

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Office: Central Montana District, Lewistown Field Office and UMRBNM	NEPA Log #: DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2015-0001-EA
	Date Posted: 10/20/14
Name: Hunters Montana SRP	Date Due: 10/23/14
Location: BLM land in Blaine, Choteau, Fergus and Phillips Counties within the UMRBNM and LFO (please see legal description and map in EA document)	

Originator and Date/Initials	Title	Assignment
<i>Kelly McGill 10/20/14</i>	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Complete DNA

Reviewer	Title	Assignment	Initials/Date
Matt Comer	Wildlife Biologist (LFO)	Fish and Wildlife	<i>MJC 10/20/14</i>
Jody Peters	Wildlife Biologist (Monument)	Fish and Wildlife	<i>JBP 10/20/14</i>
Zane Fulbright	Archaeologist (LFO & Monument)	Cultural Resources	<i>ZLF 10/20/14</i>
Kenneth Kever	Natural Resource Specialist (Monument)	Noxious and Invasive Plants	<i>KCK/10-20-14</i>
Stephen Smith	Range Specialist (LFO)	Noxious and Invasive Plants	<i>SMS 10/21/14</i>
Tom Darrington	Range Specialist (Monument-South)	Range	<i>TD 10/20/2014</i>
Ben Hileman	Range Specialist (Monument-North)	Range	<i>BH 10/20/2014</i>

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

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA)

DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2015-0001-DNA

Project Title: Hunters Montana Special Recreation Permit

Location: BLM Land within the following counties

County	Township	Range	Sections
Fergus	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
Choteau	22N	14E	1-5, 9-13
	22N	15E	18, 19, 30
	23N	14E	13, 14, 23-26, 34, 35
	23N	15E	30, 31
	23N	17E	20, 21
Phillips	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
Blaine	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

Applicant/Address: Applicant on Record

Project Contact:

Name: Kelly McGill
 Title: Outdoor Recreation Planner
 Office: Lewistown Field Office
 Telephone No.: (406) 538-1905

Central Montana District Office
 920 NE Main Street
 Lewistown, MT 59457
 Phone: 406-538-1900

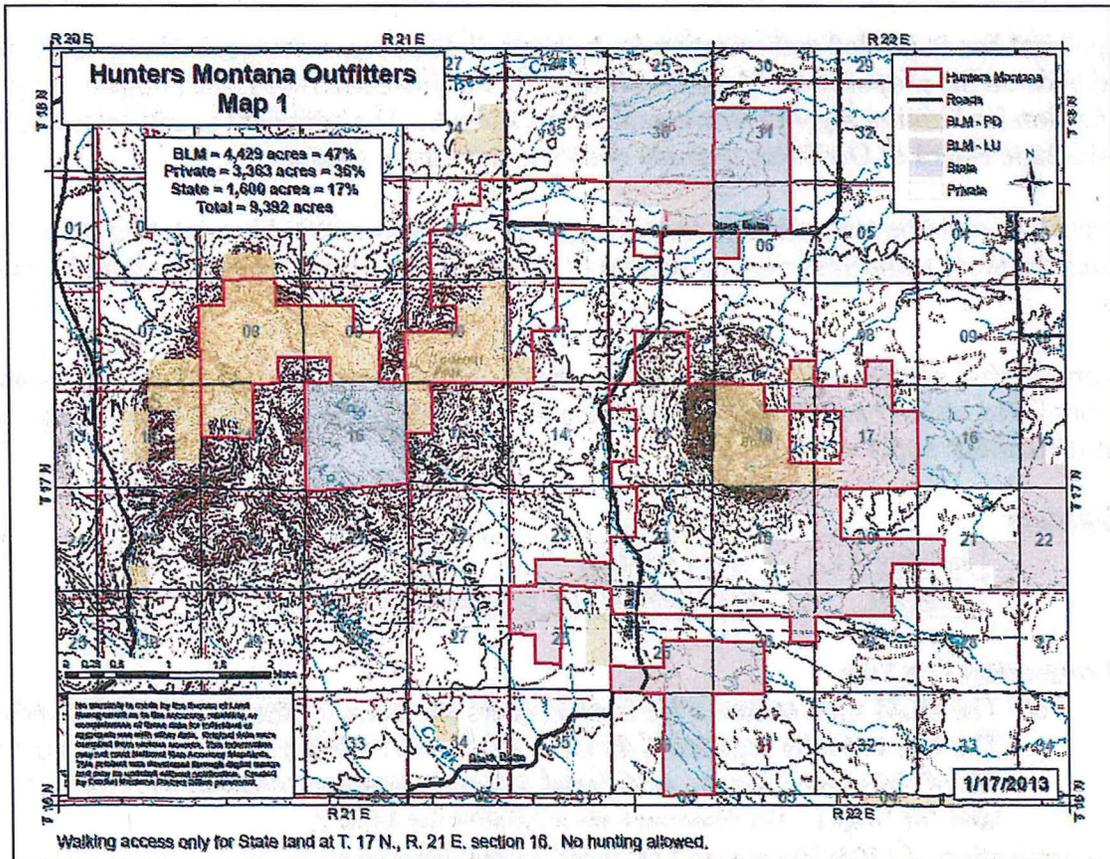
DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

