

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

Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2013-0030-DNA

May 2013

Shavano Valley ATV Trail and Staging Area

Location: Montrose County, Shavano Valley Area

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
Phone: (970) 240-5300**



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Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2013-0030 DNA

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE: Shavano Valley ATV Trail and Staging Area

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T 48N, R10W, Sections 6, 7, and 8

APPLICANT: BLM Uncompahgre Field Office

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

The proposed projects would implement priority Dry Creek Travel Management Plan (TMP) objectives and management decisions for meeting Land Health Standards, minimizing areas that meet standards with problems, improving resource protection, and maintaining quality travel opportunities along with adequate and appropriate public access.

The proposed action is to construct an ATV trail approximately 2.5 miles long near Shavano Valley. The new trail will be constructed to create a sustainable alignment. Trail construction will start in June 2013. As part of the Dry Creek TMP, a trailhead/staging area (maximum 1 acre) located on Hwy 90 (see attached map) was also proposed to be constructed. Construction of the trailhead/staging area is dependent on future funding but probably no sooner than summer of 2014.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the Uncompahgre Field Office Dry Creek Travel Management Plan

Date Approved: December 1, 2009

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

The map shows the new proposed ATV trail, and
(Page 29): "Approximately 16 miles of proposed route construction would occur."

(Page 29) "The travel management support facilities would be implemented in selected Sub-Regions in this Alternative to support the travel management plan described above and help ensure its success in meeting the alternative objections, desired future conditions, and land health standards."

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

Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the Uncompahgre Field Office Dry Creek Travel Management Plan, approved December 1, 2009.

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 proposed action is a feature of the actions analyzed in the Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the Uncompahgre Field Office Dry Creek Travel Management Plan EA# CO-150-2008-33. The proposed action projects are specifically called for in the EA. All proposed projects are within the same analysis area as the RMP Amendment and EA.

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 range of alternatives analyzed in the Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the Uncompahgre Field Office Dry Creek Travel Management Plan EA# CO-150-2008-33 includes the proposed route and trailhead construction. This alternative is still appropriate for the proposed projects, because there are no additional environmental concerns, interests or resource values which would necessitate creation of further alternatives.

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 existing analysis is valid for this proposed action. This project proposes to implement

Dry Creek Travel Management Plan objectives and land use plan decisions. We can reasonably conclude that new information and circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the proposed action.

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. The direct, indirect and cumulative effects from implementing the new proposed actions would be similar to those analyzed in the Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the Uncompahgre Field Office Dry Creek Travel Management Plan EA# CO-150-2008-33. These effects are similar in both scope (amount of area affected) and nature (type of projects) to those already analyzed.

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

Yes. Interagency review, scoping and multiple public comment periods were conducted during the Dry Creek Travel Management Plan EA. None of the comments or findings are in conflict with this proposed action.

E. BLM Staff Consulted

Glade Hadden	Cultural Resources, Paleontology, Native American Religious Concerns
Melissa Siders	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species, Wildlife, Migratory Birds
Jedd Sondergard	Water Quality, Surface and Ground, Soils
Julie Jackson	Access and Transportation, Recreation
Bruce Krickbaum	NEPA Compliance

REMARKS:

Threatened and Endangered Species: The project area was reviewed for any updated information on Federally listed species occurrences in the area. No Federally listed species are known to occur in the area. Effects to BLM sensitive species and migratory birds will be as analyzed in Dry Creek Travel Management Plan EA# 150-2008-33.

Cultural Resources: The proposed new route and staging area were evaluated for cultural resource presence with negative results. No further inventory is required and no known or anticipated National Register, National Register eligible or otherwise significant historic properties will be affected by this project. The remaining route re-designations were previously

analyzed and the analysis is adequate. The project will not impact historic properties, and project clearance is recommended.

Native American Religious Concerns: The American Indian religious Freedom Act of 1970 (AIRFA) and amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act require a determination of a site's eligibility according to their classification as sacred sites by regional tribes, and/or their location within traditional areas. Presently, BLM archaeologists are conducting consultations with the tribes. As directed by the new 36 CRF800 regulations, an inventory for this area included the search for relevant traditional cultural properties. None were found.

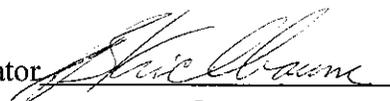
Conclusion

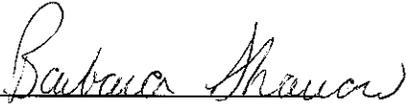
This proposed action is a feature of the selected alternative analyzed in EA# CO-150-2008-33. The existing Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for EA# CO-150-2008-33 made a finding that the selected alternative would not have significant effects. The conclusion in that FONSI dated April 9, 2009, remains valid.

The implementation decision for EA# CO-150-2008-33 identified this proposed action as a feature of the selected alternative. The Decision Record dated December 9, 2009, authorizes the route (ATV trail) and parking area (trailhead/staging); another Decision Record and appeal period is not needed.

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 the NEPA.

Project Lead: Julie Jackson

Signature of NEPA Coordinator  Date 5-28-2013

Signature of the Responsible Official 
Barbara Sharrow
Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office

Date 6-4-13

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. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

