

Posted: _____

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. Background

BLM Office: Kremmling Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Number: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2011-0032-CX

Proposed Action Title/Type: World Team Sports Special Recreation Permit (SRP)

Location of Proposed Action:

T. 1 S., R. 82 W., 6th P.M., Sections 12, 13, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 33;

T. 1 S., R. 81 W., 6th P.M., Sections 7, 17, 18, 19;

T. 2 S., R. 82 W., 6th P.M., Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 18;

T. 2 S., R. 83 W., 6th P.M., Sections 13, 24, 25, 26.

Description of Proposed Action:

A Special Recreation Permit would be issued to William Mattison to conduct a multi-sport event for able bodied and disabled athletes. The event would occur on June 26th and 27th, 2011. The event would have 15 teams with 5 participants per team (one person using a wheelchair, one amputee, and three able-bodied-helpers) and 10 to 15 support staff for a total of 90 people involved with the event. If the Colorado River is too high the new route will not work because Gore Trail will be under water or too wet for the event. If this is the case, the 2008 race route will be used.

Day One of the event would start at the Pumphouse Campground, with a hike up the Gore Trail to the first campground. The racers will then hike up Inspiration Flats to the top where it flattens out and will get on their hand/mountain bikes. From there they travel 0.1 mile and turn southwest onto the two-track which will take the racers to County Road 107 to the gravel pit gate. They will then take the two-track to the south of the gravel pit past the boulders and follow it to the top of the hill (checkpoint near the top of the hill) and around to the DOW site near County Road 103. The racers will continue to bike downhill on County Road 103 and across Trough Road to Gore Canyon Ranch (County Road 102). At the Gore Canyon Ranch gate the racers will leave their bikes and continue on foot towards the river. Two able bodied racers will hike the Argentine Trail to the cabin while the three other racers will raft (with Timberline Tours, a current permitted outfitter) down to the cabin and pick up the two hikers. The race team will then raft down to the Warm Springs and rappel down the cliffs. From there the race team

will hike out to Mugrage and meet up with the rafts at the confluence of Sheephorn Creek and the Colorado River. They will raft down to Rancho del Rio and camp there for the night.

Day Two of the race, the team will raft (with Timberline Tours) from Rancho del Rio to the Yarmony Bridge. The racers will get on bikes and ride down the old Trough Road (between the new Trough Road and the river) down to Windy Point Road. Here the bicyclists will meet the rafts at Windy Point and raft, kayak or paddleboard down to Two Bridges take-out (privately owned.)

Are all the routes proposed for use identified to remain open in the RMP??? The map for the CX does not show the individual routes---so a statement here that the all the routes to be used are proposed to remain open under all alternatives, or something to that effect, would be helpful.

The permit would include the following special stipulations:

1. Authorization letters from Colorado Division of Wildlife and all owners of private property that the racers, event staff or spectators will access before, during, or after event.
2. All floatboating vessels (boats, boating gear, and employees) for the event will be supplied by a BLM KFO permitted outfitter in good standing.

