

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Northeastern States District
Lower Potomac Field Station
LLES009200

Categorical Exclusion/Decision Record
for
Special Recreation Permit for
Spokes, Etc. & Specialized Bicycles Mountain Bicycle
Demo Day Event at Meadowood SRMA

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-ES-0920-2015-0014-CX

Date: April 2015

Type of Action: Lands & Realty

Serial Number: N/A

Location: Lower Potomac Field Station
Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, Virginia

Project Acreage: Existing mountain bicycling trails; side parking lot off Old Colchester Road and the open field at the top of the fire road through the gate (approximately 2.14 acres)

Proponents: Spokes, Etc. and Specialized Bicycles

Bureau of Land Management
Northeastern States District
Lower Potomac Field Station
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, Virginia 22079
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MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/DECISION RECORD

1. **Proponents:** Spokes, Etc. & Specialized Bicycles

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-ES-0920-2015-0014-CX

Project Name: Spokes Etc., and Specialized Bicycles Mountain Bike Demo Day Event at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

Case File Number: N/A

Location: Lower Potomac Field Station
Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, Virginia

Meadowood SRMA contains approximately 800 acres. The event activities will use the approximately 4 miles of existing mountain bike trails and an open field off Old Colchester Road for staging/parking, an area consisting of approximately 2.14 acres of the facility.

2. **BLM Field Office:** Eastern States, Northeastern States District, Lower Potomac Field Station, Lorton Virginia

3. **Description of Proposed Action:**

The proposed action is to approve a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for Spokes, Etc. and Specialized Bicycles to host a mountain bicycle demo event that would use a portion of the Meadowood SRMA managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Northeastern States District, Lower Potomac Field Station.

The SRP would allow the mountain bicycle demo event to take place at Meadowood SRMA on the recently developed mountain bicycle trails and open field off Old Colchester Road for staging/parking (see attached map).

Each year Spokes Etc., a Northern Virginia specialty bicycle retailer, with the support of the bicycle manufacturers that they represent (Trek Bicycles and Specialized Bicycles), holds an annual bicycle demo event. This year's event will be partnered with Specialized Bicycles. The purpose of this event is to allow the local cycling community to test ride a variety of the latest mountain bicycles on the mountain bicycle trails at Meadowood SRMA. The manufacturers provide a fleet of bicycles for the dealers to try out. These are higher cost bicycles not typically stocked by most dealers. The goal of the event is to influence sales to the local dealers after the demo event. No commercial transactions will take place at the event itself. Past events have been held at Wakefield Park and Fountainhead Regional Park in Fairfax County. Based on attendance at these events, organizers expect between 100-150 attendees at this year's event.

The event will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015. The times for the demo events are typically from 10:00 a.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m. Set up will start at 8:00 a.m. A propane grill will be used by a volunteer to cook food at the event.

The proposed action area will be the side parking lot off Old Colchester Road and the open field at the top of the fire road through the gate. The demo trailer that will house the fleet of bicycles will be parked in the open field. The field will also be used for parking by the approximately 100-150 people that are anticipated to attend the event.

4. Plan Conformance Review:

Land Use Plan Name: *Meadowood Farm Proposed Planning Analysis/Environmental Assessment* (2002, Decision Record approved March 2003).

The proposed action is in conformance with the above plan:

- “non-motorized passenger use of suitable, existing trails at Meadowood Farm would be allowed” (Chapter 4-19) and “in efforts to mitigate impacts, BLM would designate areas and times for non-motorized passenger trail use” (Chapter 4-20).

Additional guidance from the *Meadowood SRMA Integrated Activity Management Plan* (June 2004):

- “Non-motorized passenger use trail activities are defined as mountain biking and horse-drawn carriages and carts. These activities may be seasonal depending on trail conditions and will be restricted to designated areas and times to minimize user conflicts, safety issues, and resource degradation” (Page 10).
- “Mountain biking may be allowed at designated times and areas on Meadowood SRMA’s western parcel, based on demand for the activity and site conditions” (Page 10).

5. Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under NEPA in accordance with 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9 H. Recreation Management (Effective Date: May 8, 2008):

- 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).

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 516 DM 2 apply. See the attached CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation checklist.

6. Departmental Exceptions And Critical Resource Values Checklist:

The proposed action generally does not require the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA), or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as the proposal has been found to not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. The 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 would provide

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any exceptions apply in accordance with 516 DM and 43 CFR 46.15, and no exceptions were identified.

Prepared by: _____/s/_____ Date: 4/27/2015
Kurt J. Wadzinski
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Reviewed by: _____/s/_____ Date: 4/29/2015
Zachary Reichold
Lower Potomac Field Station Manager

References

Bureau of Land Management. (2002). *Meadowood Farm Proposed Planning Analysis/ Environmental Assessment*. Retrieved from http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/fo/Jackson_Home_Page/planning/southeastern_rmp/background_documents/meadowood_farm_pa-ea.html

Bureau of Land Management. (2004). *Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area Integrated Activity Management Plan Environmental Assessment*. Retrieved from <http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/es/meadowood/recreation.Par.55534.File.dat/Meadowood%20SRMA%20IAMP%20EA%20June%202004.pdf>

Taylor, et al. (2004). *Invasive Vegetative Species on Meadowood Farm, VA: Ecology, Inventory, and Management*. PAA-017026-03/0. George Mason University: Fairfax, VA.

