

# U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2013-0004-EA  
February 6, 2013

## Hunters Montana Special Recreation Permit

Location: BLM Land within the following counties

County	Township	Range	Sections
<b>Fergus</b>	17N	21E	1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 23, 25, 26
	17N	22E	7, 8, 17-21, 29, 30
	22N	16E	1
	22N	17E	1 to 12
	22N	18E	1-7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17, 19-23, 27-30
	22N	19E	3, 4, 6
	22N	21E	1, 2, 13-15, 21-24, 27
	22N	22E	1-15, 17-35
	23N	17E	25-35
	23N	18E	24-27, 31-35
	23N	19E	1-3, 10-15, 17, 19-24, 26-34
	23N	20E	1, 6-15, 18-20, 23-26
	23N	21E	1-15, 17-30, 34, 35
	23N	22E	6, 7, 17-19, 26-35
	<b>Choteau</b>	22N	14E
22N		15E	18, 19, 30
23N		14E	13, 14, 23-26, 34, 35
23N		15E	30, 31
23N		17E	20, 21
<b>Phillips</b>	23N	22E	1-3, 10-15, 22-26
	23N	23E	1-15, 17-23, 26-35
	24N	22E	10-15, 22-27, 34, 35
	24N	23E	1-3, 5-15, 17-35
	25N	22E	25-27, 34, 35
	25N	23E	31
<b>Blaine</b>	23N	17E	11-15, 22-26
	23N	18E	1-3, 10-15, 18, 19, 21-24, 27-33
	23N	19E	1-5, 7-9, 17, 18
	23N	20E	1-6, 9-11
	23N	21E	1, 4-6



23N	22E	4-9, 17, 19-21
24N	18E	34, 35
24N	19E	10-15, 22-29, 32-35
24N	20E	7-15, 17-35
24N	21E	7-15, 17-35
24N	22E	7-9, 17-21, 28-33
25N	19E	1-3, 10-15, 22-28, 33-35
25N	20E	1-15, 17-35
25N	21E	1-15, 17-35
25N	22E	6-8, 17-20, 28-32
26N	20E	31-33, 35
26N	21E	26, 33-35
26N	22E	31

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to disclose the environmental consequences of Hunters Montana Special Recreation Permit (SRP). The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of the proposed action. The EA assists the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in making a determination as to whether any “significant” impacts could result from the proposed action.

Commercial outfitter and guide services provide important recreation opportunities on public lands. Commercial uses are managed under Special Recreation Permits (SRP) on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The issuance of a SRP constitutes a Federal action. All federal actions must be in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

## **BACKGROUND**

Keith Atcheson, dba Hunters Montana, proposes to primarily use Map 1 (Figure 1) with an option of using Map 2 (Figure 2). Map 2 also includes Map 1 and the Arrow Creek area. The applicant proposes to only use land within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (UMRBNM) when a client draws a bighorn sheep tag.

## **PURPOSE & NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The purpose of this action is to issue a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to allow the applicant to utilize BLM-administered lands for commercial outfitting during the 2013 archery and rifle hunting season. The commercial outfitting and guiding permit will provide a quality recreational opportunity on public land that serves visitors lacking the skill or equipment necessary to otherwise participate.

## **DECISION TO BE MADE**

This environmental assessment (EA) discloses the environmental consequences of implementing the proposed action. The Deciding Officials for the BLM are the Lewistown Field Office (LFO) Field Manager and the UMRBNM Manager. Based on the information provided in this EA, the Deciding Officials will decide whether to grant the SRP.

## **CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLAN(S)**

This action is in conformance with the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument ROD and RMP 2008 which states “The BLM will provide SRPs for commercial outfitting and guiding (hunting) in the Monument consistent with 43 CFR 2932.26 and the goal of managing these lands for a variety of sustainable visitor experiences in mostly primitive and natural landscapes” (68). “It is the BLM’s goal to provide quality recreational opportunities that serve the public interest via authorized commercial operators for visitors lacking the skill or equipment necessary to otherwise participate” (Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument ROD and Approved RMP 69).

