

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

Twin Falls District
Jarbidge Field Office
2536 Kimberly Rd.
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2013-0001-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Jarbidge Field Office. **Lease/Serial/Case File No.:**

Proposed Action Title/Type: Commercial Special Recreation Permit

Location of Proposed Action: The southern portion of the Jarbidge Field Office, primarily Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Hunting Unit # 47. The proposed authorization would cover approximately 724,000 acres of BLM lands. Minimal use of BLM administered land is likely, since the operation is primarily conducted on private lands.

Description of Proposed Action: The Bureau of Land Management, Jarbidge Field Office (BLM) has received an application from Flying Spear Outfitters for a Special Recreation Permit for guided hunting. Clients would pay for the opportunity to hunt for mule deer and the proposed authorization would be for the 2012 hunting season only (Oct. 22 thru Nov. 30, 2012). No proposals for permanent or reserved campsites are part of the submitted operations plan.

Hunting activities would be consistent with seasons and regulations set by the IDFG. Operations would be in compliance with the license required by the State of Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board and the BLM Special Recreation Permit.

Hunting trip lengths for clients are usually for 3-5 days and only two (2) clients have reserved places for the time period that would be authorized. Types of equipment proposed for use include full size 4 wheel drive vehicles and stipulations for the vehicles on BLM lands would include staying on existing roads. The business would employ a small number of people, 2-4 at most. The applicant's home would be used as a base of operation.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved/Amended: March 23, 1987

The proposed action is in conformance with the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved March 23, 1987. The proposed action is in conformance with the Resource Management Guidelines which state: "BLM will manage recreation on the public lands. A

variety of means to maintain or improve recreation opportunities will be considered.” (Jarbidge RMP, Pg. II-93).

C. Compliance with NEPA

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 H(1). 516 DM 11.9 H(1) states: “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;..”. The total time allocated for the two (2) reserved hunts would be 10 days. No surface disturbance is expected to result from the proposed activity. The proposed action qualifies to be processed as a categorical exclusion.

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 516 DM 2 apply. See Attachment B, Flying Spear Special Recreation Permit Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet. The proposed action meets the guidelines in 43 CFR 2920.2-2.

Based on my review of the proposed action described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the proposed action would not result in unnecessary or undue environmental degradation, is in conformance with the applicable land use plan, and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to offer a Special Recreation Permit to Flying Spear Outfitters pursuant to the authority of Section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. This permit will authorize the use on public lands described above for commercial guided hunting for the period of October 22, 2012 thru November 30, 2012.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Brian W. Davis **Date:** 10/16/2012
Name: Brian W. Davis
Title: Field Manager