

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

Twin Falls District  
Shoshone Field Office  
400 West F Street  
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Scoping Information Package  
Fly Fishing Outfitters  
NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2014-0038-CX

This scoping information package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to issue Special Recreation Permits to four fly fishing outfitters for the purposes of conducting commercial fly fishing operations. . This proposal is in accordance with 43 CFR 2932, the 1981 Sun Valley Management Framework Plan, 1975 Magic Management Framework Plan and the 1986 Monument Resource Management Plan.

Federal actions must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences

The purpose of this scoping package is to inform you and other interested and affected parties of this proposal and to solicit your comments to assist with the NEPA review of the proposal.

Analysis of this proposal is currently ongoing, and will be documented in a categorical exclusion with an estimated completion date of December 2014. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action that meet the purpose of and need for the project.

### **Purpose and Need for Action**

The BLM's purpose and need is to respond to four fly fishing businesses requesting to renew their BLM special recreation permits.

### **Proposed Action**

Four commercial fly fishing outfitters are requesting authorization to conduct guided commercial fly fishing day trips on Magic Reservoir and the following river segments (see maps):

- Big Wood (Ketchum, Sun Peak, Stanton Crossing and Lower Big Wood/Richfield Canal),
- Lower Little Wood,
- Silver Creek/Priest Rapids.

The permits would authorize walk and wade style fishing on all river segments, float tubes on the Lower Big Wood and boats (motorized and non-motorized) and float tubes on Magic Reservoir.

### **Existing Condition**

**Background:** The applicants have been conducting commercial fly fishing services on public lands for several years; Idaho Angling Services for 23 years, and Lost River Outfitters and Silver Creek Outfitters for over 30 years. Ketchum on the Fly obtained a permit in 2009 and in 2011

the business was sold to Sun Valley Guides which in turn was sold to Picabo Outfitters in 2013. Another outfitter, Sun Valley Mountain Outfitters, had a BLM special recreation permit for the same areas that was sold to Sun Valley Mountain Guides in 2013 and expires in 2016. This proposal does not include renewal of the Sun Valley Mountain Guides special recreation permit.

Fly fishing trips usually vary in length from 3 – 8 hours. Due to land ownership patterns most trips do not exclusively take place on BLM land; they include private and state property also. Trips are conducted when the fishing season is open according to Idaho Department of Fish and Game regulations and most, if not all, are catch and release. Normally, trips occur between June and August and the maximum group size allowed is 4 (3 guests and 1 guide); however, typical trips consist of one guide and one or two clients.

### **Preliminary Issues**

Following is a list of preliminary issues the BLM Shoshone Field Office has identified. These are issues that will likely be addressed in the categorical exclusion. Issues are addressed through stipulations or mitigation.

- Threatened or Endangered Animal Species: Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

### **Decision to be Made**

The BLM Shoshone Field Manager will decide whether to approve or deny the special recreation permit applications.

### **Public Input Needed**

Comments are specifically requested on the proposed action and preliminary issues. Comments made on this proposal should be received by October 27, 2014. The BLM will not reject public feedback outside established public involvement timeframes; however, these comments may be considered secondary to comments received in a timely manner and may only be assessed to determine if they identify concerns that would substantially alter the assumptions, proposal, design, or analysis presented in the categorical exclusion. Written comments must be submitted to:

Codie Martin  
Shoshone Field Manager  
400 West F Street  
Shoshone, ID 83352.

The office business hours for submitting hand-delivered comments are 7:45 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc), or portable document format (.pdf) to [jkurtz@blm.gov](mailto:jkurtz@blm.gov). E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed, in other formats than those listed, or containing viruses will be rejected. To be most helpful, comments sent electronically should include the title of this project in the subject line. Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization. Issues that are outside the scope of the proposal will not be addressed at this planning level.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The primary contact for questions and comments for this analysis is John Kurtz, Outdoor Recreation Planner, (208) 732-7296.