

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

Categorical Exclusion

SRP Hunting Game Management Unit (GMU)123 Pueblo

PREPARING OFFICE

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



Categorical Exclusion
SRP Hunting Game Management Unit (GMU)123
Pueblo

DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2015-0020 CX

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Canon City, CO

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A. Background

BLM Office:

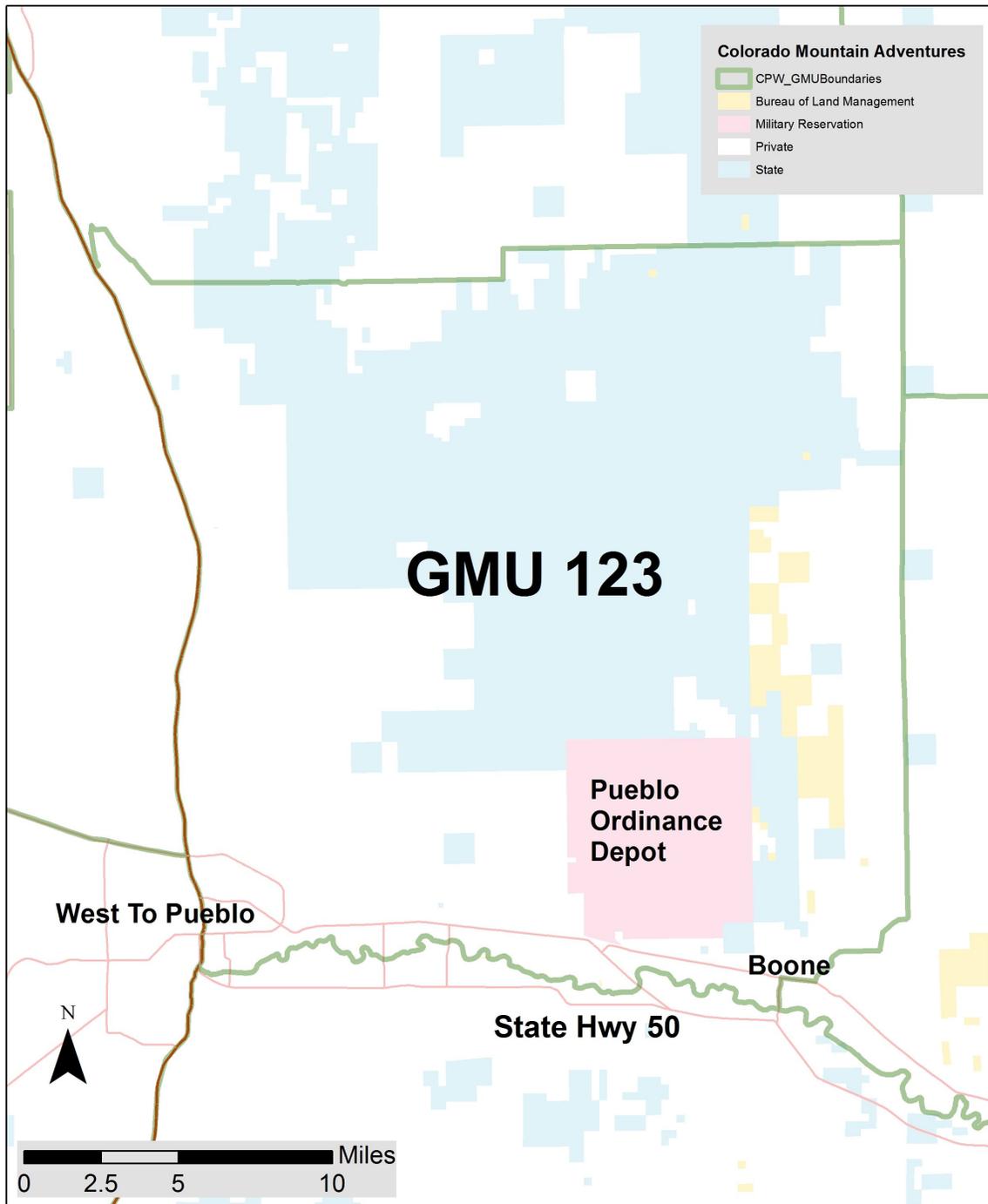
LL00CO200

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:**Proposed Action Title/Type:**SRP Hunting**Location of Proposed Action:**Pueblo County, 6th PM, T.18S., R.61W. Section 8, 19, 30, 32; T.19S., R.61W. Section 6, 7, 8, 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32, 33; T.20S., R.61W. Section 4, 5, 7, 9, 18, 22, 29**Applicant:** Colorado Mountain Adventures, Daniel Harrison**Description of Proposed Action:**

Colorado Mountain Adventures has applied for a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for commercially guided hunting in the area shown in map 1. The Proposed Action would only authorize guided antelope and deer hunts on BLM public land within the Game Management Unit (GMU). The Proposed Action would issue a one year permit for the first year and in subsequent years, multi-year permits may be considered.

Authority to issue SRP's is found in BLM SRP Handbook H-2930-1 and 43 CFR Part 2930. Issuing an SRP is a discretionary action with final approval by the authorized officer. Applications may be denied based upon factors such as non-compliance with land use plans or designations; a moratorium on permits issued as part of a planning process; the results of an environmental analysis; other resource values; an allocation system; public health and safety concerns; applicant's past performance; or the inability of the managing office to issue, manage, and monitor the proposed use. The outfitter will have a current outfitter's license issued by the State of Colorado.

Compliance with the standard stipulations for all permits is required. The permitted activity will be monitored by the BLM for adherence to the stipulations. Access by motorized travel would occur only on existing routes; all other travel is on foot. The applicant is responsible for obtaining signed agreements or permits with other property owners as required. Use of BLM public land is non-exclusive; designated routes in the area will be open and available to the public. The applicant is responsible for educating participants on the "Pack it in-Pack it out" philosophy, for trash removal. Participants will be encouraged to practice "Leave No Trace" ethics to dig cat holes for human waste disposal. Guides will carry phones, radios or similar devices for communication in case of emergency.



Proposed hunting area Pueblo County
Game Management Unit 123

map by Linda Skinner 12/31/14

Map 1: Proposed Hunting in GMU 123

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

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

Land Use Plan Name:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 5/13/1996

Decision Number: 10-64

