

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2013-0200

**Facility Improvement at Take-Out, Mile 10 on Highway 128**

*Location: Highway 128, Grand County, UT*  
*Applicant/Address:*

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Moab Field Office  
82 E. Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
Phone: 435-259-2100



# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The BLM proposes to improve the parking and the flow of traffic at Take-Out, mile 10 on Highway 128 by expanding and redesign the parking area as described below in the Proposed Action. The Take-Out facility provides an ending point Colorado River "Daily", allowing commercial or private boating parties to conclude their river trip and load their boating gear into vehicles and on to trailers. The Take-Out Recreation Site includes a constructed, concrete boat ramp, a paved parking lot, three vault toilets, a graveled entrance and exit road, a beach, a shade area and an accessible concrete ramp from the toilets to the parking area. Take-Out is one of the many existing recreation facilities within the Colorado Riverway Special Recreation Management Area.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

There is a need for more parking and better traffic flow in the vicinity of the boat ramp at Take-Out. This relatively small facility hosts hundreds of people (both commercial and private) a day during the busy summer months. There is limited parking and frequently the facility is completely full with cars, commercial busses and trailers overflowing on both the upstream and downstream ends along Highway 128. Typically the commercial busses and trailers park parallel to the Highway 128 along a white line painted by Utah Department of Transportation. This arrangement limits the line of sight for vehicles attempting to exit the facility. There is a need to expand this facility to provide for more additional parking, better sight distances, more efficient traffic flow and to enhance public safety.

There is also a need for striped lines in the parking area to delineate proper parking for all types of vehicles (large vehicles such as busses with trailers as well as compact passenger vehicles). Providing additional bus parking would allow river companies to park in a safer fashion at the Take Out location. Delineating additional passenger vehicle, as well as truck/trailers, parking would improve the over-all flow of traffic and use of the popular facility.

Currently the parking is inadequate. The downstream entrance to the boat ramp is to sharp which requires large vehicles with trailers to be precise when maneuvering. Often these large vehicles are entering the Highway 128 at slow speeds in order to enter the road to the boat ramp.

The purpose of the proposed action is to expand the Take-Out parking area, designate parking for specific types of vehicles, paint parking stripes, improve the traffic flow within the facility and improve public safety.

### **CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)**

This action is in conformance with a specific decision in the 2008 Moab RMP. Decision REC-37 (page 86) states: “Provide improvements to sites (in the Colorado Riverway SRMA) to facilitate recreation use.”

The Colorado Riverway is managed as No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas leasing and all other surface disturbing activities “to protect riparian, wildlife, scenic and recreational values along the major river corridors” (2008 Moab RMP, page A-5). However, an exception is allowed for recreation facilities. Appendix A (page A-5) states: “An exception could be authorized (in the river corridor area) if the use is consistent and compatible with protection or enhancement of these resource values, or the use would provide suitable opportunities for public enjoyment of the applicable resources. No exception for oil and gas leasing.” Parking improvements would enhance the enjoyment of these resources.

### **RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS**

The proposed action is consistent with the Grand County General Plan (2012, pages 38-59), which calls for ‘maintaining and enhancing the recreational, scenic, and cultural amenities unique to Grand County to attract and sustain economic activity’. The Grand County General Plan states “Tourism continues to contribute significantly to the economic base. The landscape, scenic resources, recreational amenities, special events and local businesses continue to attract and accommodate visitor”. The Plan seeks to ‘promote cooperation with federal and state agencies to identify and implement appropriate management of high-use and special-value areas, including areas such as: Sand Flats, Mill Creek, Potato Salad Hill, the Highway 128 corridor, the Kane Creek corridor, and Moab Rim Trail’.

## **CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This EA focuses on the Proposed and No Action alternatives. There are no issues that need to be analyzed in detail; since no potential impacts have been identified, there are no issues to resolve through additional mitigation or other action alternatives. The No Action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action.

### **PROPOSED ACTION**

The BLM proposes to expand and increase the parking availability at the Take-Out Recreation Site by undertaking the following actions (See diagram in Appendix A):

- 1) Expand the Take-Out parking area adjacent to Highway 128 on the downstream side of the existing facility.

- 2) Provide stripes on the ground to delineate parking spaces. Parking spaces would be designated for passenger cars, trucks with trailers, busses and busses with trailers
- 3) Improve the flow of traffic and the angle of the entrance road that leads to the boat ramp.
- 4) Improve the line of sight for vehicles exiting the recreation facility.

