

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville Field Office

NEPA Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-P040-2010-0091-CX

Proposed Action Title: Leading Edge Avionics Taxi Service Event SRP (Hunt Site 1)

Location: The event location identified as T10S, R25E, Section 22 in the vicinity of Black Snag Springs approximately 6 miles Southwest of Kimberly, Oregon.

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to approve a one-time Special Recreation Permit for Leading Edge Avionics to deliver a hunting party and associated gear and equipment (including 2 ATV's) to public lands that are not accessible via public road access. The proposed dates are November 5th through November 14th, 2010, or until the hunting tags are filled (whichever comes first). The helicopter would pick up the hunters approximately 3 miles away on public land that is accessible by public roads and transport the hunters and equipment to the drop site on public land that is inaccessible by roads to the general public.

Pick-up and final drop-off location: N44° 39' 19.40", W119° 43' 03.73"

Hunt site drop-off and pick-up location: N44° 41' 45.18", W119° 42' 39.14"

On the drop-off and pick-up days there would be two landings and one sling load pick-up/delivery at each site. Helicopter activity on public land would last approximately one and a half hours on each day.

Leading Edge Avionics' aviation operations would adhere to federal, state and FAA regulations.

Leading Edge Avionics would follow all state regulations involving aircraft and hunting including:

- No person shall communicate information on the location of game mammals from an aircraft.
- No person shall hunt within 8 hours after having been transported by helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft to any point other than an established airport adequate for fixed-wing aircraft.

Leading Edge Avionics would not be considered for Special Recreation Permits in the future if their clients are found to be in violation of any federal or state law concerning hunting, trespassing, or fire.

This permit is only valid to deliver the following hunters: Ron Hamon, Bill Railey, Colby Hamon, and Dustin Weatherman.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Two Rivers Resource Management Plan

Date approved (ROD): June, 1986

The proposed action is in conformance with the above plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions, objectives, terms, or conditions:

RECREATION

- **Off Road Vehicles:** The use of off road vehicles on public lands will be regulated in accordance with the authority and requirements of Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 and regulations contained in 43 CFR 8340. (Page 24)
- **Open Designation:** Public lands which total approximately 263,000 acres will be open to off road vehicle use since no significant impacts are occurring and off road vehicle use is essential for conducting other authorized resource issues. (Page 24)

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, Effective Date June 21, 2005., 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 DM 2 apply. See attached CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation checklist. The cultural, T&E plant and T&E animal specialists have indicated they expect no unacceptable impacts to resources.

D. Signature

I considered the social and environmental effects of approving this permit. To mitigate these effects the following stipulations would be followed.

- Helicopter activity would be one hour or less on two days total: November 5th and November 14th, or when tags are filled and the pick-up is called for.
- Helicopter activity would be limited to 2 landings and 1 sling load delivered on each day, at each site authorized.
- If trespass on private property or hunting violations occur by use of this permit, the permit holder would not be considered for any further Special Recreation Permits in the future.

- If an escape campfire or warming fire occurs by use of this permit, the permit holder would not be considered for any further Special Recreation Permits in the future and would be responsible for the suppression costs of the wildfire.
- Permit holder will not purposefully impact (i.e., excavate in or collect from) any known archaeological site located within the BLM administered lands authorized under this SRP.

Authorizing official: H.F. "Chip" Faver
 H.F. "Chip" Faver, Central Oregon Resource Area

