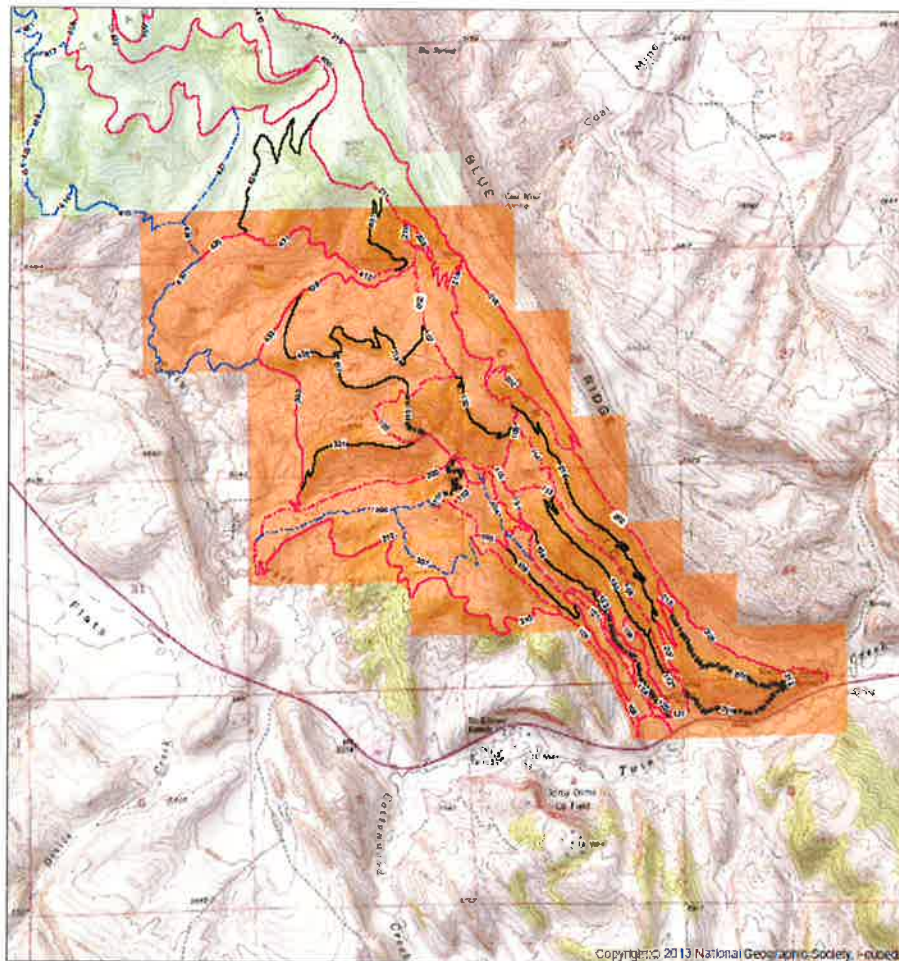




Decision Record For The Johnny Behind The Rocks Master Trails Plan. DOI-BLM-WY-R050-2017-007-EA

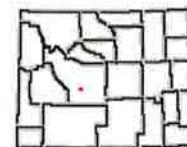


Map 1
Proposed Action Block 1



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for use of the data for purposes not intended by BLM

Trail Status & Proposed Use		Block Number	
—	Proposed Trail, Bike		1
---	Existing Trail, Equine		2
—	Proposed Trail, Equine		
---	Existing Trail, Multuse		
—	Proposed Trail, Multuse		
---	Existing Trail, Bike		



Date: 4/25/2018

July 2018

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1.0 Decision Record

1.1 Compliance

The selected action makes progress towards the objectives detailed in section 1.1 of the environmental assessment entitled: Environmental Assessment for the Johnny Behind the Rocks Master Trails Plan (the supporting EA). These objectives were originally established by the Lander Resource Management Plan (June, 2014) and therefore it is determined that the selected action and the supporting EA conforms to and supports the direction contained in the Land Use Plan.

