

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-135-08-003

NEPA Log Number: OR-135-08-CX-012

Proposed Action Title: WI Brittany Dog Club SRP

Location of Proposed Action: Goose Butte, Lincoln County, WA. 21N, 36E, Sec. 15, 16, 21, 22

Description of Proposed Action: The 5-year competitive event Special Recreation Permit application by the Whidbey Island Brittany Club is for an American Kennel Club- and American Brittany Club-approved and licensed field trial for pointing bird dog breeds, running two courses for demonstrating the hunting abilities of these dog breeds. The trials are 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. In 2008, the event will take place between April 12th - 13th, 2008, and again on September 6th - 7th, including set up, the event and clean up, and will involve approximately 40 horses and riders, and 100 dogs.

- 150 - 200 live Chukar birds used in the competition would 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. Horses travel at a walking pace during the event.
- Participants would camp in existing camping areas in Goose Butte, some arriving as early as April 7th or 8th for the first event. It is expected that 15 to 20 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.
- Two permanent water troughs at the location would be used that have continuous water flow through them. Additional troughs as needed would be placed temporarily by the organizers sporadically along the roadside only, for horse access. They will be filled from water hauled in a 1,000 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 on April 11th. After the event, organizers and participants will spread horse manure, pick up hay and 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.
- Even though no fire restriction will be in effect, participants will not have open fires, with the exception of one small self-contained propane-fueled fire ring utilized one night. Any course marking would be done via a walk through rather than by vehicle.
- A new CX will be completed in any subsequent years within the 5-year permit period if the course is altered, or if there is any significant change to the operations plan. 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:

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	YES	NO
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. The plant is dormant in April, so the April event will not have any significant impacts on the plant. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

imposed for the protection of the environment.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.11 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 (Executive Order 13007).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.12 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 Executive Order 13112).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

F: Signature

Authorizing Official: ___/S/ James Scott Pavey_____ Date: ___04/07/08_____ (Signature)

Name: James Scott Pavey
Title: Acting Field Manager, Border Resource Area

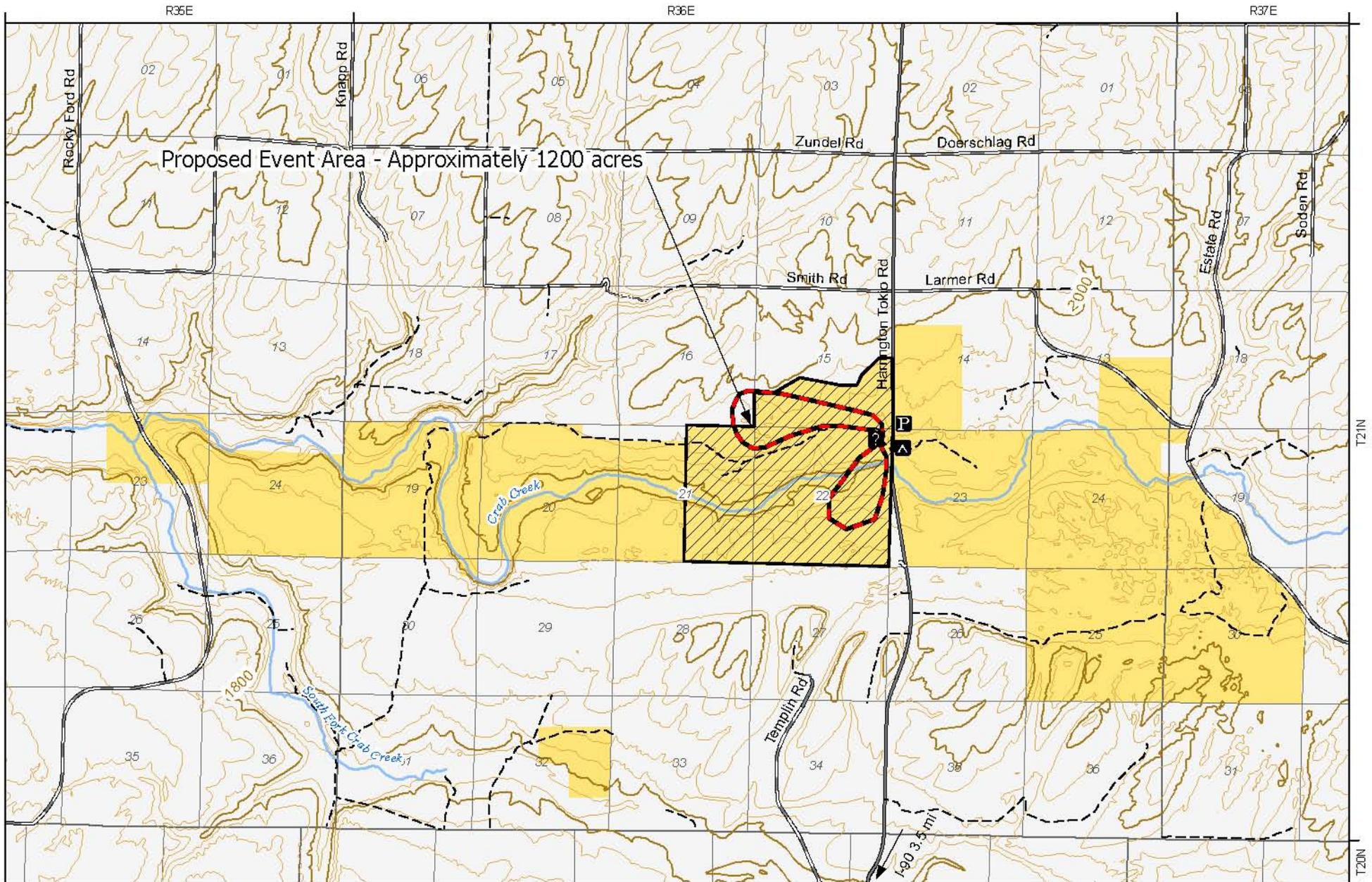
G. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Steve A. Smith, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Border Resource Area, Steve_A_Smith@blm.gov, 509-536-1219

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

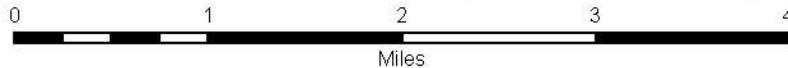
Whidbey Island Brittany Club Event

Rocky Ford / Crab Creek Area



Proposed Event Area - Approximately 1200 acres

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



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NEPA Doc.No:
OR-135-08-CX-012



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