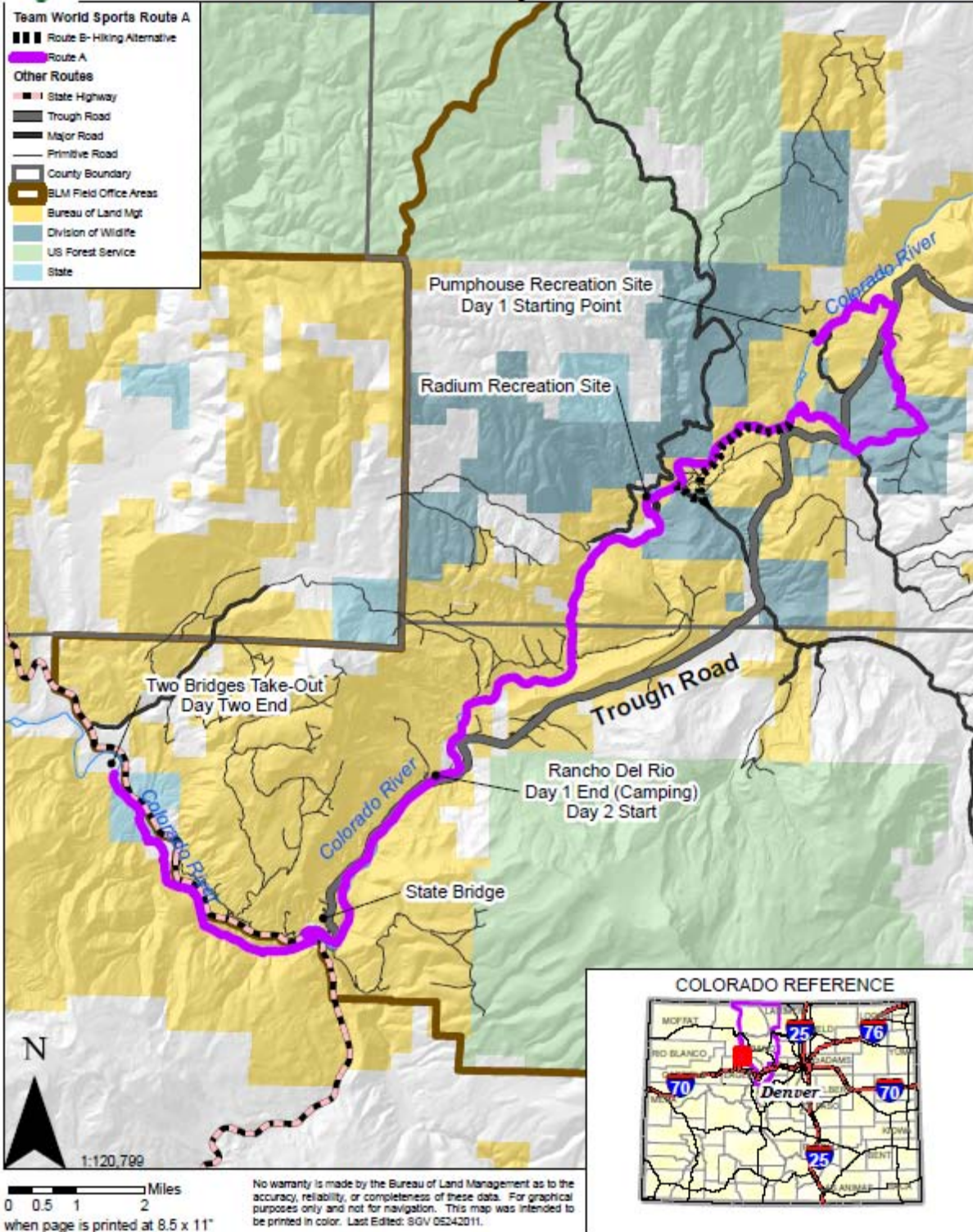
2008 Race Route (High Water Alternative):

Day One of the event would start on County Road (CR) 11 near French Creek with hand/mountain bikes. The participants would travel down to Radium and up to CR 1 (Trough Road) using the existing roads and trails in the vicinity of the hot springs. The course continues on CR 1 to the Pumphouse Recreation Site where participants would transition to kayaks (hardshell and inflatables) at Launch #3. The course would continue down the river to the hot springs where two team members would hike to the top of the cliffs and rappel back to the river. The teams would continue rafting downstream to Rancho del Rio.

Day Two of the race, the team will raft (with Timberline Tours) from Rancho del Rio to the Yarmony Bridge. The racers will get on bikes and ride down the old Trough Road (between the new Trough Road and the river) down to Windy Point Road. Here the bicyclists will meet the rafts at Windy Point and raft, kayak or paddleboard down to Two Bridges take-out (privately owned.)



Team World Sports Event



B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved/Amended: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

While not specifically mentioned in the Revised RMP, the proposed use is consistent with the following management objective from the Kremmling RMP.

Decision Number/Page: Decision Number II B 7a, Page 9

Objective Language: “To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other sources, to reduce the impacts of recreational use on fragile and unique resource values, and to provide for visitor safety, and resource interpretation.”

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 2, Appendix 1.

1.5 H. Recreation Management

(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).

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 DM2 apply.

I considered the number of people, floatboats, and bikes in the event and the segment of the river and land into the proposed action. I reached the decision that the proposed action would have no potential for significant impacts.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
Hannah Schechter	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recreation	2/23/11
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air, and Riparian	if selected routes are all open routes

			in RMP
Bill Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation	6-8-2011
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Species	6-13-2011

Cultural Resources: A cultural resource inventory report #CR-08-14 was completed in 2008 on the route. No eligible sites were located. The project is a no effect, there are no historic properties affected.

Native American Consultation: Earlier tribal consultation in 2008, identified no areas of tribal traditional concern.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There would be no impact to threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: _____ Date: _____
(Signature)

Name: _____
Title: _____

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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Kremmling, CO 80459

DECISION RECORD
CX # DOI-BLM-CO-120-2011-0031-CX

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached CX.

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Clean Water Act. This decision is also in conformance with the LUP and other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action and have determined that it does not represent an extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

RATIONALE: The proposed action to authorize Team World Sports Event a Special Recreation Permit to conduct a multi-sport event for able bodied and disabled athletes. The event will be on BLM administered lands around the Upper Colorado River and was chosen to provide a recreational opportunity for the competitors in the event. Stipulations are included in the permit as required to protect natural resources and ensure that the permit is in compliance with current policies.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:

TEAM WORLD SPORTS EVENT
STIPULATIONS
SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT

1. Authorization letters from Colorado Division of Wildlife and all owners of private property that the racers, event staff or spectators will access before, during, or after event.
2. All floatboating vessels for the event will be supplied by a BLM KFO permitted outfitter in good standing.