9.23.10
 Date

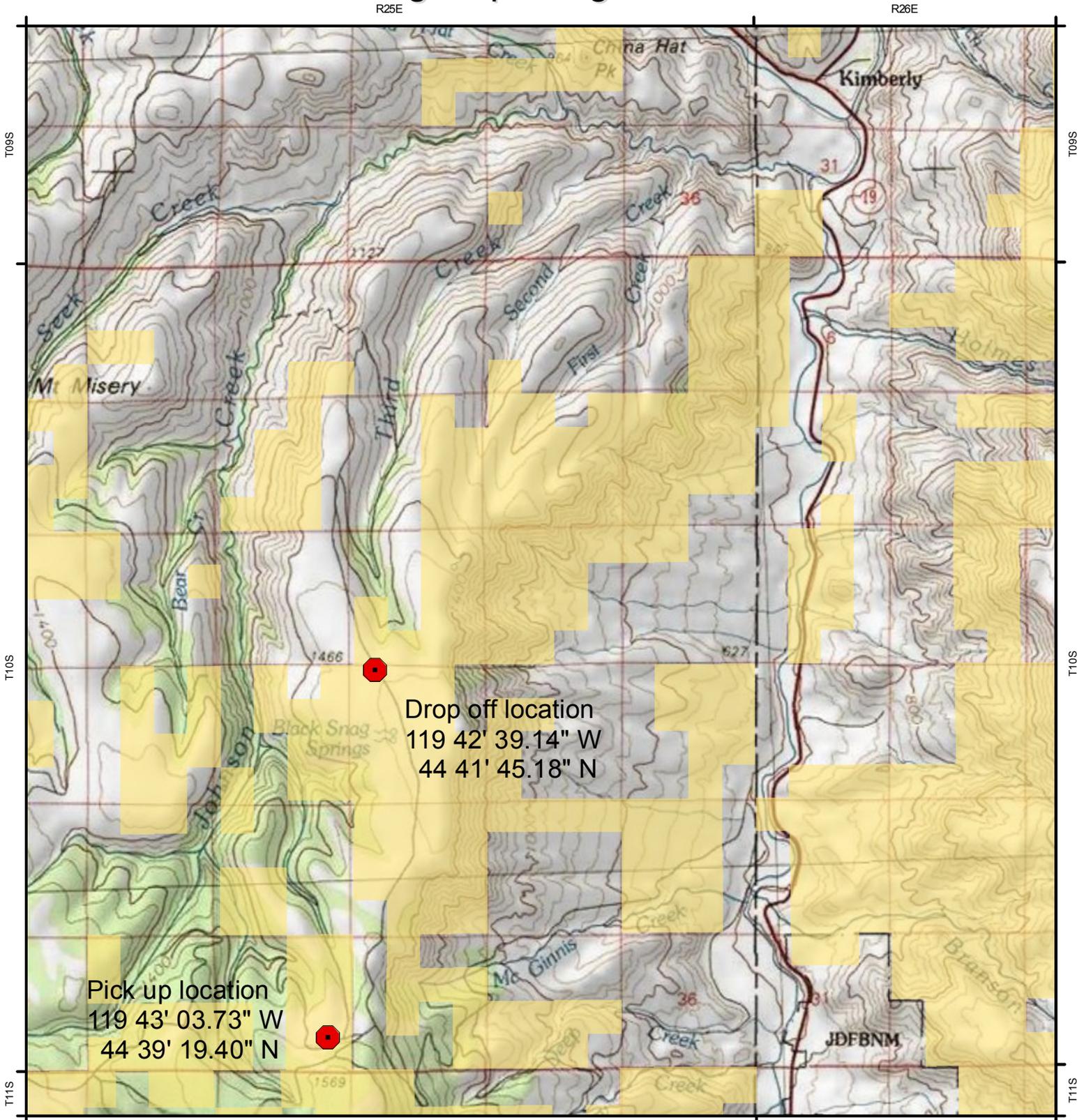
Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact: Jim Beaupre, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Telephone: (541) 416-6776. Email: jbeaupre@or.blm.gov.

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION		YES	NO
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:			
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: The permit holder would be an authorized charter flight service and would be required to follow all federal and state laws, regulations, and guidelines concerning air traffic.			
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.		X
Rationale: The location is in an area where no wilderness values have been identified. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on any resource.			
2.3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: There are no highly controversial environmental effects nor does the action involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.			
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: There is no evidence that this action has potentially significant environmental effects. The project does not include any unique or unknown environmental risks.			
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Authorizing a Special Recreation Permit does not set any precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Special Recreation Permits are issued at the manager's discretion and could be revoked for violations of the permit.			

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2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Similar past activities had no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect		
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.		X
Rationale: The project area does not include any property listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.		
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.		X
Rationale: Consultation with a district wildlife biologist and botanist has occurred on this project. The scope of the proposed action would not affect any Endangered or Threatened Species or have significant impacts or result in the loss of critical habitat.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
Rationale: The proposed action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the Prineville District which complies with all applicable laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and others.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
Rationale: The proposed action would have no adverse effect on any low income or minority population.		
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).		X
Rationale: This action would have no effect on access to or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites.		
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).		X
Rationale: The proposed activity would not measurably change the rate of introduction, continued existence or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species		