The proposed action is also in conformance with the BLM Manual 6220-National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations, which states that “Monuments and NCAs will be available for a variety of recreation opportunities, consistent with the purposes for which each area was designated” (BLM Manual 6220-National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations 14). The manual also states that “Monuments and NCAs are available for hunting and fishing, consistent with the designating authority, subject to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations” (14).

This action is also in conformance with the Judith Valley Phillips Resource Management Plan 1994, which states “The BLM will maintain and/or enhance the recreational quality of BLM land and resources to ensure enjoyable recreational experiences;” and “Managing visitor services including a permit system, interpretive programs, visitor contact, and efforts to improve the BLM’s image with public land users” (Judith Resource Area RMP, 18).

### **RESOURCE ISSUES DROPPED FROM FURTHER REVIEW**

The following resources were identified as either having minimal impact or not present in the area of effect. These resources will not be analyzed further for the proposed action:

- Visual Resources – BLM manages lands with inherent scenic value. The BLM uses a Visual Resource Management (VRM) system to inventory and manage visual resources on public land. The primary objectives of VRM are to help identify visual (scenic) values and to minimize visual impacts on BLM land from proposed projects and management activities. The VRM classification system uses four classes to describe the different degrees of modification allowed to the landscape. Modifications to the landscape are not allowed with the proposed dispersed recreation activity, thus there will be no effect on visual resources.
- Special Designations – The proposed activity within the Cow Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and WSAs (Cow Creek WSA, Antelope Creek WSA, Ervin Ridge WSA, and Woodhawk WSA) is hiking only. Motorized use will only be allowed on open roads within the UMRBNM. The transportation layer from the UMRBNM RMP will be available to the outfitter.
- Rangeland Management/Livestock Grazing – There would be no impacts to grazing rotations or permitted use. The proposed action would result in minimal disruption of grazing activities.
- Vegetation – The proposed action will have no impact to land health objectives including upland and riparian vegetation.

## PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

### **Alternative A – Proposed Action**

Issue a SRP for guiding big game and upland bird hunting on public lands within the LFO and Monument (Figures 1 and 2). The permit would be valid for 1 year. Activities on public lands would be limited to hunting. BLM land would be utilized as day-use only. The applicant must comply with the attached terms and stipulations of the permit, or be subject to the loss or denial of the SRP.

The applicant has requested authorization for hunting of elk, deer, antelope, bighorn sheep and upland birds on the proposed BLM land within LFO. For the UMRBNM, the applicant requests authorization for hunting bighorn sheep only. The applicant is authorized by the Montana State Board of Outfitters to guide clients to hunt these species.

The applicant would be authorized to hunt the species indicated within his operating plan. However, the areas authorized may be subject to change in the future due to ongoing planning efforts.

