

**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-F02-2014-0014 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: SRP Motorcycle Trials in North Booger Area

PLANNING UNIT: Gold Belt, Sub-region #5

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T.15S. R.70 W., Sections 18, 19;
T.15S. R.71 W., Section 13

APPLICANT: Larry Lund, Rocky Mountain Trials Association (RMTA)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Rocky Mountain Trials Association (RMTA) has requested that North Booger area be used for motorcycle trials competitive events. The Proposed Action would authorize one motorcycle trials event per year to occur in North Booger (see Map 1 & 2) with a Special Recreation Permit (SRP). The Proposed Action would authorize RMTA and other permitted organizations to use the area.

The trials events are a “non-speed” competition involving precision turning and low speed maneuvering of a motorcycle over natural terrain obstacles. Approximately 40-90 participants compete individually in designated sections of the area marked for the participant and for spectators. These sections are located in rocky areas. North Booger area has access to the rocky sections via designated routes that limit off road travel between the sections. Participants will use the designated routes to access section areas. Use of the area is non-exclusive; public access will not be blocked.

Trials events may include instructor-led training days prior to the two day competitive event. Training days would only occur within one week prior to the competitive event. Events will typically be held on weekends between April and September, limited to one event per year. Proposed dates for the competitive event will be submitted to the BLM annually, before March 31.

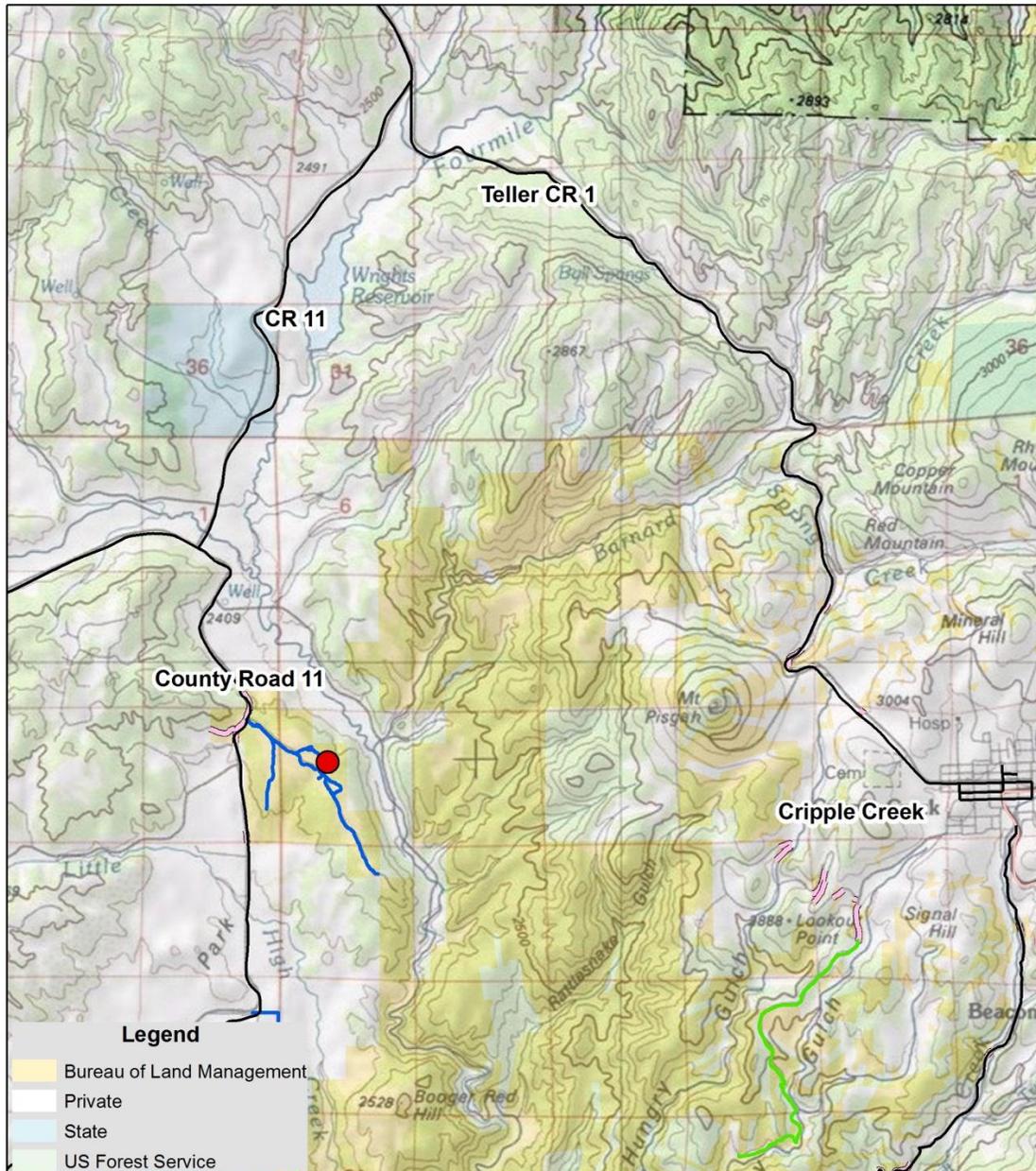
The event organizer will provide portable toilets, trash cans and water for the event. Flagging must be removed and clean-up will be done within 48 hours after the event. Permittee will manage parking of campers and trailers to stay within 100 feet of the designated routes.

