

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0008-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC74675

PROJECT NAME: Outfitter Pack Trail access to White River NF

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian
T.1N., R.90W.,
sec. 22, lots 14, 15

APPLICANT: Welder Inc.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: An onsite has been held to lay out the trail in a location that would address impacts: safety entering and exiting a local access road and Rio Blanco County Road 8, river bank erosion, and vegetation concerns.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: The proponent holds a Guide and Outfitting permit with the White River National Forest. The permit allows one “spike camp” to be placed on National Forest lands during the 3rd season (established by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as November 4 - 12). It was issued on a trial basis through 2014. The route requested would allow horseback access directly from the Welder’s private land to a permitted trail on the National Forest. The use would be for packing in the camp, travel to the camp with the hunters, and removal of the camp. The permit authorizes 4 clients for the season. The Welders do not have a Special Recreation Permit with the BLM and are not permitted to have their clients hunt on BLM.

Part of the trail route follows previous and current existing rights-of-way. The southern segment of the trail from the Welder private property to the White River follows the route of the original road which was rerouted when the new bridge was constructed. ROW grant COC58557 included only the construction of the original bridge and later the new bridge on public lands. The river crossing requested in this proposal is located at the original bridge site and is on public lands. The new bridge was constructed just upriver on public land. It is currently authorized on the public land as COC58557 and COC33930. The trail would proceed along the road to the intersection with RBC Road 8 which is also authorized under COC33930. The final segment of the trail which turns off from this access road follows the abandoned RBC Road 8 roadbed which is generally used by recreationists for river access.

Proposed Action: Welder Inc. has applied to White River Field Office for authorization to establish a horse pack trail from their private lands across BLM managed lands to access an existing trail used for their US Forest Service Guide and Outfitting permit and located on US Forest Service lands. The decision to be made is whether to allow this use and under what circumstances.

The proposed trail would exit the Welder private property, follow an existing trail for approximately 321 feet and cross the White River at the abandoned bridge location (immediately down river from the existing bridge). It would then follow the access road for 155 feet to the old RBC Rd 8 roadbed (now a trail) and follow it 258 feet to the Forest boundary. The total length would be approximately 800 feet. The trail would be authorized for a width of 10 feet for an encumbrance of 0.18 acres.

There is some existing travel on the off road segments of the route and no construction would be necessary or permitted. The applicant states that they would trim some tree branches, needing approximately 1 hour's work and would not have additional investment.

NOTES: The trail authorization would be tied to the US Forest permit as access to the permit is the sole reason for this use. This authorization would be for one season's use (2010) use so that staff can determine the impacts on the vegetation, soils, and water resources. Permitting the use for one season will allow observation of the trail after this use and its regeneration next spring. There could be additional mitigations applied if longer term authorization is issued.

No Action Alternative: The trail would not be permitted and the proponent would not be able to use this access.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

1. The proponent is currently hauling the equipment, customers, and horses by truck and trailer from their private lands west on a permitted road to RBC Rd 12 (Marvine) to RBC Rd 8 and up to the Forest Service Trailhead, a distance of approximate 16 miles. The vehicles are then unloaded along-side the road and either parked or shuttled back to private.

2. There are existing trails on private land, but because of resurvey of boundaries and changes of ownership, this option is not available to the proponent.

PURPOSE & NEED FOR THE ACTION: The purpose of the proposed action is to meet the BLM's responsibilities under the Federal Land Management Act to enable the public to use the public lands in a manner that avoids, minimizes, reduces, or mitigates potential impacts to other resource values.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: “To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values.”

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD CHECKLIST

DETERMINATION OF STAFF:		
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*
Natural, Biological and Cultural Resources		
NI	Air Quality	The limited use of this trail on public lands is will not have a measurable impact on air quality. Since this trail would be used, vehicles will not be used to transport animals and equipment and therefore will forego emissions from this transportation around the location of the trail.
NI	Soils	Impacts from the proposed limited and short-term use of this trail is not expected to result in impacts to soils that would limit their long-term productivity since this trail is in highly productive soils adjacent to the river that are in the floodplain and prone to being reworked in flood events.
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Transportation of equipment and people on horses is not likely to result in the generation of wastes other than those associated with horses. There is the potential for spilling of liquids such as stove fuel, but are not likely.
PI	Water Quality (Surface/Ground)	See the discussion below
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Trail development on the north side of the river would be located near the margin of an alder/birch stand, paralleling the RBC 8 roadbed at an offset of about 20 meters. Some minor clearing of woody growth would be required. Depending on the elevation and gradient of the abandoned roadbed, trail development north of the bridge access would not be expected to concentrate or redirect flood flows and would consequently have no substantive influence on riparian conditions or floodplain function. One season of actual use

