

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District
1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

A. Background

BLM Office: Border Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: SRP OR-135-08-009

NEPA Log Number: OR-135-08-CX-029

Proposed Action Title: Goose Butte IE German Shorthair Club SRP

Location of Proposed Action: Goose Butte, Lincoln County, WA. T21N, R36E, Sec. 15, 16, 21, 22

Description of Proposed Action: This 5-year competitive event Special Recreation Permit application (FY2008 - FY2012) is from the Inland Empire German Shorthair Pointer Club for pointer breeds hunting dog trials on horseback, with riders utilizing two courses in the same general use area commonly used for this type of event, on BLM land in the Goose Butte area. The event will take place between September 25th - 29th, 2008 including set up, the event (25th - 28th), and clean up; and will involve approximately 30 - 40 horses and riders, 2 - 4 spectators, and approximately 80 - 100 dogs. The campsite/staging area where vehicles, trailers, and chemical toilets will be located, and horses and dogs tethered, is less than three acres.

- 350 - 400 live Chukar birds used in the competition will be purchased from a local WDFW-approved supplier and released on the property. During the competition, dog handlers work their dogs from horseback. The dogs are expected to point the birds and the handler dismounts the horse to flush and shoot. At the flush, the handler will fire either a blank, or an official gunner will try to kill the bird so the dog may retrieve it. Safety is the main concern. Horses travel at a walking pace during the event.
- Participants will camp in existing camping areas in Goose Butte, some arriving as early as September 25th for the event. It is expected that 25 - 30 recreational vehicles will be there. Vehicle and horse trailer parking would be on mowed ground on the west side of the road just past the Goose Butte area entrance, north of Crab Creek. Most participants will leave by September 28th.
- Two permanent water troughs at the location will be used that have continuous water flow through them. Four additional troughs will be placed temporarily by the organizers sporadically along the roadside only, for horse access. They will be filled from water hauled in a 300 gallon tank in the back of a pickup truck that will stay on the road.
- Two chemical toilets will be brought in for the event. Organizers and participants will remove dog droppings from the camping/parking area, and after the event will spread horse manure and hay, pick up garbage, fill any holes dug by dogs or horses, and clean up the courses, camp and parking areas.

- Professional shooters will be utilized to minimize safety hazards, two doctors will be onsite, and emergency response procedures will be in place.
- Any year within the permit period, areas may be subject to closure to avoid impacts to sensitive species of plants or animals, or to protect cultural or archeological resources. Any subsequent course alterations would be made via consultation with Spokane BLM.
- All participants must act in a manner to avoid disturbing/stressing native wildlife. This includes restraining dogs from running free into bird and other wildlife habitat when the dogs are not under control of handlers during the event. When not participating in the event, dogs should be kept in camp or on a leash.
- There will be no weed-free hay requirements for the first year (2008) of the 5-year permit period, but in the event that the State of Washington enacts legislation and maintains an active program in subsequent years that makes weed-free forage available, the event organizers will be responsible for restricting the transport of feed, hay, straw or mulch which is not certified as weed free, to the event location.
- There will be no open fires. There will also be no course marking.
- Failure to comply with stipulations could result in denying a future Special Recreation Permit.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

Option 1 (conforms with LUP): The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): Chapter 2; General Management Objectives: 7. Manage public lands and keep access routes open for a variety of recreational opportunities/experiences, including both motorized and nonmotorized recreation activities.

