BLM

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

Host Site Septic Tank Installations

San Luis Valley Field Office
Monte Vista, Colorado 81144

~~DOI-BLM-CO-F03-2015-0014-DN~~

DOI-BLM-CO-F030-2015-0016-DN

May 2015

OFFICE: San Luis Valley FO, Front Range District (LLCOF03000)

PROJECT NUMBER: ~~DOI-BLM-CO-F03-2015-0014-DN~~ DOI-BLM-CO-F030-2015-0016 DN

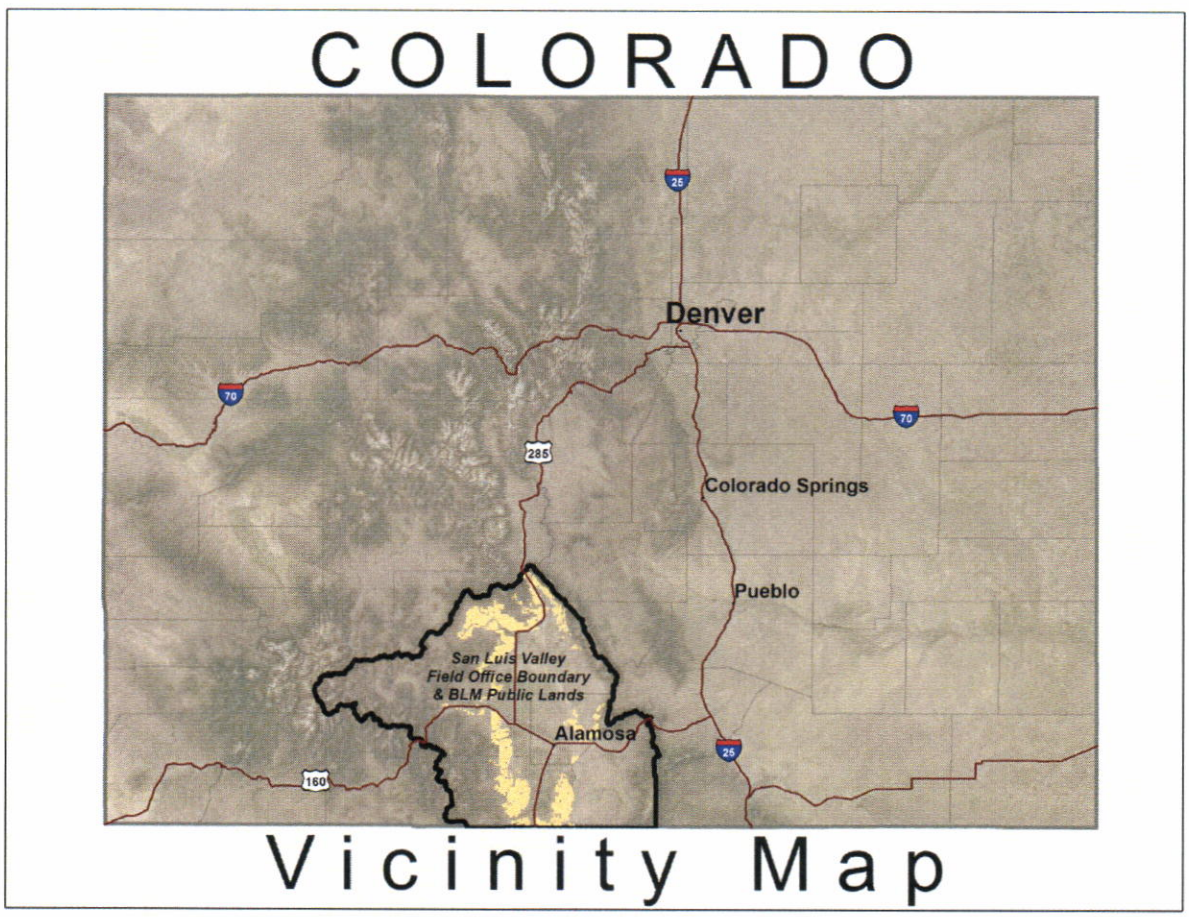
CASEFILE: (if applicable)

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Host Site Septic Tank Installations

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The San Luis Valley Field Office administers lands within the San Luis Resource Area (SLRA). The project area intended for this DNA includes BLM-managed lands of the Penitente Canyon Campground (located in Saguache County); Zapata Falls Campground (located in Alamosa County); Blanca Wetlands ACEC/SRMA (located in Alamosa County); and within State of Colorado Congressional District #3. T42N, R6E, S35, and T28S, R73W, S17 and T38N, R11E, S12. See Maps below.