#### **NO ACTION**

The No Action Alternative would be not to expand and improve the parking at Take-Out Recreation facility.

## **CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING**

The affected environment of the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives were considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist, Appendix B. The checklist indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Critical Elements of the Human Environment are those elements that are subject to the requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order, and must be considered in all EAs (BLM H-1790-1, Appendix 5). Critical Elements of the Human Environment are included in Appendix B. The following resources were found either not present or not affected: Air Quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, BLM Natural Areas, Environmental Justice, Farmlands, Floodplains, Invasive, Non-native Species, Migratory Birds, Utah BLM Sensitive Species, Fish and Wildlife, Livestock Grazing, Native American Religious Concerns, Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant or Animal Species, Visual Resources, Wastes, Water Quality, Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Wild and Scenic Rivers and Wilderness.

Cultural Resources: A cultural resource inventory was conducted (SHPO U-97-BL-0771) for the Take-Out area, including the areas of proposed disturbance. No new cultural sites were located. Therefore, the Bureau of Land Management has determined that a finding of **“no historic properties affected”** is appropriate for this project.

Vegetation and Recreation could be impacted to a level requiring further analysis; these resources are described in this chapter, and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4 below.

The Take-Out facility is a heavily constructed recreation site along Highway 128. It provides boater access to the Colorado River and is heavily used by both commercial river companies and private boaters.

### **Recreation**

Take-out is a recreation infrastructure improvement providing access to the Colorado River. Commercial river companies and private boaters are its primary users although people visit the site to watch the boating traffic, fish and simply enjoy the scenery. Take-Out boat ramp is the terminus for river trips and a starting point for others. The parking lot is often at capacity with many buses, boat trailers and other large vehicles parked and in transit, as well as many people milling about the ramp.

### **Vegetation**

The vegetation in the vicinity of the Take-out boat ramp and parking area has been heavily disturbed by previous construction, large scale flooding events and past evidence of visitor parking and illegal camping.

## **CHAPTER 4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### **DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS**

#### **PROPOSED ACTION**

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

#### **Recreation**

Improvements to parking at Take-Out would provide a benefit to both commercial and private users.

Proposed action (1) would expand the Take-Out parking area resulting in more parking for large vehicles such as buses; this would benefit commercial river companies, their clients and private boaters. All users would have more room to maneuver. Safer parking options would exist rather than overflow parking along the Highway 128.

Proposed action (2) would provide stripes on the ground to delineate parking spaces. Parking spaces would be designated for passenger cars, trucks with trailers, busses and busses with trailers. This would result in a more organized and efficient use of the facility.

Proposed actions (3) and 4), improving the parking, traffic flow, angle of the entrance road that leads to the boat ramp and the line of sight at the facility would improve the safety of boaters using the facility and passing traffic along the highway 128.

**Vegetation**

Proposed action (1), expanding the parking area, would destroy some vegetation in approximately one acre area on the downstream side of the current parking area including a large oak tree. Parking improvement and delineation would mean that additional plants and soils are not disturbed as boaters seek new spots to park their cars.

Proposed action (2), striping in the parking lot and designating parking in an area already disturbed would disturb very little vegetation at this location.

Proposed action (3), improving the angle of the entrance road to the boat ramp would disturb very little vegetation at this location

Proposed action (4) would disturb very little vegetation and improve public safety.

**NO ACTION**

The No Action alternative does not meet the need for the proposed action, which is to provide improved parking and traffic flow at Take-Out.

**Recreation**

Improved parking and traffic flow would not be provided for recreation users at Take-Out. Overcrowding and safety issues would continue as large vehicles and many passenger cars, trucks and trailers stage at the Take-Out boat ramp. Commercial boating companies, as well as private boaters, would continue to be frustrated by congestion at the boat ramp, and by inadequate parking for their large vehicles.

**Vegetation**

Although vegetation would not be disturbed for proposed action (1), additional disturbance would occur as boaters seek user-made parking spots.

**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. It has been determined that cumulative impacts would be negligible as a result of the proposed action because impacts of the proposed action itself are negligible.

## CHAPTER 5 PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action and EA by posting on the Utah Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (ENBB) on June 12, 2013. The BLM has not been contacted in response to this notice.