The scope of the document and selected action is also in compliance with several additional laws and policies. These regulations are generally detailed and further described in 43 CFR, Subtitle B – Regulations Relating to Public Lands. Some laws, regulations, or documents require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to consult with other government agencies or affected Native American Tribes prior to initiating an action.

The BLM consulted with representatives from numerous affected tribes. Tribal consultation garnered input on cultural resource issues and concerns as required by laws, regulation, and guidance. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and BLM's programmatic agreement between the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the BLM has also consulted with SHPO prior to and during the development of this EA. Finally, the BLM consulted with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) for their input on wildlife issues and concerns, as well as consistency with Wyoming Executive Order 2011-05, Greater Sage-grouse Core Area Protection.

1.2 Selected Action:

The selected action is the proposed action as detailed in the supporting EA.

Trails Development
<p>The BLM and partners will build and maintain the trail non-motorized trail network in map 1 and 2 in Appendix A.</p> <p>Miles of new trail: 40 Total trail miles in the network: 63</p> <p>Trail Design (new and existing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 63% (40 miles) Multiple Use• 12% (8 miles) Optimized¹ for use with horses• 23% (15 miles) Optimized for use on bicycles
Visitor Management
<p>The BLM and partners will implement a voluntary seasonal closure. The BLM will not take actions to encourage or facilitate winter use. The BLM will consider an emergency closure order if winter severity, trail conditions, or winter use levels create cause for concern. BLM will evaluate winter use management options should a 10% increase of winter visitor use</p>

¹ Trails that are optimized for a particular use such as by horse riders or bike riders is open for all users.

occur over a 5 year average.
The BLM will not take actions to encourage or facilitate parking along the blue ridge road and Wildcat Reservoir. If parking starts to occur the BLM will evaluate options to manage or restrict this use.
The BLM and partners will identify, analyze, and implement restoration activities on roads and trails that do not support the goals and objectives for the trail network.
The BLM and partners will develop the trails identified in Block 1 in accordance with the Trail Development Criteria below. This EA analyzes these identified Block 1 trails. The BLM and partners will construct the trails within 75 feet of the mapped location pending micro-siting.
The trails in blocks 2 are conceptual (within 300 feet of potential location). The BLM will not conduct additional analysis on these trails, so long as the analysis of block 1 provides adequate disclosure of impacts and the site-specific investigations conclude that the proposed trail meets the programmatic trail development criteria contained below.
Programmatic Trail Development Criteria
Design, locate, construct, and facilitate use of trails that will not result in an adverse impact to known cultural properties.
The BLM will monitor cultural sites near trails within the project area. If the BLM documents resource collection, looting, or vandalism, the BLM will reevaluate and take responsive action as appropriate, in consultation with the SHPO, interested Native American tribes, and affected stakeholders.
Design, locate, construct, and facilitate use of trails that mitigates impacts to paleontological resources.
Design, locate, construct, and facilitate use of trails that supports the intended use, experience, and difficulty level for the trail.
Trails will maximize the use of terrain features to ensure sustainability and user enjoyment.
Design, locate, construct, and facilitate use of trails that will not result in an adverse effect to sensitive, threatened, and endangered wildlife species. The BLM and partners will continue to utilize Integrated Pest Management to address noxious and invasive species.
Design, locate, construct, and facilitate use of trails that will not result in an adverse effect to threatened, endangered, or BLM sensitive plant species (the BLM will address Beaver Rim phlox and Rocky Mountain twinpod with the best trail practices below and not through trail development criteria).
Trail construction in suitable habitat will require a clearance survey for threatened, endangered, BLM sensitive plants. No trail construction will occur within 50 meters of identified populations, except for Beaver Rim phlox and Rocky Mountain twinpod.
Design, locate, construct, and facilitate use of trails to reduce the likelihood of excessive soil loss and erosion.
Trail construction will not occur within 1 mi of FEHA nest or 0.75 mi of other raptor nests from February 1 – July 31 or until young have fledged
Construct trails no closer than 0.5 miles of known raptor nests (active since 2008).
Conceal trails that are constructed between 0.5 and 0.75 miles of a known raptor nests (active since 2008)
Trail construction will not exceed the 5% threshold calculated by the Density Disturbance Calculation Tool
Trail construction that occurs during the nesting season (May 1 – July 15 for non-raptors) will

