

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

A. Background

BLM Office: Four Rivers / Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area
Lease/Serial/Case File No.: _DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2014-0004-CX

Proposed Action Title/Type: Idaho Outdoor Association Crater Crawl Special Recreation Permit

Location of Proposed Action: Crater Rings northeast of Mountain Home, Idaho. Township 2S,
Range 5E Sections 33 and 34. Also Township 3S, Rang 5E Sections 3 and 4.

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed event has occurred previously and undergone clearances. The event is proposed to be conducted in the same fashion, using the same locations, with a date that is more appropriate for wildlife in the area. The purpose of the action is to provide recreational opportunities while protecting important natural and cultural resources by issuing a special recreation permit to Idaho Outdoor Association (IOA) for September 20, 2014. Their purpose for the event is to encourage the values of low-impact non-motorized outdoor recreation, raise funds for IOA projects and to support the at-risk youth program at nearby Dream River Ranch. The Idaho Outdoor Association Crater Crawl is a supported 10 kilometer hiking/running race. Participants, and spectators, will be directed to park alongside Main Cinder Butte Road, which has been approved by the highway district board. The course will follow primary jeep tracks to, then around, the Crater Rings (see attached course map). The staging area and start/finish line will be located just a short distance up the jeep track that runs north/south from the Crater Rings (at the flat area that is commonly used for parking). At this location there will be a registration desk, two porta-potties and a first aid tent with a physician's assistant on duty. An all-terrain vehicle will be on site for course support and quick access in the event of an emergency. There will be 3 hydration stations located along the course, the first at 2.1 miles, 2nd at 3.4 miles, and 3rd at 5.1 miles. Each of these stations will be manned by a minimum of two volunteers. Race organizers estimate between 30 to 100 individuals (based on the last year's event). Very few spectators, if any, are expected (based on last year's event.)

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area RMP

Date Approved/Amended: September 30, 2008

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

_____ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

1. Requests for recreational special use permits will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine compatibility with NCA management objectives.
2. Provide a range of developed and undeveloped recreational opportunities with existing and new amenities, while protecting resource values, minimizing user conflicts, and promoting public safety.

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, H1: Recreation Management -

- 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 that would introduce potential effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM6 apply.