

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)

PROJECT NAME: Special Recreation Permit (SRP)
APPLICANT: Eagle Ridge Ranch
PROJECT LEAD: Shannon Bassista
NEPA (CX) NUMBER: DOI-BLM-ID-I010-2013-0024-CX

BACKGROUND:

Eagle Ridge Ranch has secured permission from private landowners to access Sheridan Reservoir for ice fishing in the winter. The only access to this private property at Sheridan Reservoir is to cross BLM-managed lands by groomed snowmobile route.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Eagle Ridge Ranch would be issued a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to traverse BLM-managed lands for approximately 3 miles on groomed snowmobile trail during the winter months. All clients must stay on groomed snowmobile routes.

CONSULTATION and COORDINATION:

A description of the proposed action was posted to the online NEPA register. This is available to members of the public through the Upper Snake Field Office (USFO) webpage. No comments were received and no issues/conflicts were identified for this project. The proposed action was also presented to the USFO Interdisciplinary Team and none of the Extraordinary Circumstances pertain to this project.

FINDING or RECOMMENDATION:

The proposed action is categorically excluded as outlined in 516 DM 11.5 Categorical Exclusions, H (1) and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply. I recommend that a SRP be issued to Eagle Ridge Ranch for traversing BLM-managed lands by snowmobile on groomed routes only.

DECISION and RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION:

Eagle Ridge Ranch would be issued a SRP for traversing BLM-managed lands for approximately 3 miles in the Shotgun Valley on a groomed snowmobile route. The SRP complies with the BLM Categorical Exclusions for Recreation which 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; 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)."

LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE STATEMENT:

The proposed action is in conformance with the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan (1985).

APPEALS INFORMATION:

43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) or 43 CFR 2801.10

Preparer: Shannon Bassista /s/ Shannon Bassista 3/12/13

Nepa Reviewer: Joshua Gibbs /s/ Joshua Gibbs 3/12/13

Upper Snake Field Manager: Jeremy Casterson /s/ Jeremy Casterson 3/12/13

Extraordinary Circumstances Requiring Preparation of an EA or EIS

(516 DM 2, Appendix 2)

The action described in categorical exclusion (CX) # DOI-BLM-ID-I010-2013-0024-CX has been reviewed to determine that none of the extraordinary circumstances listed below pertain to the proposed action.

DM Number and Extraordinary Circumstance

- 2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety
- 2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- 2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].
- 2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
- 2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
- 2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
- 2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.
- 2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species.
- 2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- 2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
- 2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).
- 2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).