require clearance surveys for nesting birds and the trail will not be built within 20 m of active nests until after July 15 th .
Design, locate, and construct trails in a manner that reduces impacts to roosting habitat for bats.
Best Trail Practices
Where practical implement Best Trail Practices to reduce or completely alleviate the impact of trails to resources. Trails that meet all design criteria and one or more of the BTPs will receive a higher priority for implementation.
Avoid trail construction within 50 meters of BLM sensitive plant species Rocky Mountain twinpod and Beaver Rim phlox located during the clearance survey. Mechanical construction will not occur in population areas. The BLM will ensure trail builders are educated on the presence of the species and on how to avoid damaging the plant.
Construct trails to alleviate or reduce the likelihood that trail users will discover known cultural resources.
Construct trails to alleviate or reduce the likelihood that trail users will discover known paleontological resources.
Trails will avoid livestock concentration areas and/or water developments.
Trails will avoid known infestations of noxious and invasive species. Trail builders will clean all trail construction equipment prior to construction.
Design, locate and construct trails as to avoid reducing the quantity and quality of winter forage for mule deer
Construct trails to alleviate or reduce the likelihood that trail users will discover known raptor nests and bat roosts.

1.3 Compliance with NEPA:

The supporting EA analyzed two alternatives for addressing undesirable conditions in the Johnny Behind the Rocks area. All requirements associated with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), were satisfied through the EA and subsequent Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact. The EA was available for a 30-day comment period in late June 2018.

1.4 Public Involvement:

The BLM received 34 letters during the EA comment period. The BLM reviewed the letters for substantive issues, comments, or concerns. The BLM utilizes substantive issues and/or concerns to assist in determining the next course of action.

The BLM did not receive comments that indicated a need to adjust the proposed action nor the supporting EA. Tthe majority, 33 of the 34 comments demonstrated support for the proposed action. The remainder of comments contained a process question.

1.5 Rationale:

The implementation of the selected alternative will not have significant environmental effects. In addition the selected alternative will respond to the purpose and need for the project, as well as the public comments received.

1.7 Appeal Opportunities:

This decision constitutes my final decision. Any person adversely affected by this decision may appeal to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and Form 1842-1 (form available at the BLM address on the front page of this document). If you file an appeal, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days from receipt of this decision for transmittal to the IBLA. Only signed hard copies of a notice of appeal will be accepted; faxed or emailed appeals will not be considered. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed is in error. If your notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, one must be filed with the IBLA within thirty (30) days after the notice of appeal was filed.

A copy of your notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215. Service must be accomplished within fifteen (15) days after filing in order to be in compliance with appeal regulations. As provided by 43 CFR Part 4, you have the right to petition the Office of Hearings and Appeals to stay implementation of the decision. However, you must show standing and present reasons for requesting a stay of the decision that addresses your interests and the manner by which they would be harmed. A petition for stay of a decision pending appeal must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

1.8 Authorizing Official

Approved by:



