



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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To: All Field Offices
Recreation, Planning and NEPA staff

From: Deputy State Director, Resources

Subject: Clarifying the Special Recreation Permit Categorical Exclusion

The purpose of this Information Bulletin (IB) is to clarify the term “Special Area” where it is used in the Special Recreation Permit Categorical Exclusion (CX). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) uses the term “special” in a variety of ways and this can create confusion for those attempting to determine when use of the Special Recreation Permit (SRP) CX is appropriate.

The CX states: 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).

“Special Area” in this context is defined as: designated by statute, Executive or Secretarial order, or by State Director special rulemaking authority or an area covered by joint agreement between the BLM and a state under Title II of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a et seq.). This does not include Recreation Management Areas (special or extensive) or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as neither of these designations meet the above definition. It does include wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, national scenic and historic trails, national monuments and national conservation areas.

Categorical Exclusion language to use when issuing SRPs can be found in H-1790-1, National Environmental Policy Act Handbook, Appendix 4, BLM Categorical Exclusions, under “H. Recreation Management”.

Questions regarding this IB should be directed to Robin Fehlau, Recreation and Visitor Services Program Lead (208) 373-3825.

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