

**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-200-2014-0030 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: SRP- Mountain Bike tours- Badger Creek

PLANNING UNIT: Badger Creek Subregion #3

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Colorado, Fremont County,
New Mexico Principle Meridian,
T. 51 N., R.10 E., sec. 13, SE1/4 SE1/4;
sec. 24, NE1/4 NE1/4. – camping
T. 51 N., R.10 E., secs. 13, and 24.
T. 51 N., R.11 E., secs. 19, and 32.
T. 50 N., R.11 E., secs. 5, 8, 21, 22 and 27.
T. 49 N., R.11 E., sec. 2.
T. 49 N., R.12 E., secs. 7, and 18.
T. 48 N., R.11 E., sec. 1.
T. 48 N., R.12 E., secs. 7, 18, 19, and 30. - bicycle

APPLICANT: Brandon Slate, Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center (RMOC)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center (RMOC) has applied to renew an activity on their commercial Special Recreation Permit (SRP). The Proposed Action would allow the above applicant to conduct a guided bicycle ride with an overnight dispersed camping stop in Badger Creek. Refer to Map 1 for the route of the guided bicycle ride and the camping location, north of Cotopaxi, CO.

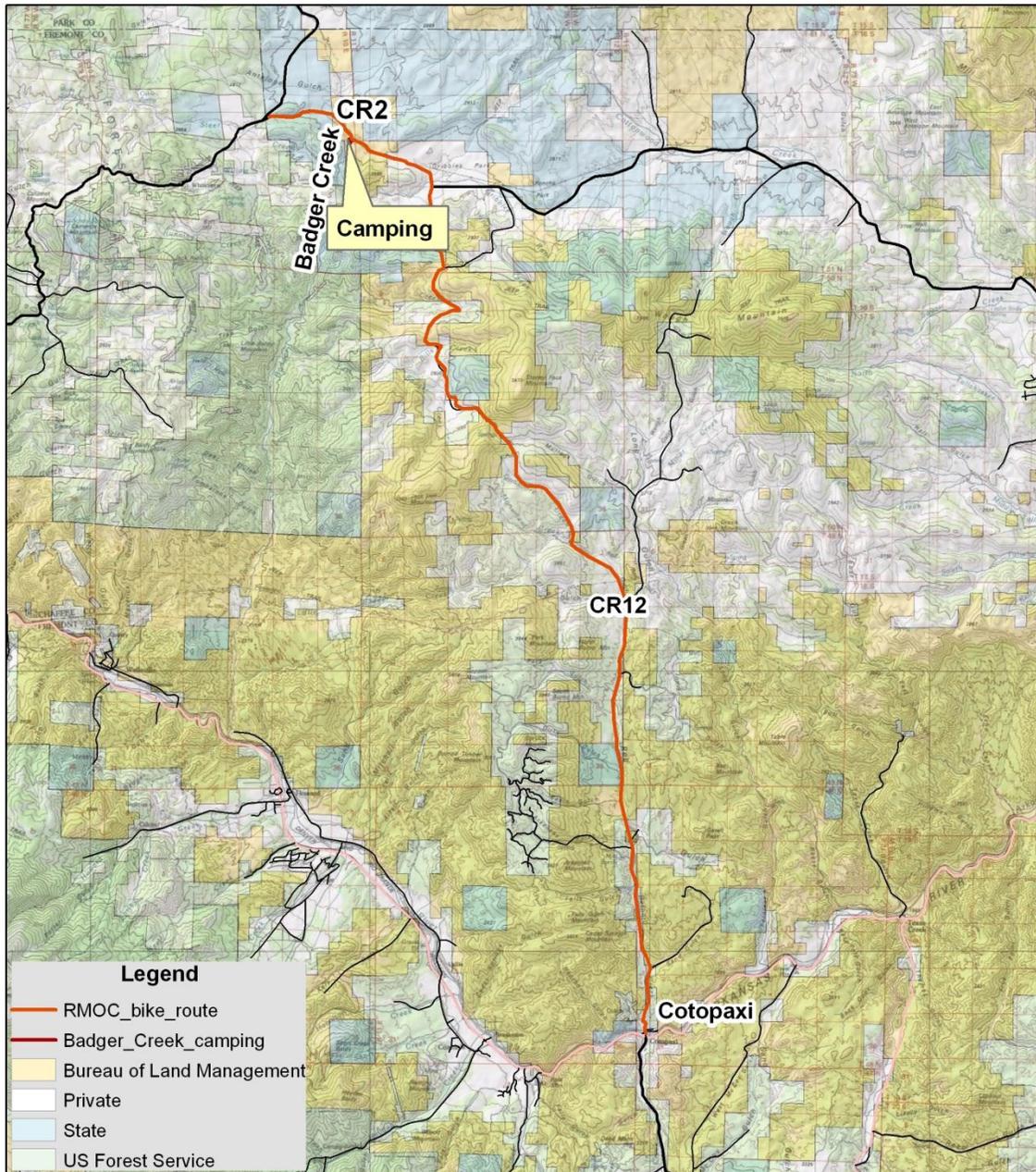
Authority to issue SRPs is found in BLM SRP Handbook H-2930-1 and 43 CFR Part 2930. Issuing an SRP is a discretionary action with final approval by the authorized officer. Applications may be denied based upon factors such as non-compliance with land use plans or designations; a moratorium on permits 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 bicycle route begins on Forest Service and passes through BLM along County Road (CR) 2 and CR 12 as shown on map 2 below. The Proposed Action would authorize one night of camping on BLM during the 3 day bicycle ride. Group size would be a maximum of 24 including one guide per 7 clients. A sweep vehicle will accompany the group and carry supplies. The dispersed campsite is accessed from CR 2.