Michael J. Phillips
Lander Field Manager

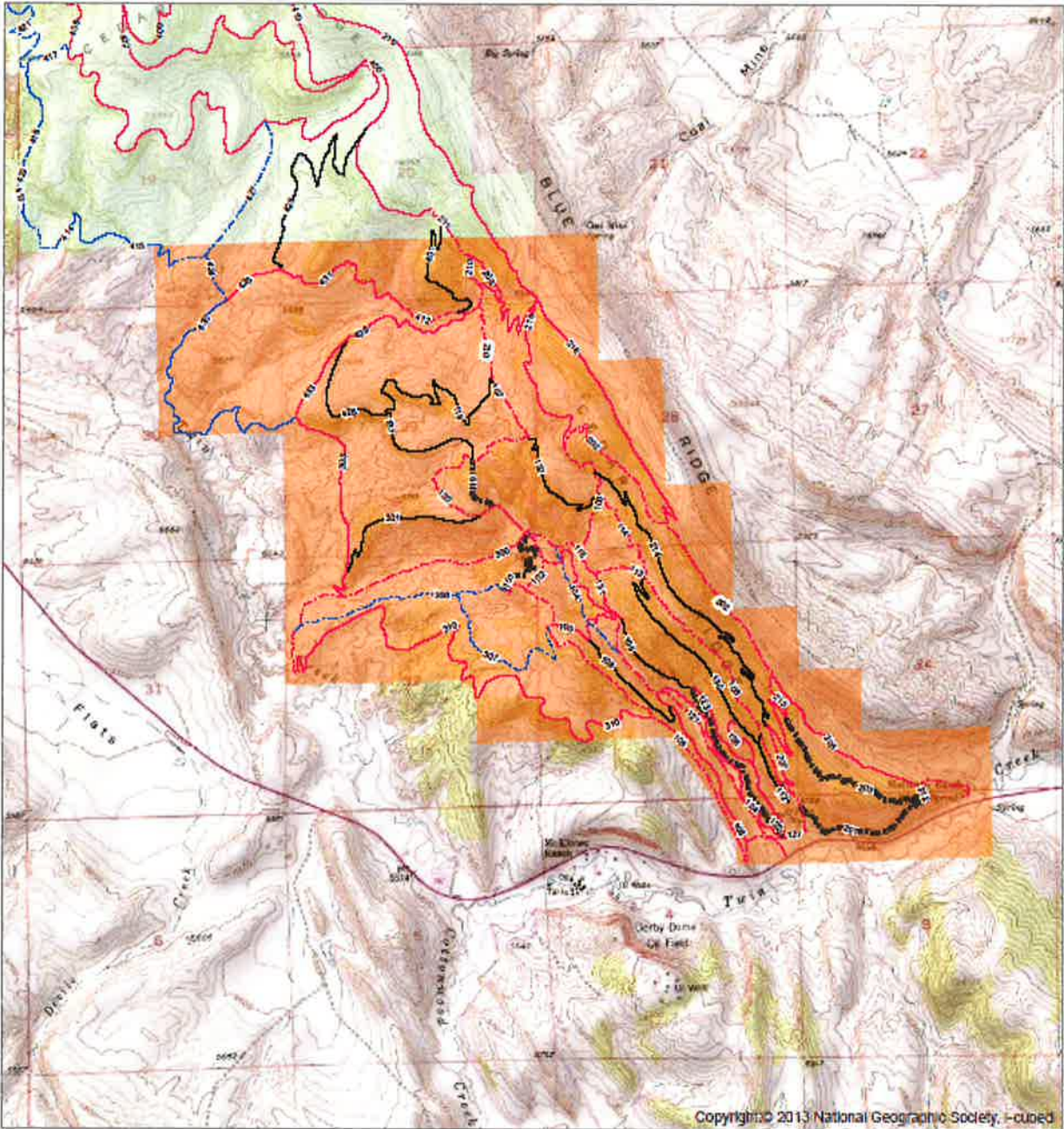
07/16/208
Date

1.9 Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Finding, contact:

Jared Oakleaf
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street Lander Wyoming 82520
307-332-8407

