

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment
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White House Recreation Site Improvements

Location: Highway 89, 43 miles East of Kanab, Utah
Salt Lake Meridian, Kane County, Utah
Township 43 South, Range 1 West, Sections 10 and 14

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Land Management proposes to update and improve White House Recreation Site in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). See Appendix A – Project Area Map for project location and area. These existing recreation facilities are located in the Monument’s Frontcountry Management Zone approximately 43 miles east of Kanab, Utah in Kane County.

The White House Recreation Site is approximately five acres and provides camping amenities and trailhead parking. It is located two miles south of Highway 89 and the Paria Contact Station at the end of Monument road #751 adjacent to the Paria River.

The site provides access for hikers and overnight backpackers hiking the Paria River into the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area which is jointly managed by Vermilion Cliffs National Monument (VCNM) in the BLM- Arizona Strip Field Office and the BLM-Utah Kanab Field Office (KFO). VCNM and the KFO jointly administer the Special Recreation Permit Fee Program for hiking access into this area and the KFO and GSENM jointly administer the Recreational Use Permit (Expanded Amenity) Fee Program at White House Campground. A three-office Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and annual operating plan guides the roles and responsibilities of each BLM office in administering and managing fees and operations at the White House Recreation Site.

The recreation site currently contains the following amenities and site fixtures:

- 5 walk-in campsites with tables and fire rings
- 2 vault toilets
- A fee station with fee tube, register and information kiosks
- A gravel/natural surface parking lot
- A bicycle rack
- Fencing and cattle guard
- Small signs

Trash collection and water are available seasonally at the Paria Contact Station.

Prior development of facilities at this recreation site was addressed in this environmental compliance document:

White House Trailhead Campground Maintenance 92-35 CX (1992) - The replacement of the existing vault toilets with two new SST vault toilets and an accessible walkway was authorized.

BLM has secured deferred maintenance funds to replace the vault toilets. Recreation fees would be used to fund the other site improvements. If approved, some of the proposed recreation site improvements could be implemented as soon as Summer 2016.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action is to replace old, deteriorated site amenities and improve the functionality and accessibility of the site, thereby improving the recreational experience for site users.

The White House Recreation Site facilities are deteriorating and do not meet visitor expectations for site functionality. The current site layout is disorganized, inefficient, and confusing to use, and some aspects of the site do not meet the *Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas*. The lack of natural shade currently limits camping use, especially during summer months. These issues diminish the quality of the recreational experience provided for visitors.

The old vault toilets in the campground do not meet accessibility standards, do not vent properly, and have deteriorated to the degree that they've been sided with plywood. Two of the campsites are adjacent to the parking area and the remaining three are up on the hill scattered in the trees. They are poorly defined and have little to no shade. The parking area, which is used by both campers and those hiking into the canyon, is a long oval marked with many small signs directing users how to park because it isn't intuitive. It is highly likely that users doing multi-day backpack trips down the Paria River park adjacent to the campsites, blocking ready access for days for those wishing to car camp. The fee station area with information about White House camping fees and overnight and day-use fees for the Paria Canyon Permit Area is often confusing for the public to use and understand.

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan* (MMP), effective February 2000, and is supported by the following plan decisions:

FAC-6 *All facilities and parking areas will be designed to be unobtrusive and to meet the visual resource objectives.*

FAC-10 *Calf Creek and White House Campgrounds are the only developed campgrounds in the Frontcountry Zone.*

FAC-12 *Existing parking areas may be better delineated with barriers to prevent further expansion. Parking areas could accommodate up to 30 vehicles, but most will be designed for fewer than 10 cars. Construction of small spur routes or trails may be allowed to access parking areas or other facilities. Trails and parking areas will not be paved.*

The project area is in the Frontcountry Zone where facilities are allowed for visitor use, safety, interpretation, and the protection of Monument resources. It is also located within the HWY 89 Special Recreation Management Area where the recreation experience is to focus on learning about

geology, history, archaeology, biology, and paleontology, in addition to scenic viewing, and opportunities provided are to accommodate all visitors.

RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND OTHER PLANS

The proposed action complies with federal environmental laws and regulations, Executive Orders, and Department of Interior, BLM, and GSENM policies and is consistent with state laws and local and county ordinances and plans, including the following:

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act (OPLMA) established the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) in order to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations. The Act goes on to require that NLCS units, of which GSENM is one, be managed in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated. The NLCS includes National Monuments, Wilderness Study Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. The proposal was designed to meet the objectives of OPLMA.

Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701-1712) directs the development of land use plans for BLM lands. Once land use plans are developed, any approved project must be provided in the land use plan or be consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions in the approved land use plan. As noted above, this project conforms to the land use plan.