Decision Language:

10-64 Recreation will be managed to provide for: a variety of recreational opportunities and settings; additional opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, off-highway vehicle use, interpretation, and horseback riding.

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 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9,

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.

I considered:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11.9H (1). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Table 1.1. Exclusion Criteria

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
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.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
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.		X
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.		X

Table 1.2. Interdisciplinary Team Review

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 1/22/2015
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	n/a
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	n/a
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland, Weeds	JL, 01/22/2014
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG 1/14/15
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	MJS, 3/10/2015
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 1/9/15
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Air Quality	TW, 1/20/15
Dave Parker	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	n/a
Linda Skinner	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	LS 2/2/2015
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	n/a
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 1/12/15
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	NA
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MDT 1/14/15
Rich Rotte	Realty Specialist	Realty	Jan 8, 15, RAR
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	NA
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Fire	TW, 1/20/15

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Because of the highly limited nature of the undertaking, the risk of impacts to historic properties is extremely low. Therefore, no cultural resources inventory is necessary.

Native American Religious Concerns: Because no cultural resources inventory has been performed for this undertaking, it is not known with certainty whether any traditional or sacred cultural properties are present on the relevant acreage. However, an inventory will be conducted before initiation of any undertakings that might affect sites of concern to Native Americans.

*Chapter 1 SRP Hunting Game Management Unit
(GMU)123 Pueblo*

C. Compliance with NEPA:

Threatened and Endangered Species: The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

D. Approval and Contact Information

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Linda Skinner

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Linda Skinner, Acting Renewable Supervisor

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 8/13/15

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

/s/ Keith E. Berger

Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 8/14/15