Use of BLM public land is non-exclusive. If this location were in use, the group would share the site. A parking area is defined by fencing to contain motorized travel. The group would camp within the area defined by the red line on map 2 and would set up a maximum of 10 tents. Leave No Trace practices will be used to minimize impacts. All food and trash will be packed out of the site. Cooking will be accomplished using camp stoves. Open fires may be prohibited during periods of extremely high fire hazard by order of the BLM, the applicable county or State of Colorado. Gray water will be disposed of at least 200 feet from the stream. There are no waste facilities in Badger Creek. An additional stipulation requires the use of groovers, wag bags or similar portable facilities.

Compliance with the standard stipulations for all permits is required. The permitted activity will be monitored by the BLM for adherence to the stipulations. The Proposed Action would renew the SRP held by the above applicant if the performance review is met with an acceptable evaluation. The applicant has held an SRP for the past 8 years with acceptable compliance.

Map 1 Overview of bike route, camping on county roads



Location of Camping along Bicycle Route on County Roads and through BLM

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T.51N, R.10E Section 13, 24 - camping
see document for bicycling

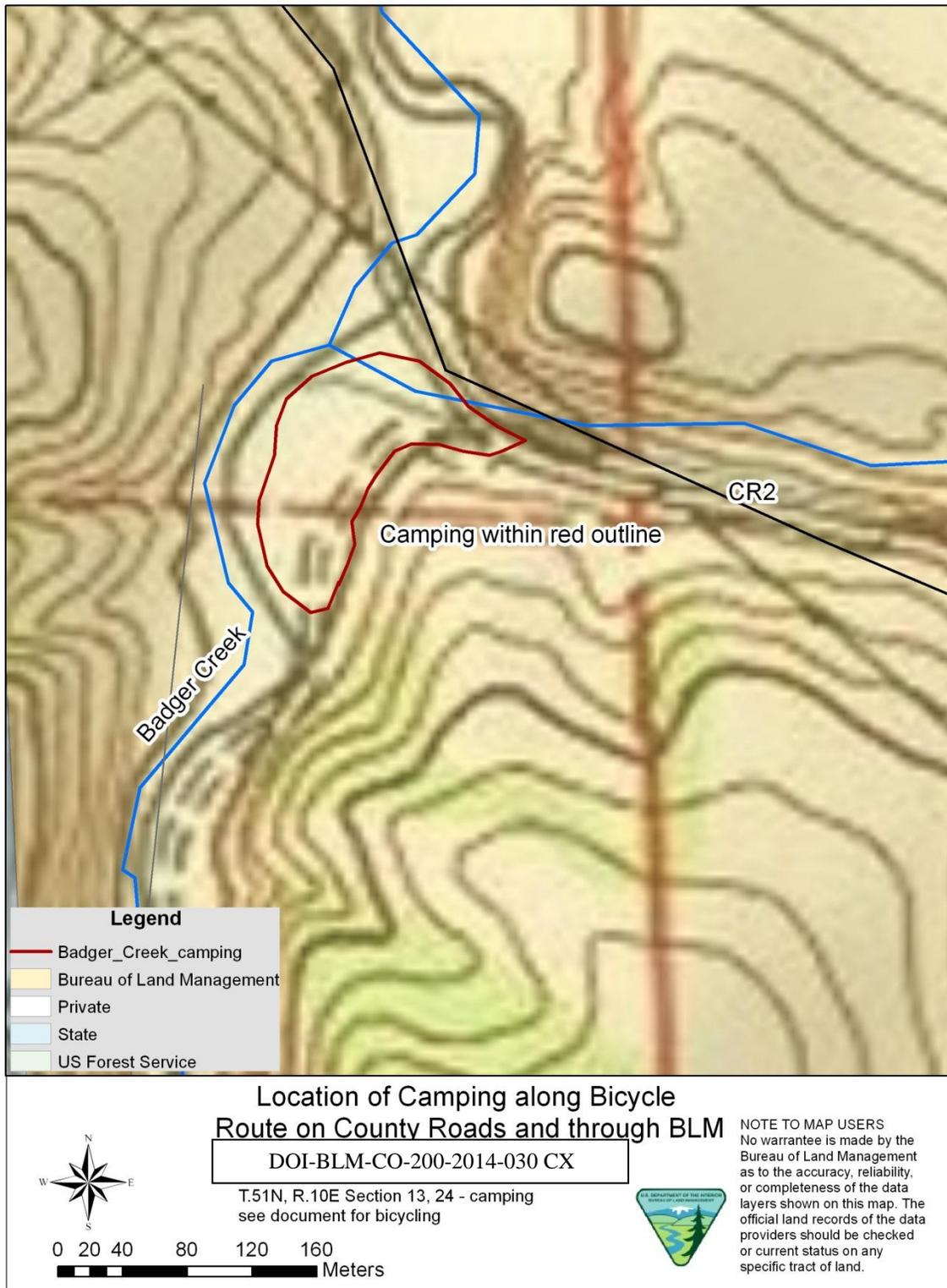


0 1,450 2,900 5,800 8,700 11,600
Meters



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 Proposed Camping location on CR2, SE1/4 SE1/4 of section 13 and NE1/4 NE1/4 of section 24



PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 5/13/1996

Decision Number: 3-63

Decision Language:

3-63: 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; facility development will be accomplished to reduce user conflicts and to improve visitor health and safety.

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.		
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, 2/26/2014
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	JW, 3/10/14
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 02/11/2014
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 02/12/14
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SC, 3/10/2014
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	-----
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 02/19/14
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	TW, 02/14/14
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 3/3/14
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 2/25/2014
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR 2/19/14
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 2/11/14
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Jay Raiford	Realty Specialist (Manager)	Realty	JMR 2/4/2014
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	SC 2/11/2014
Bob Hurley	Fire Management Officer	Fire	-----

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The Area of Potential Effects has only been partially inventoried for cultural resources [Reports CR-050-RG-99-85 (P) and CR-050-RG-94-56 (P)]. However, the uninventoried area involves a long segment of CR 12, and the proposed activity (bike riding on an existing county road) presents an extremely low risk of adversely affecting historic properties.

Although cultural resources were found near the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-94-56 (P), Site 5FN1200], no sites determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were found. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact 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: The proposed action will result in a no effect to threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Janine Prout

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Melissa K.S. Garcia

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 3/17/14

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: 3/17/14