



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE  
29211 Highway 184  
Dolores, CO 81323  
[www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc.html)

In Reply Refer To:  
8000(COSO1000)

August 26, 2016

Notice of Availability of Preliminary Environmental Assessment  
**Optional Reply by September 15, 2016**

The BLM Tres Rios Field Office is seeking comments on the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing effects of non-motorized trail development at Phil's World, Montezuma County, Colorado. (DOI-BLM-CO-SO10-2014-0006-EA).

The Phil's World area comprises approximately 2,400 acres of BLM Public Lands and 730 acres of Department of Colorado State land (leased by Southwest Colorado Cycling Association (SWCCA - formerly Kokopelli Bike Club), and not within the decision space of the BLM). Phil's World is located approximately 3 miles east of Cortez, Colorado, primarily between Highway 160 and Montezuma County Road M (with approximately 400 acres north of Road M in Simon Draw). There are currently approximately 27 miles of single track trails across both the BLM and State-managed lands. Recorded visitor use from October 2014 through September 2015 was 17,754 visitors based trail counter data.

Background

The SWCCA has submitted a proposal for the construction of several new trails, totaling 26.5 miles, in the Phil's World area. As a result of public scoping, community input as well as review by BLM interdisciplinary team, the BLM worked with SWCCA to adjust their proposal to be responsive to wildlife concerns (minimizing trails within canyon features and near an active golden eagle nest) and to avoid sensitive and important cultural sites. This resulted in an updated proposal from SWCCA, which is included as Alternative B in the environmental analysis.

Purpose of and Need for Action

The stated purpose of and need for the proposed action is to provide the benefits associated with a single track trail system across the portion of the Phil's World area which does not currently provide these opportunities. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide a system of trails that is sustainable, ecologically sensitive, and meets the recreation setting objectives identified in the Tres Rios Resource Management Plan (February 2015). These objectives include:

1) Expanding non-motorized trail opportunities; 2) dispersing use; and 3) linking communities to each other and to isolated parcels of public lands while retaining the area's predominantly natural appearing landscape. The need for the proposed action is to respond to a project request by SWCCA.

Public Involvement

Internal scoping began on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 when the proposal was first brought before the Tres Rios Interdisciplinary Team for consideration. Formal external scoping was initiated on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 when 25 scoping letters were sent out to individuals who had expressed interest in the project, as well as to the Montezuma County Board of Commissioners. The scoping letter was also posted on the BLM NEPA webpage on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015. On January 7<sup>th</sup>, an article in the Cortez Journal featured the project

and included information on public comment processes and deadlines (January 30<sup>th</sup>). The project was also announced via various radio spots and stories during January 2015 on local Cortez station KSJD. On May 1, 2015 a second letter was sent out to the Interested Publics list (172 letters) providing a project update and list of issues identified during the scoping process. There are no known properties of religious or cultural significance. Tribal consultation is in progress.

Comparison of Action Alternatives (in addition to the No Action Alternative which would result in no new trail or trail related facilities on BLM managed lands):

	Alt B (Proposed Action)	Alt C	Alt D
Proposed New Trails	<p>Simon Draw Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Carly</li> <li>2) Simon</li> <li>3) Schuster</li> <li>4) Paul</li> <li>5) LaBon</li> <li>6) Garfunkel</li> <li>7) Road N Access</li> <li>8) Road 30.2 Access</li> <li>9) Misc. Connectors</li> </ol> <p>Cash Canyon Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Talon</li> <li>2) Cash-Money</li> <li>3) Aquila</li> <li>4) Eyrie</li> <li>5) Misc. Connectors</li> </ol> <p>Highline Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Highline</li> <li>2) Canal</li> <li>3) 6400</li> </ol> <p>Stinking Springs Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Poquito Burrito</li> <li>2) Tiny Dancer</li> <li>3) Short N Sweet</li> <li>4) Stinky Connector</li> <li>5) Poquito Burrito Access</li> </ol>	<p>Simon Draw Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Carly</li> <li>2) Simon</li> <li>3) Schuster</li> <li>4) Paul</li> <li>5) LaBon</li> <li>6) Garfunkel</li> <li>7) Road N Access</li> <li>8) Road 30.2 Access</li> <li>9) Misc. Connectors</li> </ol> <p>Cash Canyon Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Talon</li> <li>2) Cash-Money (modified)</li> </ol> <p>Highline Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Highline</li> <li>2) Canal</li> </ol> <p>Stinking Springs Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Poquito Burrito</li> <li>2) Tiny Dancer</li> <li>3) Short N Sweet</li> <li>4) Stinky Connector</li> </ol>	<p>Simon Draw Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Carly (modified)</li> <li>2) Simon</li> <li>3) Schuster</li> <li>4) Paul</li> <li>5) LaBon</li> <li>6) Garfunkel</li> <li>7) Road N Access</li> <li>8) Road 30.2 Access</li> <li>9) Misc. Connectors</li> </ol> <p>Cash Canyon Area: No trails</p> <p>Highline Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Highline (modified)</li> <li>2) Canal</li> </ol> <p>Stinking Springs Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Poquito Burrito</li> <li>2) Tiny Dancer</li> <li>3) Short N Sweet</li> <li>4) Stinky Connector</li> </ol>
Total Additional Miles	26.5 miles	21.5 miles	18.5 miles
Trailheads/ Parking Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Road L, .5 acres</li> <li>2) Road M (pre-disturbed area within &lt; ½ mile from nest), 1.5 acres</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Road L, .5 acres</li> <li>2) Road M (previously undisturbed area &gt; ½ mile from nest), .5 acres</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Road L, .5 acres</li> <li>2) Road M (previously undisturbed area &gt; ½ mile from nest), .5 acres</li> </ol>
Wildlife Buffer for Eagle Nest	263 acres	355 acres	398 acres

