resources that would be impacted by either alternative.
NI	Livestock Operations	The project lies within the Emerald Mountain Allotment and livestock use occurs within the area throughout the frost-free months, but there would be no impact to grazing operations from the proposed action.
NP	Prime and Unique Farmlands	There are no special status farmlands present within the project area.
NP	Realty Authorizations, Land Tenure	There are no realty authorizations in the proposed project area. There are no land tenure projects planned.
NI	Recreation	FLPMA provides for recreational use of public land as an integral part of multiple use management. Dispersed unstructured activities typify the recreational use occurring on most public land. Policy guidelines in BLM Manual 8320 direct BLM to identify administrative units known as SRMAs when there is a distinct, primary recreation-tourism market as well as a corresponding and distinguishing recreation management strategy. Emerald Mountain is managed as a Special Recreation Management Area for multiple uses.

Determination ¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
Special Designations		
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	There are no ACECs within the proposed project area.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	There are no WSRs within the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness Study Areas	There are no WSAs within the proposed project area.

¹ NP = Not present in the area impacted by the Proposed Action or Alternatives. NI = Present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required. PI = Present with potential for impact analyzed in detail in the EA.

3.2 PHYSICAL RESOURCES

3.2.1 Soils

Affected Environment: The proposed trail alignment occurs across loam-dominated soils on slopes greater than 35%. During a July 2013 site assessment of the alignment, soils were found to be stable despite the steeper slopes and native plant production, density, and species diversity are high. Few invasive plant species are present. There are no fragile soils in the immediate project area. The alignment mostly parallels slope contours.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The creation and use of the trail would result in soil disturbance in the form of compaction, muddiness, displacement and erosion. Compacted soils are denser and less permeable to water, which increases water runoff. However, compacted soils also resist erosion and soil displacement and provide durable treads that support traffic. From this perspective, soil compaction is considered beneficial, and it is an unavoidable form of trail impact. The process of compacting the soil can present a difficult challenge, especially on new trails. Unless soils are mechanically compacted during trail construction, initial use compacts the portions of the trail that receive the greatest traffic, generally the center. The associated lowering of the tread surface creates a cupped cross-section that intercepts and collects surface water. In flat terrain this water can pool or form muddy sections; in sloping terrain the water is channeled down the trail, gaining in volume, speed and erosive potential. (Managing Mountain Biking: IMBA’s Guide to Providing Great Riding, 2007) Use of the trail-dozer could speed the process of trail compaction, which would be beneficial.

When trails are located in areas of poor drainage or across highly organic soils that hold moisture, tread muddiness can become a persistent problem. Muddiness is most commonly associated with locations where water flows across or becomes trapped within flat or low-lying areas. Soil compaction, displacement, and erosion can exacerbate or create problems with muddiness by causing cupped trails that collect water during rainfall or snowmelt. Thus, muddiness can occur even along trails where there is sufficient natural drainage. Subsequent traffic skirts these problem spots, compacting soils along the edges, widening mud holes and trail width, and sometimes creating braided trails that circumvent muddy sections. Routt County Riders and the City of Steamboat do a good job educating the trail using public about the damage that is created when the trails are used when muddy. Signs are put up telling the public that the trails are closed when wet and the trail using public self-police using popular social media sites

such as Facebook and Twitter to show damage caused from improper use and to inform users of trail conditions.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: The environmental consequences for the No Action Alternative would be the same as those described in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0057-EA.

Environmental Consequences, Cumulative Impacts: Existing soil/surface disturbance on Emerald Mountain primarily consists of two-tracks (powerline) and single-track routes that provide access for recreational and grazing activities. The addition of the proposed trail intended primarily for non-motorized use would have a small additive impact to overall surface disturbance in the region. Routine trail maintenance and weed management should also act to minimize erosion potential. In some cases, the development of a trail system may act to focus existing non-motorized uses, thereby minimizing dispersed activities across the landscape.

Mitigation: None.

3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.3.1 Invasive/Non-Native Species

Affected Environment: Invasive and noxious weeds are present in the vicinity of the project area. Invasive annuals such as cheatgrass, and allysum commonly occur within the project area. Additional noxious weed species of concern in the vicinity include white top, Canada thistle, knapweeds, hound's tongue, Dalmatian toadflax, yellow toadflax, leafy spurge and biennial thistles. Additional noxious weeds may also be present in the area. Principals of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are employed to control noxious weeds on BLM lands in the Little Snake Field Office through the Little Snake Field Office Noxious Weed Prevention Plan.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Use of a Sweco or ST240 trail building dozer increases the chance that noxious weeds would be introduced or spread compared to using hand tools only. Equipment use, such as the dozer, provides the opportunity for introduction of seeds lodged in the machinery to become established. These seeds could be newly invasive species or spread from existing infestations to the newly disturbed construction areas. These areas are highly susceptible to weed establishment. Early, proactive actions to contain these species is the most effective method of control. The majority of the weed species present in this area are not responsive to mechanical or hand pulling methods and herbicide treatment would likely provide the most effective control.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: The environmental consequences for the No Action Alternative would be the same as those described in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0057-EA.