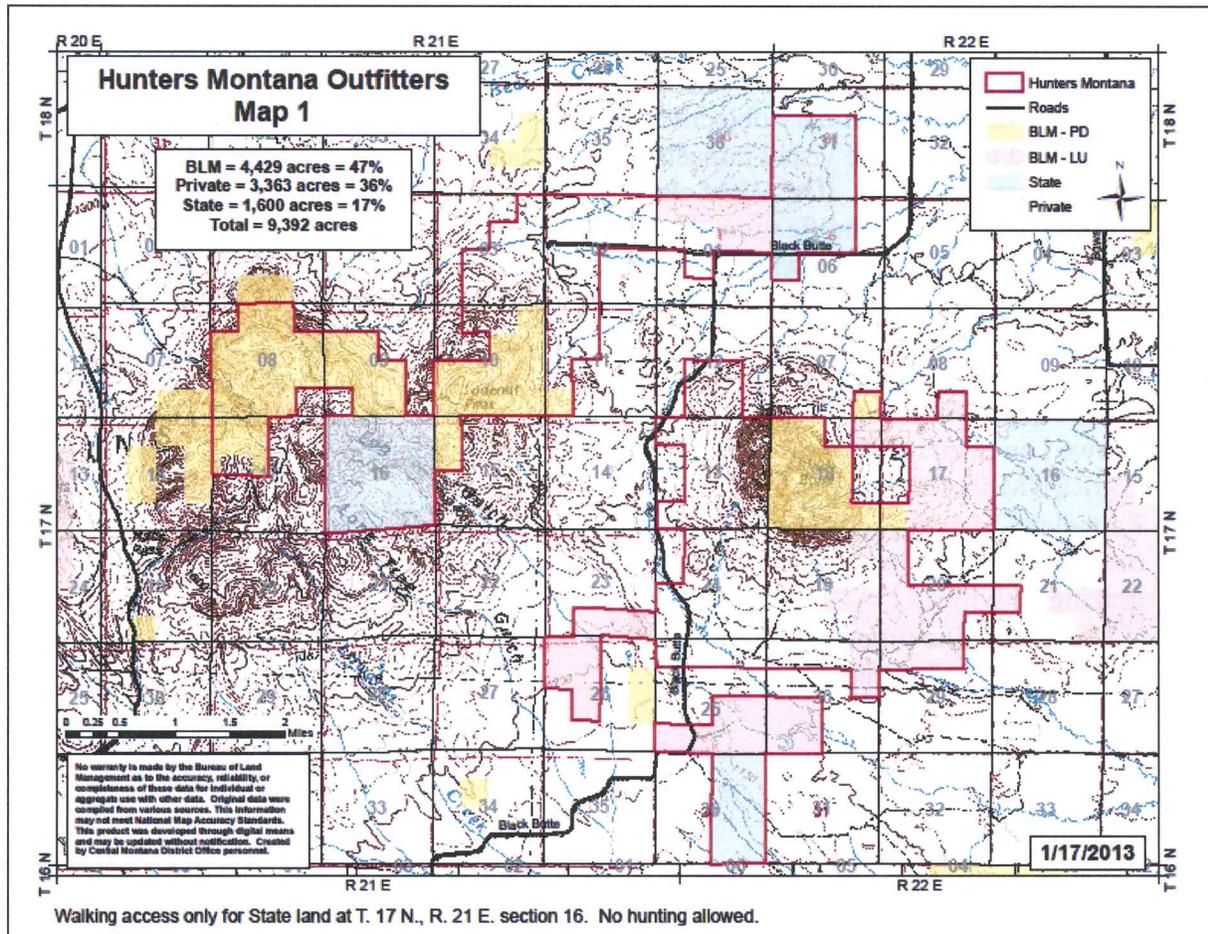


Figure 1: Hunters Montana Map 1

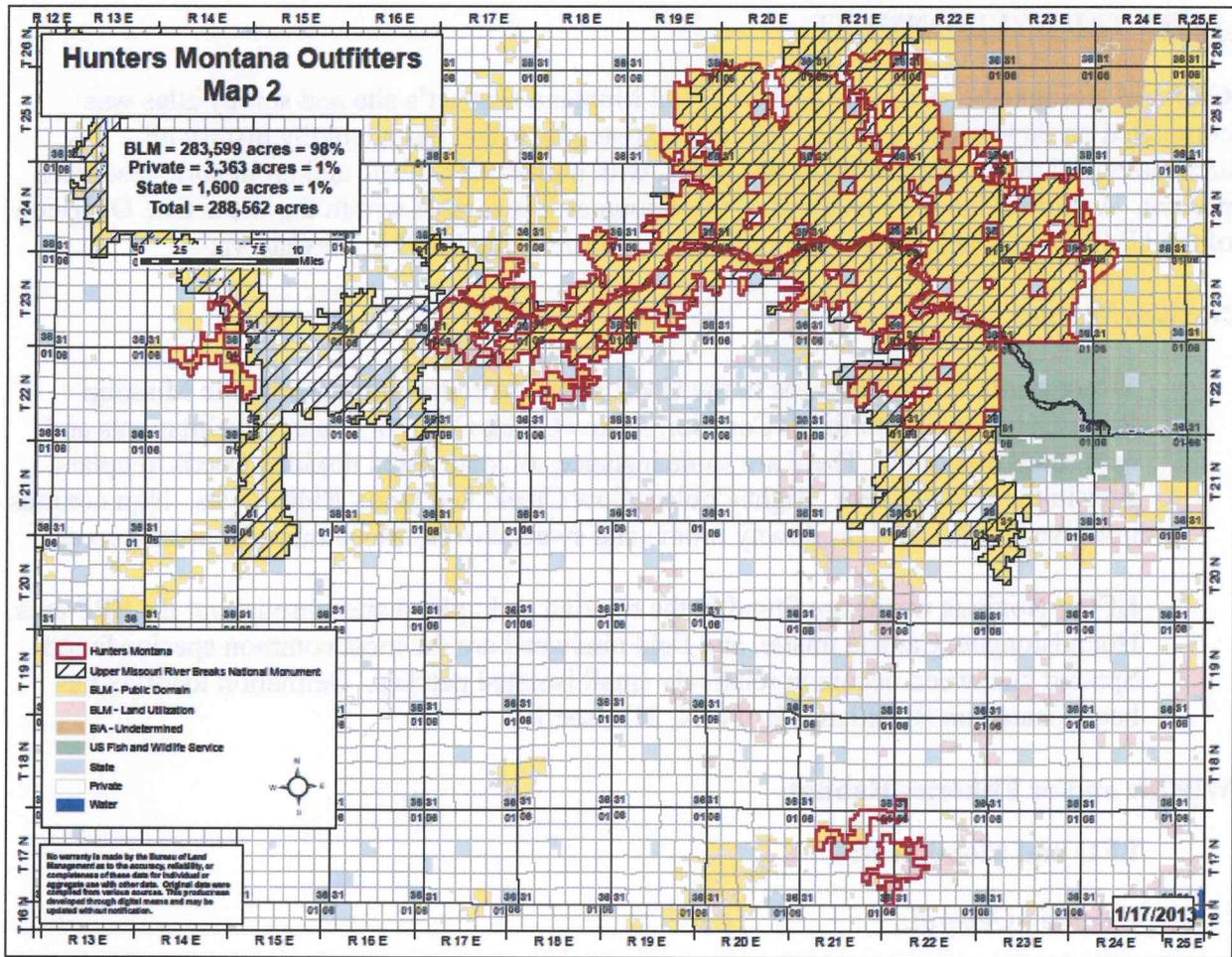


Figure 2: Hunters Montana Map 2

### Alternative B – No Action

The No Action alternative would result in not issuing a permit to the applicant for outfitting on public lands.

## AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

**Cultural Resources:** A review of the Central Montana District's site and survey atlas was completed on September 5, 2012. The area of potential effect has a lengthy history of archaeological inventory, dating to the 1970s, with numerous historic and prehistoric resources present. A more exhaustive analysis of the resources is available within the Class One Overview of the UMRBNM and Lewistown Field Office, on file at the BLM in Lewistown.

### **Noxious Weeds:**

**Monument:** Noxious weeds in the UMRBNM are concentrated along the Missouri River Corridor, Judith River Corridor, Arrow Creek Corridor, water developments and near roads and trails. There are some instances of state listed noxious weeds in upland sites in the Arrow Creek, Right Coulee, Cow Creek, and Knox Ridge areas. Non noxious invasive species, such as downy brome and sweet clover, are common in upland areas.

**LFO:** Noxious weeds are found in the riparian and upland sites throughout the SRP area. Houndstongue, Canada thistle, and field bindweed are the most common species found. Spotted knapweed occurs in relatively small isolated patches. Dalmation toadflax has been located on BLM lands in T17N, 21E, sec 10.

