

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District
Shoshone Field Office
400 West F Street
Shoshone, ID 83352

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format When Using Categorical Exclusions Not
Established by Statute**

NEPA No. BLM-DOI-ID-T030-2011-0058-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Amend Sun Valley Trekking's Special Recreation Permit.

Location of Proposed Action: Croy Creek Trail system and BLM portions of the following primitive roads: Quigley, Indian Creek and Slaughterhouse canyons. The general location is in the Wood River Valley, Idaho.

Description of Proposed Action: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Shoshone Field Office has received and evaluated a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) application from Sun Valley Trekking. A SRP will be issued to amend Sun Valley Trekking's (SVT) existing Special Recreation Permit to include guided mountain biking and hiking tours in the Wood River Valley; specifically the Croy Creek trail network consisting of Bull Dog, Bullion Connector, Two Dog, Wilson Gulch, Centerline, Lambs Gulch, Hidden Valley and Punchline. Also included are the BLM portions of the following primitive roads: Quigley, Indian Creek and Slaughterhouse canyons. Seasons of use would be spring, summer and fall.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Sun Valley Management Framework Plan (MFP). Date Approved/Amended: Approved in 1982 and Amended in 2003.

The proposed action is within the Big Wood Analysis Unit as described in the MFP. Part of the proposed action is within the Wood River Recreation area therefore is directly addressed in the Sun Valley MFP. It states "Continue to recognize present uses of the Wood River Recreation Area. This area provides for intensive ORV use and reduces pressure on other areas within the unit. This provides an area for many types of ORV events, reducing the need on adjoining public lands."

The remainder of the proposed action is directly adjacent to the Wood River Recreation area along main drainages and well established primitive roads. Therefore even though there are no recreation objectives in the Sun Valley MFP addressing this area it is clearly consistent with the

following MFP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): The General Management Philosophy states: “This unit will be managed to protect the watershed resources, wildlife habitat, open space and scenic values. However, continued livestock grazing, timber harvesting, recreational activities, and mineral development will be encouraged as long as the proposed uses do not significantly reduce the other values.”

Sun Valley Trekking holds a SRP to conduct backcountry ski and snowshoe tours on public land in the Shoshone Field Office. Prior to issuing the amended SRP a categorical exclusion, DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2010-0020-CX, was completed to ensure none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply. The current SRP expires in 2021.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the Categorical Exclusion reference in 516 DM 11.9 H (1) which applies to, “Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails or in areas authorized in a land use plan. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for “Special Area” management (43 CFR 2932.5).”

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply. My consideration of extraordinary circumstances is documented in the Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Jim Tharp

Jim Tharp

Acting Shoshone Field Manager

Date: 8/29/2012

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, contact John Kurtz, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 208-732-7296.