

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2014-0045 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: SRP Turkey Gulch Rock Climbing

PLANNING UNIT: Arkansas River Eco-Sub Region #2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Colorado, Fremont County,
6th Principle Meridian,
Climbing Area: T. 20 S., R. 73 W., sec. 18, N1/2 NE1/4
Camping Areas: T. 20 S., R. 73 W., sec. 7, NW1/4 SE 1/4
T. 20 S., R. 73 W., sec. 7, NE1/4 SW 1/4

APPLICANT: Steve Nutting, Journey Quest

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would allow guided rock climbing as well as overnight dispersed camping along Turkey Gulch, south of Texas Creek, CO. The Proposed activity would occur year-round. Refer to Map 1 & 2 for the rock climbing area and camping locations.

The rock climbing area is used by the public for sport and traditional climbing. Access to the area occurs on a designated road, 6220. Parking for the climbing area is at a trailhead for trail, T6220B. The climbing area is another ½ mile south of the trailhead, following T6220B for ¼ of a mile until a foot trail veers off from the designated trail, another ¼ mile south east.

Use of BLM public land is non-exclusive. If this location were in use, the group would share the site. If other commercial companies were to use the site, the companies will be responsible to communicate to each other for use in the area. Vehicles are restricted to designated roads.

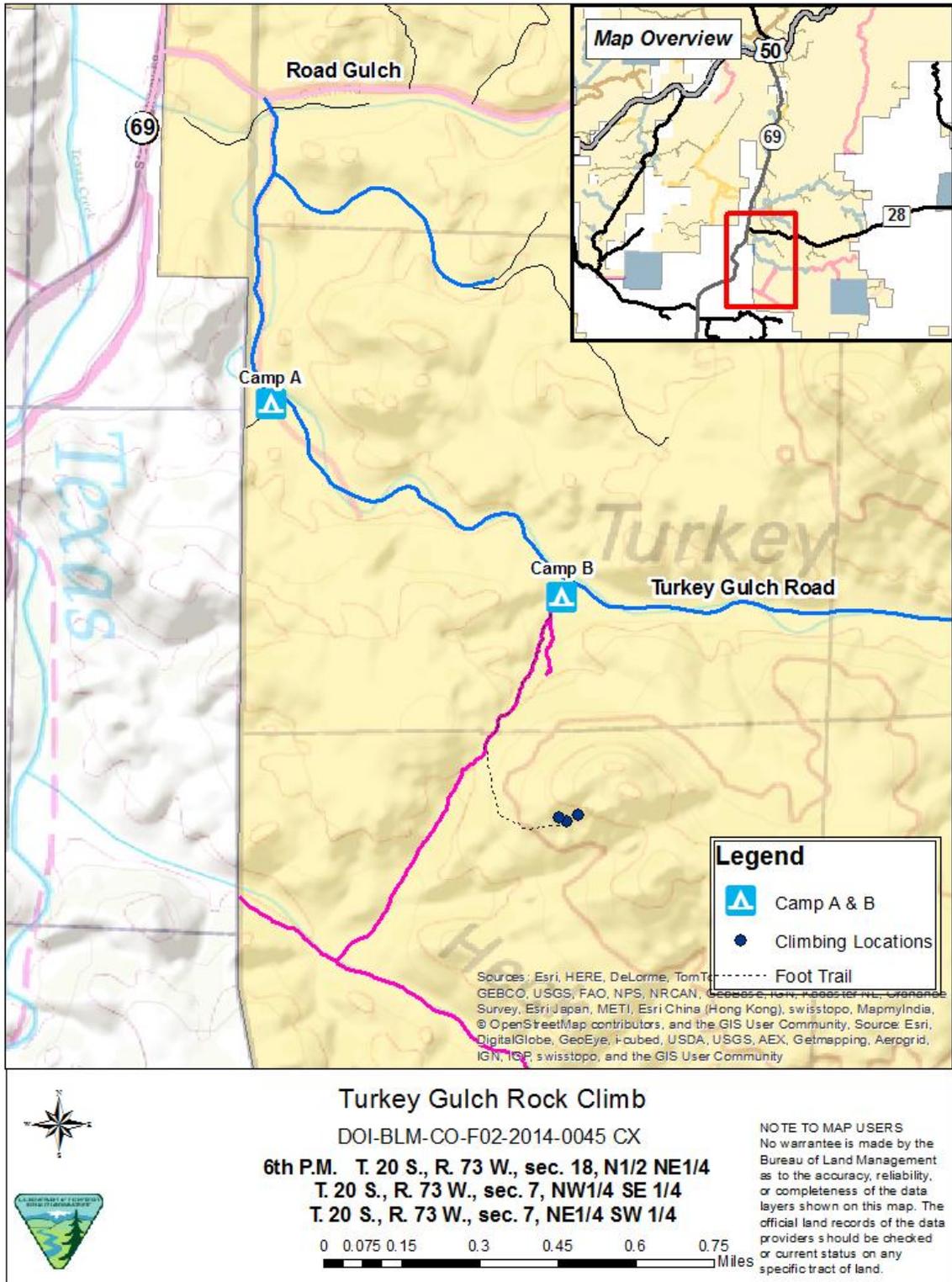
Leave No Trace practices will be used to minimize impacts. All food and trash will be packed out of the site. Open fires may be prohibited during periods of extremely high fire hazard by order of the BLM, Fremont County, or State of Colorado. There are no waste facilities in Turkey Gulch. An additional stipulation requires the use of groovers, wag bags or similar portable facilities to be carried out after each use.

