

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
White River Field Office  
220 E Market St  
Meeker, CO 81641**

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-031-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:

PROJECT NAME: Barrett Special Recreation Permit (SRP) application

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T1N, R91W Sections 18, 19, 30

APPLICANT: Charles Barrett

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Charles Barrett has applied for a Special Recreation Permit to conduct commercial big game guided hunting operations on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the White River Field Office (WRFO) (see figure 1). The actions to be taken are the issuance of a new SPR for Charles Barrett. The intended period of use would be during big game archery and rifle hunting seasons (1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> season), generally mid-August through November of each year.

Charles Barrett is estimating a total of 152 client user days (42 days archery season, 30 days 1<sup>st</sup> rifle season, 30 days 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle season, 30 days 3<sup>rd</sup> rifle season, and 20 days 4<sup>th</sup> rifle season). It is anticipated that most of this hunting will take place on adjacent private lands. All use will be casual and dispersed in nature within the permitted areas only. No drop camps will be authorized with the issuance of these permits. A pick-up truck, sport utility vehicle, and a utility terrain vehicle may be used during this operation on existing roads. No horse or pack stock will be used.

The one of the two proposed BLM land parcels is adjacent to the White River National Forest (WRNF), Blanco Ranger District (BRD). The WRNF BRD was informed of this Proposed Action on 01/08/2013. The Proposed Action was discussed with project lead, Aaron Grimes, and the WRNF BRD had no issues or concerns with this proposed action.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) the following plan:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-43

Decision Language: “Special recreation permits (SRPs) will be issued to qualified guides and outfitters based on need and demand for services.”

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, H1: “*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).*”

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; 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
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the		X

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
physical integrity of such sacred sites.		
l) 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 REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the WRFO interdisciplinary team on 01/08/2013. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the WRFO. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Wolfe	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	1/10/2013
Laura Dixon	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	1/09/2013
Baili Foster	Ecologist Intern	Special Status Plant Species	1/08/2013

REMARKS:

*Cultural Resources:* A file search of the WRFO cultural files and the History Colorado Compass data base reveals that no known cultural resources are located within the BLM parcels of land proposed to be utilized as part of the permit. Site density in the general surrounding area is relatively low. Since the proposed use is non-intrusive in nature and only existing roads will be utilized, there will be no adverse effect to historic properties.

*Native American Religious Concerns:* No Native American religious concerns are known in the area.

*Special Status Wildlife Species:* There are no special status wildlife species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

*Special Status Plant Species:* There are no special status plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

MITIGATION:

Although no historic properties are known to exist within the proposed project area there always is always the possibility for new discoveries of cultural resources. Therefore, the following stipulations must be followed by the Special Recreation Permit holder:

1. The permit holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts. If archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the WRFO staff before, during, and after the permitted seasons. The applicants will be placed on a probationary status for a minimum of two consecutive years prior to the conversion of the permits to a 5-year status. Annual reviews will be conducted of each applicant's operations to insure compliance with the agreed upon terms, stipulations, and conditions of the permit. The WRFO recreation staff and law enforcement personnel will also conduct periodic, random on-site inspections of the permittee's operations to insure compliance. The issuance of these permits is discretionary and can be revoked by the WRFO Authorized Officer at any time.

NAME OF PREPARER: Aaron Grimes, BLM WRFO Outdoor Recreation Planner

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, H1. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

