

## **Decision Memo**

### **Brigham City Archery Club Archery Range Special Use Permit Re-Issuance**

**Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest  
Logan Ranger District  
Box Elder County, Utah**

#### **Decision**

I have decided to approve the re-issuance of a special use permit to the Brigham City Archery Club (Brigham Bowmen) for the operation of the archery/target shooting range located on National Forest System land south of Mantua, Utah. The original permit was issued in 1955; their last permit expired in 1996.

The archery/target range, located in Section 27 of T9N, R1W, is owned and operated by the Brigham Bowmen. The permitted area is 11.25 acres. The permit re-issuance would cover the same area and facilities as previously authorized, including use of the target range (a path and targets) and a pit toilet. The permit holder has been in compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit and has paid all required fees during the permitted period. There will be no changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures are included in the decision. Environmental effects are avoided by the requirement that there will be no changes to the current facilities, as described in the decision above. No new ground will be disturbed.

#### **Scoping and Public Involvement**

The proposal was provided to 130 individuals, organizations, and other agencies on the District mailing list in a scoping letter dated June 4, 2008. The project was available for comment during the scoping period (June 4, 2008 through July 7, 2008). The project was included in the spring 2008 Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA).

The District received 1 comment letter; the respondent had no concern with the project as long as the permit re-issuance did not allow any change to the authorized facility. In making my decision, I considered the comment of the respondent and Forest Service interdisciplinary team members (see below).

#### **Reason for Categorically Excluding the Proposed Action**

Based on public input, interdisciplinary team review, past experience, and consideration of the resource conditions listed below, I have determined the effects of implementing this action will be of limited context and intensity and will result in little or no environmental effect to either the physical or biological

components of the environment. As such, this is a decision that has been categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed action falls under 36 CFR Part 220 and Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 - Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook, Chapter 30, Section 31.2 Category 15 – Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization. As described in the mitigation section above, all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts have been incorporated into the decision. The categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action. There were no significant effects identified for the resource conditions listed below.

**a. Federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.** The fisheries biologist has determined there will be “no effect” to any threatened and endangered aquatic species or designated critical habitat and “no impact” to any Forest Service sensitive aquatic species because the species are not found in or near the archery range. The wildlife biologist has reviewed the proposal and has determined there will be “no effect” to any threatened and endangered wildlife species or designated critical habitat and “no impact” to any Forest Service sensitive wildlife species because there is no suitable habitat present (sagebrush with a few scattered aspen), the species are not found within the project area (a survey was conducted for goshawk in adjacent conifer stands and none were found), and the scope of the project (archery range) is limited and within a previously disturbed environment. The forest botanist has surveyed the project area has determined there will be “no effect” to any threatened and endangered plant species or designated critical habitat and “no impact” to any Forest Service sensitive plant species because the archery range is limited in scope and within previously disturbed areas. Therefore, the project will have no effect on any T,E,S species or critical habitat.

**b. Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.** The forest soil scientist and forest hydrologist have reviewed the proposal and have determined the project is limited in scope and contained within a previously disturbed area. Therefore there will be no effect on any flood plains, wetlands or municipal watersheds.

**c. Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas.** The archery/target range is not in a congressionally designated area and thus will have no effect on any such designated area.

**d. Inventoried roadless areas.** The archery/target range is not located within an inventoried roadless area and therefore, will not have any effect on roadless values or the roadless character of the area.

**e. Research Natural Areas.** The archery/target range is not in a Research Natural Area and therefore, will have no effect on any RNA.

**f. American Indian and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites.** The Forest archaeologist has determined there are no potential effects to any religious or cultural sites within the project area.

**g. Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.** The Forest archaeologist has determined that no archaeological sites or historic properties or areas will be affected by the archery/target range.

## Findings Required by Other Laws

This decision is consistent with the Revised Forest Plan as required by the National Forest Management Act. The project is in conformance with forest plan standards and incorporates appropriate Forest Plan guidelines. The project is within the Cache Box Elder Management Area (Forest Plan, pages 4-128 to 4-139).

## Administrative Appeal Opportunity and Implementation

This decision pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(f) is not subject to appeal and may be implemented immediately.

## Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Jennefer Parker, District Ranger, 1500 East Highway 89, Logan, Utah 84321, (435-755-3620).

/s/Jennefer Parker

September 23, 2008

**JENNEFER PARKER**  
District Ranger

**Date**

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