

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Categorical Exclusion Not Established By Statute
DOI-BLM-UTY010-2015-0192 CX**

July 2015

Special Recreation Permit for Boulder Institute

Location: rock pan above Trout Water Canyon

Applicant/Address: Elias Amadon, 1644 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO 80302

Moab Field Office
82 East Dogwood Avenue
Moab, Utah 84532
Phone: 435-259-2100
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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORMAT WHEN USING
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE**

A. Background

BLM Office: Moab Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No: MFO-Y010-12-017R

Proposed Action Title/Type: Special Recreation Permit renewal for Boulder Institute for Nature and the Human Spirit

Location of Proposed Action: rock pan on entrance route to Trout Water Canyon.

Description of Proposed Action: Elias Amadon, on behalf of the Boulder Institute for Nature and the Human Spirit proposes to conduct meditation sessions on land managed by the Moab BLM Field Office. Boulder Institute has held an SRP with the Moab BLM in years previous. Standard Utah statewide BLM stipulations would be applied to the SRP for the Boulder Institute.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Moab Field Office RMP

Date Approved: October 31, 2008

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

Decisions REC-46 through REC-50 authorize the issuance of Special Recreation Permits. Specifically, page 97 of the Moab RMP reads as follows: "Special Recreation Permits are issued as a discretionary action as a means to: help meet management objectives, provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreational use of public lands, control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors." In addition, on page 98 of the Moab RMP, it states, "All SRPs will contain standard stipulations appropriate for the type of activity and may include stipulations necessary to protect lands or resources, reduce user conflicts, or minimize health and safety concerns....Issue and manage recreation permits for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts to such uses upon natural and cultural resources."

C. Compliance with NEPA

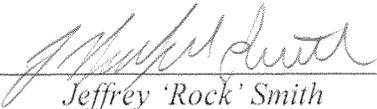
The action described above generally does not require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), as it has been found to not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. The applicable Categorical Exclusion reference in 516 DM 11.9 H(1). This reference 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)."

The Moab Resource Management Plan (RMP), Final Environmental Impact Statement, signed October 31, 2008, identified lands with wilderness characteristics. The proposed use does not include any areas determined to have wilderness characteristics. The proposed activity would not result in any changes in the impacts that were analyzed in the FEIS for the RMP.

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 43 CFR Part 46.215 apply.

The applicant has asked for permission to photograph recreationists in outdoor settings.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official:  Date: 7/7/05
Jeffrey 'Rock' Smith
Recreation Branch Chief

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact: Jennifer Jones
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Moab BLM

Categorical Exclusion Review Record

The following elements are not present in the Moab Field Office and have been removed from the checklist:
 Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Wild Horses and Burros.

Resource	Yes/No*	Assigned Specialist Signature	Date
Air Quality	NO	Am Am	6/30/15
Floodplains	No	Am Am	6/30/15
Water Quality (drinking or ground)	NO	Am Am	6/30/15
Wetlands / Riparian Zones	NO	Am Am	6/30/15
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No	K Stevens	6/30/15
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	K Stevens	6/30/15
Wilderness	NO	K Stevens	6-30-15
Native American Religious Concerns	No	M Maty	6/30/15
Cultural Resources	No	M Maty	6/30/15
Environmental Justice	NO	K Stevens	6-30-15
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	NO	DR	6/30/15
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Animal Species	NO	DR	6/30/15
Migratory Birds	NO	DR	6/30/15
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Plant Species	No	D Williams	6/30/15
Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	No	DR	6/30/15
Other:			

*Extraordinary Circumstances apply.

Environmental Coordinator KC Stevens

Date: 7/6/15

Exceptions to Categorical Exclusion Documentation

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:

Extraordinary Circumstances		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: A meditation session would not impact public health or safety.
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.		
Yes	No X	There are no unique geographic characteristics nor any special areas in the area of the rock pan.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].		
Yes	No X	Rationale: There is no controversy concerning the proposed action.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: There are no unique environmental risks or uncertain effects.
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: the action establishes no precedents for future actions
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: there are no cumulative environmental effects.
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: Meditation sessions would not have significant impacts.

Extraordinary Circumstances

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.

Yes

No

X

Rationale: there are no impacts upon T and E species, as all travel would be on designated roads and trails.

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Yes

No

X

Rationale: the action does not violate any laws.

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

Yes

No

X

Rationale: There are no effects on low income or minority populations

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).

Yes

No

X

Rationale: there are no Indian sacred sites in the area.

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).

Yes

No

X

Rationale: the activity would not introduce noxious weeds.

DECISION RECORD
Boulder Institute for Nature and the Human Spirit
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0192 CX

I have reviewed this categorical exclusion and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the Moab Field Office RMP, approved October 2008 and that no further environmental analysis is required.

DECISION:

It is my decision to authorize the Special Recreation Permit for Boulder Institute for Nature and the Human Spirit. This decision is contingent upon meeting all stipulations and monitoring requirements imposed by the Moab Field Office.

RATIONALE:

The decision to authorize the Special Recreation Permit for Boulder Institute for Nature and the Human Spirit has been made in consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed action. The action is in conformance with the Moab Resource Management Plan, which allows for recreation use permits for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts to such uses upon natural and cultural resources.

APPEALS:

The decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on July 1, 2015. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the Moab Field Office, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.



Authorized Officer



Date