### **Wildlife and/or Fisheries Habitat:**

#### **LFO and Monument:**

##### *Wildlife - General:*

Wildlife species within the project area include species typically associated with central Montana and the Missouri River Breaks habitat. Mule deer, elk, pronghorn, big-horn sheep, raptors, furbearers, reptiles and amphibians are common throughout the analysis area. The project area is within identified elk, pronghorn, big-horn sheep, and mule deer year round range. For a complete listing of species which could occur within the project area, see Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (UMRBNM) Resource Management Plan (RMP) (December 2008).

##### *Threatened, Endangered and Species Proposed for Listing:*

There are no threatened, endangered or wildlife species proposed for listing present in the area of the proposed action. There is no designated critical habitat for any species within the project area.

##### *Designated Sensitive Species:*

Northern goshawk, ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, long-legged and long-eared myotis and Townsends big-eared bats all have habitat and could occur within available habitat; however, there are no documented roosting or nesting sites within the project area. Bald

eagles are documented within the project area along the Missouri River, but are dispersed during the proposed period of use. The greater short-horned lizard occupies open sagebrush grassland habitat and badland habitat and is present within the project area. Sage grouse inhabit the area year round, with breeding, nesting, and winter habitat having been identified. Burrowing owls, mountain plovers, black-tailed prairie dog all occupy habitat within the monument project area. Due to their isolated locations and the season of use, neither alternative will impact any of these species.

#### *Migratory Birds:*

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-711) protects all migratory birds including those listed as BLM Sensitive Species. The sagebrush/grassland and ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir habitat types within the Allotment are considered minor components of the larger adjacent habitat for Neotropical Migratory Birds. The species present are those common to these habitat types within northcentral Montana. The riparian woodland community along the Missouri River is important nesting, feeding, roosting and stopover for many migratory species, including several Designated Sensitive Species. Due to the season of use, neither alternative will impact any of these species.

#### *Fisheries:*

There are Pallid Sturgeon (endangered) present within the Missouri river. Many native and introduced fish species occupy the Missouri River and its tributaries within the project area.

**Recreation Resources:** The Monument and LFO offer opportunities for a wide range of dispersed, planned and permitted uses. Recreational uses include camping, hunting, OHV use, wildlife viewing, hiking, fishing, floating and various other activities.

**Monument:** The proposed action within the Monument lies within the Uplands Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). For this area, the BLM's goal is to manage these lands for a variety of sustainable visitor experiences in mostly primitive and natural landscapes. This goal would allow BLM to provide dispersed and developed recreation opportunities (Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument ROD and Approved RMP 68). There are 4 other permittees overlapping in portions of the proposed area, but only 1 permittee has a similar operating area for the Monument.

**LFO:** Recreation activities are largely unrestricted and undeveloped in the majority of the LFO. The proposed operating plan is located in an area where there are currently no other permittees.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES**  
**PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

*Direct/Indirect:*

**Cultural Resources:** With the stipulations attached to this permit allowing day use only and no collection or disturbance of cultural resources, selecting this alternative would result in a “No Historic Properties Affected” determination.

**Noxious Weeds:**

**Monument/LFO:** There would be no effect to noxious weeds if proper mitigation is followed. Vehicles and equipment should be thoroughly cleaned prior to entrance onto public lands and between movement of vehicles and equipment to different sites to prevent introduction and spread. Houndstongue seeds found on clothing should be removed and bagged for disposal upon return.

**Wildlife and/or Fisheries Habitat:**

**LFO and Monument:**

*Wildlife:*

Many species may be impacted by additional traffic and use. Migratory and resident birds have completed nesting and are mobile or absent during the season this permit will be in use. Reptiles may still be present during early hunting season, and would be attracted to roads for thermal heating, resulting in additional mortality from increased traffic and use of the area. While this impact may be minor, it will contribute to the overall impacts of traffic on roads in reptile habitat.