DETERMINATION OF STAFF:		
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*
		would better define project intent and design and allow subsequent and more thorough evaluation of habitat or population effects and, if necessary, the development of project alternatives. See further discussion of riparian/wetland vegetation in the Aquatic Wildlife section.
PI	Vegetation	There will be a small amount of vegetation disturbed as a result of the proposed action.
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	There is opportunity for establishment of invasive species within the project area, if weed seed or plant parts are unintentionally transported from the neighboring private lands or lands administered by the Forest Service.
NI	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plant Species	There is no occupied, suitable or potential habitat for special status plants known to occur in the project area.
NI	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species	The project site involves a wetland/riparian/aquatic complex associated with the North Fork of the White River. Although off-channel wetlands served historically as habitat for the candidate boreal toad, this species has not been recorded in the White River drainage since 1994. More likely, these off-channel wetlands are inhabited by BLM-sensitive northern leopard frog. The North Fork is a popular trout fishery that supports rainbows, browns, and hybridized cutthroat, but it is not considered important in the context of the BLM-sensitive Colorado River cutthroat trout. See Aquatic Wildlife section for further discussion of aquatic habitat issues.
NI	Migratory Birds	Short term authorization would occur outside the migratory bird nesting season. One season of actual use would better define project intent and design and allow subsequent and more thorough evaluation of habitat or population effects and, if necessary, the development of project alternatives.
PI	Wildlife, Aquatic	See discussion below
NI	Wildlife, Terrestrial	The general project area is used throughout the year by big game, but the project proposal would more specifically influence a complex of riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats that are used primarily during the spring through fall months. These habitats closely parallel the paved RBC 8, which is the primary improved vehicle access to the White River National Forest, Blanco District. Temporary authorization of a pack trail would have no substantive consequence on habitat character or local terrestrial communities.
NP	Wild Horses	The project area is not within a wild horse Herd Area, or Herd Management Area (HMA). The Piceance-East Douglas HMA is located over 40 miles west of the project area.
PI	Cultural Resources	See discussion below
PI	Paleontology	See discussion below

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions
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

NATURAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The trail is mostly adjacent to the White River in highly productive soils in the floodplain. Besides the location of the stream crossing most of the route is in dense aspen and brush stands. Some trees and brush have been removed to allow for the trail. Much of the understory is vegetated with cobble and flood deposited sediments.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The trail has the potential to concentrate flow off the side slopes as it rises into and out of the river floodplain. If runoff is concentrated on these short steep slopes it may increase sediment into the White River during storm events. Using the trail will disturb deposited sediment and damage vegetation along the trail route. This could increase sedimentation in the White River, but due to the high movement of sediment during flood events any increase would not be measurable. Nutrients and bacteria would occur in horse and pack animal manure. This would be deposited along the trail and would be transported during storm events. Amounts of sedimentation, nutrients and bacteria would increase in the White River as a result of the proposed activity, however compared to natural background sources such as livestock on private lands, wildlife and other surface disturbance amounts would not be measurable.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Due to vehicle transportation of pack animals and people around the trail no impacts would occur along the trail route.

Mitigation: Inspect the trail after seasonal use to determine if waterbars should be required at the trail entrance and exit. If visible signs of erosion are observed, the trail should be adjusted and/or waterbars should be installed to avoid this impact into the future.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: This action is consistent with casual use of BLM lands for horse recreation and will not result in measurable changes in water quality that would lead to exceedances of water quality classifications.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Vegetation communities in the project area include mountain meadow dominated by cool season bunchgrasses and sedges including tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) and Nebraska sedge (*Cares nebrakensis*). The proposed trail also crosses mixed stands of aspen and willow with sparse understory.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Vegetation disturbance in the project area as a result of trailing horses across BLM administered land is expected to be minimal with the greatest opportunity for new disturbance occurring within the first 320 feet of the trail, between private lands and the North Fork of the White River. The small amount of disturbance associated with the proposed action is not considered significant enough to disrupt the structure and function of the surrounding vegetation community.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to vegetation under this alternative

