

**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-200-2013-0058 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Recreation SRP – Loco Mountain hunting

PLANNING UNIT: Arkansas River Subregion #1, Collegiate/ Sangre #2, Badger Creek #3, Gold Belt #5, Waugh Mountain/ Tallahassee #6, Grape Creek #7

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Fremont County, Custer County

APPLICANT: Jim Flynn, Loco Mountain Outfitters

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Loco Mountain Outfitters is applying for renewal of their Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for deer, elk, bear, antelope, mountain lion and bighorn sheep. The Proposed Action is to renew the SRP for commercial guided hunting by Loco Mountain Outfitters for five years. The hunting would occur on BLM land within the Colorado Parks and Wildlife hunting units shown in the maps below. Map 1 shows the Game Management Unit (GMU) for Big Game. Map 2 shows Bighorn Sheep Units.

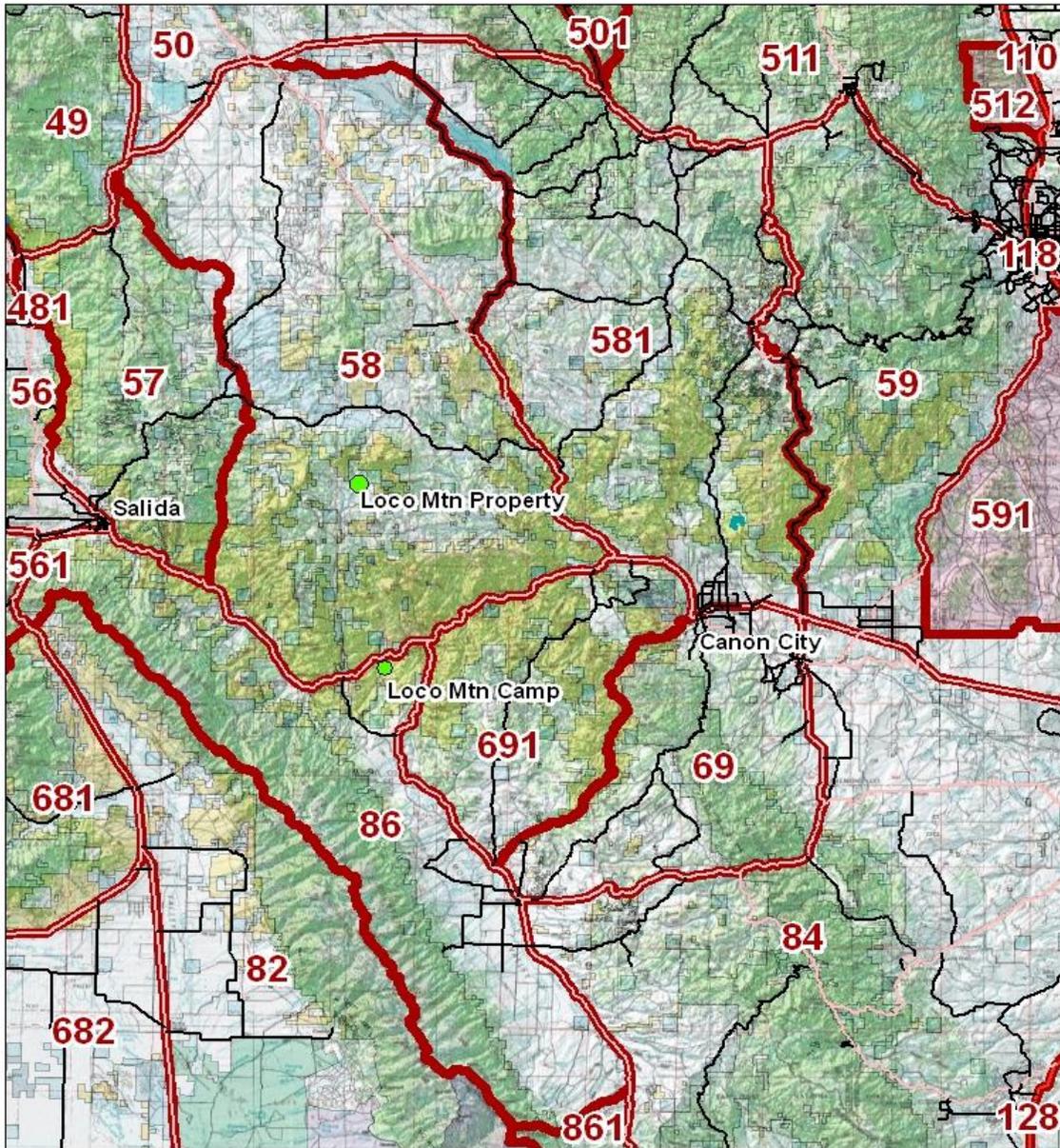
Authority to issue SRPs is found in BLM Handbook H-2930-1 and 43 CFR Part 2930. Issuing an SRP is a discretionary action with final approval by the authorized officer. Applications may be denied based upon factors such as non-compliance with land use plans or designations; a moratorium on permits issued 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 would be lodged at Loco Mountain Outfitters base camp located near McCoy Gulch. Loco Mountain Outfitters has held a BLM permit for the past ten years with an acceptable compliance history. Field compliance is checked by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife District Wildlife Manager. They are consulted before the Annual Operating Authorization is issued.

