



Bureau of Land Management

Boise District Office
Bruneau Field Office
3948 Development Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83705
<http://www.id.blm.gov>

Determination of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management

A. BLM Office: Bruneau Field Office

NEPA Log Number: ID-120-2010-DNA-01

Lease/Serial Case File No.: SRP # ID120-10-004

Proposed Action Title/Type: Issue a Commercial Special Recreation Permit

Location/Legal of Proposed Action: Sheep Creek T13S R6E and adjacent sections

Applicant (if any): Riverstone International School – Ben Brock

Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:

Issue a Special Recreation Permit for the school to conduct a 5 day backpack trip in the Sheep Creek area, on BLM land in the Bruneau Field Office. Special recreation permits may be issued for events to be conducted in the Bruneau Field Office to individuals and organizations that apply in accordance with the BLM Special Recreation Permit Policy (43 CFR 8372).

The students would be divided into two groups of 15 students, each with two adult leaders. The two groups would hike on basically opposite itineraries, and would not camp together. The groups would hike along the plateau west of Sheep Creek, and drop down to Sheep Creek via stock/hiking trails to 4 different camps. Total hiking distance would be approximately 28 miles for each group. Motorized travel would be restricted to pick-up and drop-off points on the Rowland Road. One vehicle would be left parked at Mary's Creek in case of emergency. Leave no trace camping practices would be observed. Special and general permit stipulations would be included with the authorization, and are attached to this document.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP/Document ¹	Sections/Pages	Date Approved
Bruneau MFP	Recreation Objective #1	1983

¹List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans, Management Framework Plans, or applicable amendments) and activity, project, management, water quality restoration, or program plans.

Bruneau MFP Recreation Objective #1: Provide high quality recreation opportunities commensurate with present and future demand. Manage public lands to provide varied opportunities for recreation experiences in mostly undisturbed settings. Emphasis will be placed in managing the area for dispersed-type recreation opportunities.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.

NEPA/Other Related Documents ¹	Sections/Pages	Date Approved
EA No. ID-010-86-29	All	1986
CER #ID-01-90-109	All	1990
EA No.ID-010-86-29 supplement	All	1993
EA No.ID-096-02-074	All	2004
DNA Barker Camping and Hiking	All	2007

¹List applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action or documentation relevant to the proposed action (i.e., source drinking water assessment, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, rangeland health standard assessment and determination, or monitoring report).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current Proposed Action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current Proposed Action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action is substantially the same action as that previously analyzed in the applicable NEPA documents, and in the same types of dispersed locations as previously analyzed (EA No. ID-010-86-29 pages 1, 6-10). Other outfitters have been authorized to conduct backpacking and hiking trips in the same area since 1981.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The range of alternatives in EA No. ID-010-86-29 includes authorizing outfitting operations (preferred alternative, page 1), no action, which is described as limiting the number of authorized outfitters to places where that use is already established (page 4), and limited use, which would allow existing outfitters to retain their portion of the affected area and potential expansion into other use areas (page 4). The range of alternatives is appropriate to the current proposed action. BLM concerns (pages 6-9) include the effects of outfitter operations on naturalness in wilderness study areas, livestock grazing, vegetation, wildlife, vehicle routes, and wildfire. It has been determined that the proposed action would not have a significant effect on any of these issues, and they are adequately addressed in the NEPA document and permit stipulations.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (i.e., riparian proper functioning condition reports; rangeland health standards assessments; inventory and monitoring data; most recent USFWS lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The existing analysis is valid. There is no known new information or circumstance relative to guided outfitter operations. The field office botanist, wildlife biologist and cultural resource specialist evaluate site and sensitive species information to determine whether there are known conflicts with dispersed recreation activities. Permit stipulations minimize negative impacts to resources. Wilderness monitoring in the operating area has found no impacts related to commercial outfitting within the operating area. The timing (mid May) of this activity would not conflict with Greater Sage Grouse breeding activities as this species breeds mid March through April.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current Proposed Action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The methodology and analytical approach used in the MFP and the EA are appropriate for the proposed action. The EA determined that no significant impacts would occur from the decision to issue special recreation permits to outfitters. The NEPA documents are consistent with MFP objectives. The NEPA documents are also consistent with CEQ (43 CFR 1500) and BLM (Departmental Manual 516, Handbook 1790-1, H-2930) requirements and guidelines, which are the current requirements and guidelines for the development of a programmatic EA.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current Proposed Action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Direct and indirect impacts of outfitted camping and hiking are substantially unchanged from those identified in EA # 010-86-29 (pages 6-9), and site-specific impacts of travel and camping are documented in that assessment. Stipulations required in the permit minimize these impacts.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The cumulative impacts of this activity is substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA documents. It does not represent a significant increased level of use or a new location of use.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current Proposed Action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document is adequate for the current proposed action. We are aware of no current issues or controversies related to guided, dispersed recreation in this area.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Name	Title	Resource Represented
David Draheim	Recreation Planner	Recreation, VRM, Wilderness
Bruce Schoeberl	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, SSP
Holly Beck	Natural Resource Specialist	Botany, SSP
Lois Palmgren	Archeologist	Cultural Resources

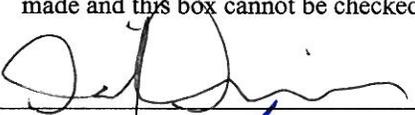
F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures have been incorporated and implemented.

A copy of the permit stipulations is attached.

G. Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked.



Preparer

5/3/10
Date



NEPA Specialist

5/3/10
Date

 (Actg)

Bruneau Field Manager

5/4/10
Date