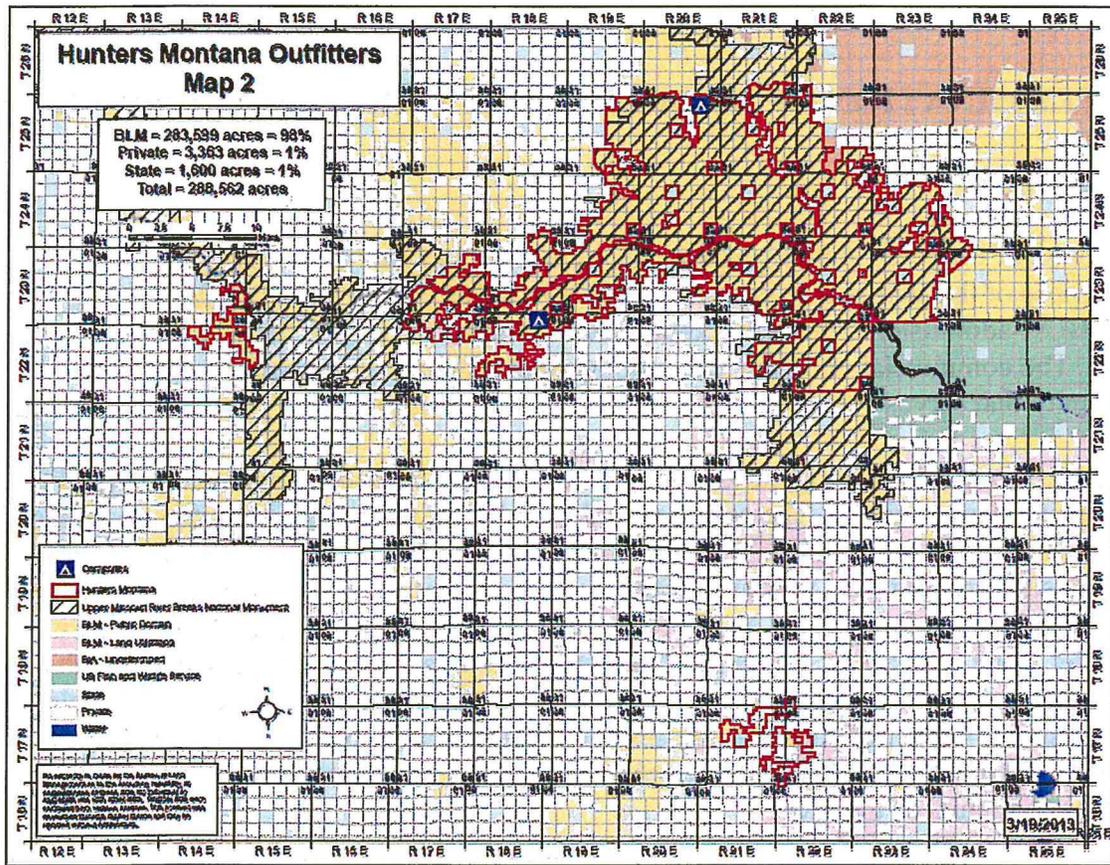
A. Background

Description of Proposed Action and any Applicable Mitigation Measures:

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 archery and rifle hunting season. The commercial outfitting and guiding SRP will provide a quality recreational opportunity that serves visitors lacking the skill or equipment necessary to otherwise participate.