Requested Comments

Due to the length of the Environmental Assessment, the Tres Rios Field Office is making the entire EA is available for review on-line at:

[http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Information/nepa/TRFO\\_NEPA.html#14-06](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Information/nepa/TRFO_NEPA.html#14-06)

The Tres Rios Field Office is also providing electronic copies (PDF format) of the EA via email to those who have provided an email address to our office. Others wishing to receive emailed copies can request copies by contacting Dolores Public Lands Office, 970.882.7296 to provide an email address.

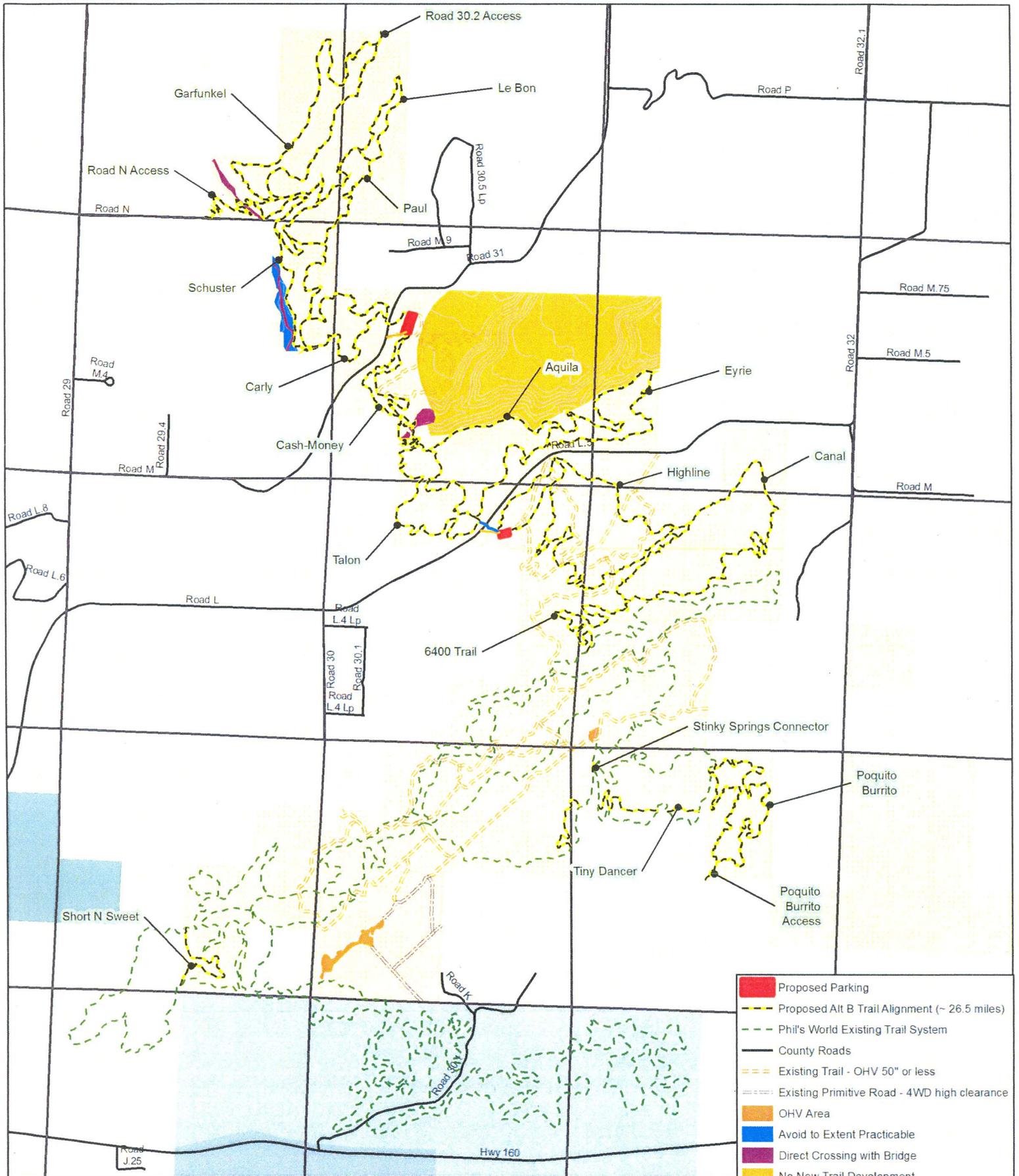
Comments should be substantive in nature and related to issues, technological advances, analysis data, and the accuracy of scientific information or inventory data and should be directed to Jeff Christenson, 29211, Highway 184, Dolores CO, 81323 ([jchristenson@blm.gov](mailto:jchristenson@blm.gov)). Comments are due to the Tres Rios Field Office by close of business (4:30 pm) September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Sincerely,



Connie Clementson  
Field Manager

Enclosure: map



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for the purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

N  
1:30,000

0 0.5 1 Miles