

# United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

---

Categorical Exclusion Not Established By Statute

DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2016-0008-CX

---

October 2015

## Film Permit UTU-91457

**Location:** Cottontail Tower (Fisher Towers Area) & trailhead parking area  
T. 24 S., R. 24 E.; sections 7 & 17.

**Applicant/Address:** *Krystle J. Wright*  
*P.O. Box 25*  
*Eudlo*  
*Queensland, Australia, 4554*

*Wazee Motion Pictures (Skip Armstrong)*  
*145 Jewett Blvd, Suite 401*  
*White Salmon WA 98672*

---

Bureau of Land Management  
Moab Field Office  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435-259-2100  
FAX 435-259-2158



**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORMAT WHEN USING CATEGORICAL  
EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Moab Field Office  
Serial Case File No: UTU-91457  
Proposed Action Title/Type: Film Permit – Still & Motion Photography

Location of Proposed Action: Cottontail Tower (Fisher Towers Area) & trailhead parking area  
T. 24 S., R. 24 E., sections 7 & 17.

**Description of Proposed Action:**

On October 9, 2015, Krystle Wright filed film permit application UTU-91457 to photograph three BASE jumpers descending from the top of "Cottontail Tower," located in the Fisher Towers area, BLM land within the Moab Field Office. The jumpers would hike in, ascend the tower (clearing the route as they climb), jump, and hike back out. The three jumpers would be Steph Davis, Ian Mitchard and Jeff Shapiro. The photo shoot would occur on one day, October 15, 2015. There would be 6 people on the crew, 2 vehicles, and 1 helicopter involved in the project. The helicopter would stage out of Canyonlands Field Airport; the helicopter would not land on public lands. All vehicles would remain on designated roads, pullouts or parking areas.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Moab Field Office RMP, Approved October 2008

This is shown on page 65 of the plan and reads as follows: "Meet public needs for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, alternative energy sources, and permits while minimizing adverse impacts to resource values."

**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 11.5(E) 19. This reference states "issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations...where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

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:

  
Beth Ransel, Field Manager

Date:

10/13/15

### Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact

Judie Chrobak-Cox  
Moab Field Office  
82 E. Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435-259-2100

The following BLM Specialists have reviewed the proposed action and have determined that none of the 12 exceptions below apply to this project:

Name	Title	Critical Element(s)
Ann Marie Aubry	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Water Quality, Floodplains, Wetlands/Riparian Zones
Dave Williams	Range Mgmt. Specialist	T, E or C Plant Species,
Jordan Davis	Range Mgmt. Specialist	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds
Pam Riddle	Wildlife Biologist	T, E or C Animal Species, Migratory Birds
Katie Stevens	Recreation Planner	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild & Scenic Rivers
Bill Stevens	Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Environmental Justice
Jared Lundell	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
David Pals	Geologist	Wastes (hazardous or solid)
Judie Chrobak-Cox	Lead Visitor Services Information Assistant	Lead Preparer

Lead Preparer: *Judie Chrobak-Cox*

Date: *10-13-15*

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:

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed filming project is not likely to result in significant impacts to public health or safety. To keep impacts to a minimum and not impair public health or safety, the applicant would obtain, maintain and abide by all relevant Federal, state and local government requirements.
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.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> Conformance with the Land Use Plan and Categorical Exclusion Review Records has been completed indicating none of the above concerns are present in the described locations and that significant impacts are not anticipated as a result of the proposed filming activity.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> As described, the proposed action is categorically excluded under 11.5E (19). Categorically excluded actions generally have very predictable consequences well established as insignificant and, therefore, would not create environmental effects that would generate controversy or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. No controversial effects or conflicts have been identified with this filming project.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> Helicopter refueling would not be allowed on public lands. The proposed project would not result in uncertain or unknown environmental risks.
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed project is not connected to another action and would not set a precedent for future actions that would normally require environmental analysis.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> Filming in the requested location would not have a direct relationship to other actions that would create cumulatively significant 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.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The nature of the proposed action is such that no impact can be expected on significant cultural resources.
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or		

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>		
Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The filming project would not have impacts of this kind.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The applicant would be required to maintain and abide by all relevant Federal, state and local laws throughout the term of the permit.
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed 1 day filming project would 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 Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> There are no known Indian ceremonial or sacred sites within the proposed locations.
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).		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed filming project should not result in introduction or spread of noxious weeds.