The proposed permit could increase the number of hunters and vehicles within the permit area. Additional traffic will displace and disturb all wildlife present during period of permitted use. The level of disturbance will vary based on level of traffic, type of vehicles, and distance from wildlife. The increased number of hunters and hunter days within the permit area will further reduce wildlife security and result in higher stress and mortality of resident big game species. This increase in activity on its own would not be a significant impact, but contributes to the overall impacts from other outfitter led hunting, public hunting and other activities within the permit area. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is responsible for managing wildlife populations, and any decrease in game populations would be addressed by the Department in available permits offered within the permit area.

*Fisheries:*

No fisheries will be affected by the proposed action.

*Threatened, Endangered, or Species Proposed for listing:*

There is a small population of adult pallid sturgeons and two age classes of young reintroduced pallid sturgeons in the Missouri River between Fort Peck Lake and the

confluence with the Marias River. Black-footed ferrets are potentially present on BLM land in south Phillips County adjacent to the proposed permit area, but suitable habitat does not occur and ferrets have not been documented within the Monument. There will be no impact on either of these species or important habitat or prey base.

*BLM Designated Sensitive Species:*

Sage-grouse can be disturbed by hunting activity and associated traffic. Disturbances to them will be the same as to big game species, with level of impacts dependent on the number of hunters, vehicles, number of trips, and areas hunted not accessible to the general hunting public. Sage-grouse habitat would not be impacted as a result of the proposed action and is compliant with guidance in WO IM 2012-43.

Bald eagles migrate through the area in the fall, winter and spring on the Missouri River. Golden eagles are common in the described use area at this time of year. These birds may benefit by remains or offal of animals killed, but may also be disturbed from roosting sites along the Missouri River. These impacts will not alter the existing situation for eagles, based on existing and ongoing impacts within the project area.

For other sensitive species present in the project area, the proposed action may impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

*Migratory Birds:*

Many species may be impacted by additional traffic and use. Migratory and resident birds have completed nesting and are mobile or absent during the season this permit will be in use. Additional traffic associated with the proposed action may impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

**Recreation Resources:**

**Monument:** The proposed action would increase the number of permitted outfitters in the area.

**LFO:** The proposed action would enhance the recreational experiences on BLM land. The activities of the proponent would not affect the general public due to the lack of accessibility.

*Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts are expected.*

## NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

### *Direct/Indirect*

**Cultural Resources:** No historic properties would be affected with the selection of this alternative.

**Noxious Weeds:** There would be no effect to noxious weeds in the UMRBNM/LFO.

**Wildlife and/or Fisheries Habitat:** There would be no impacts to wildlife or fisheries under this alternative.

**Recreation Resources:** There would be no impacts to recreation resources under this alternative.

## CONSULTATION COORDINATION

Availability of the Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2013-0004-EA) can be found online at

[http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/mt/blm\\_information/nepa\\_logs/2013.Par.74533.File.dat/UM.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/mt/blm_information/nepa_logs/2013.Par.74533.File.dat/UM.pdf).

## LIST OF PREPARERS

Kelly McGill, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Zane Fulbright, Archaeologist

Matt Comer, Wildlife Biologist

Jody Peters, Monument Wildlife Biologist

Kenny Keever, Natural Resource Specialist

Steve Smith, Range Specialist

Dan Brunkhorst, Planning and Environmental Specialist

## REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management. "Approved Judith Resource Area Resource Management Plan." 1994.

—. "BLM Manual 6220-National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations." Manual. 2012.

—. "Judith, Valley, Phillips (JVP) Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement." RMP. 1992.

—. "Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument ROD and Approved RMP." RMP. 2008.