Black Snag Springs Heli-Hunt



Drop off location
 119 42' 39.14" W
 44 41' 45.18" N

Pick up location
 119 43' 03.73" W
 44 39' 19.40" N



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 Bureau of Land Management
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Legend

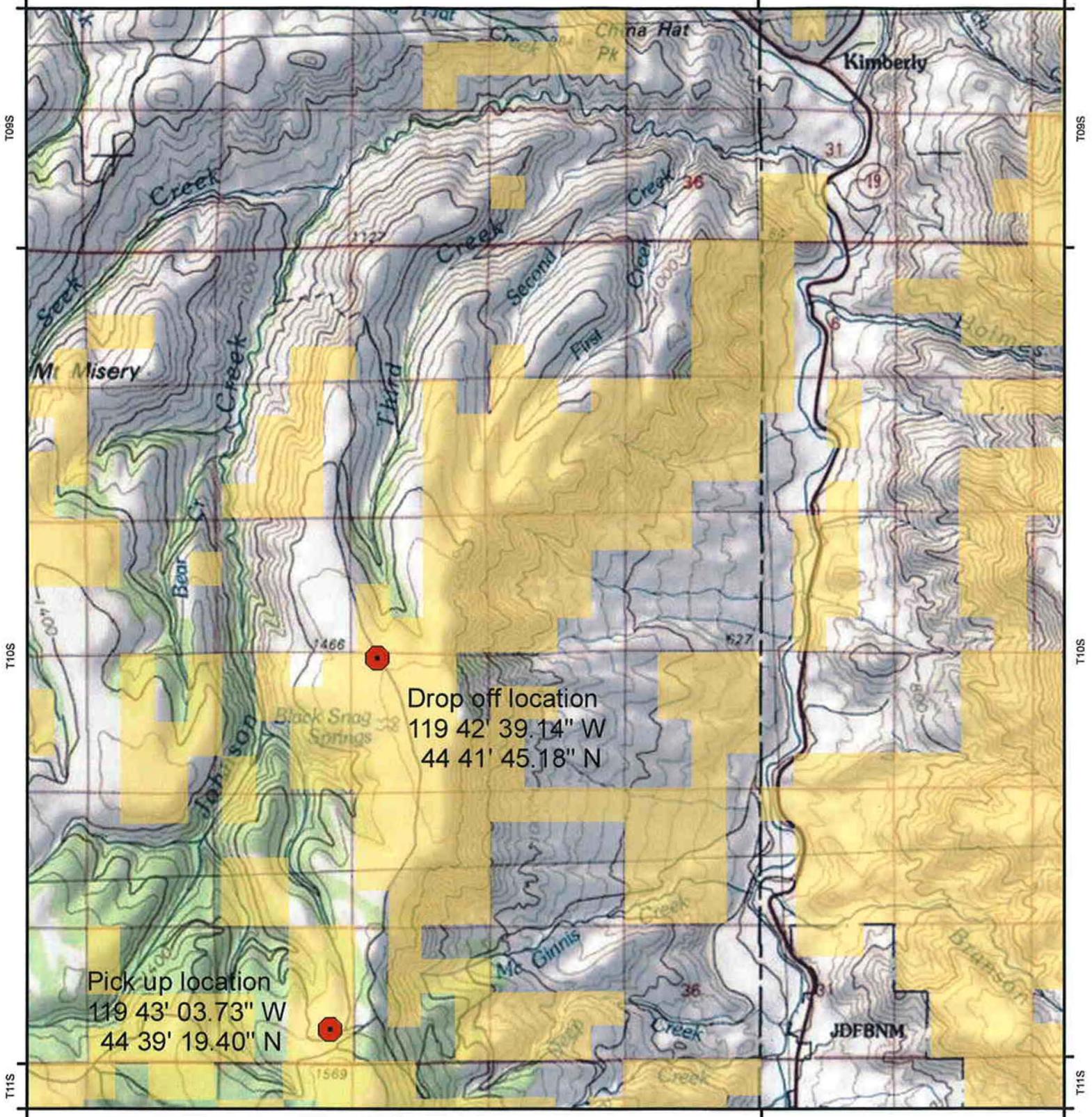
- Bureau of Land Management
- NGS USA Topographic Maps



Black Snag Springs Heli-Hunt

R25E

R26E



Drop off location
 119 42' 39.14" W
 44 41' 45.18" N

Pick up location
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R25E

R26E

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Legend



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