

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

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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

DOI-BLM-MT-L060-2015-0009-CX

**Project Title** Rivers Edge Outfitters Special Recreation Permit Renewal

**Location:** Portions of BLM land in Fergus County and Petroleum County within the LFO. See attached map.

**Applicant/Address:** Rivers Edge Outfitters  
Michael Huff  
P.O. Box 194  
Winnett, Montana 59087

**Project Contact:**

Name: Kelly McGill  
Title: Outdoor Recreation Planner  
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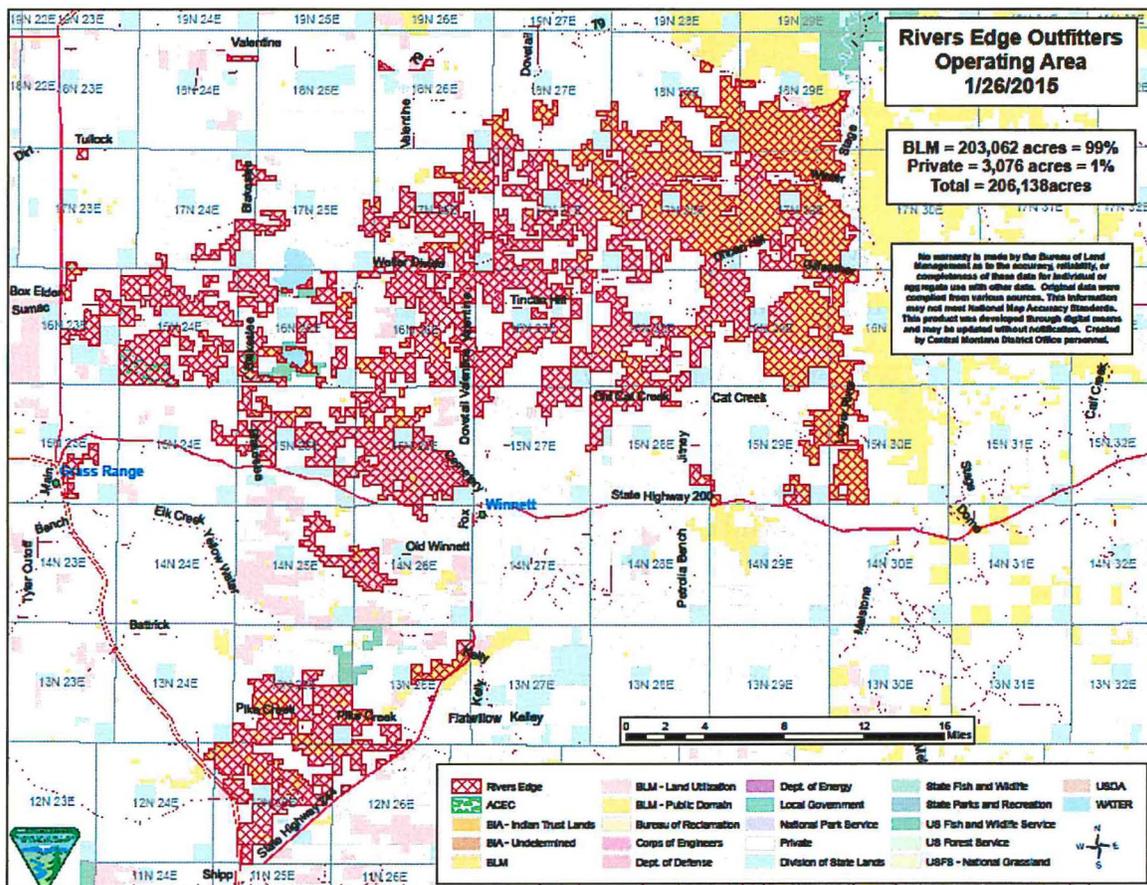


# CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

## A. Background

### Description of Proposed Action:

Re-issue a Special Recreation Permit to conduct guiding and hunting services on Lewistown Field Office BLM land. The permit would be valid for the period of use specified on the permit, not to exceed ten years. The permittee proposes to operate on BLM land within Fergus and Petroleum County. The applicant proposes to guide a maximum of 20 clients for big-game hunting during the archery and rifle season. If it appears that the maximum number of clients will be exceeded, Rivers Edge Outfitters must notify the BLM prior to use. The applicant proposes guiding services for big-game hunting from 8/15-12/1 with 30 estimated client days. Motorized use will be limited to existing roads and 2-tracks on BLM land. Use of BLM land will be day-use only. No overnight camping or campfires will take place on BLM lands under this permit. The areas authorized under this permit may be subject to change in the future due to ongoing planning efforts or if conditions of the SRP are not met.



**Land Use Plan Conformance** *(select all that apply)*

- Headwaters RMP (approved in July 1984)
- West HiLine RMP (approved in September 1988 and on January 29, 1992 for the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River)
- Judith-Valley-Phillips RMP (approved on September 9, 1994)
- Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final EIS for Montana and North and South Dakota (approved on August 7, 1997)
- Off-Highway Vehicle EIS and Proposed Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota (approved on June 18, 2003)
- Fire/Fuels Management EA/Plan Amendment for Montana and the Dakotas (approved on September 26, 2003)
- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Approved Resource Management Plan (approved on December 4, 2008)
- Other *(specify name/date approved)*

**Conformance:**

The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan(s) selected above, which states as follows: *(If more than one plan applies, include the page no. and language from all applicable plans):*

<b><i>Page No.</i></b>	<b><i>Language</i></b>
18	JVP RMP: "The BLM will maintain and/or enhance the recreational quality of BLM land and resources to ensure enjoyable recreational experiences." And "Managing visitor services including a permit system..." and "Recreation emphasis will be to maintain opportunities for dispersed recreational activities such as hunting...."

**C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with (select one):

43 CFR 46.210, *or*

516 DM 11.9

Appropriate CX Number and Text, or Paraphrase of the Text:

H.1 "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.

Explanation of Why There is no Potential for Significant Impacts:

No alteration of habitats or vegetation is associated with the proposed action.

There are no controversial environmental affects or unresolved conflicts.

There are no uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects or unique risks associated with proposed event on public lands.

The SRP does not set a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Stipulations, terms and conditions associated with the permit alleviate cultural resource concerns.

**D: Signature**

I considered this review and determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the proposed action.

Pertinent design features, stipulations or mitigation (if applicable):

SRP Form 2930-1 and 2930-2 General Stipulations and Conditions.

Additional Stipulations attached to the permit for the permittee to sign.

Authorizing Official: Geoff Beyersdorf Date: January 28, 2015  
(Signature)

Name: Geoff Beyersdorf  
Title: Field Manager