

## **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.:* OR-135-09-001

*NEPA Log Number:* OR-135-08-CX-031

*Proposed Action Title:* Lakeview Endurance Horse Ride SRP

*Location of Proposed Action:* Lakeview Ranch, Lincoln County, WA. Parts of T21N,R32E,S1,2 and T21N,R33E,S6 and T22N,R32E,S2,4,8,9,10,11,12,15,16,22,23,26,34,35,36 and T22N,R33E,S7 (See attached map).

*Description of Proposed Action:* This competitive event Special Recreation Permit application is by the American Endurance Riders Conference for a horseback endurance ride on existing trails and jeep roads on BLM land in the Lakeview Ranch area. The first year, the event would take place on October 4, 2008 and involve approximately 75 horses and riders, and 12 spectators. The SRP permit would be for October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, which would cover set up, event and clean up.

- Participants would camp in existing camping areas at Lakeview Ranch the night before the event, then register for a ride of a particular length (75,50, and 25 mile loops have been proposed and would be marked with flagging). Vehicle and horse trailer parking would be in an existing overflow parking area immediately north of the barn/shop area at Lakeview Ranch. Four portable outhouses would be brought in: three placed near the camping area, and one at the BLM trailhead in Odessa, to accommodate participants and spectators.
- Four water troughs would be placed temporarily in locations adjacent to county roads, or jeep trails that are designated for motorized use, for the duration of the event. A water truck would periodically refill troughs during the day of the event.
- The applicant has requested use of water troughs at Lakeview Ranch, and the picnic tables by the boat launch. The Lakeview barn, stalls and corrals will also be made available for the event, and organizers will ensure they are clean and tidy following the event, and will move manure to the designated manure pile north of the barn, remove straw and hay piles, and fill in any large holes created by the horses. The water troughs and picnic tables must be returned to their original locations.
- Trail ride participants will ride only on existing roads and trails on BLM land.
- Race organizers, participants and volunteers will practice leave-no-trace recreating, including complete cleanup of all trails, camp and parking areas.
- Disturbed areas will be seeded with BLM-furnished native grass seed mix after the ride.
- To minimize impacts, trail riders will ride single file on trail portions of the ride.

- Vehicles and off-highway vehicles (OHV's) will not be permitted on unimproved roads and trails within the course. Trail marking will be done without use of motorized vehicles. In cases of extreme fire danger, the Lakeview area could potentially be closed to any public access.
- Approximately 6 - 10 volunteers will be utilized throughout the course where necessary, to ensure safety of participants and protection of resources, and be in constant communication with the event organizer via cell phones or walkie talkies. Four veterinarians will be on hand during the event. Local Emergency Medical Technicians will be alerted of the event, and emergency response procedures will be in place.
- Fire extinguishers, shovels, buckets and first aid kits will be available at centralized locations along the course and at the camp area.
- These trails are multi-use and may have other hikers, horseback riders or mountain bikers. Event participants must respect the rights of other recreationists to use the trail.
- All participants must respect wildlife and act in a manner to avoid stressing animals. Organizers must be willing to change the event route to bypass any protected nesting sites and/or sensitive plant or animal locations if required by BLM.
- Cattle may be grazing in one or more pastures along the event route, although this is not expected in 2008. If cattle are present, BLM may require one or more gate persons to be present during the event, to open and close any gates so as to keep cows from escaping their pasture as participants pass through. At the end of the event, the gate person(s) will make sure these gates are securely closed. All participants will ride in a manner that will not stress livestock.
- 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:

<b>CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION</b> The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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"/>

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"/>
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**

\_\_\_\_\_/S/ June E. Hues\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Authorizing Official Signature)