Authority to issue SRPs is found in BLM SRP Handbook H-2930-1 and 43 CFR Part 2930. Issuing an SRP is a discretionary action with final approval by the authorized officer.

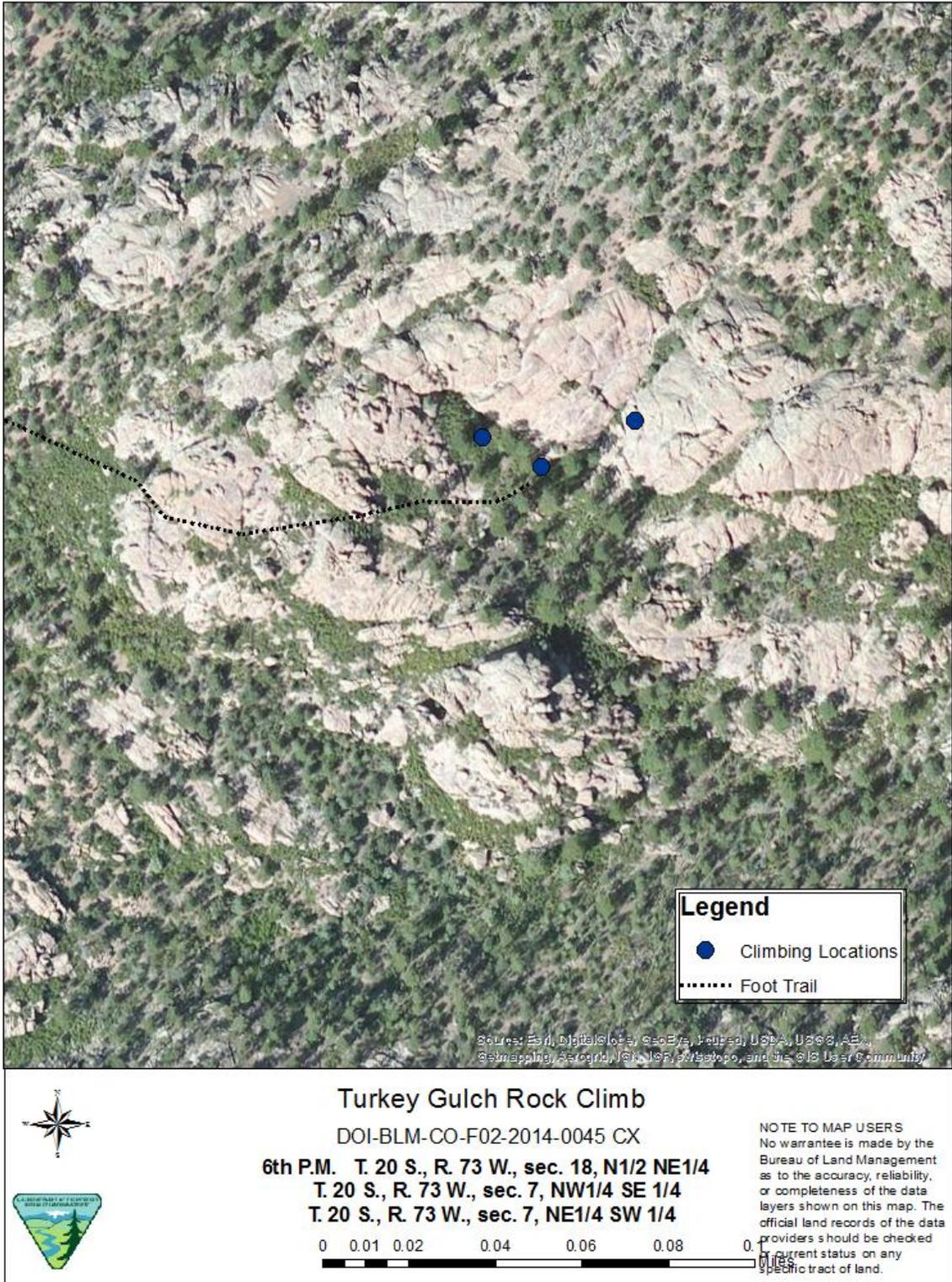
Applications may be denied based upon factors such as non-compliance with land use plans or designations; a moratorium on permits issued as part of a planning process; the results of an environmental analysis; other resource values; an allocation system; public health and safety concerns; applicant's past performance; or the inability of the managing office to issue, manage, and monitor the proposed use.

Compliance with the standard stipulations for all permits is required. The permitted activity will be monitored by the BLM for adherence to the stipulations.

Map 1



Map 2:



PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 5/13/1996

Decision Number: 3-63

Decision Language: 3-63: Recreation will be managed to provide for: a variety of recreational opportunities and settings; additional opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, off-highway vehicle use, interpretation, and horseback riding; facility development will be accomplished to reduce user conflicts and to improve visitor health and safety.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 9H (1). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect		X

the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 06/11/2014
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland, Weeds	JL, 06/05/2014
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 5/30/14
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SSC, 7/14/14
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	-----
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 6/9/14
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	TW, 6/01/2014
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 6/9/2014
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 6/18/2014
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 6/2/14
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MDT 5/19/2014
Greg Valladares	Realty Specialist	Realty	GDV 07/17/2014
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	SC 5/29/2014
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Fire	TW, 6/01/2014

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: One site was located during the cultural resources inventory [Report CR-RG-14-076 (P)]; however, the site does not meet the criteria for National Register of Historic Places eligibility. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will not affect any historic properties.

