

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: Muddy Creek Wild Horse Gather Plan

NEPA Log Number: DOI - BLM -UT-G020 - 2017 – 0032 - EA

File/Serial Number: 4720 (UT-651)

Project Leader: Michael Tweddell

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.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality	Overall, air quality in the project area is considered to be in attainment of the NAAQS. There are no regulatory monitoring data for the project area. Dust emissions currently occur from vehicles utilizing the subject roads. It is anticipated that the incremental change from this project's alternatives would be so small as to be undetectable by both models and monitors.	Jeffrey Brower	1/24/17
NI	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Muddy Creek & I-70 ACECs are present within the project area. One of the holding facilities is located within the I-70 ACEC. None of the other trap sites or holding facilities are located within any ACEC. The relevant and important values of the Muddy Creek ACEC are scenic, historic, and cultural. The relevant and important values of the I-70 ACEC are scenic. Because the gathering of the animals is considered short term and no permanent structures will be used while collecting the horses, it is anticipated that none of the relevant and important values will be impacted and the management prescriptions identified in the RMP for each ACEC will adhered to.	Ben Kraja	6/27/17
NI	BLM Natural Areas	The project area overlaps both the Muddy Creek/Crack Canyon and the Hondo Country Natural Areas. These areas are identified by the Price Field Office RMP as areas to protect, preserve, and maintain wilderness characteristics. Since no surface disturbance or occupancy would occur as part of this action, no reclamation or rehabilitation would be required. While over flights of the natural areas by the helicopter would result in some loss of the opportunity for solitude, these over flights would be so short in duration and transitory as to be insignificant. One trap site is located within the Muddy Creek/Crack Canyon Natural area. The RMP states that any and all OHV use and mechanical travel is limited to designated	Ben Kraja	6/27/17

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		<p>routes. The route leading to the trap site within this natural area is a class D road that is designated as open.</p>		
NI	BLM Sensitive Animal Species	<p>Several BLM sensitive species occur within Emery County. The proposed action will occur in previously disturbed locations, therefore there is no direct habitat loss. In addition, the proposed activity is limited in scope and intensity because it is only for a few days and will only occur at the most approximately 3 times in a ten year period. The muddy creek provides habitat for flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker, and rountail chub. Also contains native speckled dace. And it is a tributary to Dirty Devil River. Due to the small land disturbance of this project, hydrologic conditions would not be affected. Therefore no effects to the fish species expected</p>	Dana Truman	3-15-17
	BLM Sensitive Plant Species	<p>Site visit completed on April 17 2017 verified no BLM sensitive species are present in the campsites, holding facilities or trap locations. All proposed areas for camping, and trapping and holding facilities are on previously and currently disturbed areas. The areas support only a sparse covering of invasive plants like halogeton, cheatgrass, rabbitbrush, and others. Refer to the Special Status Species Evaluation for more details (project files)</p> <p>Suitable or occupied habitat for the following UT BLM Sensitive plant species has been previously documented or is expected to occur within Emery County, UT -- Alicella tenuis, Astragalus pubentissimus peabodianus, Camissonia bolanderi, Cryptantha creutzfeldtii, Eriogonum corybosum smithii, Erigeron maguirei, Lygodesmia grandiflora entrada, Mentzelia multicaulis, Oreoxis trotteri, Psorothamnus polydenius jonesii, Sphaeralcea psoraloides, and Talinum thompsonii.</p> <p>Analysis of habitat models and soils, geology, elevation and ecological systems within the Project Area shows that suitable habitat for Astragalus pubentissimus peabodianus, Camissonia bolanderi, Cryptantha creutzfeldtii, Eriogonum corybosum smithii, Erigeron maguirei, Lygodesmia grandiflora entrada, Mentzelia multicaulis, Oreoxis trotteri, Psorothamnus polydenius jonesii, and, Talinum thompsonii is not present. Since suitable habitat is not present, these species are unlikely to be present in the Project Area, and as a result would not be impacted by the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Sphaeralcea psoraloides is known to occur near the proposed sites. However, because the disturbances will only occur within previously disturbed sites, and a site visit confirmed no plants present this species is not impacted by the proposed action.</p>	Dana Truman	4/4/2018
PI/NI	Cultural Resources	<p>Pursuant to 36CFR800 a Class III cultural inventory is required at each of the proposed trap sites, corrals, and proposed water development features. No previous cultural survey at current documentation standards exists for these developed areas.</p>	Nicole Lohman	1/27/17