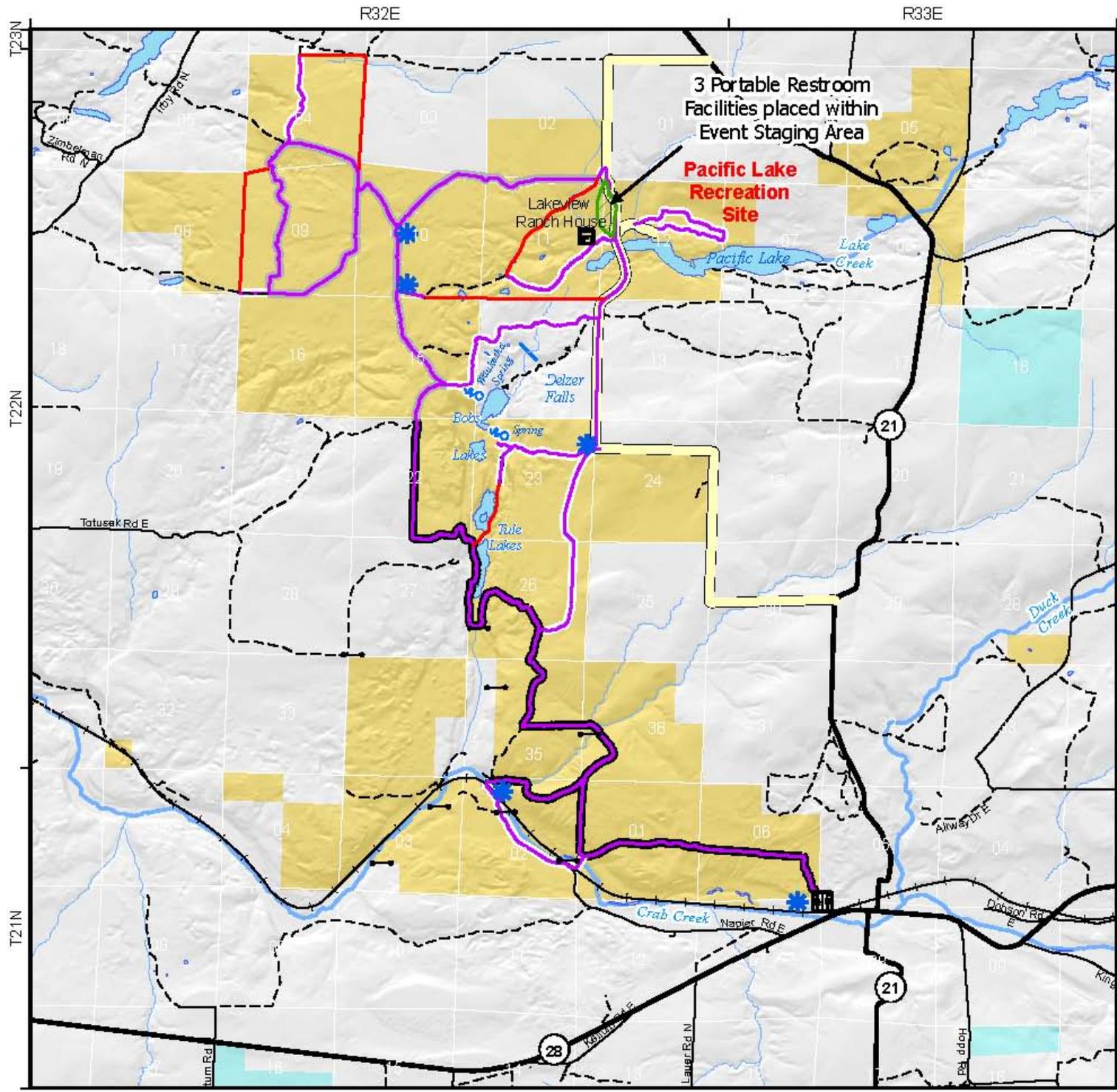
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 (Date)

Name: June E. Hues  
 Title: 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.



# LAKEVIEW RANCH ENDURANCE HORSE RIDE

OR-135-08-CX-031

- Event Water Trough
- Portable Restroom Facility
- Proposed Course - Designated Route
- Proposed Course - Undesignated Trail
- Event Staging Area
- Gate
- Access Route
- Improved Road
- Other Road or Trail, Access as Designated
- Proposed Course - Access as Designated
- Proposed Course - Motorized Access Permitted
- Proposed Course - Non-Motorized Access Only
- State Highway
- BLM Administered Land
- WA Dept. of Natural Resources



WASHINGTON



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