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Vegetation communities within the project area are currently meeting standard for public land health, it is not expected that the overall health and function of these communities would decrease as a result of implementing the proposed action.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: There are no invasive, non-native species known to occur in the project area. There are however known infestations of invasive species on the neighboring lands administered by the forest service, including yellow toadflax.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Under the proposed action there is opportunity for introduction and establishment of weed species within the project area through transport of seed or plant parts in dirt, hair, or on equipment used for packing or riding during normal use of the trail. Because yellow toadflax seed does not readily attach to hair or fibrous material, transport would most likely occur if seed was trapped in mud and could stick to an animal's feet or legs. The risk of invasive species being spread into the project area as a result of trail use is considered low.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: The applicant shall promptly notify BLM if any invasive, non-native species are found to have established along the proposed trail.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: This proposal involves an isolated BLM tract that encompasses a 380 meter reach of the North Fork of the White River, a popular trout fishery whose meandering cobbled channel is about 10 meters wide. The North Fork supports a full complement of introduced trout species, mountain whitefish and mottled sculpin. The river's gradient is gentle (topo calculated ~1%) and its broad floodplains support well-developed and intermixed sedge-rush and woody riparian growth. With a slightly entrenched channel, the streambanks on this reach are relatively stable and derive much of that stability from woody riparian growth of willow and birch/alder. The proposed trail would closely parallel the south bank of the channel for about 100 meters, cross the channel at an old bridge site to access an existing road, and finally traverse about 75 meters of wooded wetland dominated by river birch before entering the

White River National Forest. The river channel is predominantly straight along the parallel portion of the trail, but on a meander at the trail's southern end, a developing gravel bar on the north bank appears to be gradually shunting flows toward the south bank.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: One-time authorization of low to moderate intensity pack horse use of the proposed North Fork river ford would be confined to a 1-2 week period in November. Isolated disruption of the cobble substrate would have no measurable influence on the condition or availability of macroinvertebrate or fish spawning substrate. Points of bank damage from horses entering and exiting the channel is inevitable, but through this brief period of use, would be confined and have little lasting influence on the downstream or upstream integrity of the river banks. Horse use at this time of year would be expected to cut through the wetland sod and expose a barren or heavily trampled track. The initial development of a defined trail closely paralleling the river channel would be expected to rehabilitate the following growing season and have little consequence on bank stability. Recurrent use would be expected to progressively broaden, deepen, and compact the trail, which would, depending on site-specific conditions (e.g., wetland drainage, seasonal flooding), increase the risk of the bank weakening along this seam (particularly in the vicinity of the meander) and ultimately compromising its long term stability. A single season of actual use is unlikely to have irreversible effect on any channel feature, would better define project intent and design, and allow subsequent and more thorough evaluation of aquatic/riparian habitat and fisheries effects and, if necessary, the development of project alternatives.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would influence aquatic habitats or wildlife communities.

Mitigation: None, but the effects of this temporary use should be monitored as the basis to evaluate the potential for elevated effects with recurrent and increasingly frequent use and whether siting/use constraints or trail conditioning would be effective in moderating any adverse effects to acceptable levels. Note: This requirement will be included in the Monitoring and Compliance section.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): This river reach currently meets the land health standard. Short term trail development would have no substantive or irreversible influence on aquatic habitat or stability derived from associated floodplain and bank vegetation. Proposed short term authorization would not detract substantially from continued meeting of the standard, whereas there are risks to channel stability and associated wetland conditions that may be associated with longer term and more frequent use.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The portion of the proposed right-of-way located between 107° 28' 17.46" west, 40° 2' 52/41" north and 107° 28' 19.65" are located in the flood plain of the White River, on what appears to be the old road bed of RBC 8 and is heavily vegetated making visibility of the ground nearly impossible therefore, this section is exempt from inventory

requirements under the BLM manual 8110.23. The remainder of the proposed trail is in an area that has been previously inventoried at the Class III level (Hope 1981 Compliance Dated 10/29/1981, Selle 1995 Compliance Dated 11/22/1995) with no cultural resources identified in the inventoried areas. Inventories of BLM lands within 308 meters the proposed project (Winters and Lucero 1993, Compliance Dated 8/27/1993, Harrison 1990 Compliance Dated 10/9/1990) have not identified any cultural resources either.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will not impact any known cultural resources. It is unlikely that any resources are located within 308 meters of the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in an area generally mapped as the Maroon/Weber Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM.WRFO has classified as a PFYC 3 formation. There are currently no known fossil from this formation (Armstrong and Wolny 1989).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is located in the flood plain of the White River and involves no excavations into the underlying rock formations therefore there would be no impacts to paleontological resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to paleontological resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: None

ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, exist within the area affected by the proposed action. There are also no known Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

OTHER ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Other Elements	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Visual Resources		X	
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management			X
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Rangeland Management	X		
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation		X	
Access and Transportation			X
Geology and Minerals	X		
Areas of Environmental Concern	X		
Wilderness	X		
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X		
Cadastral	X		
Socio-Economics		X	
Law Enforcement		X	

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The area of the proposed route would traverse some mixed stands of Aspen with willow. Young trees with close canopy and tight spacing with the willow make travel difficult along the river corridor on the north side of the North Fork of the White River.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Due to the tight spacing between the willow and aspen, there is a need to trim trees to improve access route and to accommodate for the riders and pack width. Trimming of tree branches too close to the bole of the tree could impede the development of the tree or possibly result in mortality.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there would be no right of way grant issued and no disturbance to the vegetation.

Mitigation: Trimming of the trees should be done so that the bole of the tree is not damaged. It is recommended that trimming takes place at the collar of the branch a short distance from where the limb grows from the bole. Do not cut flush with the tree bole.

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action is in the vicinity of Rio Blanco County (RBC) road 8. Increased traffic during the upland big game hunting seasons makes horse travel along RBC road 8 difficult to unsafe for inexperienced riders attempting to gain access to the White River National Forest via horseback. The proposed right of way route overlaps existing right of ways for access to private residences. The road was built up from the river bed to make ingress and egress easier to and from the bridge crossing the North Fork of the White river. Trails in the area are used by the public to access the river for fishing.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The amount of traffic experienced on the existing right of ways is unknown. The amount of horses used to perform the requested services is estimated to be between 5 to 10 horses for each of three round trips on the proposed route. Possible conflicts may arise over ingress and egress from ROW COC33930 where the proposed route climbs up from the river to the road surface, along the shared portion of the route and then back down to the old RBC 8 roadbed. The vegetation at the site makes travel cumbersome and the opening in the vegetation through route improvements may increase public interest and use of this corridor. Increased use establishing a trail or route will encourage the public to travel that same route for other recreational purposes.

A one year ROW grant for the 2010 third big game hunting season would allow the applicant the ability to access the area requested with minimal interactions with vehicle traffic form RBC 8. One year for one season with a maximum of 4 clients would be minimal use for this type of activity. This will allow the White River Field Office the ability to proper analyze the impacts of the proposed horse activity and the amount of use on ROW COC33930.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there would be no right of way grant issued, no disturbance to the vegetation and no potential for conflicts between the horses, vehicles and people utilizing the right of ways.

Mitigation: Post a sign or have a person standing where the trail intersects with the right of way COC33930 to reduce potential for horse and vehicle incidents. Pictures should be taken before and after this use to document changes in the landscape especially at the intersections of the proposed trail with the river crossing, the ROW COC33930 road.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: The location of the project crosses a 700 foot wide section of BLM managed lands between U.S. Forest Service and private lands. A portion of the horse trail will follow an authorized access road from Rio Blanco County Road 8 into private holdings. This access is authorized under COC33930 and COC58557.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: A new authorization will be required for this action because the proponent is using the access for commercial purposes. Authorization will be under a temporary use permit COC74675, which will be renewable after the one season trial. Activities such as hunting and use of horses can carry a risk of injury. A permit authorizing such activity includes agreement to the applicable regulations concerning liability found in CFR 43, Part 2920. The proponent carries insurance as a requirement for their U.S. Forest Service Special Use Permit. A bond will not be required for this one-time use but may be required for future renewals.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: If the proposal is not approved, use of the trail will not take place. Other routes would be necessary for the proponent to conduct their business.

Mitigation: Liability stipulations required under the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 43, Volume 2, Revised as of October 1, 2009 are attached as Attachment 1.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of providing recreation and travel opportunities to the public are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Armstrong, Harley J. and David G. Wolny
1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Harrison, Cheryl A.

- 1990 U.S. West Communications Meeker Exchange (CO-0722), Cultural Resources Inventory Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Powers Elevation Company, Inc., Aurora, Colorado. (90-14-01)

Hope, Michelle L.