New Mexico Principal Meridian
Saguache County, Colorado T. 42 N., R. 6 E., sec. 35.
Alamosa County, Colorado T. 38 N., R. 11 E., sec. 12.

6th Principal Meridian
Alamosa County, Colorado T. 28 S., R. 73 W., sec. 17.



APPLICANT (if any): BLM

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

BLM Mission

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Proposed Action

The purpose of the project is to install septic tanks in the campground host sites at the Penitente and Zapata Falls campgrounds, and the host site at Blanca Wetlands (see photos and maps). Amenities, such as septic tanks, significantly improve recruitment for potential hosts, which provide valuable visitor services, rule and regulation compliance, and supporting maintenance of our busiest developed recreation areas.

The septic tanks were purchased and approved by the BLM Engineering Field Office (EFO) for the 3 host sites, and will be installed in accordance with EFO specifications.

Project Area Maps and Photos

Map Disclaimer - Although the data presented within the maps of this document, and the maps themselves, have been processed successfully on computers of BLM, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by BLM regarding the use of these maps or the data represented, nor does the fact of distribution constitute or imply any such warranty. The Bureau of Land Management reserves the right to correct, update, modify or replace this geospatial information without notification. For more information, contact the San Luis Valley Field Office at 719-852-7074.

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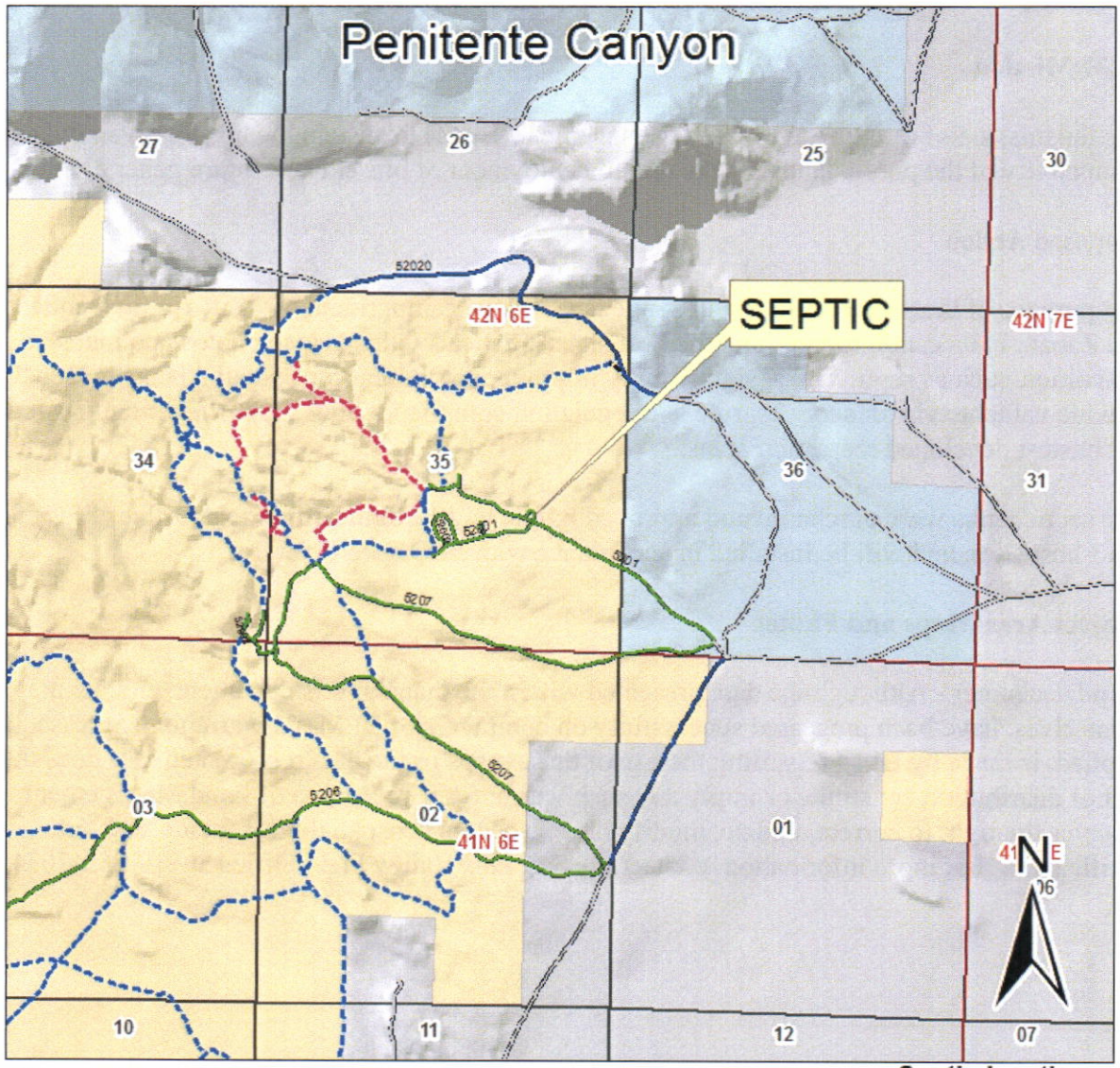
MAP A – Penitente Canyon Campground Host Site