Endangered Species Act of 1973

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides for conserving endangered and threatened species of plants and animals. It requires that federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any actions that they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued survival of a listed species or result in the adverse modification or destruction of its critical habitat. This proposal was designed to avoid impacts to species listed under ESA.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of any undertaking on historic resources and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking. Federal agencies must determine whether the undertaking is a type of activity that could affect historic properties. Historic properties are ones that are included on the National Register of Historic Places or that meet the criteria for inclusion on the National Register. If the agency determines that it has no undertaking, or that its undertaking is a type of activity that has no potential to affect historic properties, the agency has no further Section 106 obligations.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) requires BLM to identify all rivers on BLM-administered lands that possess free-flowing condition or outstanding remarkable values and therefore may have potential for addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS). The Paria River, from its source on the Paunsaugunt Plateau to where it meets the Colorado River, was inventoried and approximately 112 miles of the main stem of the Paria River and its tributaries were recommended

suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS as required by Section 5(d) (1) of the WSRA. BLM's policy goal for inventoried eligible or suitable Wild and Scenic River segments is to manage and maintain their free-flowing condition, water quality, tentative classifications, and any identified outstanding remarkable values (ORV) until designated or released in a subsequent land use plan.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) provides legal criteria for the collection of recreation fees at federal campgrounds or expanded amenity sites. It also directs BLM to provide a specific set of amenities in order to collect fees in campgrounds or special management areas.

Architectural Barriers Act (Public Law 90-480)

The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), enacted in 1968, requires that all buildings and facilities constructed in whole or in part using Federal funds must be accessible to, and usable by, physically disabled persons. This includes any construction, renovation, restoration, remodeling, or site development completed by Federal agencies.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Proclamation (1996)

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative have been evaluated for consistency with the Proclamation, particularly in reference to the specific objects that were identified within the Proclamation. No effects of the proposed action, with the included design features, are anticipated on any of objects identified within the Proclamation.

BLM Manual 6220 – National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations (2012)

BLM Manual 6220 states that “BLM will inventory existing facilities within Monuments and National Conservation Areas and determine whether to remove, maintain, restore, enhance, or allow natural disintegration of each facility” (p. 1-10). White House Campground is identified in the GSENM Management Plan as one of “the only developed campgrounds” in the Frontcountry Management Zone. The proposed action will maintain and improve this existing facility.

BLM Manual 6400-National Wild and Scenic Rivers (2012)

Manual 6400-National Wild and Scenic Rivers (3.6.D.Recreation Development) states that a tentative recreational classification “does not require extensive recreation development”, but rather “should harmonize with natural and cultural settings and be screened from view of the river where possible” (p. 3-11). The proposed project is consistent with this policy direction.

Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas - Published in the Federal Register September 26, 2013. 36 CFR Part 1191 RIN 3014-AA22

The final rule amends the ABA Accessibility Guidelines by adding scoping and technical requirements for camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails, and beach access routes constructed or altered by or on behalf of federal agencies. The final rule ensures that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

BLM Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment

The *BLM Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment* directs BLM to provide facilities that are sustainable, attractive, functional, cost-effective, and responsive to place and setting.

Kane County Resource Management Plan-Revised February 2015

Although the White House Recreation Site is not specifically mentioned in the Kane County Resource Management Plan, a review of the document suggests that this proposal would not conflict with the county plan. The county plan does note support for recreation opportunities on page 73:

It is the county's position that federal and state land managers should do everything possible to enhance recreational opportunities on public lands.

Paria Canyon-Coyote Buttes Special Management Area Draft Business Plan (2016)

The proposed action is consistent with the current and future vision of fee program operations conducted at White House Campground and Trailhead contained in the Draft Business Plan currently being reviewed with approval anticipated in late 2016.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

During preparation of the EA, the public was first notified of the proposed action by posting on the BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Register on January 27, 2015. No individuals or groups contacted the BLM in response to that notice. During the interdisciplinary review the following issues were identified:

Issue A: Recreation - How would the proposed upgrades and improvements at the White House Recreation Site affect the recreation experience?

Issue B: Wild and Scenic Rivers-How would the proposed upgrades and improvements affect Wild and Scenic River suitable segments or outstanding remarkable values of the Paria River?

Issue C: Visual Resources - Would the proposed site developments create visually contrasting impacts that alter the landscape character?

SUMMARY

This chapter has presented the purpose and need of the proposed project, as well as the relevant issues, i.e., those elements of the human environment that could be affected by the implementation of the proposed project. In order to meet the purpose and need of the proposed project in a way that resolves the issues, the BLM has considered and/or developed a range of action alternatives. These alternatives are presented in Chapter 2. The potential environmental impacts or consequences resulting from the implementation of each alternative considered in detail are analyzed in Chapter 4 for each of the identified issues.

CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment reviews a No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative provides a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the Proposed Action.

PROPOSED ACTION

BLM is proposing to upgrade and improve the White House Recreation Site, including providing separate areas for the campground and the trailhead. GSENM would use BLM deferred maintenance and recreation site user fees to pay for the proposed improvements. Contractor, BLM force account or maintenance staff, and/or volunteer labor could be used to perform the work. Some construction is slated to begin in summer 2016. Full implementation of the proposed action could happen in coming years as funds become available.

