

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL
DOI-BLM-M0300-2016-0012-CX**

Project Title: Special Recreation Use Permit Renewal for Upland Angler,
LLC-Dan Troupe

Location: BLM-administered Lands Along the Marias River from Tiber
Dam to the Confluence of the Missouri River
See Operating Area Map
Liberty, Hill and Choteau Counties

Applicant/Address: Dan Troupe – Upland Angler, LLC
1067 Antares Road
Helena, MT 59602

Project Contact:

Name: Jason Snellman
Title: Outdoor Recreation Planner
Office: Malta Field Office/HiLine District
Telephone No.: (406) 654-5118

Havre Field Office
3990 US HWY 2 West
PO Box 911
Havre MT 59501
Phone: (406)262-2820



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

A. Background

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: SRP #MT093-16-26

Description of Proposed Action: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Havre Field Office is proposing to renew a Special Recreation Use Permit (SRP) for Dan Troupe (Upland Angler, LLC) for the purpose of commercial recreation activities that include guided day-trips on the Marias River of Montana for the purpose of fishing. BLM-administered lands along the Marias from below Tiber Dam to the confluence with the Missouri River will be utilized as put-ins and take-outs or stopping points during the guided day trips. No overnight camping or campfires will take place on BLM-administered lands under this permit. Drift boats, motorized boats and paddled rafts may be used for an estimated 60 use days per year. Detailed maps and Plan of Operation listing guides and vehicles are on file at Malta Field Office.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The public lands covered by this proposed action are managed according to decisions in the HiLine Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved in 2015. The proposed action is in conformance with the RMP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan objectives:

HiLine District Office Approved Resource Management Plan, Attachment 8, page 3-44: Recreation – "... The BLM will issue SRP's as appropriate for commercial, competitive, and special events subject to guidelines in BLM Handbook 2930, resource capacities, social conflict concerns, professional qualifications, public safety, and public needs. New permits will not be authorized that directly conflict with other permitted uses and existing permits will be given preference. Through plan implementation, changes in demand for permits and resulting impacts will be monitored and thresholds identified that could lead to limits in the number of permits to minimize impacts on the resources, public safety, and overall visitor satisfaction. All SRP applications and renewals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and site-specific analysis will be done for each proposed operating area."

The Marias River is one of ten Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs) within the BLM HiLine. This area has been designated as such because the nature of the resource attracts concentrated recreational use but is not the specific focus of management. Other resources and resource uses are considered in the management of these areas and some recreation activities may be restricted or constrained to achieve interdisciplinary objectives.

The BLM will maintain and/or enhance the recreational quality of BLM land and resources to ensure enjoyable recreation experiences. The BLM's Recreation 2000 guidance and the Tri-State Recreation plan incorporate the following provisions:

1. Managing visitor services including a permit system, interpretive programs, visitor contact, and efforts to improve the BLM's image with public land users; *and*

“The BLM will not allocate permits or specific use areas for outfitters and guides. All BLM land is available at the discretion of the Area Manager as long as permittees maintain a special use permit and meet the BLM regulation requirements.”

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9.

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).

The proposed action has been reviewed and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having significant effects on the environment.

There is no potential for significant impacts because all vehicular access will follow established roads and trails. Retention and renewal of the SRP will be contingent upon compliance with BLM regulations and HiLine District SRP stipulations.

D: Signature

I considered this review and determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan(s) and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to issue a special recreation use permit to Dan Troupe (Upland Angler, LLC) with the stipulation listed below.

1. Permittee will conform to all requirements and stipulations for Form 2930-1 Application for Special Recreation Permit, Form 2930-2 Special Recreation Permit, and Stipulations for Commercial Outfitter Permits (HiLine District-revised March 2016). A signed and dated copy of each will become part of the permittee’s permanent file.
2. Permitted BLM administered lands include those immediately accessible from the river. It is understood that the course of the river may change from year to year and it is the responsibility of the permittee to identify those BLM lands. This permit does not issue access to private, state or other public lands.
3. No overnight camping or campfires will be permitted on BLM lands along the Marias River under this permit to minimize impacts to nesting bald eagles.

Authorizing Official: Stanley Jaynes Date: 5/18/16
(Signature)

Name: Stanley Jaynes
Title: Havre Field Office Manager