

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-0089 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: SRP High Creek Outfitters – Hunting in Game Management Unit 581

PLANNING UNIT: Gold Belt, Sub-region #5

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Fremont County, Park County, Teller County Sixth P.M.,
T.15 S., R.71 W., Sec 31, 32, 34
T.16 S., R.71 W., Sec 3, 4, 5, 6

APPLICANT: Timothy Koehn, High Creek Outfitters

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

High Creek Outfitters is applying for renewal of a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for commercial guided Big Game Hunting of deer and elk. The Proposed Action is to renew the SRP for High Creek Outfitters for a term of up to ten years. Guided hunting would occur on BLM land within the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Game Management Unit (GMU) 581 (map 1).

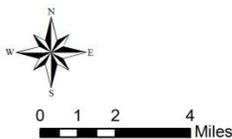
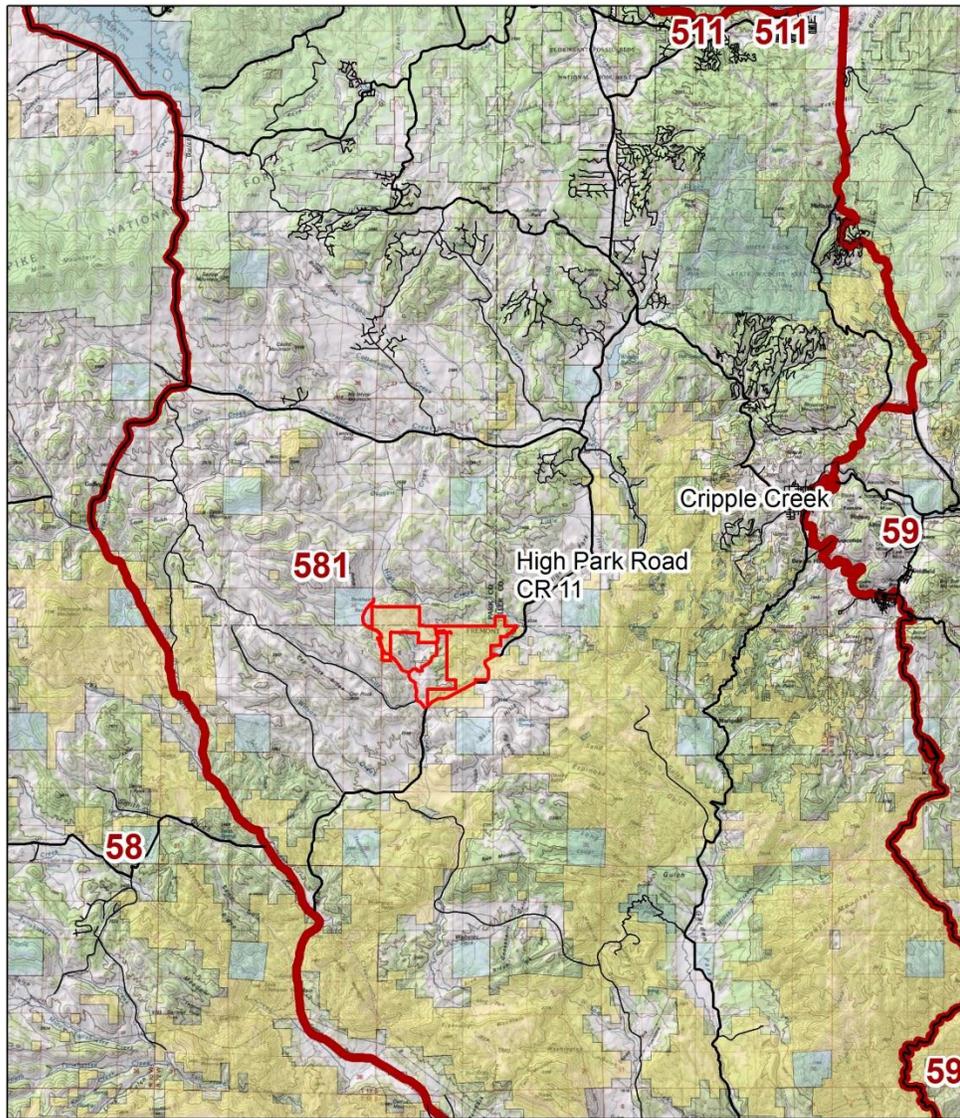
The Proposed Action would authorize guided hunting on the BLM area shown in map 2. The adjacent private land is approximately 5000 acres and owned by Carol Adamic and Laura Nash. The land is leased by High Creek Outfitters for the purpose of guided Big Game Hunting (BGH).

Authority to issue SRPs is found in BLM Handbook H-2930-1 and 43 CFR Part 2930. Issuing an SRP is a discretionary action with final approval by the authorized officer. Applications may be denied based upon factors such as non-compliance with land use plans or designations; a moratorium on permits issued as part of a planning process; the results of an environmental analysis; other resource values; an allocation system; public health and safety concerns; applicant's past performance; or the inability of the managing office to issue, manage, and monitor the proposed use.

The Proposed Action is for day use hunting. Hunters will camp or be lodged on private land or other accommodations. High Creek Outfitters has held a BLM permit for the past six years with an acceptable compliance history. Field compliance is checked by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife District Wildlife Manager (DWM). The DWM has never had any issues with High Creek Outfitters to date.