- 1981 Report of Examination for Cultural Resources: Duane Edinger Bridge Construction. Bureau of Land Management, White River Resource Area, Meeker, Colorado. (81-10-70)

Selle, Michael

- 1995 Cultural Resource Inventory of the Proposed Horst Rick Land Exchange in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Bureau of Land Management, White River Resource Area, Meeker, Colorado. (95-10-39)

Winters, Ron, and Paul Lucero

- 1993 Cultural Resource inventory of the proposed Lost Creek Mineral Material Sale. Bureau of Land Management, White River Resource Area, Meeker, Colorado. (93-10-35)

Tweto, Ogden

- 1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. Unites States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Wyatt, Patty. Resource Assistant and Outfitter/Guide Administrator, Blanco District, White River National Forest. Personal communication with Linda Jones, White River Field Office. October, 2010.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Signed
Bob Lange	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Wastes, Hazardous or Solid, Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights, Soils	11/03/2010
Jill Schulte	Botanist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species	10/21/2010
Michael Selle	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources	10/29/2010
Tyrell Turner	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species, Vegetation , Rangeland Management, Wild Horse Management.	10/29/2010
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife, Wetlands and Riparian Zones	11/02/2010

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Signed
Jim Michels	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Access and Transportation, Recreation	11/02/2010
Jim Michels	Forester/ Fire / Fuels Technician	Fire Management, Forest Management	11/02/2010
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals	11/02/2010
Linda Jones	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations	11/03/2010
Jim Michels	Natural Resource Specialist / Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources	11/02/2010

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to authorize the short-term establishment and use of a horse pack trail crossing public lands as described in the Proposed Action and including the following mitigation measures:

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. BLM staff and the holder shall inspect the trail after seasonal use to determine if waterbars should be required at the trail entrance and exit. If visible signs of erosion are observed, the trail should be adjusted and/or waterbars should be installed to avoid this impact into the future if the permit is renewed.
2. The applicant shall promptly notify BLM if any invasive, non-native species are found to have established along the proposed trail.
3. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
 - the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

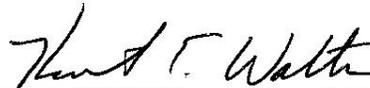
4. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
5. Trimming of the trees shall be done so that the bole of the tree is not damaged. It is recommended that trimming takes place at the collar of the branch a short distance from where the limb grows from the bole. Do not cut flush with the tree bole.
6. The holder shall post a sign or have a person standing where the trail intersects with the right of way COC33930/COC58557 to reduce potential for horse and vehicle incidents. Pictures should be taken before and after this use to document changes in the landscape especially at the intersections of the proposed trail with the river crossing, the ROW COC33930/COC58557 road.
7. Liability stipulations required under the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 43, Volume 2, Revised as of October 1, 2009 are included in this document as Attachment 1.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by White River Field Office staff during the project. Monitoring the effects of this temporary use will provide the basis to evaluate the potential for elevated effects with recurrent and increasingly frequent use and whether siting/use constraints or trail conditioning would be effective in moderating any adverse effects to acceptable levels.

NAME OF PREPARER: Linda Jones

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 11/04/10

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 CFR stipulations
Exhibit A – maps

ATTACHMENT 1 - LIABILITY STIPULATIONS

Code of Federal Regulations
Title 43, Volume 2
Revised as of October 1, 2009

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PART 2920_LEASES, PERMITS AND EASEMENTS

Subpart 2920_Leases, Permits and Easements: General Provisions

Sec. 2920.7 Terms and conditions

(f) Liability provisions:

(1) Holders of a land use authorization and all owners of any interest in, and all affiliates or subsidiaries of any holder of a land use authorization issued under these regulations shall pay the United States the full value for all injuries or damage to public lands or other property of the United States caused by the holder or by its employees, agents or servants, or by a contractor, its employees, agents or servants, except holders shall be held to standards of strict liability where the Secretary of the Interior determines that the activities taking place on the area covered by the land use authorization present a foreseeable hazard or risk of danger to public lands or other property of the United States. Strict liability shall not be applied where such damages or injuries result from acts of war or negligence of the United States.

(2) Holders of a land use authorization and all owners of any interest in, and affiliates or subsidiaries of any holder of a land use authorization issued under these regulations shall pay third parties the full value of all injuries or damage to life, person or property caused by the holder, its employees, agents or servants or by a contractor, its employees, agents or servants.