The proposed action (See Appendix B – Site Design) includes the following:

Campground:

- Construct up to seven camping units with adjacent parking, tent pads, picnic tables, and fire rings
- Designate up to five walk-in campsites with picnic tables, tent pads, and fire rings across wash on hill
- Designate parking spaces for five walk-in campsites
- Define path to walk-in campsites
- Construct shade shelters at campsites as funds allow
- Install base material to raise, define, and improve surface stability of campsites
- Install campsite numbering posts
- Install fee station with kiosk and fee tube
- Improve traffic flow by establishing a median and one way traffic flow

Trailhead:

- Construct new trailhead with up to 14 standard size parking spaces and two oversize parking spaces
- Install fee station with kiosk, fee tube, and register
- Reroute access trail to Paria River from trailhead

General:

- Between campground and trailhead, install a double vault toilet with adjacent parking
- Construct two picnic sites across from trailhead
- Install new NLCS standard site signs and other site signs as needed
- Install barriers (fencing and/or boulders) as needed to protect vegetation and define edges of parking and driving areas
- Use gravel/road base to stabilize all driving surfaces

- Relocate/replace cattle guard and install fencing around trailhead that ties into existing fencing
- Remove all old, deteriorated infrastructure and dispose of properly

While construction is underway the recreation site would be closed to the public. This would be accomplished by blocking the access road near the Paria Contact Station since there would be no turnaround available while the site is under construction. A variety of heavy, motorized equipment would be used during construction, including but not limited to a dump truck, crane, front-end loader, skid-steer loader, and tractor. Work would be done during daylight hours (7 am to 6 pm). During construction, equipment would be parked at the project site. As the project is likely to be constructed in phases, the campground is unlikely to be closed to the public more than four weeks in any one phase. General maintenance would be performed by BLM staff or contractors at the proposed facilities once construction is completed.

BLM's Guidelines for a Quality Environment was used to plan and design this project, seeking to meet the agency's goals of developing facilities that are sustainable, functional, accessible, cost effective, and responsive to place and setting. *Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas* was also used to plan and design this project to ensure that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

Design criteria to meet built environment image guidelines and other mandates would include the following:

- Natural or natural-appearing materials would be used. These could include concrete, natural stone, road base, gravels or fines, rusted or painted metal, and/or wood.
- No shiny, reflective materials would be used.
- Natural palette colors would include blacks, grays, reds, rusts, browns, and buffs. No bright colors such as whites or yellows would be used (except for lettering on signs).
- Native plant container stock and/or native plant seeds would be used to re-vegetate areas impacted during construction.

In order to prevent unnecessary resource impacts, the following design features would be required and incorporated into project construction, scheduling and monitoring:

- Construction limits would be staked and flagged to protect vegetation and soils during construction.
- To prevent the spread of invasive and noxious weeds, equipment would be washed before transport to the construction site.
- The project site would be monitored for noxious and invasive vegetation after construction. If noxious weeds or non-native, invasive plants are discovered, BLM-approved weed treatments would be applied in a manner consistent with current BLM practice.
- All construction would take place outside of the migratory bird breeding and brood raising period from April 15 to July 15.

To inform the public of the construction closures, BLM would do the following:

- Issue a press release to relevant media outlets.
- Publish notice on GSENM website.
- Post closure signs at visitor centers and in the local communities.
- Work with the Kane County Office of Tourism to do outreach to visitors.

No ACTION

Under the No Action Alternative, BLM would not improve and update the White House Recreation Site. BLM would not provide any of the improvements or facilities in the Proposed Action. Under this alternative the outdated vault toilets would continue to be used by the public; site functionality and accessibility would not be improved; and the recreation experience for visitors would not be improved.

CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist (See Appendix C – IDT Checklist). The checklist indicates which resources are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Resources which are predicted to be impacted are described in Chapter 3 and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4. Recreation, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Visual Resources were identified by the Interdisciplinary Team as potentially affected by the Proposed Action.

The White House Recreation Site is located at the end of Monument Road #751 south of HWY 89 between Kanab, Utah and Page, Arizona. The project area is located between the Paria Plateau and the Kaiparowits Plateau adjacent to the Paria River just before it flows into Paria Canyon at an elevation of 4,400 feet. The landscape in the area is typified by colorful sandstone outcrops, a wide meandering riverbed, and open desert expanses. Predominant vegetation in the area is grasses, desert shrubs, and scattered pinyon and juniper trees. The recreation site is constrained by the river on one side and sandstone outcrops on the other.

Resource A: Recreation

White House Campground

White House Campground is one of only three developed campgrounds within GSENM and the only BLM campground on the south side of the Monument. It is a small primitive campground with five designated sites including three walk-in sites, two vault toilets, one trailhead fee station with interpretive signage, and one parking area for all users. Water and trash disposal are available seasonally at the Paria Contact Station.

The loss of two large trees in 2014 removed shade from the two car camping sites; these two sites along with the three walk-in sites experience heavy sun. There is on-going soil erosion within the area from numerous social trails.

During 2015, BLM issued 444 permits for a total of 681 visitors in the campground. Average on-site visitation over the past five years indicates May, June, September and October as the busiest months. Those using the area for recreation are typically engaged in car camping, hiking, backpacking, picnicking, biking, photography and viewing cultural sites or geologic features in the vicinity. Increased visitation to south-central Utah brings more visitors to the area who disperse camp along many of the Monument's side roads and turn-outs.

White House Trailhead

White House Trailhead is one of four trailheads that access Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area. Paria Canyon is widely recognized as one of the longest and most stunning slot canyons in the world. Here, the river winds downward through seven geologic layers, eventually ending at the Colorado River just below Glen Canyon Dam. The route from this trailhead through the entire system is 38 miles and takes the average backpacker four to five days to complete.