DECISION

This action is covered by one of the Bureau of Land Management's categorical exclusions developed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The proposed action has been screened against Department of the Interior exceptions to the use of categorical exclusions and none of the exceptions apply. Therefore, neither an environmental impact statement nor an environmental assessment is necessary.

The proposed action is in conformance with the land use decisions approved in the *Meadowood Farm PA/EA* and the *Meadowood SRMA Integrated Activity Management Plan*, and will not involve any significant adverse environmental effects. The proposed action will have no effect on the President's Energy Policy and a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

I considered the fact that similar events of this nature have occurred in this area with no significant impacts. The open field that will be utilized as the staging/parking area will already be mowed prior to the event, as recommended by Taylor, et al. in *Invasive Vegetative Species on Meadowood Farm, VA: Ecology, Inventory, and Management* (2004). This will help to reduce the potential for fire and exposure to ticks by the participants. Fuel moistures are traditionally very high in May and the potential for wildfire will be low. Portable toilets will be brought in for use by attendees and zero trace policies will be used. Signs will be placed along the road to direct participants to the field and trails and warn other travelers of turning vehicles.

Authorizing Official:  _____ Date: 27 April 2015
District Manager
Northeastern States District

For more information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, please contact Zachary Reichold, Field Station Manager, Lower Potomac Field Station at 703-339-3461 or by e-mail at zreichold@blm.gov

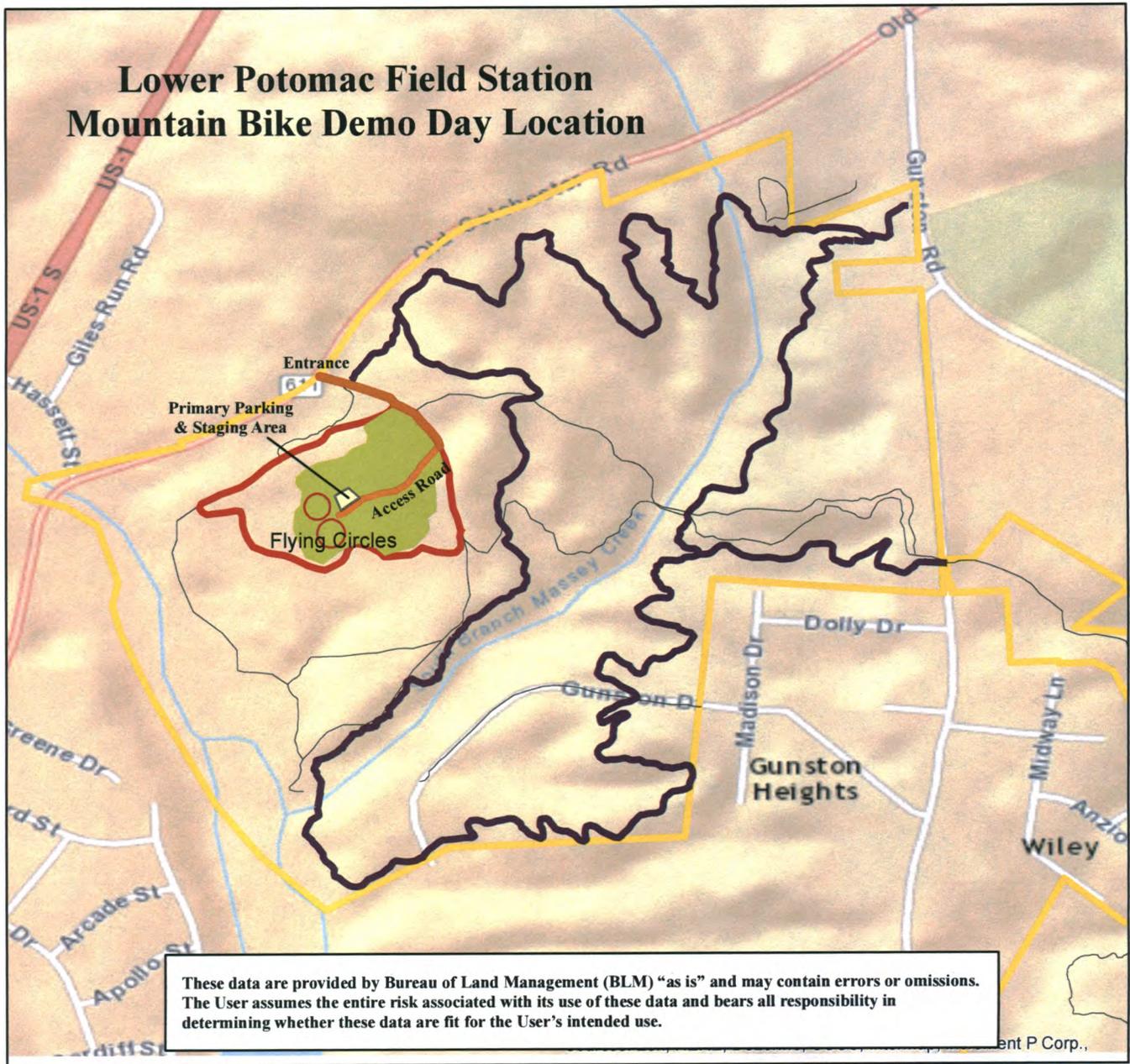
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES CHECKLIST