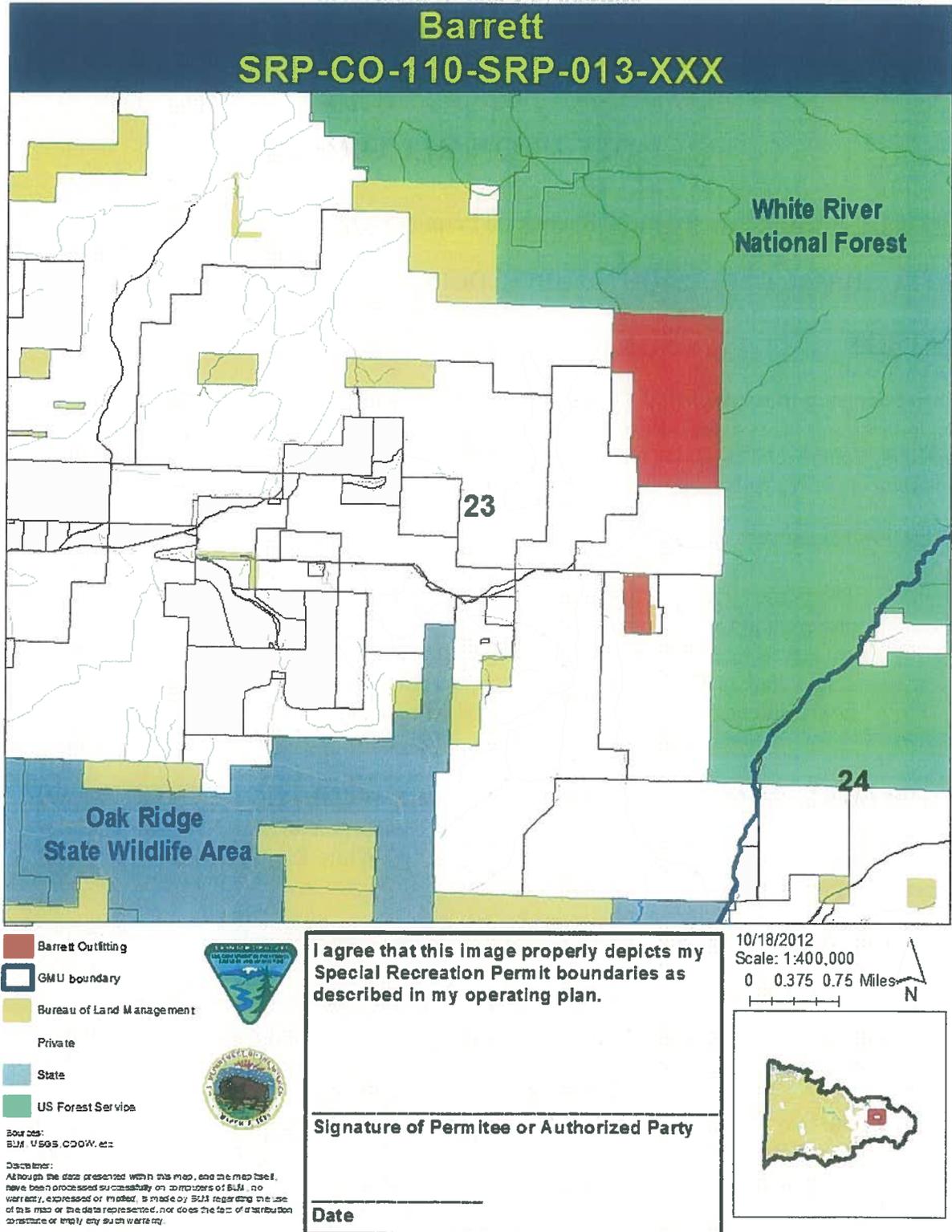
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 2/6/2013

ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1: Charles Barrett

Figure 1 : Charles Barrett- Big Game SPR map



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**DECISION RECORD**

**PROJECT NAME:** Barrett Special Recreation Permit (SRP) application

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-CO-2013-031-CX

**DECISION**

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2013-031-CX, authorizing the issuance of Special Recreation Permits to Charles Barrett for the purposes of conducting commercial big game guided hunting operations on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the White River Field Office (WRFO).

**Mitigation Measures:**

1. The permit holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts. If archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

**COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN**

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The BLM informed the public about this project by listing it on the online WRFO NEPA Register on 01/09/2013 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website. As of 02/06/2013, no comments or inquiries have been received.

The one of the two proposed BLM land parcels is adjacent to the White River National Forest (WRNF), Blanco Ranger District (BRD). The WRNF BRD was informed of this proposed action on 01/08/2013. The proposed action was discussed with project lead, Aaron Grimes, and the WRNF BRD had no issues or concerns with this proposed action.

**RATIONALE**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, H1. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

Process for Appeals

An appeal is an opportunity for a qualified party to obtain a review of a BLM decision by an independent board of Administrative judges within the Department of Interior’s Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). The IBLA determines whether the BLM followed applicable laws and regulations, adhered to established policies and procedures, and considered relevant information in reaching a decision.

Individuals, who believe they are adversely affected by a BLM decision to deny, modify or cancel a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) may appeal the decision. Appeals are made to the IBLA under Title 43 C.F.R., Part 4, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. §4.411. A person who wishes to appeal to the IBLA must file in the office of the officer who made the decision a notice that he wishes to appeal. “Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals” is enclosed for your convenience.

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:**

  
Acting Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:** 2/6/2013