ATV Trail
Authorized Use Road
Closed
Foot Only
Foot/Horse
Mechanized Trail
Motorized Single Track Trail
No BLM Designation
Not BLM Jurisdiction
Open Road

Septic location:
13S 387358
4189072

0 0.5 1 Miles

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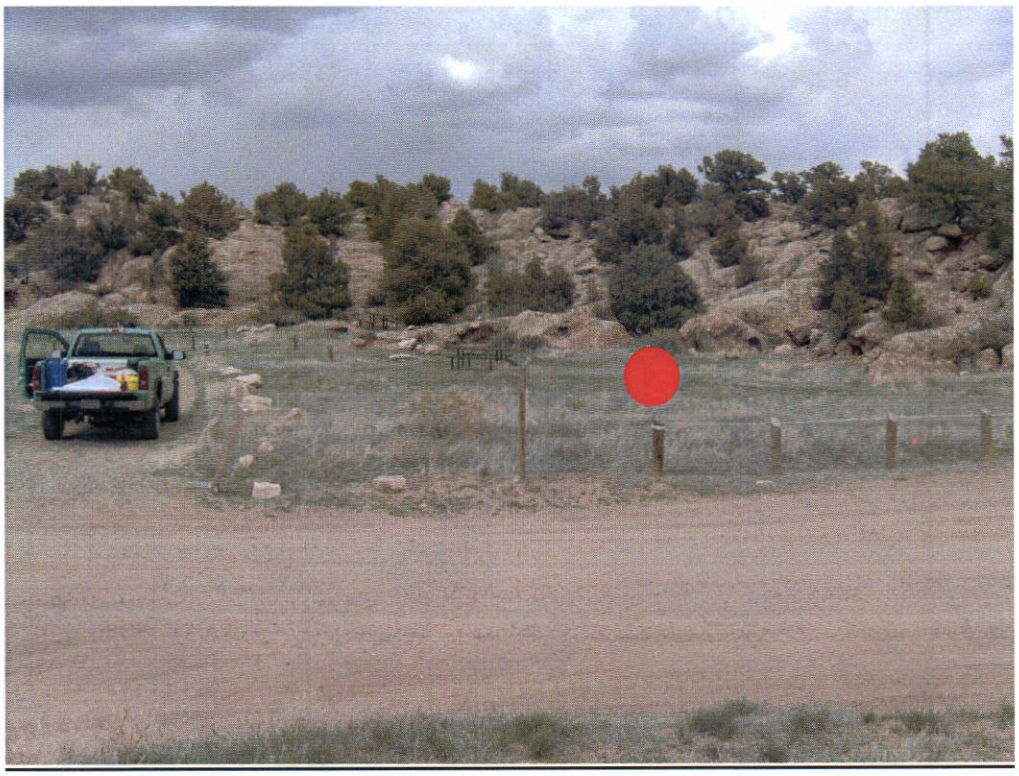
PHOTO A – Penitente Canyon Campground Host Site



