

**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-T030-2016-0022-CX

A. Background

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

Proposed Action Title/Type: Blaine County Recreation District and Galena Ski School Special Recreation Permit

Location of Proposed Action: Lake Creek Trailhead

B. Description of Proposed Action:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Shoshone Field Office received an application from the Blaine County Recreation District (BCRD) requesting to include the BLM's Lake Creek trails, trailhead, and parking lot with the Galena Lodge Ski School operations currently permitted under the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) special use permit issued to BCRD. The BLM's Lake Creek is the closest Nordic facility to the Ketchum/Sun Valley area (see Attachment 1). The BCRD and the Galena Lodge and Ski School operator are requesting to offer adult and youth Nordic lessons for both private individuals and groups from October through April. Maximum total group size would be 30, however a group that large would be divided into subgroups. The staff:customer ratio would be 1:9. Nordic ski lessons and clinics as well as dry land training including: classic and skate skiing, hiking, running, bounding, stretching, and strength exercises would be offered. The activities would take place on the Lake Creek winter trails and not on existing summer trails. However, existing summer trails would be used to access the winter trails to conduct dry land training.

The Special Recreation Permit would include stipulations that BCRD would be required to adhere to (see Attachment 2).

C. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Sun Valley Management Framework Plan (MFP).

Date Approved/Amended: 1982/2003.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Sun Valley MFP. The Sun Valley Analysis Unit Recreation Decision Number 2 states, "The North Ketchum Recreation Area will be managed for its recreational values. Additional uses for public purposes may be allowed if in compliance

with other sections of this plan. Additional recreation development and upgrading of the existing recreation facilities may be made as the need arises. These will be limited to day use only”.

D. 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.

Based on my review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. A special recreation permit will be offered to Blaine County Recreation District to operate, through Galena Ski School, Nordic ski school activities in the Lake Creek Recreation site area.

E. Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Codie Martin Date: 5/12/16
Name: Codie Martin
Title: Shoshone Field Manager

F. 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.

G. Attachments

Attachment 1: Map of the project area
Attachment 2: Special Recreation Permit Stipulations