Compliance with the standard stipulations for permitted activities and additional standard stipulations for competitive and off-highway vehicle events is required. Event monitoring will be done by BLM to document adherence to stipulations.

If the project involves oil or fuel usage, transfer or storage, an adequate spill kit and shovels are required to be onsite during events. The project proponent will be responsible for adhering to all applicable local, State and Federal regulations in the event of a spill, which includes following the proper notification procedures in BLM's Spill Contingency Plan.

Authority to issue SRP's 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.

Map 1 North Booger Proposed area for trials events

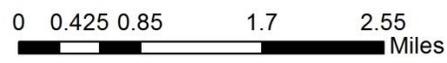


Legend

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State
- US Forest Service

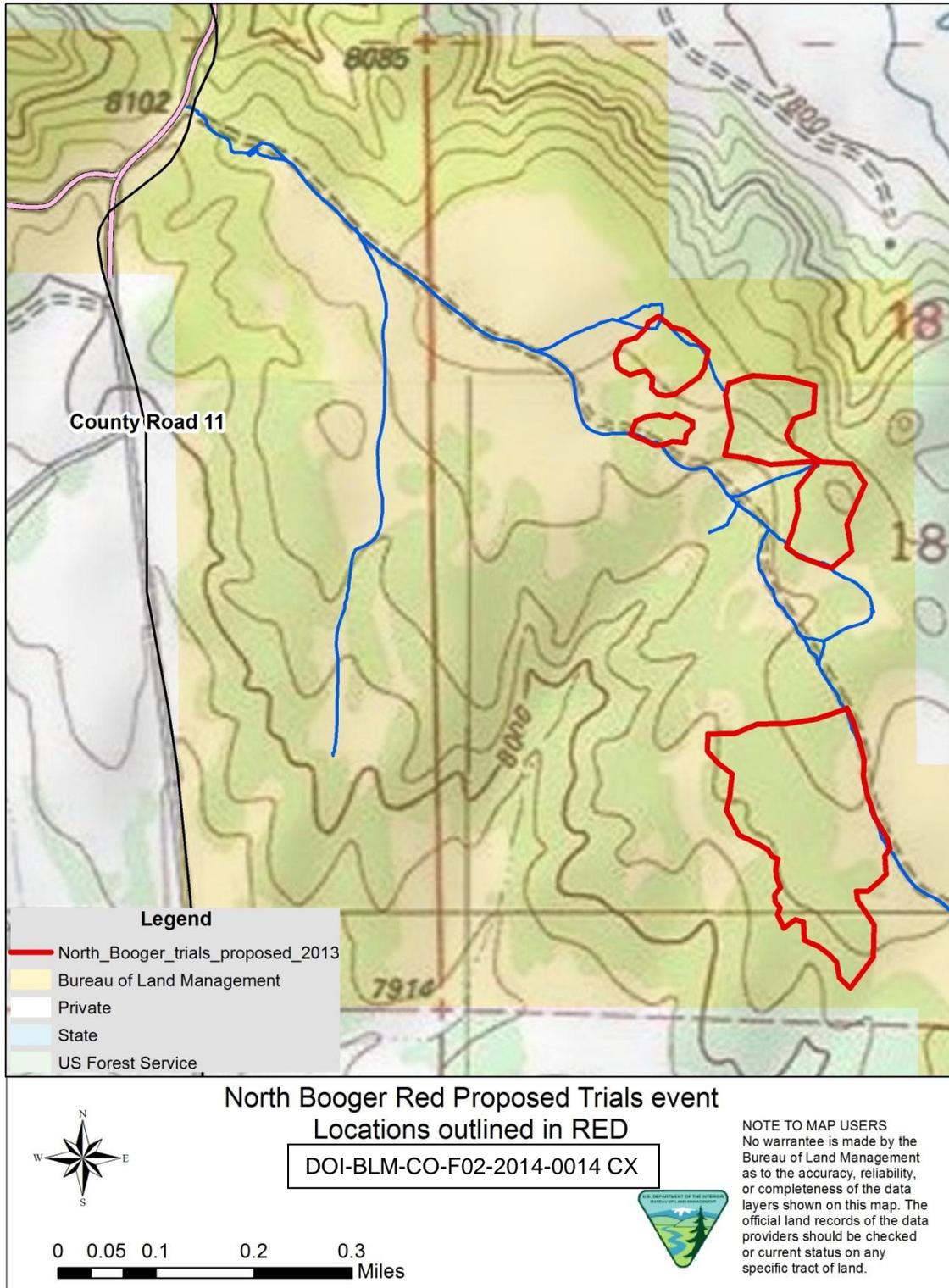
**North Booger Red Proposed Trials event
RED dot shows location**

DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2014-0014 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 North Booger Proposed Trials Event section locations



PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 05/13/96

Decision Number: 5-86, 5-90

Decision Language:

5-86 Recreation will be managed to provide for a variety of recreational opportunities and settings, additional opportunities for off-highway vehicle use

5-90 various actions will occur to enhance recreation: upland recreation opportunities emphasizing a balance between resource protection and tourism

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

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 12/31/13
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	CC, 1/8/2014
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 12/27/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 12/27/13
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	-----
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	MJS, 1/02/2014
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 12/26/13
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	TW, 12/26/13
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 2/5/2014
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 1/2/2014
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 1/6/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MDT 1/6/14
Greg Valladares	Realty Specialist	Realty	GDV, 05/06/2014
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	-----
TBD Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Fire	TW, 12/26/13

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-13-020 (P)]. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

Migratory Birds: To be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and USFWS required by Executive Order 13186, BLM must avoid actions, where possible, that result in a “take” of migratory birds. Pursuant to BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-050, to reduce impacts to Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), no habitat disturbance (removal of vegetation such as timber, brush, or grass) is allowed during the periods of May 15 - July 15, the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado migratory birds. The provision will not apply to completion activities in disturbed areas that were initiated prior to May 15 and continue into the 60-day period.

An exception to this timing limitation will be granted if nesting surveys conducted no more than one week prior to vegetation-disturbing activities indicate no nesting within 30 meters (100 feet) of the area to be disturbed. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified breeding bird surveyor between sunrise and 10:00 a.m. under favorable conditions.

Wastes, Hazardous or Solid: If the project involves oil or fuel usage, transfer or storage, an adequate spill kit and shovels are required to be onsite during project implementation. The project proponent will be responsible for adhering to all applicable local, State and Federal regulations in the event of a spill, which includes following the proper notification procedures in BLM’s Spill Contingency Plan.

Range Management: Authorized grazing use is scheduled as follows – 50 cattle, 5/1 to 6/15 OR 9/1 to 10/15. There is a gate going into this pasture from County Road 11 which may be easier to leave open for the event. Consider scheduling the event outside of the authorized season of use if possible. Otherwise, include a stipulation that the gate needs to be closed if there are cattle in the pasture and not to “harass” or “chase” the cattle. Prior to the event, contact the Rangeland Management Specialist so the grazing permittee can be notified.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Linda Skinner

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Melissa K.S. Garcia

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 5/13/14

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: 5/13/14