



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

Categorical Exclusion

Montana Trophy Outfitters
Special Recreation Permit (SRP)
DOI-BLM-MT-B070-2019-0005-CX
Amendment 1
August 2021

Butte Field Office
106 N Parkmont
Butte MT 59701

Description of the Proposed Action

BLM Office	Butte Field Office, Dillon Field Office
NEPA PROJECT NUMBER	DOI-BLM-MT-B070-2019-0005-CX
PROPOSED ACTION TITLE	Montana Trophy Outfitters Special Recreation Permit Amendment 1
LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION	In addition to the BLM lands already authorized under the original CX signed on 12/18/2018, this action would include BLM lands in Beaverhead, Madison, Silver Bow, Jefferson, and Broadwater Counties. See map attached.
APPLICANT (IF ANY)	Montana Trophy Outfitters
PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION AND ANY REQUIRED DESIGN FEATURES AND/OR MITIGATION	<p>The proposed action is to amend special recreation permit (SRP) MT-070-19-09 by expanding the area authorized for use and adding to the authorized activities.</p> <p>The amendment would expand the authorized area for guided hunts from 1,296 acres to 50,446 acres. See attached map showing currently permitted area and proposed expansion area.</p> <p>The amendment would also authorize guided hunting for spring bear hunts and winter mountain lion hunts. The season of use authorized would expand to year-round due to the additional spring and winter seasons.</p> <p>The latest general terms, conditions, and stipulations required on all BLM and all MT/DAKs BLM SRPs would be added to the amended permit. The Butte Field Office stipulations required on the existing permit would continue to be required. No additional stipulations would be added to the amended permit.</p>

Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

<p>Land Use Plan Name and Date and how proposed action is consistent (cite RMP sections and/or goals/objectives)</p>	<p>Butte Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan 2009</p> <p>This action is consistent with the following goals and management actions:</p> <p>Goal RM1 - Provide a diverse array of recreational opportunities while maintaining healthy public land resources.</p> <p>Goal RM2 – Establish, manage, and maintain quality recreation sites and facilities to meet a broad range of public needs subject to appropriate resource constraints.</p> <p>Goal RM3 – Manage commercial, competitive, or special events with special recreation permits that eliminate or minimize impacts on resources and conflicts with other users.</p> <p>Goal RM4 – Manage recreation opportunities to provide a sustained flow of local economic benefits and protect non-market economic values.</p> <p>Recreation Management Action 4 – BLM will continue to provide a diverse range of quality recreation opportunities and experiences within the BFO commensurate with public demands, resource considerations, and management capabilities. (<i>Goals RM1, RM4, SE2</i>)</p> <p>Recreation Management Action 13 – In accordance with policy guidance (IM No. 2004150), a greater priority will be placed on extending appropriate, reoccurring permits from five years to 10 years. (<i>Goal RM3</i>)</p> <p>Goal SE 2 – Provide for a diverse array of activities that result in social benefits for local residents, businesses, visitors, interested citizens, and future generations, while minimizing negative social effects.</p>
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COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The proposed action described above does not require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), as it has been found to not have significant effects on the human environment. The applicable Categorical Exclusion reference is BLM NEPA Handbook, Appendix 4, Section H, page 153 which states that the following action is categorically excluded pursuant to 516 CM 11.9: 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 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 as documented below, none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Rationale: The issuance of a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct guided hunting trips in the proposed area would not impact public health and safety because the permittee is licensed with the MT Board of Outfitters, has a safety plan in place, and will be using Leave No Trace principles to reduce impacts.

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 (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

Rationale: The issuance of a SRP to conduct guided hunting trips on BLM lands in the proposed area would not impact any of the above-mentioned resources, because the operation would be conducted in assigned areas and accessed via designated travel routes. In addition, no impacts to migratory birds are anticipated as the outfitter's service duration is for approximately eight hours per day. Adult birds may be startled off their nests by vehicles and people passing nearby. This impact will be temporary, and is not anticipated to cause adults to abandon nests long enough that eggs become unviable or hatchlings suffer mortality. There are cultural resources in the assigned area. Therefore, a stipulation is in place that directs participants to leave any discovered artifacts in place and to notify the BLM immediately of such findings.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(E)).

Rationale: No highly controversial environmental effects are expected from this action. There are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Rationale: There are no highly uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects associated with this action.

5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Rationale: The issuance of a SRP to conduct a hunting outfitter and guide service is not directly connected to any other actions occurring in the area. This permit application is for a ten-year SRP, and thus new permit applications for similar operations would be examined on a case-by-case basis to determine the level of environmental analysis needed.

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with significant environmental effects (i.e., have considered any connected actions).

Extraordinary Circumstances

Rationale: After consideration of all other actions in the area, this action will not present significant cumulative environmental effects.

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office.

Rationale: This permit will not have any significant impacts on listed or eligible sites because the use is infrequent, and the activity will not disturb the ground surface.

8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

Rationale: There are no listed or proposed endangered or threatened fish, wildlife, or plant species or critical habitats that will be significantly impacted by this action.

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Rationale: None of the above laws or requirements will be violated.

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898).

Rationale: The proposed action will not have high or adverse effects 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 (EO 13007).

Rationale: This permit will not restrict access or use of any Indian sacred sites as the use is infrequent and of short duration.

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 EO 13112).

Rationale: Equipment shall be pressure washed or otherwise thoroughly cleaned prior to entering public lands. Areas infested with noxious weeds will be avoided and immediately reported to the BLM. No additional weeds impacts are expected beyond what currently exists.

Specialist Signatures

Resource	Specialist	Signature
Wildlife	Scot Franklin	
Cultural and Historic Resources	Carrie Kiely	
Weeds	Lacy Decker	
Recreation	Courtney Frost	
Travel and Transportation	Courtney Frost	