

Using a Letter of Agreement for Organized Groups Where an SRP Is Not Required

The BLM enjoys great discretion in determining when an organized group needs an SRP. Such broad discretion means we are often in the position of having to decide if an organized group should be required to have an SRP. An Organized Group SRP should be required if any of the following criteria apply:

- There is a concern for health and safety.
- There is a management concern for cultural or natural resources, or facilities on public land.
- The organized group requires services such as law enforcement, fire protection, on site monitoring of resources or activities, exclusive use or other specialized management.

Assuming you have done a good job of recreation planning, you have identified some areas where most organized groups may be accommodated with a minimum of fuss. When organized group use is taking place in an area that is appropriate and there are no major concerns over the activity, you may consider preparing a Letter of Agreement to cover the activity.

What a Letter of Agreement is –

- Documentation of BLM's determination a permit is not required.
- An opportunity for the organized group to better plan their activity in a manner that does not require permit issuance and oversight.
- Documentation the organized group contacted and worked with the BLM in planning their activity.
- Opportunity to obtain information about the activity and attribute the use in RMIS.

What a Letter of Agreement is not -

- An authorization to use public land.
- An enforceable document. If the group fails to adhere to the agreement the agency has no recourse. However, the group would then be a candidate for SRP's in the future since the SRP terms and conditions are binding and enforceable. However law enforcement action may be taken if the group violates law or regulation.

The following two pages are an example of a Letter of Agreement. This example may be modified to account for your specific management situations. In no case, should the letter of agreement be construed as an authorization to use public lands. If an authorization is required, an SRP or an RUP (developed sites only) are the proper method.