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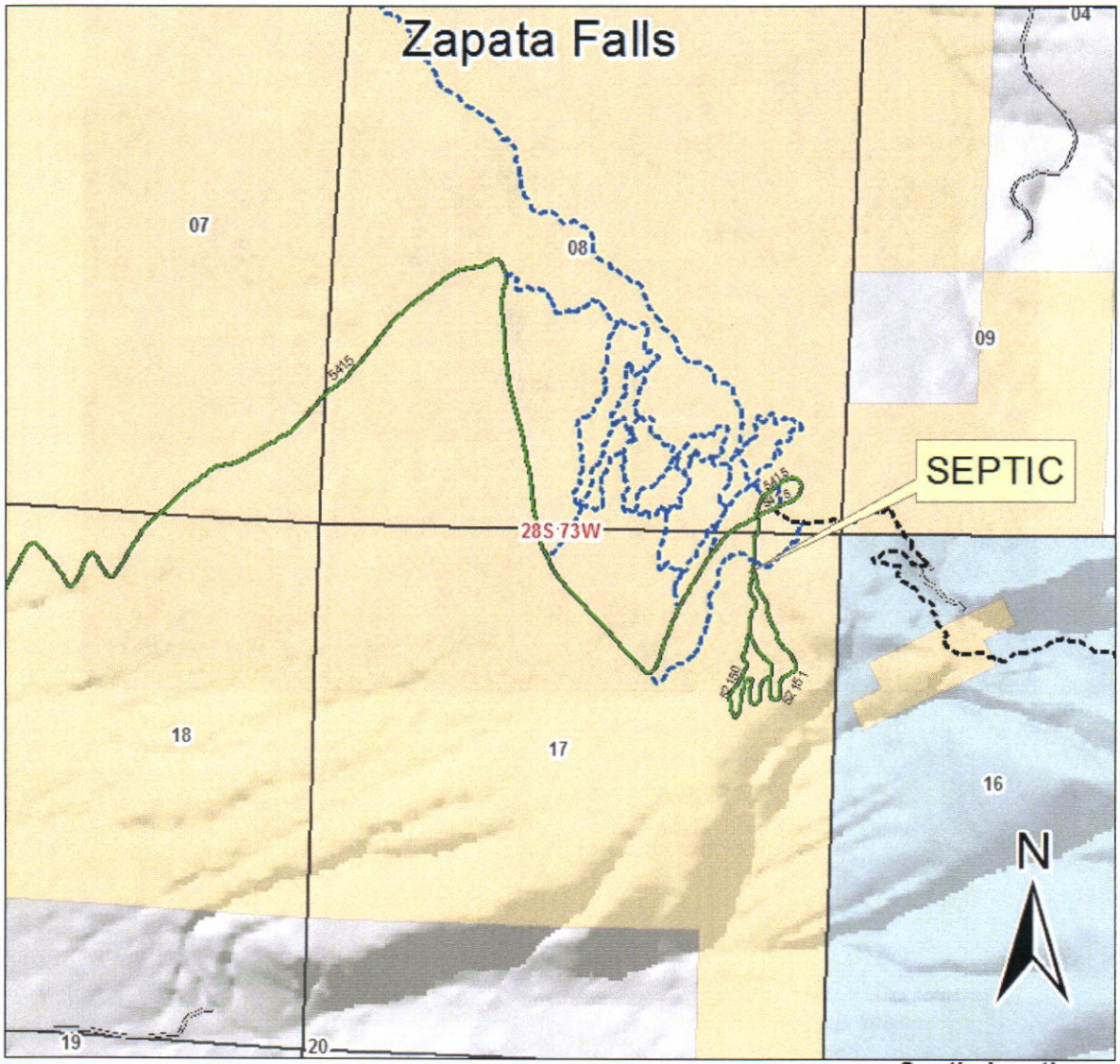
MAP B – Zapata Falls Campground Host Site



ATV Trail
Authorized Use Road
Closed
Foot Only
Foot/Horse
Mechanized Trail
Motorized Single Track Trail
No BLM Designation
Not BLM Jurisdiction
Open Road