OR

(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP) The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9H. (1)

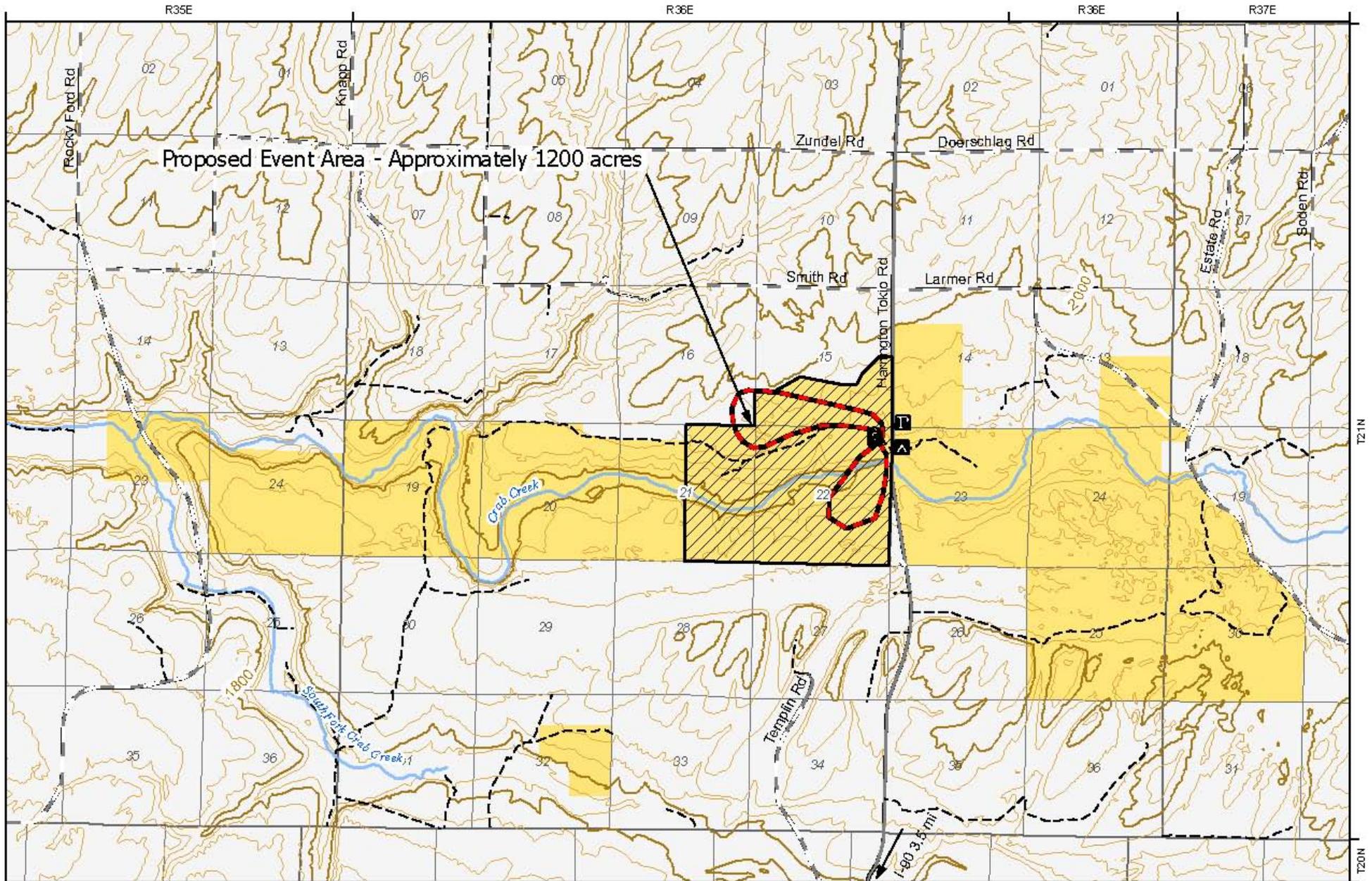
This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply, as shown in the following table:

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CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION		YES	NO
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:			
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.7	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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.8	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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A listed (Threatened) plant species, Spalding's catchfly, occurs within the proposed event area. Flowering and fruiting may still be occurring in September; BLM staff will work with event organizers to ensure that the course route for the September event does not pass through locations where this plant occurs.			
2.9	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Inland Empire German Shorthair Club September Event

Rocky Ford / Crab Creek Area



- Parking
- Information
- Camping
- BLM Administered Land
- Private Land
- Proposed Event Area
- Approximate Course



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