Approximately two miles downstream from the recreation site, the Paria River flows across the GSENM boundary into the 20,254 acre Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes Special Management Area (SMA) established in 1997 on BLM lands in both Arizona and Utah. The SMA is entirely within the 112,190 acre Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area on lands managed by BLM in both VCNM and the KFO (See Appendix D – SMA Map). The intent of the SMA is to provide for long-term protection and preservation of wilderness character and management for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a manner that will leave wilderness unimpaired. In order to achieve these goals, the number of people allowed to visit the SMA for overnight use is limited via fee permits available through an advance online reservation system. Day-use hiking in the Paria River on GSENM for the two miles prior to the wilderness boundary is free and does not require a permit.

Historically the White House Trailhead has been used as a staging area for hikers accessing the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area. Trailhead permit data for 2015 recorded a total of 964 hikers accessing the Paria Canyon from this location. Day-use hikers who obtained a permit at the on-site fee station numbered 536. An additional 428 overnight hikers used this trailhead for Paria Canyon entry after obtaining permits through the advance online reservation system.

Fee monies are reinvested back into the sites where they are collected per FLREA which guides collection and expenditures of fee monies.

Resource B: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Approximately 122 miles of the Paria River and tributaries are recommended as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. The proposed project area for the White House Recreation Site and the actual river bottom hiking route lies within the Lower Paria River-1 segment is recommended as a suitable segment for inclusion in the NWSRS. The area of evaluation included in the suitability determination is usually measured 1/4 mile from the mean high-water mark on both sides of the river. This project is located within approximately 1/8 of a mile from the mean high-water mark. This segment extends downriver to the GSENM boundary and has a tentative classification as *Recreational*. The WSR suitability recommendation also identifies the following Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs): high quality scenery, narrow canyon, outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, and nature viewing.

Resource C: Visual Resources

Characteristic Landscape

The proposed project area is located in the south central portion of the Monument between the Paria Plateau and the Kaiparowits Plateau adjacent to the Paria River just before it flows into Paria Canyon. In this location the flash-flood prone Paria River flows through a wide, dynamic channel that support minimal riparian vegetation. The dominant vegetation in the project area is desert shrubs, grasses and pinyon and juniper trees. The vegetation is a full range of greens, from light golden green to sage green to dark juniper green, and ranges from medium to coarse in texture. The built elements in this landscape include the dirt/gravel road, vault toilets, fencing, a cattle guard, a multi-panel information kiosk, picnic tables, fire rings, and signs. Most of the built elements are small in scale. The most visible elements in this landscape are the two vault toilets located in the middle of the viewshed and the vehicles used by recreationists when they are present. As the

project area is located at the end of Monument Road #751 about 2.5 miles down from the highway, it is only seen by those travelling to the site.

The project area is within an enclosed landscape created by the rock outcrops and other landforms that have been carved through by the Paria River. The predominant lines are rounded and horizontal created by landform edges. The river channel adds a curving band through the landscape whereas the road adds an axis focusing attention on the project area. The predominant colors of this landscape are buffs, dark reds, salmons, greens, and grays due to the landform and vegetation. The texture of the landscape varies from medium due to the upland vegetation and landforms to coarse due to the rock outcrops. This project is proposed in a classic Southern Utah, canyon country landscape with exposed red and white sandstone and desert vegetation similar to other areas within the Colorado Plateau.

Monument Road #751, the campground and the trailhead are used primarily by recreationists. Those using the area for recreation are typically engaged in car camping, hiking, backpacking, picnicking, biking, and photography. This range of individuals defines the casual observer.

Visual Resource Management Classes and Objectives

The proposed White House Recreation Site Improvements project area is located in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II. The objective for VRM Class II is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

PROPOSED ACTION

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action to those resources described in the Affected Environment, Chapter 3, above.

Resource A: Recreation

Campground Effects

Implementing proposed upgrades and improvements at the White House Recreation Site would offer direct benefits to the visiting public. Site users would benefit from having new, updated, and more accessible campsites and toilets. A new ABA accessible toilet, picnic tables, fire rings, and tent pads would increase physical accessibility to site amenities. New campsite designs would meet the legal guidance for public access at the site and offer access to a wider range of users including family groups with elder members. Newly defined parking spaces would be provided to access the walk-in sites as well as immediately adjacent to the camping units which would make the site more functional and intuitive to use. Shade structures would provide much-needed respite from the heat during the high temperature months. Defined walking paths would curb erosion from social trails. Impacts to vegetation and soils would be reduced with new site designs directing or containing uses to specific areas within the sites. The new campground fee station would include regulatory and orientation information as well as offer interpretation making it easier for campers to understand how to use the area. Collectively the site improvements would enhance the visual ambience of the entire site.

Providing increased and more attractive camping opportunities at this location could create increased demand in a location where use has historically been low. However, rough road access, heat, and a lack of water are anticipated to continue to limit demand for many users searching for a destination campground. Private campgrounds in the area offer a greater range of amenities that would continue to have broader appeal to many campers.