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NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions**	There are currently no regulatory standards for controlling GHG emissions or accepted analytical methods for evaluating project specific impacts related to GHG emissions. As a consequence, the impacts of site-specific proposals cannot be determined. Based on the nature of the action, GHG emissions are expected to be minimal.	Jeffrey Brower	1/24/17
NP	Environmental Justice	No minority or low income populations live in or near the Herd Management Area analyzed in this EA.	Mike Tweddell	02/14/17
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	According to the NRCS soils surveys and knowledge of the soils, there are no prime and unique soils mapped within the project area.	Jeffrey Brower	1/24/17
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species and BLM Sensitive Species	<p>The project area receives minimal use by most big game species, deer and elk. Crucial yearlong habitat for Desert Bighorn occurs within the project area. Timing restrictions from 4/15 to 6/15 need to be in place to protect lambing areas. Because no gather activities by helicopter would occur before July 1, this project would not affect the bighorn sheep.</p> <p>Reduced competition between wild horses and wildlife would benefit both the remaining wild horses and wildlife that utilize the range within the Muddy Creek HMA.</p>	Dana Truman	3/15/17
NP	Floodplains	After an inspection of USGS 7.5 minute maps of the area, it is determined no floodplains as defined by EO 11988, FEMA, or Corps of Engineers is found on or near the project area. Gather operations would not be conducted within riparian zones; removal of excess wild horses would be beneficial to the overall riparian health.	Jeffrey Brower	1/24/17
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	Will not affect fuels or fire management, due to a lack of continuous fuels.	Stuart Bedke	06/21/17
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	Mineral resources will not be affected by this temporary use near mineral material sites. Coordination with Emery County will be necessary so they are aware of the project and temporarily stay out should the location be used. The Muddy Creek HMA is within the San Rafael Unit of the 2012 Oil Shale and Tar Sands EIS Area. The Record of Decision for Oil Shale / Tar Sands (2012) designates only four acres of oil shale for development within the PFO. See Appendix A, page A-7 of the EIS. While there are large areas available for Tar Sand Development the Price Field Office has received no expressions of interest and the horse gather activity would not prevent development or use in any case.	Mike Glasson	01/25/17
NI	Hydrologic Conditions	Due to the small land disturbance of this project, hydrologic conditions would not be affected.	Jeffrey Brower	1/24/17
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (EO 13112)	Surface disturbing activities have the potential to introduce/spread invasive species/noxious weeds. Current inventories do not show any infestations of noxious weeds within the HMA. Halogeton and Russian thistle are present within the HMA and within the proposed trap locations. However, if BMPs are followed such as: equipment being pressure washed before entering the proposed areas and domestic	Stephanie Bauer	3/9/17

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		animals are fed certified weed free hay a minimum of three days prior to entering and while in the area, then negligible impact would be expected.		
NI	Lands/Access	A review of LR2000 and the Master Title Plats showed that the proposed action is compatible with the existing land use and authorized right-of-ways. There are no conflicts with other land use authorizations.	Connie Leschin	3/8/2017
PI	Livestock Grazing	Reduced competition between wild horses and livestock would benefit both the remaining wild horses and livestock that utilize the range within the Muddy Creek HMA.	Mike Tweddell	2/14/17
NI	Migratory Birds	There are no mapped important migratory bird habitat areas in the project area. No special status migratory birds are known to be in this area. Review of DWR raptor nest data indicates that no active raptors nest within the project area. Therefore, no special stipulations are needed. The proposed action will occur for a short time in a limited area and is considered temporary and of minor intensity. Therefore no effects to migratory birds are expected.	Dana Truman	3/15/17
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	A tribal consult letter was sent out to identified tribes on 06/23/2017. No response has been received.	Nicole Lohman	1/27/17
NI	Paleontology	The area contained within the HMA does contain some vertebrate fossils exposed at the surface. They are in areas devoid of significant vegetation and so would not likely be in an area impacted by wild horse movement or gather operations.	Michael Leschin	3.8.17
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	The proposed action has been evaluated in light of Utah BLMs Standards for Rangeland Health and the Guidelines for Grazing Management. A Rangeland Health assessment was conducted on the HMA in June of 2008. The management on the HMA was found to be and continues to be consistent with achieving and adhering to the Standards and Guidelines.	Mike Tweddell	02/14/17
NI	Recreation	The proposed action is located in the San Rafael Swell Special Recreation Management Area; gather operations should have little effect on recreation opportunities within the area. The public's opportunity to view the horses may be temporarily reduced following gather operations.	Ben Kraja	6/28/17
NI	Socio-Economics	Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no measureable social or economic impacts because the project is relatively small in scope when compared to the larger economy of the area	Mike Tweddell	1/25/17
NI	Soils	Due to the small land disturbance of this project, no affect to soils is expected.	Jeff Brower	1/24/17
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	Suitable or occupied habitat for the following Federally listed plant species has been previously documented or is expected to occur within the project vicinity (IPaC 4/4/2018). Schoenocrambe barnebyi, Cycladenia jonesii (humilis), Townsendia aprica, Pediocactus despainii, p. winkleri, and Scerlocactus wrightiae Analysis of soils, geology, elevation and ecological systems, within the Project Area and several site visits indicates that suitable habitat for Schoenocrambe	Dana Truman	4/4/2018