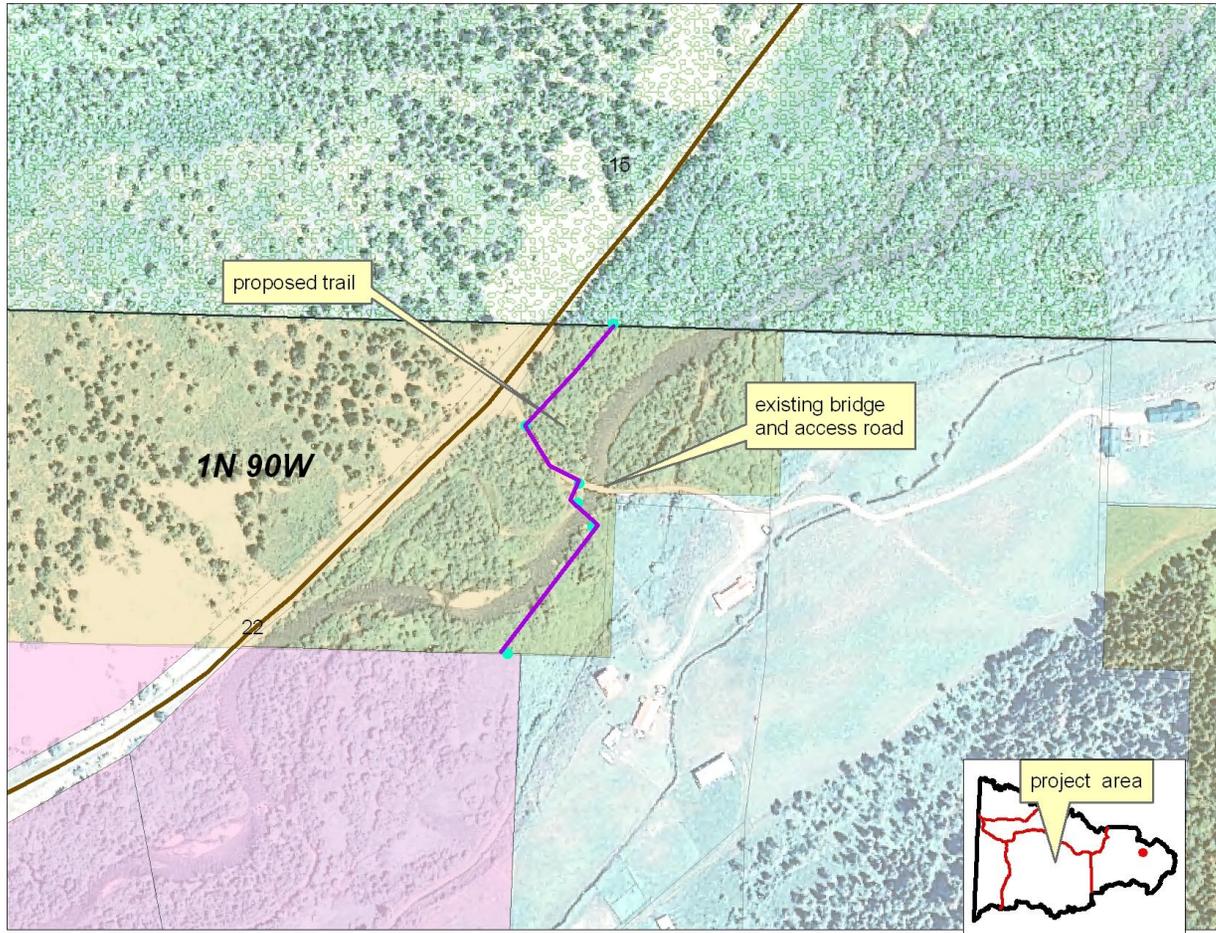
(3) Holders of a land use authorization shall indemnify or hold harmless the United States against any liability for damages to life, person or property arising from the authorized occupancy or use of the public lands under the land use authorization. Where a land use authorization is issued to a State or local government or any agency or instrumentality thereof, which has no legal power to assume such liability with respect to damages caused by it to lands or property, such State or local government or agency in lieu thereof shall be required to repair all damages.



WELDER INC - OUTFITTING TRAIL ACROSS WHITE RIVER - IMAGE



EXHIBIT A



COC74675

DOI/BLMCO110-2011-008-EA

Sixth Principal Meridian
T1N 90W sec 22, lots 14,15



OwnershipParcels_RBC

- <all other values>
- NAME**
- WELDER, INC.
- WELDER, INC. A COLORADO CORP.
- County
- State
- PLSS_Townships_GCDB2008
- PLSS_Sections_GCDB2008
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA



Source:
BLM, BLM, CDW, etc.

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