Trailhead Effects

Creating trailhead parking separate from the campground would provide an obvious location to park for the large number of hikers accessing Paria Canyon, avoiding conflicts or congestion with campers. The new trailhead fee station would include regulatory and orientation information as well as offer interpretation making it easier for hikers to understand how to use the area.

Effects for Both Campground and Trailhead

Short term effects for both the campground and trailhead would include displacement of the public during construction. The construction is proposed for the summer months when visitation dips due to the heat.

Resource B: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Effects to Tentative Classification

This NWSRS segment has a tentative classification as *Recreational*. The proposed recreation facility improvements at White House Recreation Site would benefit the existing campers and hikers recreating along this segment. The campground and trailhead will continue to be visible from the river corridor. As per the visual resources determination, facility colors and materials are anticipated to blend with the surrounding natural landscape minimizing the visual intrusion to those hiking within the river corridor. Modest development of facilities on the river bank and within the corridor would not threaten tentative classification.

Effects to Outstanding Remarkable Values

The identified ORVs of the Paria River include Recreational, Scenic, Geologic, Riparian, and Historic. Enhancing recreational use along this section of the river is consistent with the Recreational ORV which specifically identifies “outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography and nature viewing” along the Paria River. Design features insure there would be no threat to the other ORVs on this segment from the effects of the proposed facility enhancements.

Effects to Wild and Free-flowing and Water Quality

There would be no threat to the wild and free-flowing nature or water quality from this proposal.

Project implementation is not anticipated to result in any threat to NWSR suitability for this river segment.

Resource C: Visual Resources

BLM’s Visual Resource Management program includes a standardized system to review lands actions for resource management plan conformance. Visual contrast rating worksheets are completed to determine if a project conforms to the resource management plan.

In order to evaluate the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action, a linear key observation point (KOP) was established along Monument Road #751 as part of completing the contrast rating analysis. Along most of the linear KOP the project elements would not be visible until within close proximity to the site. Once the casual observer is within one mile of the project area, the toilet and shade shelters would be the primarily visible elements. The remaining elements (signs, kiosk, fencing, tent pads, picnic tables, etc.) would come into view once the observer is within close proximity. The project would not be visible from HWY 89 due to the distance and topography that diminishes or obscures the view down the canyon.

During construction, temporary visual impacts could result from the visibility of construction equipment and site work. Post-construction, the contrasts in form, line, color and texture created by the site improvements when compared to the characteristic landscape would be weak, which is similar to what currently exists.

The proposed improvements would be sited in locations currently developed for the same purposes. The campground and trailhead would be located on the floor of a broad river canyon surrounded by distinct landforms. The toilet, shade shelters, and other fixtures would be constructed of materials that blend with the natural environment minimizing the color and textural contrast they would

create. By constructing the project according to the outlined design criteria and implementation measures, the weak to negligible changes to the existing character of the landscape would be appropriate to meet the visual resource management objectives of the area.

No ACTION

Resource A: Recreation

In the No Action Alternative the general public would not see any changes at the recreation site. No deferred maintenance would be implemented thereby all current facilities would remain the same. Resource and visitor impacts (i.e. vegetation and soil tramping, lack of shade, erosion, and roadway congestion) would continue. The public would continue to use dilapidated, inaccessible, and unattractive amenities and be confused as to how to use the site.

Resource B: Wild and Scenic Rivers

In the No-Action alternative impacts would remain the same and the opportunity to improve recreational opportunities and access to the Paria River would not occur. Current conditions are not expected to threaten tentative classification, wild and free-flowing nature, water quality, or outstanding remarkable values. Current conditions are not anticipated to threaten long-term suitability for designation.

Resource C: Visual Resources

In the No-Action Alternative the impacts to visual resources would remain the same.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

Resource A: Recreation

BLM has not identified any cumulative impacts for recreation related to upgrading and expanding this recreation site that has existed for decades.

Resource B: Wild and Scenic River

There are no known cumulative impacts to this Wild and Scenic River suitable segment of the Paria River.

Resource C: Visual Resources

Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

Visual Resources - The cumulative impact area of analysis for Visual Resources is the viewshed along HWY 89 between the Cockscomb and Cottonwood Road extending south from the highway along Monument Road #751.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impacts to visual resources from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions include recreational facilities (trailheads, contact stations, etc.), general recreational use, private property development (residential, commercial and industrial), road construction and maintenance activities, utility corridors, and livestock grazing management facilities (corrals, fences, water developments, storage buildings, etc.). The action alternative would make improvements to existing facilities using elements that would blend with the landscape. These facilities are visible only when in close proximity to the site and are small in scale within this grand scale landscape. They would not contribute to an increase in impacts to visual resources in the area.

CHAPTER 5 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

The issue identification section of Chapter 1 identifies those issues analyzed in detail in Chapter 4. The IDT Checklist (See Appendix C.) provides the rationale for issues that were considered but not analyzed further.

LIST OF PERSONS, AGENCIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies, and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Allan Bate	GSENM Range Specialist	Discussions with livestock permittee about cattle guard and fencing.
Lane Little	Livestock Permittee	Replacement of cattle guard along new fence alignment necessary. Tie new fencing to old fencing that goes across Paria River.

LIST OF PREPARERS

BLM staff specialists who determined the affected resources for this document are listed in Appendix C. Those who contributed further analysis in the body of this EA are listed below.

