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

Temple Mountain and Goblin Valley Recreation Area Management Plan

Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Utah State Parks, and Emery County are proposing to create a cooperative management agreement for the management of recreation resources located in and around the Temple Mountain Recreation Management Zone of the BLM Price Field Office near Goblin Valley State Park. To reach a cooperative management agreement, an environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared to establish a recreation area management plan (RAMP) for a planning area of approximately 194,600 acres.

Visitation to Goblin Valley State Park has steadily increased over the past several years. During the 2014 fiscal year, Goblin Valley State Park accommodated 109,593 visitors. Goblin Valley State Park welcomed over 191,000 visitors during the 2016 fiscal year. Many of the Goblin Valley State Park visitors are camping and recreating on the BLM-administered lands directly surrounding the state park. There are also visitors to the BLM lands that are not Goblin Valley State Park Visitors. The growing visitation to the region has led to an increase in resource impacts on BLM-administered lands. Developing a RAMP for BLM-administered lands in this region will allow BLM to address resource concerns, while also partnering with the Utah State Parks and Emery County to share the workload and potentially collect fees that will allow each partner to better manage the public lands in this region to meet public needs and demands.

What are the resource impacts due to recreation in this area?

There are several resources that have been impacted on BLM-administered lands as a result of recreation in the Temple Mountain and Goblin Valley area. This RAMP will seek to address the following resource-impacting issues:

- Camping is currently occurring in several areas that are not currently designated as camping areas. This is problematic for the BLM as it tries to deal with the resulting issues of soil impacts, vegetation impacts, route proliferation, visitor safety, human waste, etc.

- There are several Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) located in and around this proposed planning area. There is starting to be an abundance of unauthorized campsites in and around the WSAs, impacting the wilderness characteristics. Additionally, there have been occasional OHV intrusions into the WSAs.

- The BLM currently has limited facilities (bathrooms, developed campsites) in this region to accommodate the demand of visitors. The current sites with facilities are often overcrowded and not meeting the needs of the public.

- Some trails and recreation areas, like Little Wild Horse Canyon, are receiving heavy use and create a situation where overcrowding is potentially occurring.

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- Graffiti has been an increasing issue throughout this region, especially in Little Wild Horse Canyon and at various rock art panels.

What types of recreation activities are popular in this area?

This area contains a wide range of recreational activities and experiences. This RAMP is meant to be a plan that can accommodate this range of recreational visitors and will be outcomes-focused around both sought after experiences and benefits. The following is a list of some recreational activities occurring in this area:

- OHV (Temple Mountain OHV Trail System including the Behind the Reef Trail, the Five Miles of Hell Trail, and the Waterfall Trail)
- Hiking and canyoneering
- Camping
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding

What is the purpose of public scoping?

The purpose of the public scoping period is to enable anyone interested in the project to suggest issues that should be addressed as the BLM works with stakeholders to develop this RAMP. Examples of the type of input the BLM is looking for is:

- What type of recreation experiences and opportunities are you seeking in this area?
- What level of development is necessary or needed in this area?
    - Types of facilities (bathrooms, kiosks, signs, campgrounds, etc.)
    - Location of facilities
- Are permits needed in some areas to minimize crowding and/or increase monitoring?
- Are fees appropriate?
- Any other issue regarding any resources within the proposed planning area?

How can I submit comments to the BLM?

The BLM will accept written comments by U.S. Postal Service or through the BLM ePlanning website. Commenters should reference "Temple Mountain/ Goblin Valley RAMP".

U.S. Postal Service address:
BLM Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, UT 84501

ePlanning link:
http://go.usa.gov/xkzwv

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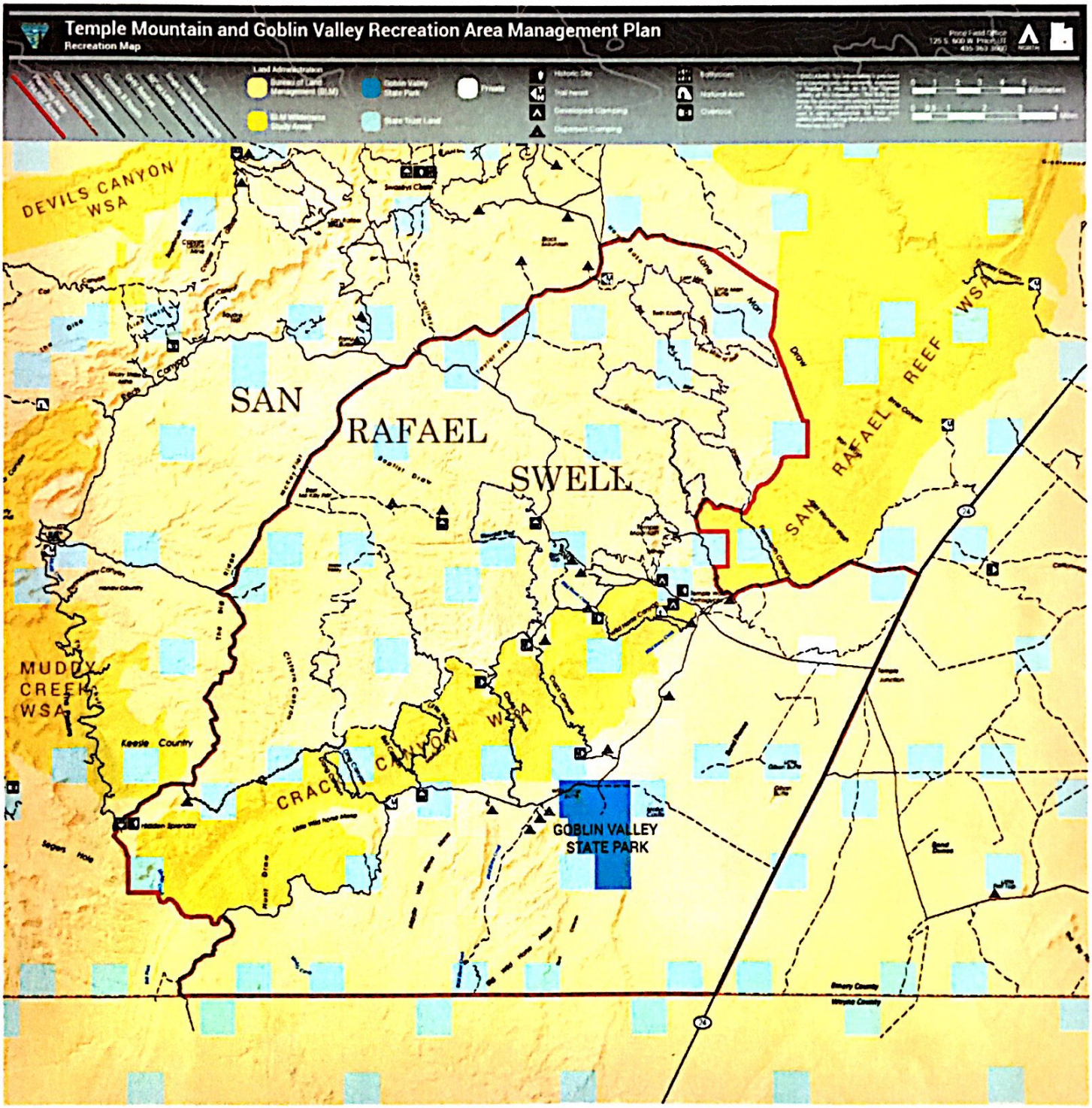

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