Extraordinary Circumstances		Comments
1.	<p>Have significant impacts on public health or safety.</p> <p>Rationale: The open field that will be utilized as the staging/parking area will be mowed prior to the event, in accordance with recommendations from the invasive vegetation species management study. This will help to reduce the potential for fire and exposure to ticks by the participants. Fuel moistures are traditionally very high in May and the potential for wildfire will be low. Portable toilets will be brought in for use by attendees and zero trace policies will be used. Signs will be placed along the road to direct participants to the field and warn other travelers of turning vehicles.</p>	No
2.	<p>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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.</p> <p>Rationale: There are no anticipated significant impacts to natural resources that would result from holding the event.</p> <p>If any cultural (historic/prehistoric site or object) and/or paleontological resource (fossil remains of plants or animals) were to be discovered during this event, it shall immediately be reported to the Field Station Manager or his designee. All operations in the immediate area of the discovery shall be suspended until written authorization to proceed is issued. An evaluation of the discovery shall be made by a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientifically important paleontological values.</p>	No
3.	<p>Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [National Environmental Policy Act Section 102(2)(E)].</p> <p>Rationale: There are no known controversial environmental effects and this action would not involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.</p>	No
4.	<p>Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.</p> <p>Rationale: The BLM does not expect this action would have any environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.</p>	No

5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
	Rationale: Authorizing a Special Recreation Permit does not set any precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Special Recreation Permits are issued at the manager's discretion and could be revoked for violations of the permit.	
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
	Rationale: Similar past activities had no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect.	
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.	No
	Rationale: There would be no effects on property listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because no such properties exist in the project area.	
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.	No
	Rationale: There are no known special status species or expected within the project area. There is no critical habitat within the project area, so there would be no effect on it.	
9.	Violate a Federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
	Rationale: The proposed action would not violate any laws because it conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands at Meadowood SRMA, which complies with all applicable laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and others.	
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No
	Rationale: The proposed action would have no effect on any low income or minority population.	
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 (Executive Order 13007).	No
	Rationale: The project would not affect sacred sites because all actions would occur on the mountain bicycling trails and the open field which are not on sacred sites. The project does not involve any limits on access, so there would be no effect on access to sacred sites.	
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 (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	No
	Rationale: The proposed activity would not introduce or spread noxious weeds or invasive species because riders would remain on the trails for the duration of the event. The field that will be utilized as the staging/parking area will be mowed prior to the event, in accordance with recommendations from the invasive vegetation species management study.	

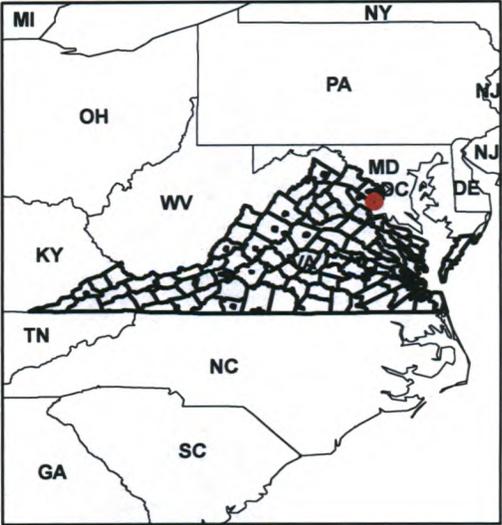
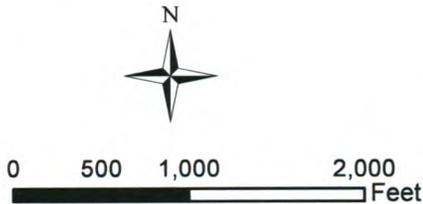
Map of Proposed Action Area

Lower Potomac Field Station Mountain Bike Demo Day Location



These data are provided by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "as is" and may contain errors or omissions. The User assumes the entire risk associated with its use of these data and bears all responsibility in determining whether these data are fit for the User's intended use.

- Turkey Meadow Loop
- South Branch Trail
- LPFS Trails
- Open Field
- LPFS Boundary





Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States, Lower Potomac Field Station

