

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)

PROJECT NAME: Eastern Idaho Houndsmen Association Special Recreation Permit (SRP)

APPLICANT: Eastern Idaho Houndsmen Association

PROJECT LEAD: Shannon Bassista

NEPA (CX) NUMBER: DOI-BLM-ID-I010-2013-0025-CX

PROPOSED ACTION:

To issue a Competitive SRP for an annual two-day coon dog field trail event in the lower Little Lost River Valley. The location is approximately six miles NW of Howe, Idaho and covers approximately 1000 acres. The event would be adjacent to the seasonally de-watered Little Lost River.

The event would have approximately 30 dog handlers with approximately 100 dogs. The organizers anticipate having 20 to 50 spectators per day. They will provide portable restrooms and refuse containers. All activities associated with the event will be in accordance with the permit's general and specific stipulations.

CONSULTATION and COORDINATION:

The public and local tribes were informed through the Upper Snake Field Officer's on-line NEPA register.

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 Eastern Idaho Houndsmen Association for an annual 2-day dog trail event six miles NW of Howe, Idaho in the Little Lost.

DECISION and RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION:

Eastern Idaho Houndsmen Association would be issued an Organized Group SRP six miles NW of Howe, Idaho. 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 Little Lost/Birch Creek Management Framework Plan (1981). Recreation management objective #5 (page 11) provide direction to "Maintain or enhance the present quality of recreation activities/opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing in the planning unit. APPEALS INFORMATION:

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

Preparer: Shannon Bassista /s/ Shannon Bassista 3/19/13

Nepa Reviewer: Joshua Gibbs /s/ Joshua Gibbs 3/19/13

Upper Snake Field Manager: Jeremy Casterson /s/ Jeremy Casterson 3/19/13

Extraordinary Circumstances Requiring Preparation of an EA or EIS

(516 DM 2, Appendix 2)

The action described in categorical exclusion (CX) # DOI-BLM-ID-I010-2013-0025-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).