

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

Twin Falls District  
Burley Field Office  
15 East 200 South  
Burley, Idaho 83318

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format When Using Categorical Exclusions Not  
Established by Statute**

**NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2015-023-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Burley Field Office.

Proposed Action Title/Type: Brittany Club Dog Trials Event 2015.  
Location of Proposed Action: Township 12 S. Range 19, 20 E.

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is for the American Brittany Club to hold horseback field dog trials on September 26th and 27th. Horseback field dog trial events have a history of over 150 years in the US and are probably most common in the Midwest and South. The American Brittany Club also hold events here in the Northwest and there are 5 separate clubs in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. They conduct an organized circuit of trials that start in central Oregon, move to eastern Washington and then to Idaho, one event following the other on a schedule administered by our parent club in September and then again in April of each year. They release birds (chukars) purchased from certified sources, then release the dogs in pairs and judge their performance in utilizing terrain and cover effectively, finding and pointing birds as well as being steady to the flush and shot. No birds are killed and the dogs are not permitted to chase down birds. All of our field trials are licensed by AKC and we pursue points toward AKC field championships for the dogs.

Parking for participants and other people associated with the race would occur on public lands (see map) which would include camping (approximately 15 camp trailers) by some of the participants and their families and approximately 15 horse trailers. The camping and parking area would be approximately 2 – 3 acres in size. It is anticipated that 50 people would be involved in the event. The event would also involve approximately 30 horses and 100 dogs.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: Twin Falls MFP (1984).

X  The Proposed Action is consistent with the 1984 Twin Falls Management Framework Plan and Record of Decision. This event is consistent with the Twin Falls MFP, which “allows OHV use without restriction except during the period from March 15 through June 15 in critical sage grouse nesting-brood rearing complexes. During this period, vehicular use will be limited to existing roads and trails” (Twin Falls MFP - .38c Recreation Management - R 1.5). The Proposed Action

was designed in conformance with all bureau standards and incorporates appropriate guidelines and stipulations for specific required and desired conditions relevant to project activities.

### **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.H.1 9, which allows “Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.” The proposed action would be to issue a Special Recreation Permit for competitive field trials for pointing dogs which would be held 2 consecutive day/night total; and would impact no more than 3 staging area acres; use would be for recreational travel along existing roads in areas authorized by the Twin Falls MFP. None of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 exist.

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 exist.

### **D. Signature**

/s/ Kenneth Crane

Kenneth J. Crane, Field Office Manager  
Burley Field Office

08/24/15

Date

### **Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Dennis Thompson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, (208) 677-6664, 15 East 200 South, Burley, Idaho 83318.

### **Exceptions Review.**

#### **1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.**

The Proposed Action will not have any significant impacts to 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 areas.**

- The area lies outside nationally designated Parks, Recreation Areas, Refuges, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Areas, Monuments and Natural Landmarks.
- There are no unique geographic characteristics, or floodplains present.

- Inventories for cultural and historic resources have been conducted prior to the event and it has been determined that there are no significant cultural or historic resources that need to be avoided.
- The project site is not a sole or principal drinking water aquifer.
- The project area is not prime farmland.
- The project area does not include wetland habitats.
- Migratory birds will not be negatively affected by the proposed action.

**3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].**

The authorization of this permit will not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

**4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.**

The authorization of this permit will not have highly uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

**5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.**

The proposed action would not establish a precedent, nor does it compel future actions with potentially significant effects.

**6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.**

No other known actions of this type are planned by other agencies or individuals. The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.

**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.**

There are no registered or eligible sites for listing on the National Register for Historic Places in the project area.

**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.**

Plants- There are no threatened, endangered, or proposed to be listed plant species within the area affected by the project.

Wildlife- There are no threatened, endangered, or proposed to be listed wildlife species within the area affected by the project. A portion of the project area is mapped as sage grouse habitat, however the area was recently burned and consists of grassland and is outside of the nesting

season. No sage grouse leks occur in the vicinity. No effects to sage grouse are anticipated in the project area.

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

Implementation of this event is not in violation with Federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

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

The project will not have an adverse effect on low income or minority populations.

**11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).**

This Special Recreation Permit will not limit the access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

**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).**

Special stipulations requiring the use of Certified Weed Free hay, and routine checks by Bureau of Land Management Staff will be completed in order to ensure compliance.