The outfitter will have a current outfitter's license issued by the State of Colorado. The outfitter and all guides will have current First Aid and CPR training. Guides will carry phones, radios or similar devices for communication in case of emergency. The outfitter and their clients access game on foot or horseback. Motorized travel is limited to the Private access routes shown on map 2 only.

Map 1 Overview Map of GMU 581

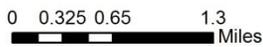
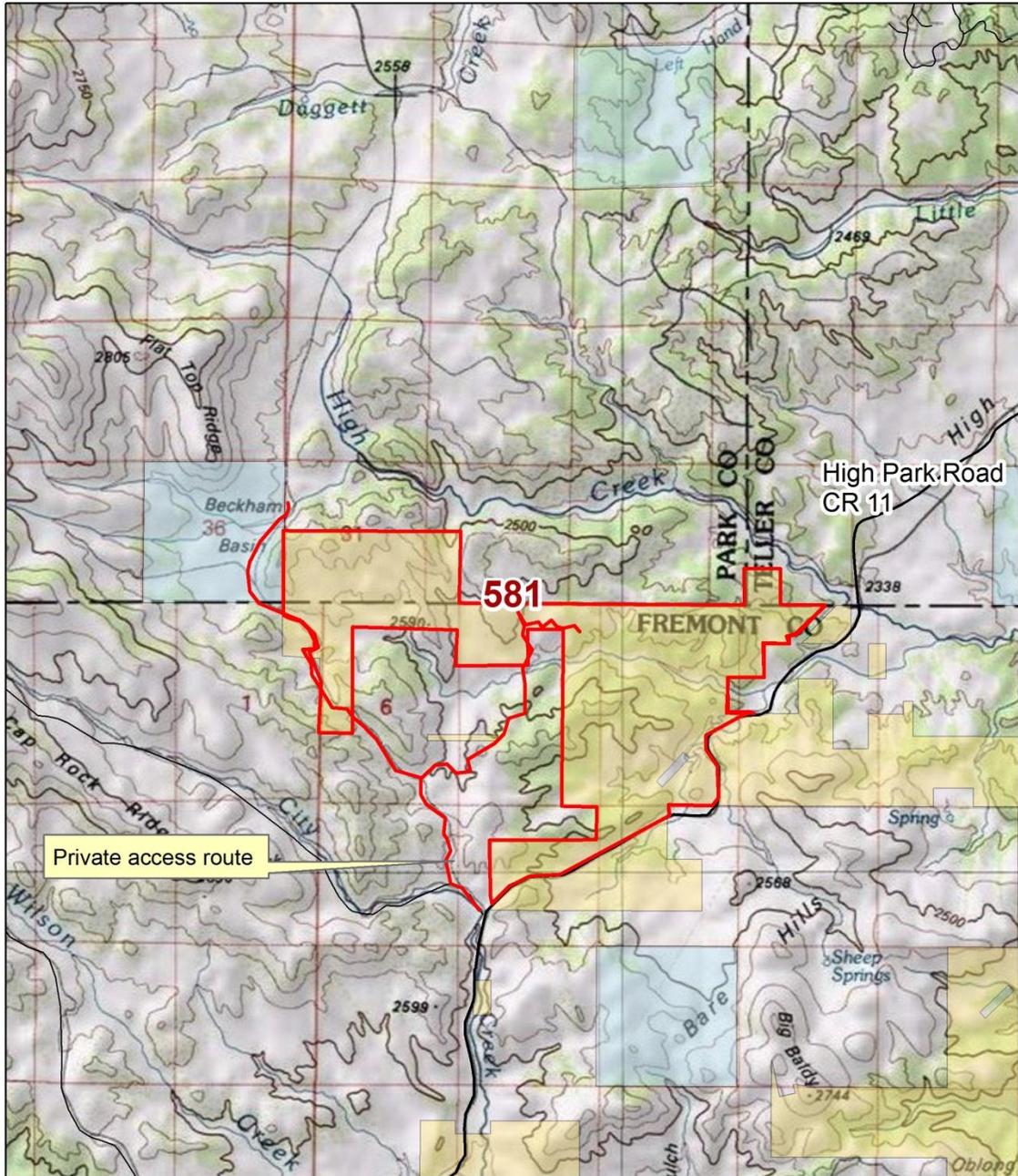


GMU 581
DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-0089 CX



NOTE TO MAP USERS
No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.

Map 2 Area outlined is proposed hunting area within GMU 581



SRP High Creek Outfitters
GMU 581

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T.15 S., R.71 W., Sec 31, 32, 34
T.16 S., R.71 W., Sec 3, 4, 5, 6



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PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 05/13/96

Decision Number: 5-86

Decision Language:

5-86 Recreation will be managed to provide for a variety of recreational opportunities and settings, additional opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, off-highway vehicle use, interpretation, and horseback riding.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11.9H (1). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion Criteria	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; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; 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.		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.		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.		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.		X
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INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 8/29/2013
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	CC, 8/26/2013
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 08/26/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG,08/26/2013
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	-----
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	MJS, 09/12/2013
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 8/28/13
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	mw for TW, 8/27
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 8/28/13
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 8/29/2013
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 8/26/13
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 8/27/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 8/26/13
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
	Realty Specialist	Realty	
Steve Craddock	Realty Specialist	Realty	SRC, 9/11/2013
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	-----
Bob Hurley	Fire Management Officer	Fire	

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Because of the dispersed nature of the undertaking, no specific impacts to historic properties are likely to occur. Therefore, no cultural resources inventory is necessary.