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		<p>barnebyi, Cycladenia jonesii (humilis), Townsendia aprica, is not present. Since suitable habitat is not present, these species are unlikely to be present in the Project Area, and as a result would not be impacted by the Proposed Action</p> <p>There are known populations of PEDE and SCWR within the project area. The proposed areas for camping, trapping and holding are all within large previously disturbed areas. A site visit April 17 2017 confirmed that no plants were present at the proposed locations. Because there are no plants and no suitable habitat at or near the proposed locations, there is no effect to PEDE and SCWR. Refer to the sensitive species evaluation located in the BLM project files.</p>		
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	<p>Suitable or occupied habitat for the following Federally listed species has been previously documented or is expected to occur within Emery County (IPaC 4/4/2018).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. California condor-Would be an unlikely visitor to the site. few observations of condors have been made this far north. 2. Mexican spotted owl – Designated critical habitat greater than 20 miles away. 3. Southwestern willow flycatcher – Designated critical habitat greater than 60miles away. 4. Yellow billed cuckoo – Suitable habitat greater than 60 miles away associated with the Green River. <p>Analysis of elevation and habitat requirements, within the Project Area and several site visits indicates that suitable habitat for the CACO, MSO, SWFL, YBCC is not present at the site. Since suitable habitat is not present, these species are unlikely to be present in the Project Area, and as a result would not be impacted by the Proposed Action.</p> <p>There is no documentation of T&E animal species occurring within the Muddy Creek HMA. And no effects to the hydrology are expected, therefore no effects to listed fish species downstream. Refer to the sensitive species evaluation located in the BLM project files</p>	Dana Truman	4/4/2018
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	<p>No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Furthermore, no extremely hazardous substances, as defined in 40 CFR 355, in threshold planning quantities, will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of in association with the project.</p> <p>Trash would be confined in a covered container and disposed of in an approved landfill. No burning of any waste will occur due to this project. Human waste will be disposed of in an appropriate manner in an approved sewage treatment center.</p>	Jeff Brower	1/24/17

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NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	Gather operations would avoid areas with surface water, which will minimize impacts to water quality.	Jeff Brower	1/24/17
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	After an inspection of USGS 7.5 minute maps of the area and after reviewing the wetland/riparian database for the Price Field Office, it has been determined that there are no wetlands/riparian areas affected by the proposed trap sites, corrals, and proposed water development features.	Karl Ivory	03/09/17
NI	Wild and Scenic Rivers	There are no eligible wild or scenic river segments within the project area	Ben Kraja	6/28/17
NI	Wilderness/WSA	Wild horses are identified as a supplemental wilderness value within the Muddy Creek WSA. Since no surface disturbance or occupancy would occur as part of this action, no reclamation or rehabilitation would be required. Wild horses would continue to roam the WSA and provide the supplemental value identified in the Wilderness Inventory of 1980. While over flights of the WSA by the helicopter would result in some loss of the opportunity for solitude, these over flights would be so short in duration and transitory as to be insignificant. Over flights of WSA for management purposes is allowed under existing laws and is a fairly routine occurrence in designated Wilderness Areas. Nothing in the proposed action or alternatives would impair the ability of Congress to designate the Muddy Creek WSA as Wilderness.	Dan Dull	06/21/17
NP	Woodland / Forestry	There are no woodland/forestry products within the proposed trap locations.	Stephanie Bauer	3/9/17
PI	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species and BLM Sensitive Species	All known campsites, holding facilities and trap locations have been disturbed previously. Gather operations will have only a short term, impact to vegetative resources. The proposed action will reduce the long term forage utilization by horses, reducing competition with other herbivores.	Michael Tweddell	02/14/17
NI	Visual Resources	The Muddy Creek Herd Management Area is located within Visual Resource Management Classes I, II, III, and IV. The proposed action, including the gathering of the animals and fertility control, is short term and minimally surface disturbing. What surface disturbance would occur, is proposed to occur in areas previously disturbed. No permanent structures would be constructed while collecting the horses. This type of activity has occurred in the past with no long term or permanent impact to the visual quality of the area.	Myron Jeffs	1/16/18
PI	Wild Horses and Burros	Gather/ removal operations would modify the population as a whole as well as affect individual animals during the gather.	Mike Tweddell	02/14/17
NI	Areas with Wilderness Characteristics**	The project area overlaps areas with Wilderness Characteristics. Since no surface disturbance or occupancy would occur as part of this action, no reclamation or rehabilitation would be required. While over flights of the natural areas by the helicopter would result in some loss of the opportunity for solitude, these over flights would be so short in	Ben Kraja	6/28/17

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
		duration and transitory as to be insignificant.		

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			