Table 5.2. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Allysia Angus	Project Lead Landscape Architect	Technical Coordination Quality Control MMP Compliance Impact Analysis for Visual Resources
David Barfuss	Engineer	Site Designs and Engineering
Lora Gale	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Impact Analysis for Recreation and Wild and Scenic Rivers
Amber Hughes	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance Quality Control

CHAPTER 6

REFERENCES AND ACRONYMS

REFERENCES CITED

Bureau of Land Management. *Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment*. 2010. Available at: http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Planning_and_Renewable_Resources/recreation_images/national_programs/VRM.Par.62809.File.dat/GQBE_WEB.pdf.

Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board. *Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines; Outdoor Developed Areas*. Washington, DC. 2013. <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BLM - Bureau of Land Management
EA - Environmental Assessment
ESA - Endangered Species Act
GSENM - Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
IDT - Interdisciplinary Team Checklist
KOP - Key Observation Point
MMP - Monument Management Plan
NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
NLCS - National Landscape Conservation System
NWSR – National Wild and Scenic River
OPLMA - Omnibus Public Land Management Act
ORV - Outstanding Remarkable Values
VRM - Visual Resource Management

APPENDIX A
WHITE HOUSE RECREATION SITE PROJECT AREA MAP

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White House Recreation Site Improvements EA Project Area Map

BLM

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument



White House Recreation Site Improvements EA

T43S R1W Sec 10

January 2016

UTM NAD 83 Zone 12
Scale: 12,000



No warranty is made by the BLM
for use of the data for purposes
not intended by the BLM.



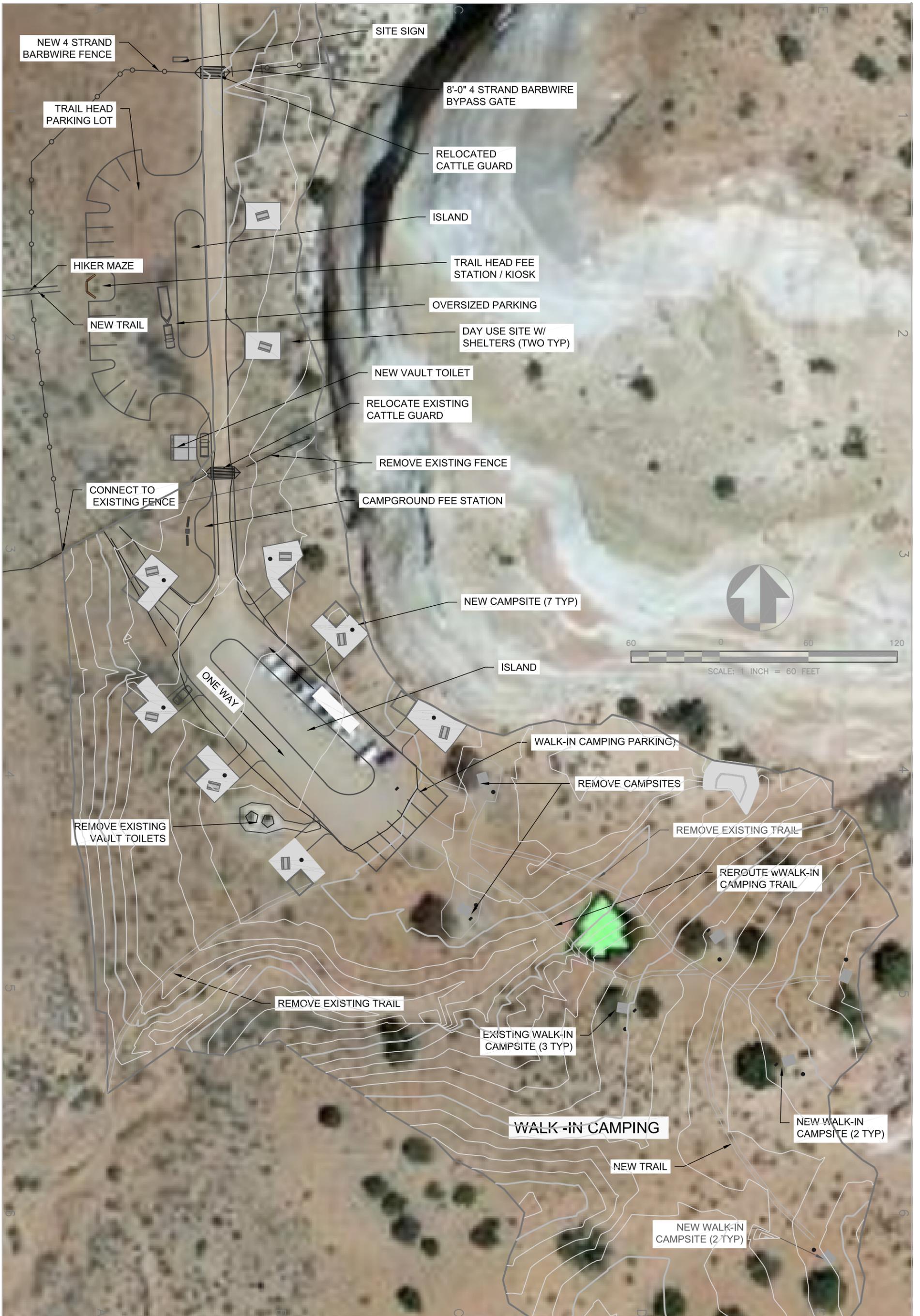
**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**