### List of BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Ann Marie Aubry	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Floodplains, Soils, Water Resources, Wetlands
Becky Doolittle	Geologist	Waste
Pam Riddle	Wildlife Biologist	T and E Animals, Migratory Birds, BLM Sensitive Species, Fish and Wildlife
David Williams	Rangeland Management Specialist	Grazing, Rangeland Health Standards, Vegetation, Woodlands/Forestry, Invasive Plants, T and E Plants
Bill Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Natural Areas, Wilderness/WSA, Socio-economics, Environmental Justice
Aron King	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Katie Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	ACECs, Recreation, Wild and Scenic rivers, Visual Resources
Jan Denney	Lands & Realty	Lands/ Access
ReBecca Hunt-Foster	Paleontologist	Paleontology

### Appendices

Appendix B: Diagram of the Proposed Improvements to Take-Out

Appendix A: Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
AND  
DECISION RECORD**

*Facility Improvement at Take Out, Mile 10 on Highway 128  
DOI-BLM-Y010-2013-0200 EA*

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

**Decision:**

It is my decision to authorize the parking improvements at the Take Out, Mile 10 on Highway 128 as described in the Proposed Action of DOI-BLM-Y010-2013-0200 EA.

**Summary of the Selected Alternative:**

The Take Out facility, an improved recreation site within the Colorado Riverway Special Recreation Management Area, has seen an increase in use in the past several years. There is a need to increase the available parking, to provide for additional bus parking, to improve the vehicle sight distance, and to improve the flow of traffic using the ramp and parking facilities.

**Rationale for the Decision:**

These improvements are in conformance with the 2008 Moab Resource Management Plan, and are also consistent with the Grand County General Plan of 2012. The parking improvements will provide recreation opportunities for both commercial and private boaters, improve safety at the congested ramp, and prevent resource damage by uncontrolled parking at the upstream put-in. No public comment was received on the proposal.

  
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J. Rockford Smith  
Recreation Division Chief  
*Acting Field Office Mgr.*

6/27/13

Date of signature

## INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

**Project Title:** Facility Improvement at Take-Out, Mile 10 on Highway 128

**NEPA Log Number:** DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2013-0200-EA

**File/Serial Number:**

**Project Leader:** Jennifer Jones

**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 relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

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.

The following elements are not present in the Moab Field Office and have been removed from the checklist:  
Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Wild Horses and Burros.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
<b>RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)</b>				
NI	Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Am Aloy	6-17-13
NP	Floodplains		Am Aloy	6-17-13
NI	Soils	Soils will be stabilized, erosion will be reduced w/new development	Am Aloy	6-17-13
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)		Am Aloy	6-17-13
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	although this is close to the riparian corridor, no impacts are expected	Am Aloy	6-17-13
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern		K Stevens	6-24-13
PI	Recreation		K Stevens	6-24-13
NI	Wild and Scenic Rivers		K Stevens	6-24-13
NI	Visual Resources		K Stevens	6-24-13
NP	Wild Lands (BLM Natural Areas)		J Stevens	6-28-13
NI	Socio-Economics		J Stevens	6-28-13
NP	Wilderness/WSA		J Stevens	6-28-13
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics		J Stevens	6-28-13

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NP	Cultural Resources	U-97-BL-0771 No historic properties	[Signature]	6/21/13
NP	Native American Religious Concerns	I	[Signature]	6/21/13
NI	Environmental Justice		[Signature]	6-27-13
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid)		[Signature]	6/17/13
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	Area currently used by recreation - Project will not increase or add new use No anticipated changes to habitat/species	[Signature]	6/17/13
NE	Migratory Birds	" " "	[Signature]	6/17/13
NE	Utah BLM Sensitive Species	" " "	[Signature]	6/17/13
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	" " "	[Signature]	6/17/13
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds		[Signature]	6/17/13
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species		[Signature]	6/17/13
NP	Livestock Grazing		[Signature]	6/17/13
NI	Rangeland Health Standards		[Signature]	6/17/13
PI	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species		[Signature]	6/17/13
NI	Woodland / Forestry		[Signature]	6/17/13
	Fuels/Fire Management			
NP	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production		[Signature]	6/17/13
NI	Lands/Access	NO conflicts with land authorizations	[Signature]	6/17/13
NI	Paleontology		[Signature]	6/17/13

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	[Signature]	6/24/13	
Authorized Officer	[Signature]	6/24/13	