Septic location:
13S 450545
4163759

0 0.5 1 Miles

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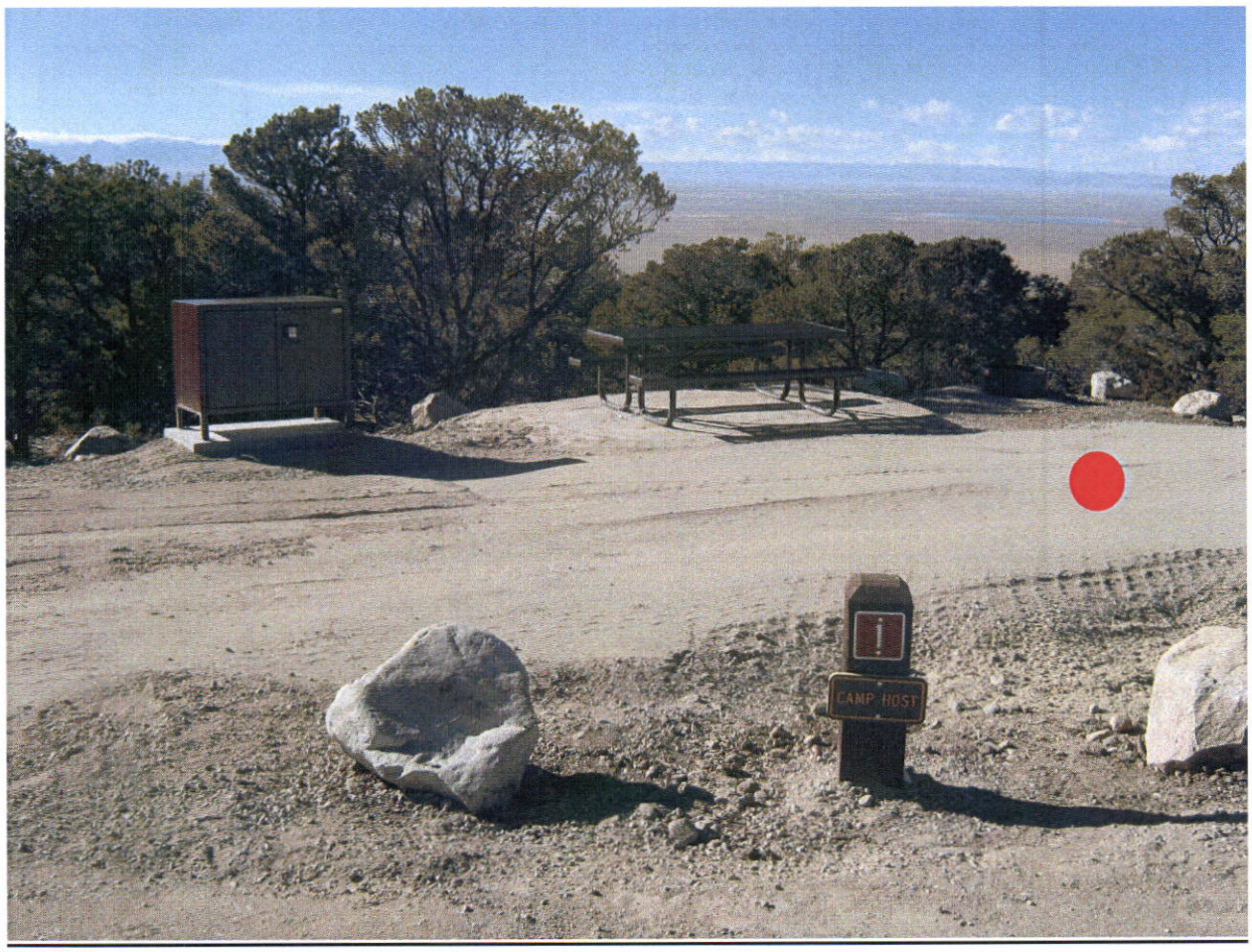
PHOTO B – Zapata Falls Campground Host Site