Appendix B

WHITE HOUSE RECREATION SITE DESIGN DRAWING

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SHEET 2 OF 5	PROJECT NO: UT-952-03				
	DESIGN OFFICE: COLOR COUNTRY DISTRICT				
	DESIGNED BY: OTHERS				
	DRAWN BY: DCB				
	CHK'D BY:				
	APPROVED BY:				
	DATE: 10/27/2014	MARK	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SITE PLAN

WHITE HOUSE RECREATION SITE

GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

UTAH



Appendix C

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: White House Recreation Site Improvements EA
NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0013-EA
Project Leader: Allysia Angus

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: *(Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)*

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 that needs to be analyzed in detail
 NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form.
 The rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)

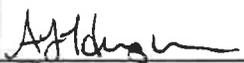
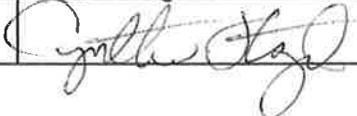
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality (Bybee)	Construction will result in surface disturbance in a small area of just over an acre in size. Particulate matter and gaseous pollutants generated during construction should be quickly dispersed and have no measurable effect on air quality.	/s/ J.Bybee	1/25/2016
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Beal/Gale)	No Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are designated within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.	/s/AAngus	3/7/2016
NI	Biological Soil Crusts (Brinkerhoff)	The proposed action will not impact the overall health of the existing biological soil crusts.	/s/R. Brinkerhoff	1/20/16
NP	BLM Natural Areas (Beal)	No Natural Areas are designated within GSENM.	/s/AAngus	3/7/2016
NI	Cultural Resources (Zweifel)	A Cultural Resources inventory has been completed for this project, no previously undocumented sites were found, and no impacts to existing site 42Ka6314 will be incurred. A report will be completed and sent to SHPO with the quarterly submission to SHPO.	/s/ M. Zweifel	2/23/2016
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Bybee)	Construction would be completed with the use of mechanized equipment. The emissions generated should be quickly dispersed and have no measurable effect.	/s/J.Bybee	1/25/2016
NI	Environmental Justice (Hughes)	The proposal would not have disproportionate effects on low income or minority communities. According to the EPA EJView Mapper, Kane Counties have been categorized as having a minority population of 0-10% and a below poverty population of 0-10%. (Accessed at: http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/ejmap.aspx?wherestr=Garfield%20County%2C%20UT on 2/6/2014.)	/s/ A. Hughes	1/13/2015
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique) (Hughes)	Prime farmland is described as farmland with resources available to sustain high levels of production. In Utah, it normally requires irrigation to make prime farmland. In general, prime farmland has a dependable water supply, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable levels of acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable content of salt and sodium, and few or no rocks. Unique farmland in Utah is primarily in the form of orchards. Based on these definitions, no prime or unique farmlands exist within the Monument. (see NRCS 1997 Results - Cropland Utah accessed at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ut/technical/dma/nri/?cid=nrcs141p2_034092 on 2/6/2014.)	/s/ A. Hughes	1/13/2015

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species (Tolbert/McQuivey)	Construction would occur outside of the migratory bird breeding/nesting season. Any other impacts to wildlife would be negligible.	/s/ C. McQuivey	1/20/16 2/18/16
NI	Floodplains (Bybee)	The proposed project sits just outside the Paria floodplain. Based on a site visit and GIS map review there is no impact to the floodplain.	/s/J.Bybee	1/25/2016
NI	Fuels/Fire Management (Bate)	This proposal would not increase or decrease fuels or fire management within the proposed areas.	/s/A.Bate	2/9/2016
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production (Titus)	Proposed Action is located in alluvial deposits surrounding outcrops of Winsor Member of the Carmel Formation. There are no valid existing mineral leases in the immediate area and it would not impact any energy production/energy corridor.	/s/Alan Titus	1/14/2016
NI	Hydrologic Conditions (Bybee)	The proposed action is not likely to impact the hydrologic conditions in the area. There will be no change in hydrologic conditions (impacts from tables and fire rings on gravel pads, sand tent pads, new toilet location, adding a vegetated island in the old parking lot along with gravel/road base, establishing gravel/road base trails for campers to walk on). Development of new trail head and parking area with gravel/road base will improve hydrologic conditions by stabilizing soils and reducing runoff.	/s/J.Bybee	1/27/2016
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (EO 13112) (Brinkerhoff)	The proposed action will not increase the threat or spread of invasive/noxious weeds. Standard stipulations will be followed throughout the construction of the site and mitigation measures will be followed	/s/R. Brinkerhoff	1/26/16
NI	Lands/Access (Foley)	Proposed action is consistent with LAND portions of MMP and would not impact land tenure, access, or potential future land uses, including renewable energy. There are no realty-related valid existing rights or non-federal land inholdings in or around the project footprint. Scoping should include courtesy notice sent to Kane County Land Use Administrator. Project should take care to preserve survey markers if present.	/s/ Mark Foley	1/16/2016
NI	Livestock Grazing (Stewart)	On February 22, 2015 I visited with the permittee on the Bunting Well Allotment. I showed him the propose site plan for the Whitehouse Camp ground and explain to him that this proposal would fence out approximately 2 acres of the allotment an also a old corral. He indicated that he would not protest the proposal, but that he would still need the use of the corral occasionally if a cow gets into the fence area and that a gate needed to be installed next to the cattleguard. The new proposal fences needs to be built along the river and hook into the existing fence. Since this proposal is not proposing to close the area where the new trailhead and parking lot to Livestock Grazing there would be No Impact because AUMs would not be reduced and if the permittee needs to use the corral it would still be available for his use.	/s/A.Bate	3/2/2016
NI	Native American Religious Concerns (Zweifel)	No cultural resource sites will be impacted. This project will be included in the GSENM/Native American consultations, but no comments are anticipated.	/s/ M. Zweifel	2/25/2016
NI	Paleontology (Titus)	Proposed Action is located in alluvial deposits surrounding outcrops of Winsor Member of the Carmel Formation. In this region the Carmel Formation has proven to be largely unfossiliferous. No known paleontological resources occur in the immediate area.	/s/Alan Titus	1/14/2016

