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**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.:

Number: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2010-0034-CX-Round Up Riders of the Rockies

Proposed Action Title/Type: Round Up Riders of the Rockies Trail Ride

Location of Proposed Action: T. 11 N., R. 80 W., Sec. 11, 14;
T. 11 N., R. 81 W., Sec. 2;
T. 12 N., R. 81 W., Sec. 22, 26, 27, 34, 35; 6th P.M.

Description of Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would authorize the Roundup Riders of the Rockies (RRR) to conduct an organized group horseback trail ride of up to 150 participants on BLM-administered lands within the Independence Mountain area. The RRR is an organization that prides itself in and is dedicated to the perpetuation of the western tradition associated with the relationship between the American cowboy and his horse. This group is strongly dedicated to the promotion, advancement and prosperity of the State of Colorado and Rocky Mountain West, and the preservation and utilization of our public lands and trails for the benefit of all citizens. The RRR has a lengthy history of cooperatively working with the BLM and USFS on their annual group ride within Colorado.

The event would be permitted between July 17, 2010 and July 21, 2010. The Independence Mountain area is currently designated as "Open" for Motorized and non-motorized cross-country travel. The first segment of the horseback rides on BLM-administered lands would take place on July 17 when the RRR group would utilize existing maintained and primitive roads to reach USFS administered lands in Wyoming. The RRR would continue their event in Wyoming, riding and camping on private and USFS lands for four nights. The second segment on BLM-administered lands would take place on July 21 when the RRR would utilize the same maintained and primitive roads with .75 mile and .25 mile alternative routes to return to their initial base camp on private lands. The .75 mile and .25 mile alternative routes would also be along existing primitive roads. Use between July 18 to July 20 would be authorized along the same proposed route in the event a participant had to return to the initial base camp.

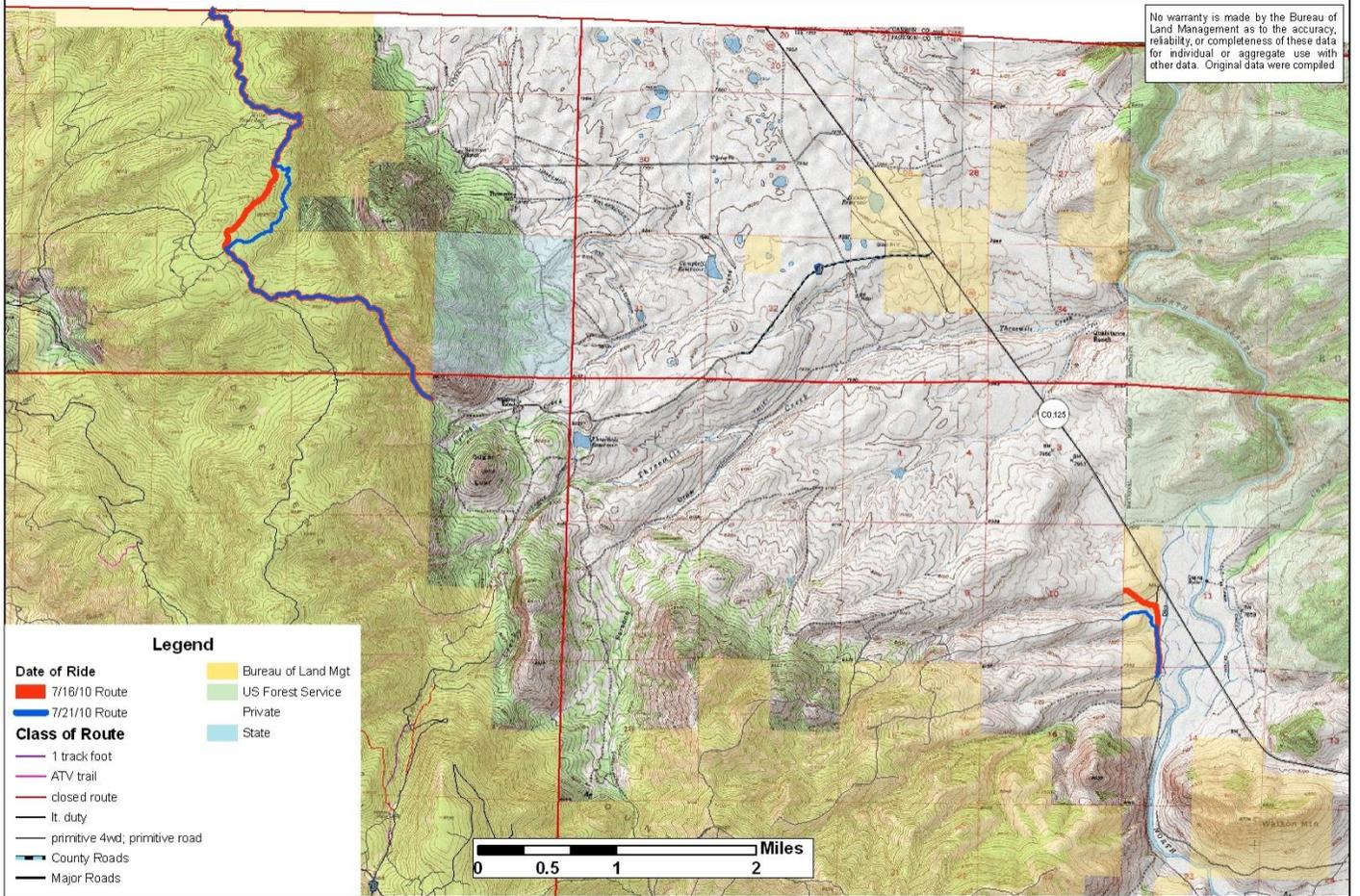
RRR proposes to use the existing maintained and primitive roads with stops in the case of emergency or to ensure all the participants are present. All horses would be fed on private lands, and may be watered on public land if surface, stream or stock pond water is available. In the event the group needs to stop, horses may be tied for a brief time to live trees. Qualified medical personnel would be present in the event of an emergency. Satellite phones would be carried by the RRR guides at all times to contact emergency services if necessary.



Round Up Riders of the Rockies 2010



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled



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

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions(s):

Decision Number/Page: Decision Number II B 7a/ Page 11

Decision Language: a. Objective. “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 that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

Other routes than those proposed were not identified as alternatives since the proposal is along existing routes that would not have new disturbance. A section of the proposed trail ride would be on Independence Mountain Road 2504. The Proposed Action is along routes currently utilized by full size vehicles and off- highway vehicles. Several sections of the proposed route are heavily used during hunting season.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
John Monkouski	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation	3/14/10

DECISION RECORD
CX# DOI-BLM-CO-120-2010-0034-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 extraordinary circumstances do not preclude the use of a categorical exclusion. Therefore, the proposed action is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

RATIONALE: The proposed action to issue an authorization to The Roundup Riders of the Rockies (RRR) to conduct an organized group horseback trail ride for up to 150 participants on BLM administered lands was chosen as there would be no new ground disturbance and all activities are along existing BLM and county roads. The campsites are in areas that have been previously used as campsites.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ David Stout

DATE SIGNED: 7/12/2010