Environmental Consequences, Cumulative Effects: The proposed project would increase the risk for establishment and spread of noxious and invasive species increasing the occurrence of weeds

within the landscape. The total disturbed area covers a potential approximately 1.5 miles (.73 acres) for infestations to establish and spread from. If noxious weeds establish in these plant communities the health of upland plant communities and associated ecological function would decline. The monitoring plan included in the proposed action provides mitigation which would decrease long term establishment and spread of invasive species. Under the No Action Alternative there would be a lesser opportunity for infestation to occur along the 1.5 mile corridor as a result of construction.

Mitigation: The compliance and monitoring plan would provide necessary mitigation for the proposed action. Adherence to the Design Features of the Proposed Action would be important for the prevention of the spread of noxious weeds.

CHAPTER 4 – PUBLIC LAND HEALTH STANDARDS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In January 1997, the Colorado State Office of the BLM approved the Standards for Public Land Health and amended all RMPs in the State. Standards describe the conditions needed to sustain public land health and apply to all uses of public lands. The Emerald Mountain SRMA Project Area was assessed for compliance with the Colorado Standards of Public Land Health by an interdisciplinary team.

4.2 COLORADO PUBLIC LAND HEALTH STANDARDS

4.2.1 Standard 1: Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes.

Finding of most recent assessment: The most recent assessment in 2007 finds that surface soil characteristics are stable and show little to no signs of surface movement. Biological soils crusts are present and intact where expected. Plant density and production on the site is high to promote water infiltration and permeability as well as minimize surface runoff.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would not meet the public land health standard for upland soils where the trail occurs, however the standard would likely continue to be met within the greater project area since use would be focused and limited mostly to the trail.

No Action Alternative: No surface disturbance would occur under this alternative. This standard would continue to be met.

4.2.2 Standard 2: Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water function properly and have the ability to recover from major disturbance such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods.

There are no riparian systems within or immediately adjacent to the project area. This standard does not apply.

4.2.3 Standard 3: 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.

Proposed Action: The area of the Proposed Action is partially meeting land health standards. The construction and use of trails facilitates an increase in weed infestations. Combined with the potential removal of .7 acre of vegetation the Proposed Action would contribute to this standard not being met.

No Action Alternative: The area is partially meeting land health standards and this trend would continue under the No Action Alternative.

4.2.4 Standard 4: 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.

Proposed Action: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive species present within or in the vicinity of the proposed project. For plants, this standard does not apply.

The area of the Proposed Action is partially meeting land health standards. The construction of the trail could lead to a slight increase in weed infestations, but overall, the Proposed Action would not preclude this standard from being met.

No Action Alternative: The area is partially meeting land health standards and this trend would continue under the No Action Alternative.

4.2.5 Standard 5: 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.

There are no perennial surface waters within or immediately adjacent to the project area. This standard does not apply.

SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:

SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWER:

DATE SIGNED:

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2014-0035-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA and all other available information, I have determined that the proposal and the alternatives analyzed do not constitute a major Federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Little Snake Resource Area and adjacent land.
2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.
3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.
5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State or local natural resource related plans, policies or programs.
7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.
8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural surveys and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice Policy.
9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time, there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.
10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

I have reviewed the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed activities documented in EA No. DOI-BLM-N010-2012-0028 EA. I have also reviewed the project record for this analysis and the impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives as disclosed in the Alternatives and Environmental Impacts sections of the EA. Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. Because there would not be any significant impact, an environmental impact statement is not required.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:

Decision Record

DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2014-0035-EA

DECISION AND RATIONALE:

I have determined that approving this project is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the project with the specified mitigation measures. The project will be monitored as stated in the Compliance Plan outlined below.

MITIGATION MEASURES: The mitigation measures for this project are described in the environmental impacts section of the environmental analysis for cultural resources, paleontology, hazardous materials, and realty authorizations.

Compliance Schedule

Compliance will be conducted during the construction phases and maintenance phase to ensure that all specifications and mitigative measures outlined in EA No. DOI-BLM-N010-2013-0057 EA are followed.

Monitoring Plan

Following implementation, the SRMA use and condition of the trail will be monitored during the life of the project for compliance with all stipulations and pertinent regulations as well as achievement of identified recreation objectives for Zone 1. The trail will be monitored for noxious/invasive weeds during the growing season. Corrective action will be identified and implemented.

Assignment of Responsibility

Responsibility for implementation of the compliance schedule and monitoring plan will be assigned to the Recreation Staff in the Little Snake Field Office. The primary inspector will be the Recreation Specialist.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer, and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4.

Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson St., Craig, CO 81625. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

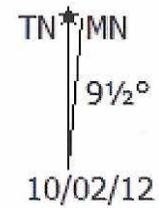
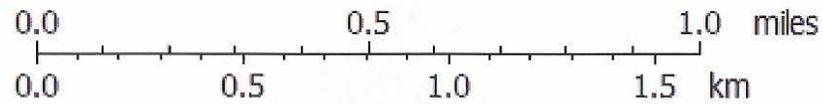
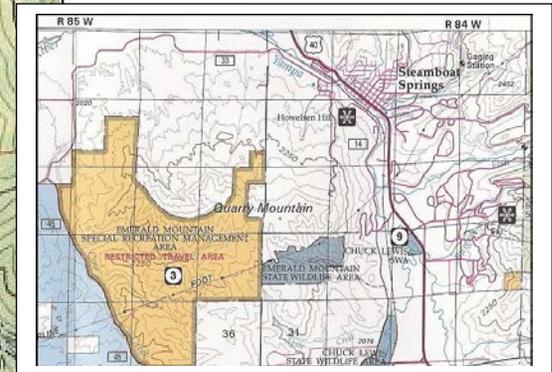
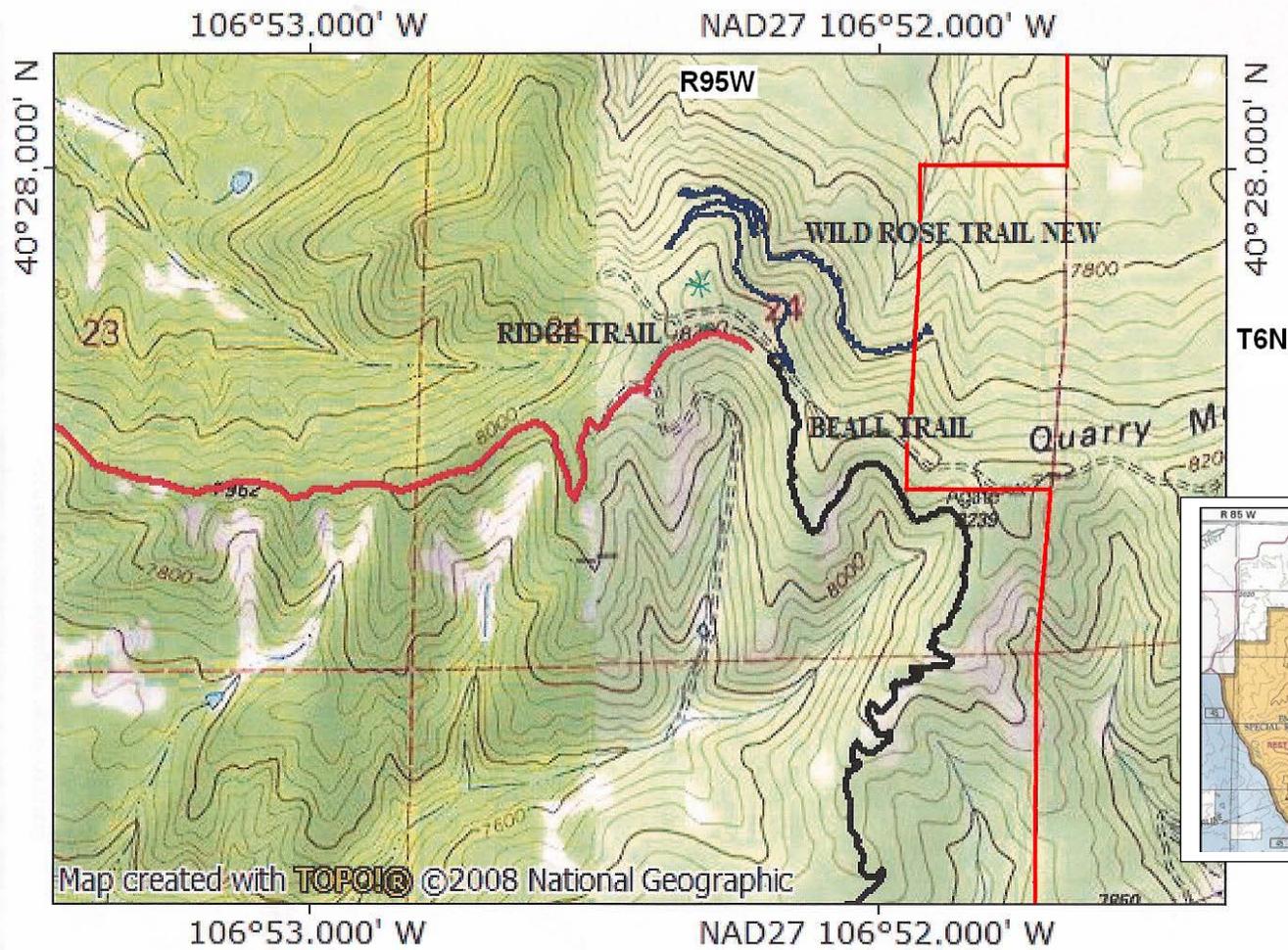
Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Gina Robison, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, CO 81625, Phone (970) 826-5083.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Tim Wilson

DATE SIGNED: 08/01/14

Attachment A:
Project Area
Wild Rose Trail Map



Map 1: Proposed Wild Rose Trail