United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Categorical Exclusion Not Established By Statute
DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2016-002

October 2015

Roam Industries
Bike Packing SRP

Location: Indian Creek, Beef Basin, White Canyon Area, and Texas Flat Area
San Juan County, UT

Applicant/Address: ROAM Industry
117 North Main Street
Monticello, UT 84535

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Monticello Field Office
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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORMAT WHEN USING CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE

A. Background

BLM Office: Monticello Field Office

Proposed Action Title/Type: Guided Bike Packing Tours

Location of Proposed Action: Indian Creek, Beef Basin, White Canyon Area, and Texas Flat Area Comb Wash Area in San Juan County, UT

Description of Proposed Action: ROAM Industry proposes to offer guided bike packing trips on Class B and Class D routes in the BLM Monticello Field Office. ROAM Industry has an existing permit with the Manti-La Sal National Forest (USFS) for similar trips. The operator is requesting a BLM permit to facilitate multi-day loop trips between USFS and adjacent BLM lands. Areas ROAM would like to extend into include Indian Creek, Beef Basin, Dark Canyon Plateau, areas above White and Red Canyon near Highway 95, the Texas Flat area, and Cottonwood Creek.

If issued, the Special Recreation Permit (SRP) would authorize bicycle travel on 673 miles of designated BLM roads and routes (see attached map and table). Camping would take place in BLM developed sites (Hamburger Rock, Creek Pasture, Superbowl, Bridger Jack, and Comb Wash Campgrounds), State Lands, or USFS Lands. Bike travel would occur exclusively on designated routes, but participants may take breaks on route shoulders or short cross-country hikes. Trips would take place mostly in the spring and fall, but could occur at any time of year, with up to 20 trips per month in peak seasons. Trip duration would range from half day excursions to seven day trips. Each trip could have up to 15 participants inclusive of guests and guides. Guide to client ratio would be approximately 1:5. Motorized vehicles would be used for support and emergencies only. Motorized support vehicles would stay on designated routes at all times.

Logistics and Safety: Leave No Trace principles will be followed at all times, and will be incorporated into curriculum before and during trips. Crypto biotic soils will be avoided during hiking and camping. If permanent toilet facilities are not available, human waste will be disposed of via biffy bags. All waste will be packed out.

Guides would carry cell phones, and, when needed, would coordinate with High Altitude Communications. All guides would have Wilderness First Responder or higher medical qualifications, and will carry first aid kits at all times. Additional first aid supplies would be available in shuttle vehicles. Emergency procedures would be based on the NOLS incident management plan.

Term: The SRP would be issued for a single year probationary period, with the possibility of a five year renewal based on satisfactory performance and compliance with all applicable stipulations.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Monticello Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: November 2008

The proposed action has been determined to be in conformance with the terms and conditions of the Monticello Resource Management Plan (October, 2008) as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

Monticello's RMP states the following:

- REC-17: SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action as a means to help meet management objectives, control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors.
- REC-19: SRPs will be used to manage different types of recreation associated with commercial uses, competitive events, organized groups, vending, and special areas. These recreation uses can include, for example, large group events, river guide services, and commercial recreational 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.

"Recreation Management. 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)."

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.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: _____ Date: _____

Donald K. Hoffheins

BLM Monticello Field Office Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact

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Attachments

Maps
Route Table

Categorical Exclusion Review Record

Resource	Yes/No*	Assigned Specialist Signature	Date
Air Quality	No	CGiffen	9/1/15
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No	Casey Worth	9/21/15
Cultural Resources	No	Cameron Cox	9/9/15
Environmental Justice	No	MHaines	9/23/15
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	No	J. Carling	9/1/15
Floodplains	No	J. Carling	9/1/15
Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	No	J. Carling	9/1/15
Migratory Birds	No	MScott	
Native American Religious Concerns	No	Cameron Cox	9/9/15
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species	No	MScott	
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No	JBrown	9/23/15
Water Quality (drinking or ground)	No	MScott	
Wetlands / Riparian Zones	No	J. Carling	9/1/15
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	Casey Worth	9/21/15
Wilderness	No	Casey Worth	9/21/15
Other:	NA		

*Extraordinary Circumstances apply.

Environmental Coordinator_____ Date: _____

ATTACHMENTS

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** ✓	**Rationale:** Issuing the SRP will not have significant impacts on public health or safety. A very small "footprint" is associated with the staging areas and travel areas.
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** ✓	**Rationale:** The SRP proposed action is not within WSA or Wilderness. The SRP is adjacent to WSAs, but all mechanized travel will be confined to designated routes.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].		
Yes	**No** ✓	**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** ✓	**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** ✓	**Rationale:** The action does not establish any new precedents for future actions.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	**No** ✓	**Rationale:** This would be the only such event in this area, and is not expected to have cumulative environmental impacts.

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** ✓	**Rationale:** Issuing the SRP would not have significant impacts to any properties either listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The permit holder will follow cultural resource protection stipulations set in the permit.
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** ✓	**Rationale:** The proposed project has been reviewed and determined by BLM resource specialists not to 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. The permit holder will follow the stipulations set in the permit to protect these species and their associated habitat.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes	**No** ✓	**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** ✓	**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** ✓	**Rationale:** Issuing the SRP will not limit access to ceremonial uses of sacred Indian sites, nor will it 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).		
Yes	**No** ✓	**Rationale:** The activity would not introduce noxious weeds. Bikes would be kept on designated travel routes.