2.0 Appendix A: Maps



**Map 1
Proposed Action Block 1**

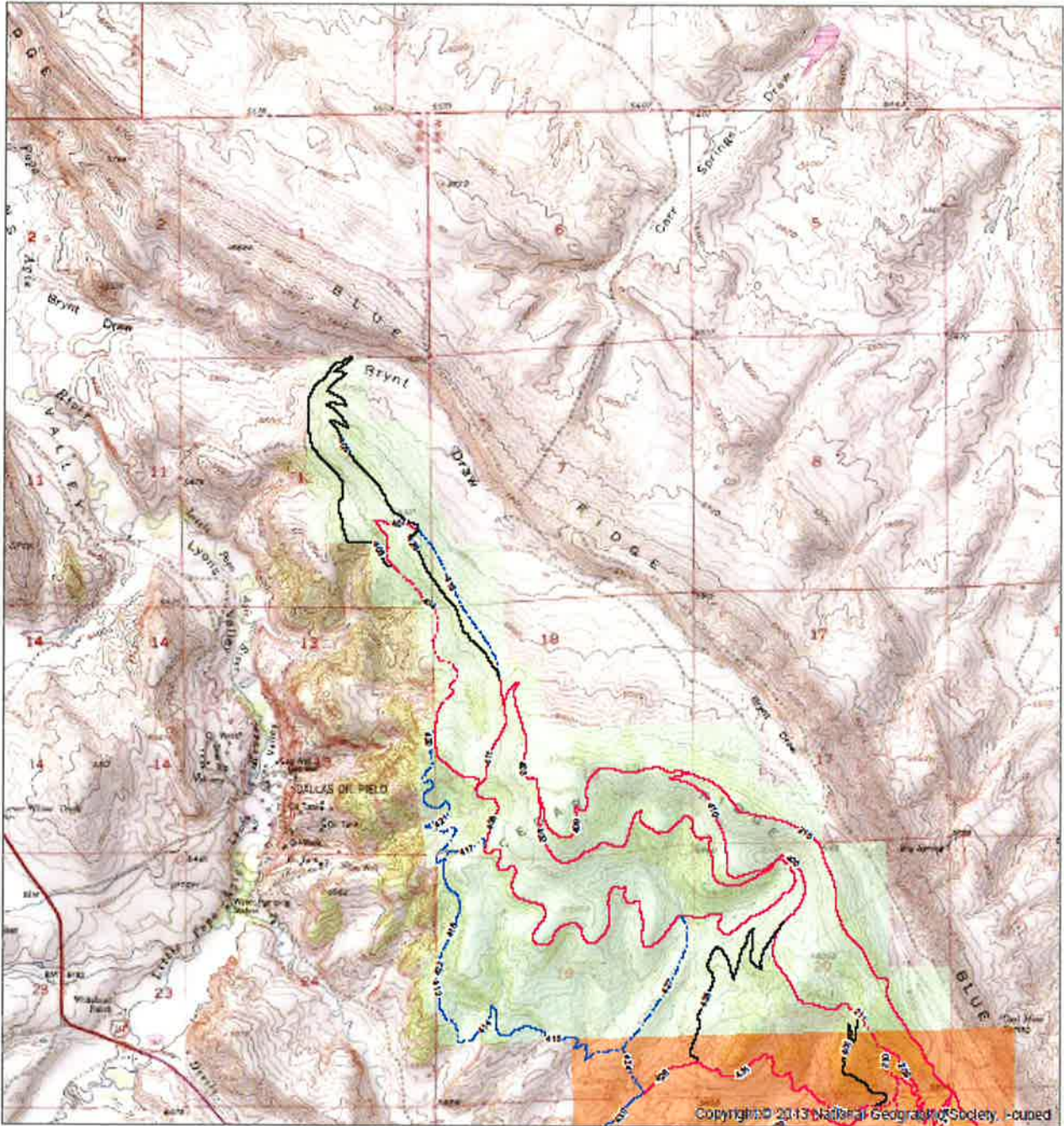


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- | Trail Status & Proposed Use | | Block Number |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| — | Proposed Trail, Bike | 1 |
| --- | Existing Trail, Equine | 2 |
| — | Proposed Trail, Equine | |
| --- | Existing Trail, Multituse | |
| — | Proposed Trail, Multituse | |
| ---- | Existing Trail, Bike | |



Date: 4/25/2018

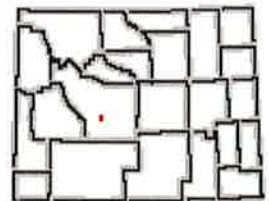


Map 2
Proposed Action Block 2



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for use of the data for purposes not intended by BLM.

- | Trail Status & Proposed Use | | Block Number |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| — | Proposed Trail, Bike | 1 |
| --- | Existing Trail, Equine | 2 |
| — | Proposed Trail, Equine | |
| --- | Existing Trail, Multiuse | |
| — | Proposed Trail, Multiuse | |
| --- | Existing Trail, Bike | |



Date: 4/25/2018