

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Categorical Exclusion  
Canyons West Guide Service**

**PREPARING OFFICE**

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# **Categorical Exclusion**

## **Canyons West Guide Service**

**Prepared by**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Elko District, Tuscarora Field Office**  
**Elko, NV**

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# **Chapter 1. Categorical Exclusion Worksheet**

*Canyons West Guide Service Outfitter & Guide Special Recreation Permit*

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## A. Background

DOI-BLM-NV-E020-2015-0007-CX

**BLM Office:** NV - Tuscarora FO — LLNVE02000

**Special Recreation Permit Case File No.:** To be determined

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Special Recreation Permit

**Location of Proposed Action:** Entire Elko County on BLM managed land.

**Description of Proposed Action:** Michael Gowan of Canyons West Guide Service has applied for a Special Recreation Permit to Guide just in Elko District.

## B. Land Use Plan Conformance

**Land Use Plan Name:** NV - Elko and Wells RMPs

**Date Approved/Amended:** 1987 & 1985 respectively

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

Elko Resource Management Plan — Record of Decision 1987, on page 15, Recreation, Special Operating Procedures, para. 3; Wells Resource Management Plan — Wells Record of Decision 1985, on page 15, Recreation, Management Actions, para 5.

## 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, Appendix 4, Sec. H. Recreation Management, Title 1. 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 other 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 establishment of 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 potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

## D. Conclusion and Signature

Based upon this review, I have determined that the Proposed Action, as described, is in conformance with the land use plan and meets the criteria for the selected CX. There is no potential for significant impacts. Therefore, the action is excluded from further environmental analysis and documentation.

/s/ Richard Adams 1/20/2015

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Richard Adams  
Tuscarora Field Manager

Date

### Contact Person

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**Table 1.1. Screening for Extraordinary Circumstances**

<b>Resource Concerns: Each of the following questions must be answered negatively, by all resource specialists participating on the interdisciplinary team before this CX may be approved (516DM).</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1. Will this project have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?		X
2. Will this project adversely affect such unique geographic characteristics as: (a) historic or cultural resources; (b) park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers; (c) sole or principal drinking water aquifers; (d) prime farmlands, wetlands, flood plains, or (e) ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department of the Interior's National Register of Natural Landmarks?		(a) X (b) X (c) X (d) X (e) X
3. Will this project have highly controversial environmental effects?		X
4. Will this project have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X
5. Will this project establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X
6. Will this project be related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		X
7. Will this project have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?		X
8. Will this project have adverse effects on species listed or proposed for listing on the Threatened or Endangered Species List, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X
9. Will this project require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?		X
10. Will this project threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X
11. Will this project 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—Sacred Sites)		X
12. Will this project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species?		X

**Table 1.2. Reviewers and Comments**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Specialist Name</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Initials</b>
AFM – Non-Renewables	Deb McFarlane	None	/s/DNM 1/15/15
AFM – Renewables	Melane Mirati	None	/s/MM 1/15/15
Archaeology Cultural/Native American Concerns	Richard Adkins	Comment added as stipulation #46	/s/RA 1/15/15
Biologist, Fisheries and/or Wildlife	Ken Wilkinson	No known impacts	/s/KW 1/14/15
Recreation Planner	Zachary Pratt	None	/s/ZLP 1/14/15
Weed Specialist	Sam Cisney	Comment: Comply with stipulation 19	/s/SM 1/14/15
NEPA	Terri Dobis	None	/s/TKD 1/15/15