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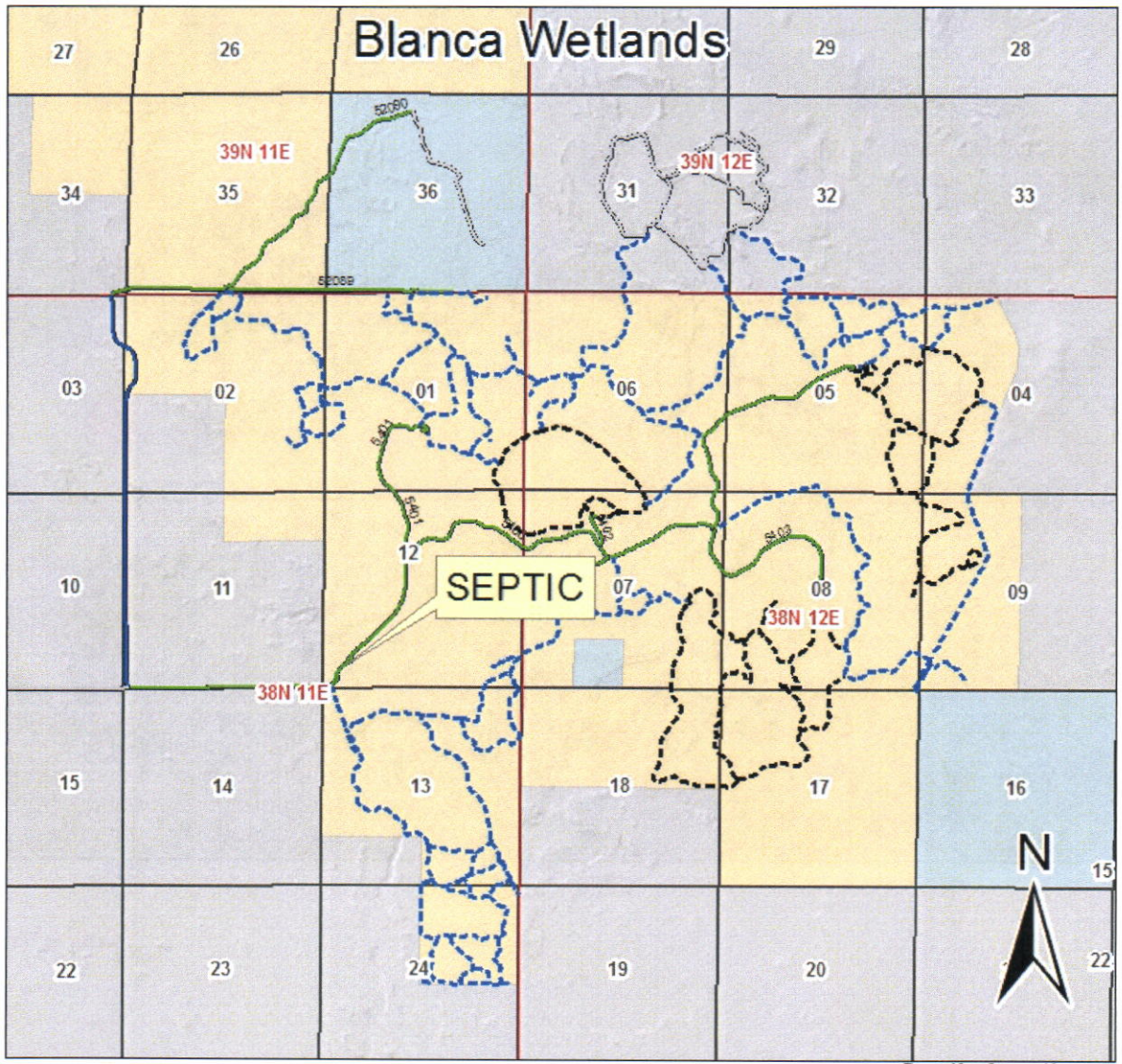
MAP C – Blanca Wetlands Host Site



ATV Trail
Authorized Use Road
Closed
Foot Only
Foot/Horse
Mechanized Trail
Motorized Single Track Trail
No BLM Designation
Not BLM Jurisdiction
Open Road

Septic location:
13S 435739
4156022

0 1 2 Miles

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PHOTO C – Blanca Wetlands Host Site

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: San Luis Resource Area Resource Management Plan	Date Approved: 18 December 1991

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

LUP Name: San Luis Resource Area Management Plan (Dec 1991).

Decision Language:

1-24: Provide special management in areas with significant recreation potential and increased use; e.g., Penitente Canyon, Zapata Falls, etc.