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Rangeland Health Standards (Stewart)	The site of proposed action is in and adjacent to an existing campground and trailhead. Due to the small area and the location type there are no anticipated impacts to rangeland health standards.	/s/A.Bate	2/9/2016
PI	Recreation (Beal/Gale)	The proposed facility enhancements will enhance visitor recreational experience by providing new accessible restroom, new tent pads, defined walking paths and separation of parking will avoid overflow or blocking of campsite access from trailhead parking.	/s/LGale	3/11/16
NI	Socio-Economics (Hughes)	The proposed action is not likely to provide any noticeable impact to the local economy. The amount of economic activity generated by improving the campground is small.	/s/ A. Hughes	1/13/2015
NI	Soils (Bybee)	The proposed action is not likely to impact the soils in the area. There will be no net change in soil conditions (impacts from tables and fire rings on gravel pads, sand tent pads, new toilet location, adding a vegetated island in the old parking lot along with gravel/road base, establishing gravel/road base trails for campers to walk on, adding two day use sites). Development of new trail head and parking area with gravel/road base will improve soils by reducing runoff and stabilize the soils.	/s/ J.Bybee	1/27/2016
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species (Brinkerhoff)	One special status plant, <i>Astragalus striatiflorus</i> , occurs in the project vicinity. Impacts would likely be indirect and as a result of increased visitation to the expanded campground.	/s/R.Brinkerhoff	1/29/16
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species (Tolbert/McQuivey)	Although there is designated critical habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWWFL) within a mile of the proposed project area, the habitat is unoccupied except by an occasional migrant. Due to the project being completed in upland vegetation, away from any riparian area, there would be no impact to SWWFL or their habitat. Any potential impact would be further mitigated by project timing (i.e. not between April 15-July 15).	/s/ C. McQuivey	1/20/16
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid) (Pierson)	There will be no industrial wastes or toxic substances used or generated.	/s/B.Pierson	2/16/16
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground) (Bybee)	There should be no change in water resources impacts (impacts from new trailhead and parking, Day use sites and new vault toilet installation, and sand tent pads with tables and fire rings on gravel pads). The construction of these new facilities with the addition of gravel/road base will stabilize the soils and reduce runoff.	/s/ J.Bybee	1/25/2016
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones (Brinkerhoff)	The proposed action will not impact the wetland/riparian zones.	/s/ R. Brinkerhoff	1/26/16
PI	Wild and Scenic Rivers (Beal/Gale)	The proposed project occurs within the identified WSR corridor (¼ mile high from mean high water mark of main stem of the Paria River). The Paria is identified as suitable for designation as a WSR. Facility enhancements and access road need to be compatible with recreational tentative classification. Project footprint or activities also need to insure there are no impact to outstanding remarkable values.	/s/L.Gale	3/15/16 updated
NP	Wilderness/WSA (Beal/Gale)	The proposed project will not occur on any WSA parcels.	/s/LGale	2/8/16
NI	Woodland/Forestry (Bate)	The proposal would not remove any forestry and woodland species during the proposal activities.	/s/A.Bate	2/9/2016

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Vegetation Excluding USFWS Designated Species (Brinkerhoff)	Some of the existing vegetation will be removed as part of the project construction and restoration to the site will be necessary. Native plants and native seed will be used to restore the site after construction is complete.	/s/R.Brinkerhoff	1/29/16
PI	Visual Resources (Angus)	The project area is in VRM Class II. A visual contrasting analysis is needed to determine impacts and conformance with MMP.	/s/A.Angus	1/12/2016
NP	Wild Horses and Burros (Stewart)	There are no Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Areas within GSENM.	/s/A.Bate	2/9/2016
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (Beal/Gale)	The proposed project will not occur on any inventoried LWC parcels.	/s/LGale	2/8/16

FINAL REVIEW

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator		4/12/16	
Authorized Officer		4/12/16	

APPENDIX D

PARIA CANYON/COYOTE BUTTES SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA MAP