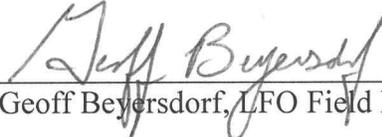
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument and Lewistown Field Office

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

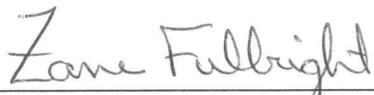
Hunters Montana SRP  
DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2013-0004-EA

**Finding of No Significant Impact:** Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR §2932.26, I find that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

This finding is based on the following reasons. There are no significant effects to cultural, noxious weeds, wildlife and/or fisheries habitat, T&E species, or recreation. There would be no effects to cultural resources with the stipulations attached to this permit allowing day use only and no collection or disturbance of cultural resources. With proper mitigation for noxious weeds, there should be not effect. There will be a minimal impact on species due to the increase in hunters and vehicles. This increase in activity on its own would not be a significant impact, but contributes to the overall impacts from other outfitter led hunting, public hunting and other activities within the permit area. No fisheries will be affected. For threatened, endangered, or species proposed for listing, Pallid sturgeon and the black-footed ferrets are in the area. However, there will be no impact on either of these species or important habitat or prey base. There are BLM sensitive species in the proposed area, such as sage-grouse, bald eagles, and golden eagles. The impacts to the sensitive species will not be significant. The proposed action would increase the number of outfitters in the area within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. For the Lewistown Field Office, recreation would be improved for the public with legal accessibility in landlocked locations.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Geoff Beyersdorf, LFO Field Manager

2/13/13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Zane Fulbright, UMRBNM Manager

2/6/2013  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument and Lewistown Field Office

Decision Record  
Environmental Assessment

Hunters Montana SRP  
DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2013-0004-EA

Decision:

I have decided to authorize Keith Atcheson dba Hunters Montana a one year Special Recreation Permit to utilize BLM-administered lands for commercial outfitting during the 2013 archery and rifle hunting season as described in Alternative A.

This decision is subject to the following stipulations:

In addition to the 13 general terms and conditions listed on the back of the Special Recreation Permit Form 2930-2, the following special stipulations apply:

**Fee Schedule**

January 31	Post-Use Report and Trip Log due
March 1	Post-Season Use payment due

1. Commercial Use Fees
  - o The BLM shall collect a fee from Hunters Montana for the use of public lands. The fee, as set by regulation 43 CFR 2930, will be the greatest of \$100/year or 3% of the gross income. Additional discount based on usage of 47% of BLM land for Map 1. No discounts are available for Map 2.
2. Determination of gross income will be based on the following:
  - o Gross income means the total of all financial gains received by the permittee, their employees, or agents for goods or services provided in connection with commercial activities authorized by the SRP, **whether or not provided on public land or related waters**. Financial gain includes payments of money, revenue from sale or images or broadcast rights, on-site sales or rentals, as well as gratuities, donations, gifts, bartering, trophy fees, etc., regardless of source.
3. End-of-season use payments are due within **30 days** of BLM's billing date. Late payment of fees, including pre-season, partial, and end-of-season payments, may subject permittee to remedial action: probation, suspension and/or revocation. Interest and administrative handling charges will be assessed for late payments.

**General**

1. **It is understood that the proposed visits are for day-use only and overnight group camping will not occur on lands managed by the BLM.**
2. UMRBNM land will only be used when a client draws a bighorn sheep tag for the area.
3. Motorized travel limited to established roads and 2-tracks on BLM land.

4. A maximum of 125 client days for LFO and a maximum of 20 client days for the UMRBNM. If it appears that the maximum number of clients will be exceeded, Hunters Montana must notify the BLM prior to use.
5. Permittee is responsible for all actions of employees and clients on both public and private lands.
6. Permittee shall inform all employees and clients of the terms and conditions of the authorizing permit.
7. Issuance of an SRP does not authorize the permittee's use of public campgrounds.
8. Cook tents, latrines, corrals and hitching racks must be located at least 200 feet from the nearest spring, stream, lake, or reservoir, unless such use is otherwise prohibited. Camps will be located to avoid conflict with normal trail traffic and stream or lake access, and out of sight of major trails when possible.
9. All vehicles and equipment shall be pressure washed or otherwise thoroughly cleaned prior to entering public lands. Infestations of noxious weeds shall be immediately reported to the BLM.