Issue a SRP for guiding big game and upland bird hunting on public lands within the LFO and Monument (Maps 1 and 2). The permit would be valid for ten years. Activities on public lands would be limited to hunting. BLM land would be utilized as day-use only in Map 1. However, two campsites are proposed in Map 2 within the Monument. The campsites are located at T. 25 N., R. 20 E. Section 2 and T. 22 N., R. 18 E. Section 2. The permittee proposes to use a 30-foot RV trailer along with a 12 x 14 wall tent at camp without a floor or a 6-person tent with a floor. The maximum duration spent at the campsite would be 10 days with no caching of equipment. The maximum number of clients at one time will range from 1 to 2. No horses will be used. 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, mule deer, and elk. 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.

SRP Form 2930-2 general terms and conditions apply. 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	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 within the LFO. Camping will occur within the UMRBNM at the following locations: T. 25 N., R. 20 E. Section 2 and T. 22 N., R. 18 E. Section 2.**
2. Motorized travel limited to established roads and 2-tracks on BLM land.
3. 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.
4. Permittee is responsible for all actions of employees and clients on both public and private lands.
5. Permittee shall inform all employees and clients of the terms and conditions of the authorizing permit.
6. Issuance of an SRP does not authorize the permittee's use of public campgrounds.
7. 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.
8. 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. 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.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance (select all that apply)

- Headwaters RMP (approved in July 1984)
- West HiLine RMP (approved in September 1988 and on January 29, 1992 for the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River)
- Judith-Valley-Phillips RMP (approved on September 9, 1994)
- Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final EIS for Montana and North and South Dakota (approved on August 7, 1997)
- Off-Highway Vehicle EIS and Proposed Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota (approved on June 18, 2003)
- Fire/Fuels Management EA/Plan Amendment for Montana and the Dakotas (approved on September 26, 2003)
- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Approved Resource Management Plan (approved on December 4, 2008)
- Other (specify name/date approved)

Conformance:

The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan(s) selected above, which states as follows:

<i>Page No.</i>	<i>Language</i>
Page 18	JVP RMP Judith Resource Area (9/1994): “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”.
Page 68/69	Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan: “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” (69).

C. Identify Applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents(s) and Other Related Documents That Cover the Proposed Action.

The proposed action is addressed in:

Final Environmental Assessment and Plan for Hunters Montana Special Recreation Permit (EA# DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2013-0004).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes

No

The current SRP was analyzed in the Final Environmental Assessment and Plan for Hunters Montana Special Recreation Permit (EA# DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2013-0004). The proposed action and all stipulations of the previous permit are the same as those previously analyzed. The proposed effective dates of the permit are also within those analyzed.

Furthermore, the issuance of the SRP will be completed in accordance with the most current regulations as described in 43 CFR 2932.26.

Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes

No

The proposed action for SRP is the same analysis area that was analyzed in the al Environmental Assessment and Plan for Hunters Montana Special Recreation Permit (EA# DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2013-0004). The terms and conditions, stipulations, and season of use listed in the existing NEPA document will be the same.

Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes

No

The range of alternatives considered in the existing NEPA document is appropriate to the newly proposed action. The proposed action is in conformance with the approved Resource Management Areas. There are no new circumstances that would make the existing analysis obsolete.

Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, or updated lists of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes

No

The existing analysis and conclusions are adequate. There is no new information available regarding the special recreation permit.

Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes

No

The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are unchanged for the existing document. Site specific impacts will not occur as the proposed action will not change the management of the special recreation permit in the proposed action.

Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes

No

Public involvement and interagency review associated with the Environmental Assessment and Plan for Hunters Montana Special Recreation Permit (EA# DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2013-0004) is adequate for the current proposed action.

E. Preparers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Resource Represented</i>
Kelly McGill	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Matt Comer	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Tom Darrington	Range Specialist (Monument-South)	Range
Zane Fulbright	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Benjamin Hileman	Range Specialist (Monument-North)	Range
Kenneth Keever	Natural Resource Specialist (Monument)	Noxious and Invasive Plants
Jody Peters	Wildlife Biologist (Monument)	Wildlife
Steve Smith	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range and Weeds
Dan Brunkhorst	Planning and Environmental Specialist	Environmental Coordinator

F. Conclusion

I considered this review and determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with NEPA requirements.

Kelly McGill
Signature of Project Lead

10-20-2014
Date

Dan Brunkhorst
Signature of NEPA Coordinator

10-20-2014
Date

Jeff Bapst
Lewistown Field Manager

10-21-2014
Date

Mica Keria
UMRBNM Manager

10/21/2014
Date

The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

