

**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Worksheet**

Expedition Idaho Eco Challenge  
DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2014-0007-DNA

**A. Description of the Proposed Action**

Expedition Idaho has applied for a special recreation permit for an eco-challenge event that will take place from August 10th through August 16th. On August 14th - 16th approximately six four-person teams (24 people total) will be racing through the Grandmother Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA) on foot. The teams will be entering the WSA from the north, heading south along the Delaney Cr National Recreation Trail, then turning north on the Lookout Mountain National Recreation Trail. The racers will exit the Lookout Mountain trail on the north side of the Wilderness Study Area and continue on a USFS road beyond BLM boundaries. At this point of the race it is anticipated that the teams will be widely scattered and no more than a single team will be visible at a time.

On August 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> the participants will be kayaking across Coeur d'Alene Lake from Harrison, ID and exiting the lake at Windy Bay Boater Park. The participants will then begin the next stage of the competition, which is a run from Windy Bay to St. Maries, ID.

**B. Location**

*Shoshone County, Widow Mountain WSA portion: Boise Meridian T. 43 N., R. 04 E, Parts of Sections 10, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29.*

*Kootenai County, Windy Bay Boater Park: Boise Meridian T. 48 N., R. 05 W., Section 36.*

**C. Land Use Plan Conformance**

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), this proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved 6/29/07. It is consistent with the following decisions from the RMP:

**Objective RC-1.2** – Manage the Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMA for land- and water-based leisure activities for outdoor sport, relaxation, social group or family affiliation, and personal enrichment or learning through environmental study within accessible natural forested lakeshore settings.

**Action RC-1.2.1** – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural settings (which are characterized by a culturally modified pastoral environment or by a generally natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man) by:

- Providing paved and improved road access and motorized boat access to developed recreation facilities.
- Providing accessible recreation facilities for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety.
- Accommodating visitor use in developed sites at moderate to high levels, where contact between visitors is frequent or common and opportunities for solitude are either not provided or are minimal.

**Action RC-1.2.4** – Additional special uses will be authorized when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area’s management objective and managed condition.

**Objective RC-1.8** – Manage the Widow (Grandmother) Mountain SRMA for motorized and nonmotorized outdoor activities in a backcountry setting for adventure, solitude, scenic and cultural appreciation, and using and practicing outdoor skills.

**Action RC-1.8.1** – Maintain the existing semiprimitive motorized setting (which is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment altered with primitive roads and trails) by:

- Providing primitive road access to trailhead facilities and trail access through the area.
- Providing recreation facilities for resource protection and visitor health and safety.
- Accommodating visitor use at access points at low to moderate levels where contact between visitors is anticipated and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but away from the access points where contacts are less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment are predominant.

**Action RC-1.8.3** – Coordinate management activities with the Forest Service.

**Action RC-1.8.5** – Continue to authorize one special recreation permit for commercial outfitting and guiding activities. Additional proposed commercial uses that will overlap with the existing permit, duplicating services, will not be considered. Additional special uses will be authorized when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area’s management objective and managed condition.

**Objective TM-1.1** – Consistent with the management direction of other resource programs, make area travel management designations to classify BLM lands as open, limited, or closed to motorized vehicle use, define spatial, temporal, or functional travel restrictions within limited areas, and then identify needed implementation actions.

**Allocation TM-1.1.1** – Allow motorized vehicle use as mapped (See Maps 4-7 in Appendix G) and quantified as follows:

- Open Designation: 0 acres
- Limited Designation: 97,304 acres
- Closed Designation: 631 acres

**Allocation SD-1.2** – Designate Lund Creek as an RNA/ACEC in order to protect the unique natural features and ecological diversity for research and education (See Maps 18 and 20 in Appendix G).

**Action SD-1.2.2** – All uses of Lund Creek must be nondestructive:

**Objective SD-3.1** – Manage wilderness characteristics of WSAs so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness until Congress determines otherwise (See Map 24 in Appendix G).

**Action SD-3.1.1** – Manage WSAs in accordance with BLM Manual H-8550-1, Interim Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review.

**Objective SS-1.3** – Comply with conservation and recovery direction for all Threatened and Endangered (T& E) plant species.

**Action SS-1.3.1** In cooperation with the IDFG Conservation Data Center (CDC), USFWS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for T&E plant species:

Conservation Measure (11) Ensure that new federal actions support or do not preclude species recovery:

- a) Project-level inventories will be completed in suitable habitat during project planning, if inventory information is not available or adequate.
- b) If direct or indirect negative impacts on the species or their habitat are anticipated as a result of new BLM actions, the activity will be modified to avoid or minimize the impacts and promote species recovery.
- c) Where needed, Section 7 consultation will be completed for new activities that may affect listed species and their habitat.

#### **D. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents**

The following NEPA document(s) covers the proposed action:

*Proposed Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS), ID-410-2005-EIS-1059, October 2006.*

#### **E. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

1. *Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?*

*Documentation of answer and explanation:*

The proposed action is the same as the uses of the Widow Mountain and Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMAs described in Objective RC-1.2 and RC-1.8 above. The proposed trails that will be used were specifically designated as open to motorized and non-motorized use in the PRMP and this decision was analyzed in detail in the FEIS.

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

*Documentation of answer and explanation:*

It is the same and appropriate.

3. *Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?*

*Documentation of answer and explanation:*

There is no new information or circumstances that would invalidate the existing analysis.

Bull trout were federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act on June 10, 1998 by the USFWS (63 FR 31647). Coeur d'Alene Lake, the St. Joe River watershed and the Little North Fork Clearwater River watershed all contain bull trout. Consultation was completed with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on November 30, 2006 on the RMP which included water-based recreational use and use of trails.

The USFWS issued a revised designation of bull trout critical habitat on October 18, 2010, which includes Coeur d'Alene Lake, the St. Joe River and some of its tributaries, including the lower part of Delaney Creek, and most of the Little North Fork Clearwater River watershed. Consultation was reinitiated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the RMP and was completed November 2, 2012. Bull trout were addressed in the RMP and even though designated critical habitat was revised after the RMP was complete the existing analysis is valid.

Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) was designated a candidate for Endangered Species Act protection in 2011. It is also a BLM Sensitive species. This species grows in

multiple spots along the Delaney Creek and Lookout Mountain Trails, which will be used during the eco-challenge event. Whitebark pine was not addressed in the RMP, but the proposed action would not cause measurable impacts to this species.

4. *Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?*

*Documentation of answer and explanation:*

The impacts would be similar too, but less due to lower level of proposed use, than those identified in the FEIS.

As long as event participants remain on the trails, whitebark pine would not be affected by this event. The applicant should be made aware that this tree occurs in areas along the Delaney and Lookout Mountain Trails and that it is important for racers to stay on the trail to protect this species and its habitat.

5. *Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?*

*Documentation of answer and explanation:*

The public was given numerous opportunities and was very involved in the development of the PRMP/FEIS. This in depth involvement is more than adequate for the current proposed action.

## **F. 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 the NEPA.

/s/Kurt Pavlat  
Kurt Pavlat  
Field Manager

August 5, 2014  
Date