#### ***Storage and Disposal (Pack In/Pack Out)***

1. Food storage compliance is required. Placement of caches of supplies and food or equipment for future trips is not allowed.
2. Permittee shall dispose of refuse resulting from the permitted use, including waste materials, garbage, and rubbish of all kinds in the following manner, and shall guard the purity of streams and waters:
  - (a) All non-combustible refuse and all unburned combustible refuse must be carried out of the area and disposed of in an approved disposal site. Burying garbage pits is prohibited.
  - (b) The use of small portable toilets is encouraged. At a minimum, sanitation facilities will consist of a slit trench or pit toilet 8 to 20 inches deep. Facilities will be placed in porous soil in high ground at least 200 feet from all water sources. After use, fill the hole with loose soil and tramp in the top soil or sod on top. Nothing other than human waste may be deposited in a pit toilet. Toilet paper should be carried out. Use a single large latrine around camp rather than several small ones.
  - (c) The use of soaps, detergents, or bleaches in springs, lakes, and streams will not be allowed. Waste water must not be dumped within 50 feet of springs, lakes, and streams or in areas of saturated or impermeable soils.

#### ***Cultural Resources***

1. Permittee **shall not** disturb archeological and historical values, including, but not limited to, petroglyphs, ruins, historic buildings, and artifacts.
2. Permittee **shall** leave in place any hidden cultural values uncovered through authorized operations.

#### ***Fires – Know Fire Restrictions At All Times***

1. Because of the impacts campfires create, their use should be kept to a minimum. Using cook stoves or fire stoves is recommended as an alternative to cooking over campfires. When allowed, campfires shall be small and kept under control. Do not build new rock fire rings.
2. No campfires will be left unattended. Permittee is solely responsible for all fires which permittee, employees, or clients start.
3. Cutting or gathering firewood from prehistoric or historic structures or from standing trees (alive or dead) is prohibited. Burn only dead and down wood.

**Rationale for the Decision:**

The Proposed Action Alternative was selected because it best meets the purpose and need. This decision was reached after careful analysis of the effects of each of the two alternatives presented in the EA.

**Plan Conformance and Consistency:**

The proposed action has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the land use decisions to respond to requests for Special Recreation Permits as described in the UMRBNM Resource Management Plan and the Judith Valley Phillips Resource Management Plan.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared for the EA and determined that the proposed action will not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment or cause unnecessary or undue degradation of the natural environment.

**Public Involvement:**

No public comment period was provided for this EA, but notice of this EA process was posted on the UMRBNM NEPA Log website ([http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/mt/blm\\_information/nepa\\_logs/2013.Par.74533.File.dat/UM.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/mt/blm_information/nepa_logs/2013.Par.74533.File.dat/UM.pdf)).

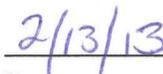
**Administrative Remedies:**

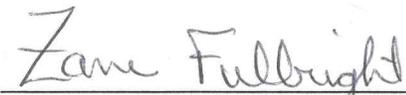
If you believe that you have been affected adversely by this decision, or that you believe the decision is incorrect, you may have the right to appeal this decision.

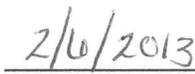
This decision may be appealed to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed at the Central Montana District Office, 920 NE Main, Lewistown, MT 59457 within 30 days of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal and any statement or reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served on the Office of the Solicitor at the USDI Field Solicitor's Office, P.O. Box 31394, Billings, MT 59107-1394. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition, pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21, for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. The provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(b) defines the standards and procedures for filing a petition to obtain a stay pending appeal.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Geoff Beyersdorf, LFO Field Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Zane Fulbright, UMRBNM Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