**Attachments:**  
**Categorical Exclusion Review Record**  
**Map**

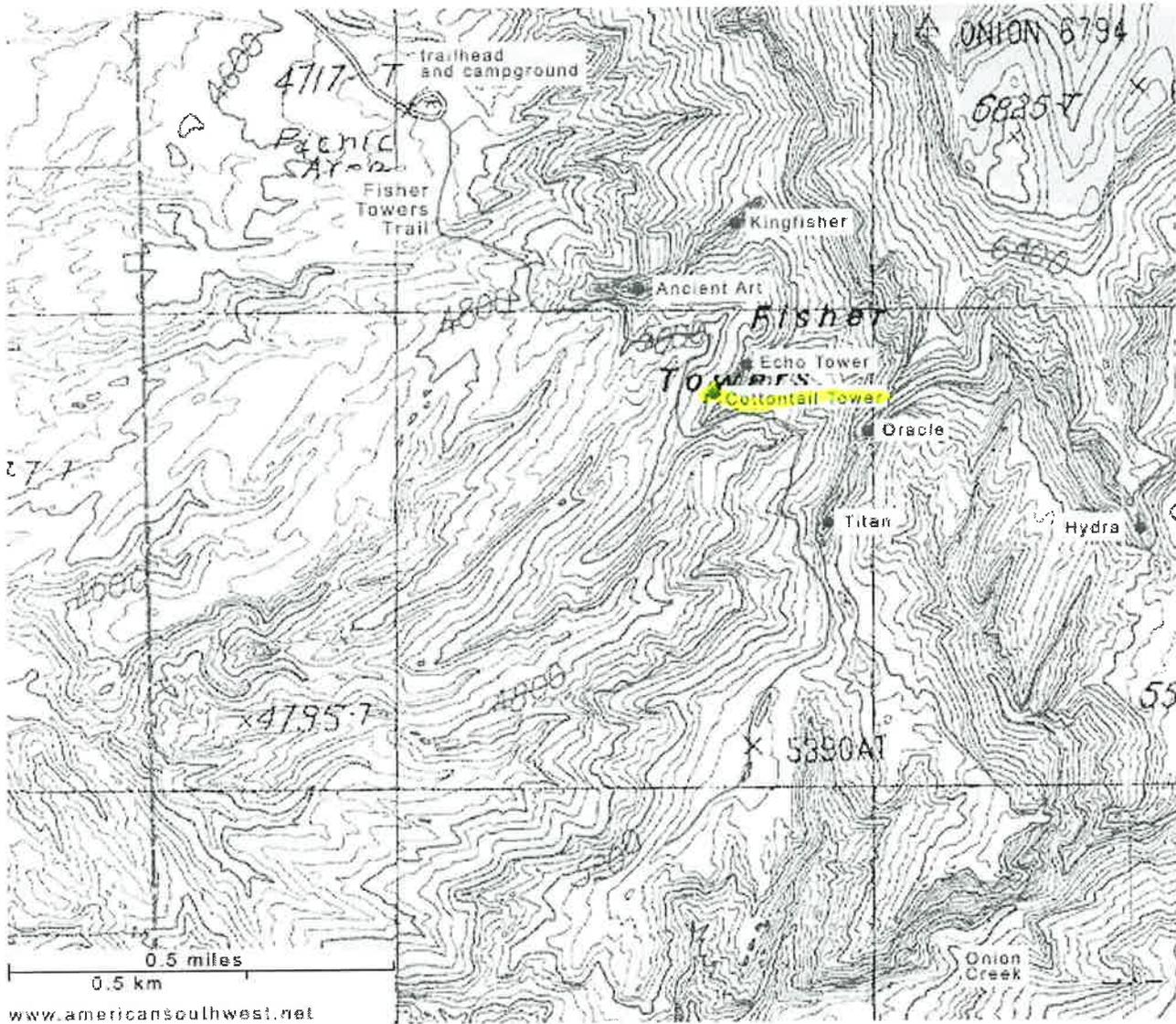
**Categorical Exclusion Review Record**  
**Film Permit UTU-91457**  
**Krystle Wright & Wazee Motion Pictures**

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 Arby	10/13/15
Floodplains	No	Am Arby	10/13/15
Water Quality (drinking or ground)	No	Am Arby	10/13/15
Wetlands / Riparian Zones	No	Am Arby	10/13/15
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No	K Stevens	10/13/15
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	K Stevens	10/13/15
Wilderness	No	Oh Stevens	10-13-15
Native American Religious Concerns	No	M/W	10-13-15
Cultural Resources	No	M/W	10-13-15
Environmental Justice	No	Oh Stevens	10-13-15
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No	JR	10/13/15
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Animal Species	No	Arby	10/13/15
Migratory Birds	No	Arby	10/13/15
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Plant Species	No	D Willcox	10/13/15
Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	No	Jordan Davis	10/13/15
Other:	No		

\*Extraordinary Circumstances apply.

Environmental Coordinator K Stevens Date: 10/13/15



### Approval and Decision

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record 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.

It is my decision to grant land use permit UTU-91457 to Krystle Wright of Eudlo, Queensland, Australia and Wazee Motion Pictures of White Salmon, WA pursuant to the authority of Section 302(b) of P.L. 579, October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732). The permit will authorize 1 day of filming on public land in Grand County described below and shown on the attached map.

Cottontail Tower (Fisher Towers Area) & trailhead parking area  
T. 24 S., R. 24 E., sections 7 & 17.

Rationale: The proposal meets the criteria for minimum impact filming in WO Instruction Memorandum 96-148 and the guidelines in 43 CFR 2920.2-2 and is therefore, a full force and effect decision. The proposed action is not in a WSA, wilderness reinventory unit or area with special designation. The proposed action would not result in unnecessary or undue environmental degradation.

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay. Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah. 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. If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

Beth Ransel, Field Manager:



Date:

10/13/15