

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

Twin Falls District  
Shoshone Field Office  
400 West F Street  
Shoshone, ID. 83352

**Categorical Exclusion**

**NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2016-0008-CX**

**A. Background**

**BLM Office:** Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Spring Cove Outfitters Special Recreation Permit

**Location of Proposed Action:** Idaho Department of Fish and Game Hunt Unit 45, Bennett Hills, Idaho.

**Description of Proposed Action:** The Shoshone and Four Rivers Field Offices received an application to amend Spring Cove Outfitters special recreation permit by adding pronghorn, bear, predator hunting, incidental fishing and horseback trail rides. Hunting and fishing would be within Hunt Unit 45 and comply with Idaho Department of Fish and Game seasons, rules and regulations. Trail rides would occur in the spring, summer and fall. There would be approximately 2 – 8 trips/year with no more than 8 clients and 2 guides.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

**Land Use Plan Name:** Bennett Hills and Timmerman Hills Management Framework Plan (MFP).

**Date Approved/Amended:** June 1980.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Bennett Hills Timmerman Hills MFP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following MFP decision(s): The summary states: Expand hunting and fishing opportunities, primarily through improvement of game habitat on National Resource Lands.

Expand hunting opportunities within the Planning Area to accommodate at least 20,000 visitor days of all types of hunting use, attributable to National Resource Lands, by 1990.

**Land Use Plan Name:** Kuna Management Framework Plan.

**Date Approved/Amended:** March 1983.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Kuna MFP as it is consistent with the following MFP objectives: Recreation Objective #1 (R-1) - The Bureau will manage public lands to provide varied opportunities for high quality recreation experiences in mostly natural,

undisturbed settings. Emphasis will be placed on managing the area for dispersed-type recreation opportunities.

Recommendation R-1.2:12 and Rationale 16 recognize the significance of hunting and fishing as recreational activities and suggest the Bureau maintain and improve hunting opportunities through the issuance of Special Recreation Permits.

**Land Use Plan Name:** Idaho and Southwestern Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment

**Date Approved/Amended:** September 2015

The proposed action is in conformance with the Idaho and Southwestern Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment as it is consistent with the following management decisions:

REC-1: Manage existing recreation uses and sites to minimize adverse effect on GRSG or their habitat through incorporation of Required Designed Features (RDFs), buffers and seasonal restrictions.

RDFs for Recreation:

#134. Direct use away from GRSG priority areas as described in the Wildfire and Invasive Species Assessments.

#135. Eliminate or minimize external food sources for corvids.

#136. Avoid development of new campgrounds or recreation facilities in nesting habitat.

Buffers: noise and related disruptive activities including those that do not result in habitat loss (e.g. motorized recreational events) at least 0.25 miles from leks.

General RDFs, Seasonal Restrictions: #2. No repeated or sustained behavioral disturbance (e.g. visual, noise over 10 dbA at lek, etc.) to lekking birds from 6:00 pm to 9:00 am within 2 miles of leks during the lekking season.

### C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with the Categorical Exclusion (CX) reference in 516 DM 11.9 H (1) which includes: Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging areas 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 516 DM 2 apply.

There is no potential for significant impacts because of the type of action, stipulations and the fact that this permit is for a single event. Big game hunting has occurred in the project area for decades and, providing motorized vehicles stay on existing roads, impacts are negligible and pose no significant impacts to other resource values.

**D. Signature**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Codie Martin Date: 3/17/16

Name: Codie Martin

Title: Shoshone Field Manager

Authorizing Official: /s/ Tate Fischer Date: 3/21/16

Name: Tate Fischer

Title: Four Rivers Field Manager

**E. Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact John Kurtz, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at (208)732-7296 or at 400 West F Street, Shoshone, Idaho 83352.