



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652
www.co.blm.gov



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2011-0092-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Colorado River Valley Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No:
Special Recreation Permit# CO-078-04-00-02

Proposed Action Title/Type: Otto Andl, Colorado River Center Inc.; Amendment to Special Recreation Permit; Commercial Use

Location of Proposed Action: Public lands adjacent to the Upper Colorado River (State Bridge to Dotsero) (As shown in Attachment A.)

Background: Colorado River Center Inc. has a new Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for guided whitewater rafting, duckie and kayak trips in the following public lands adjacent to:
-Upper Colorado River (State Bridge to Dotsero). Overnight camping authorized at Windy Point and Catamount Recreation Sites. Day use at all other sites.

Their existing permit expires October 30, 2011.

Colorado River Center Inc. has requested to add overnight camping at Pinball and Lyons Gulch Recreation Sites to their current permit due to the high water until the end of August. The business wants to be able to offer overnight trips, but the section of water that they offer overnight trips on is dangerous during high water flows. Therefore, they want to be able to have the overnight trips in safer water with minimal hazards.

Description of Proposed Action: This proposed action is to modify and amend the existing Special Recreation Permit (SRP) # CO-0078-06-00-02 to Otto Andl of the Colorado River Center Inc. to include overnight camping at Cottonwood and Lyons Gulch during the high water flows between July 1 – August 31, 2011.

This action also includes Additional Special Stipulations. (See Attachment B.)

Land Use Plan Conformance: The proposed action is subject to, and has been reviewed for, conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3).

Name of Plan: Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Glenwood Springs Resource Area

Date Approved: January, 1984; revised in 1988; amended in November 1991 - Oil and Gas Leasing and Development - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended Nov. 1996 - Colorado Standards and Guidelines; amended in August 1997 - Castle Peak Travel Management Plan; amended in March 1999 - Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended in November 1999 - Red Hill Plan Amendment; and amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance.

Decision Number/Page: pages 5, 34

Decision Language: The action is in conformance with "Administrative Actions" of the RMP, which approves the "issuance of permits for ...competitive and commercial recreation activities." The action is also in conformance with the Recreation Resource Management Objective Page 34: "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."

B. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11, Appendix 4, Number H. Recreation Management.

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 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.

EXCLUSIONS	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
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
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
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
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
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
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
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

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	ACEC, Special Status Plants, Vegetation
Brian Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, Special Status Wildlife Species
Monte Senor	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-native Species
Kimberly Miller	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recreation
Carole Huey	Realty Specialist	Lands and Realty
John Russell	NEPA Coordinator	NEPA

REMARKS/MITIGATION (the following mitigations will be carried forward within the permit under Special Conditions:

Additional Stipulations (Attachment B) will also be added to the permit. The permittee will sign these when they sign the permit amendment.

DECISION AND RATIONALE:

I considered this action and determined that it may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

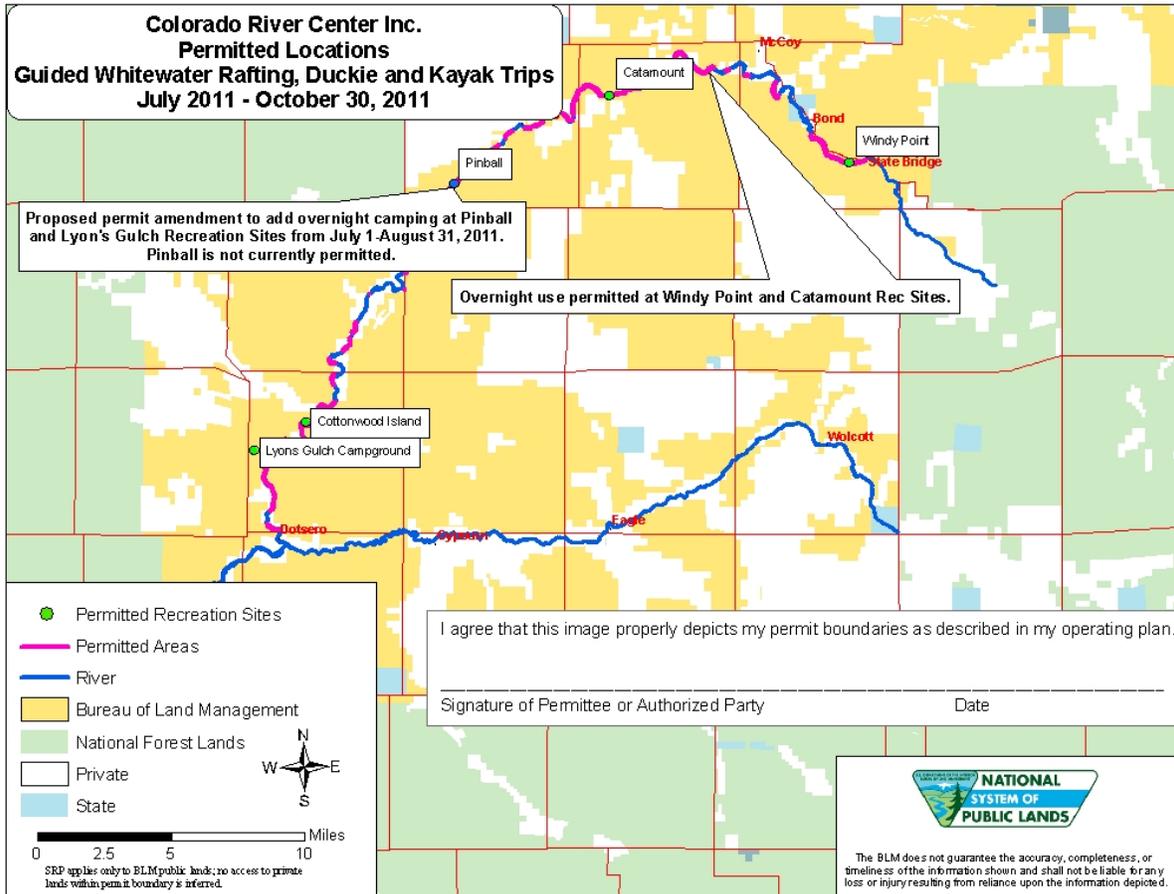
C. Signature

Authorizing Official:  Date: 7-6-2011
Matthew Thorburn
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Kimberly Miller, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652, (970) 876-9075.

Attachment A



Attachment B

**SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT AMENDMENT
CO-078-04-00-02
COLORADO RIVER CENTER INC.**

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL STIPULATIONS

Use authorized under this permit amendment will be subject to standard SRP terms, conditions and stipulations and the special stipulations described below:

1. This permit amendment is issued for July 1 – Aug. 31, 2011 only. It is revocable at the discretion of the BLM, at any time upon notice.
2. Overnight camping at Pinball and Lyon's Gulch Recreation Sites is only approved for high water flows. High water is defined as any flows higher than 5500 cfs on the Colorado River at the Colorado River near Kremmling gauge.

Date

Permittee