1-10: Develop facilities in Penitente Canyon to accommodate increasing recreation use, including restrooms, parking, and primitive camping.

1-13: Develop an activity plan for Zapata Falls SRMA focusing on improved access to the falls and needed facilities including day use, interpretive signing, etc.

4-1: The area (Blanca Wetlands) is designated as an area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) and a special recreation management area (SRMA). This area will be managed with a strong emphasis on wildlife management and public recreation opportunities. Recreation objectives for the Blanca SRMA will be to enhance opportunities for fishing, viewing wildlife, waterfowl hunting, upland game hunting, and other day-use recreation. Since recreation opportunities are dependent on wildlife values, these values will be enhanced and protected.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions): N/A

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

- DOI-BLM-CO-050-SL-93-EA-14_Blanca Wetlands Watchable Wildlife Area, 1Feb94.
- Blanca Wetlands Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Assessment, August 1995.
- DOI-BLM-CO-056-SL-96-EA-19_Penitente Canyon Recreation Facilities, 2Jul96.
- DOI-BLM-CO-500-07-0008-EA_Penitente Canyon Rehabilitation, 16Jan09
- DOI-BLM-CO-500-2005-0016-EA_San Luis Resource Area Travel Management Plan, 4 Jun09.

- DOI-BLM-CO-140-2009-017-EA_Zapata Falls Campground Construction Project, 7Dec09.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

- 2015 - Inventories will be conducted for TES plants/animals, and for cultural resources prior to ground-breaking activities.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The existing NEPA documents cover the proposed action, and all actions fall within the same area that was analyzed in the existing NEPA documents.

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

Yes. The RMP and EA's considered a range of alternatives. The RMP consisted of the existing management alternative, the natural resource enhancement alternative, and the preferred alternative. The existing EAs continue to be appropriate for current conditions and included a proposed action alternative and a no action alternative. The range and analysis of these documents appropriately considered the current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values, and no new environmental conditions or changes in resource values have arisen that would invalidate those alternatives analyzed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as; rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. The information and circumstances surrounding the proposed action are unchanged from the previous analyses. No new evidence or circumstances have arisen that would change the analysis.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. There are no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts associated with the proposed action. The impacts analyzed in the EA's remain unchanged.

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

Yes, public involvement and interagency reviews associated with the existing NEPA compliance was conducted as part of those projects.

E. Inter-disciplinary Analysis: Team members conducting or participating in this worksheet

Name	Title	Resource Represented	Initials/Date
Sean Noonan	Project Lead	N/A	STN, 5/5/15
Martin Weimer	Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Review	MW, 5/5/15
Brian Fredericks	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	BF, 5/26/2015
Jill Lucero	Wildlife Biologist	TES Wildlife	JL, 5/27/2015
Eduardo Duran	Natural Resource Specialist	TES Plants	END, 5/19/2015

F. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

2014/2015 - BLM Engineering Field Office.

2015 - Relevant resource disciplines of the BLM San Luis Valley Field Office.

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Although cultural resources were found near the area of potential effect [see report 15-SLFVO-023], no sites determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were found. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP). A qualified cultural resource specialist is requested to be present during the septic tank installation at the Penitente Canyon campground host site.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American concerns.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Wildlife Species: There will be no effect to federally threatened, endangered, or sensitive species (TES) from installation of these septic tanks, nor any negative impacts to their habitat. All of these sites already exhibit ground disturbance. Two of the sites, both Penitente and Zapata, are located in high-use recreation areas further reducing potential for TES use in the area and potential effects. Blanca Wetlands is a lower use recreational site, and noise from construction during nesting could result in impacts to sensitive species.

MITIGATIONS and STIPULATIONS:

Cultural Resources: A qualified cultural resource specialist is requested to be present during the septic tank installation at the Penitente Canyon campground host site.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Wildlife Species: To eliminate potential impacts, a mitigation measure for this project is to follow the existing seasonal closures on the site to protect nesting waterbirds and perform contruction/installation of the tanks between July 15-February 14.

CONCLUSION

__X__ 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 PROJECT LEAD: /s/Sean Noonan

SIGNATURE OF NEPA COORDINATOR: /s/Martin Weimer

SIGNATURE OF THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: _____

Andrew Archuleta, Field Manager
San Luis Valley Field Office

DATE: 6/1/2015

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