The outfitter will have a current outfitter's license issued by the State of Colorado. The outfitter and their clients access game on foot. Guides must follow all travel management designations

when using motorized vehicles. Where designations do not exist they are limited to traveling on existing roads only with motor vehicles. Guides will carry phones, radios or similar devices for communication in case of emergency.

Map 1 Proposed Use for SRP renewal in GMU 57, 58, 581, 59, 69, 691, 86



**SRP Loco Mountain hunting areas in
GMU 57, 58, 59, 69, 86, 581, 691**



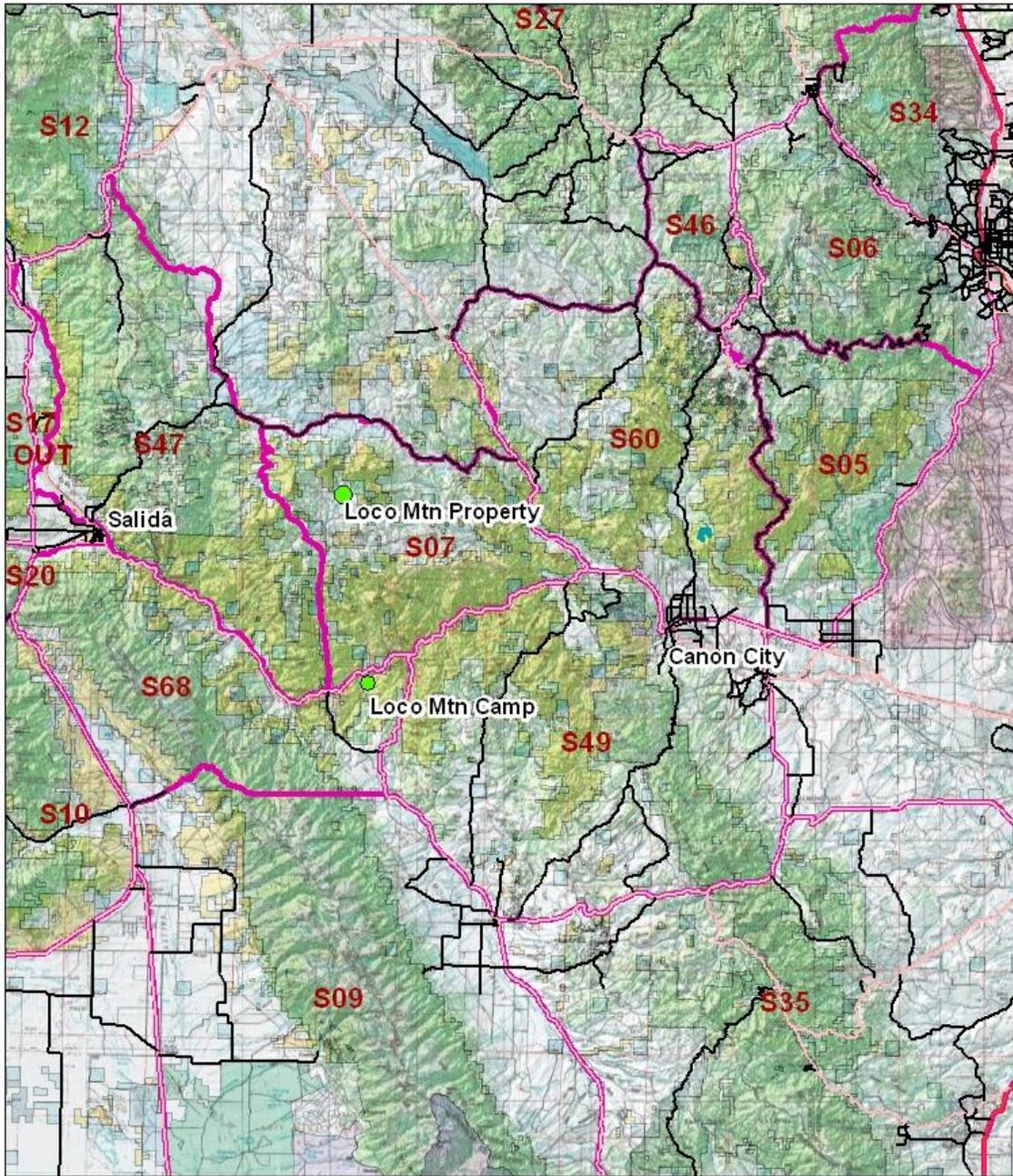
0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles

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NOTE TO MAP USERS:
No warranty 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 provider should be checked or cross-checked on any specific tract of land.

Map 2 Proposed Use for Bighorn Sheep hunting in S47, S07, S60, S05, S49, S68



SRP Loco Mountain hunting areas in
BH Sheep Units S05, S07, S47, S60, S49, S68



0 3.25 6.5 13
Miles

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PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 05/13/96

Decision Number: 1-82, 2-71, 3-63, 5-86, 6-69, 7-76

Decision Language:

Recreation will be managed to provide for a variety of recreational opportunities and settings.

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, 4/16/2013
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	JW, 4/16/13
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	CC, 4/18/13
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 04/19/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 4/16/13
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SSC, 4/18/13
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	-----
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 4/15/2013
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	n/a
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 4/19/13
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 4/19/2013
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 4/19/13
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 4/17/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 4/16/13
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Vera Matthews	Realty Specialist	Realty	vm, 5/2/2013
Steve Craddock	Realty Specialist	Realty	-----
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	SC, 5/16/13
Bob Hurley	Fire Management Officer	Fire Management	BH, 4/16/2013

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Because of the limited nature of the impacts of the undertaking, the risk of effects to historic properties is extremely low. Therefore, no cultural resources inventory is necessary.

Native American Religious Concerns: Because no cultural resources inventory has been performed for this undertaking, it is not known with certainty whether any traditional or sacred cultural properties are present on the relevant acreage. However, an inventory will be conducted before initiation of any undertakings that might affect sites of concern to Native Americans.

Forest Management: In FY12 a BLM recreation staff found where bristlecone pine transplants had recently been dug on BLM lands. Upon investigation by the BLM forester it was determined that Jim Flynn had allowed a local transplant harvest to dig trees on his land, which unintentionally crossed onto BLM lands. Jim was fairly confident of a property corner and thought BLM had made a mistake. The BLM forester and LEO met with Jim on site to investigate this boundary discrepancy. There was an old fence line that ran across the ridge top and the brass cap that Jim had assumed was his boundary. The brass cap was determined to be a Project Marker from the 1950's after further examination. Jim was issued a warning and informed that his land was 300 feet downhill and not the ridge top or old fence line. No known forestry related problems with Jim have occurred since.

Threatened and Endangered Species: The proposed action will result in a no effect to threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Linda Skinner

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Melissa K.S. Garcia

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 5/21/13

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

/s/ Keith E. Berger
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 5/21/13