



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
2930 / (UT934) P

October 1, 2014

Instruction Memorandum No. UT 2015-001
(Expires: 09/30/2015)

To: All Field Officials
Attention: Outdoor Recreation Planners, Law Enforcement Rangers,
Field Managers, and District Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Statewide Commercial and Organized Group Special Recreation Permit Stipulations

Program Area: Recreation and Visitor Services

Purpose: The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum (IM) is to transmit the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah's new statewide commercial and organized group special recreation permit (SRP) stipulations.

Policy/Action: Field offices are to begin using BLM Utah's new statewide commercial and organized group SRP stipulations as part of all *new* and *existing* SRPs. There are several new requirements that are necessary to serve the public in a safe manner and consistently protect the lands or resources involved. These statewide stipulations serve as the basic set of stipulations that will be attached and made part of all commercial and organized group SRPs administered by BLM Utah, however, **additional stipulations required for site-specific situations SHOULD be added to each permit as needed.**

The revised statewide stipulations will require permittees to perform additional measures. An example is the stipulation that requires permittees to inform clients of the physical safety hazards associated with abandoned mine openings and the potential for encountering these hazards within the permitted area. The rationale for requiring this information is that many permitted activities take place within close proximity to the estimated 10,000 abandoned mines in Utah. These mines pose serious threats to the public, exposing visitors to major hazards such as cave-ins, bad air, and injury by falling down open mine shafts. Other stipulations to discuss include, but are not limited to, the requirements to post a copy of the SRP where participants and public may view it; obtain advanced written approval for permit transfers; and ensure that all advertisements made by non-permitted companies working in conjunction with permitted companies reflect this partnership.

Timeframe: This IM is effective immediately. The revised stipulations shall be attached and made part of all *new* commercial and organized group SRPs. Field offices are responsible for sending the revised stipulations to all *existing* commercial and organized group SRP holders no later than **January 1, 2015**.

Budget Impact: This policy has no impact on the budget.

Background: On March 25, 2013, the BLM-Utah Special Recreation Permit Team began the process of amending the statewide commercial and organized group SRP stipulations – last issued under IM UT 2007-025, on December 26, 2006. The draft stipulations were routed to field offices for comments several times over the past year and suggestions have been incorporated into the final version. The revised stipulations incorporate the most current recreation permit regulations, policies, and conditions necessary to consistently protect the lands or resources involved, reduce user conflicts, and minimize health and safety hazards.

The new stipulations are required to be attached and made part of all new commercial and organized group SRPs and used in the permit monitoring, performance evaluation, and compliance processes. Existing permittees will be expected to be in full compliance with the new stipulations by January 1, 2015.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: This policy replaces the statewide commercial and organized group SRP stipulations issued under IM UT 2006-002 and IM UT 2007-025, and augments policy guidance contained in Handbook H-2930-1, *Recreation Permit Administration*, Rel. 2-295 dated August 7, 2006.

Coordination: Preparation of this policy was coordinated with the Division of Recreation and Visitor Services (WO-250), the Office of the State Director (UT-910), the Office of Law Enforcement and Security (UT-911), the Division of Natural Resources (UT-930), the Utah Executive Leadership Team, and the Utah Special Recreation Permit Team.

Contact: If you have questions or require additional information regarding this policy, please contact Cory Roegner, Recreation Program Lead, Utah State Office, at croegner@blm.gov or by telephone at (801) 539-4228.

Signed by:
Juan Palma
Utah State Director

Authenticated by:
Doug York
Utah State Records Manager

2 Attachments

- 1 – Commercial SRP Stipulations (9 pp)
- 2 – Organized Group SRP Stipulations (7 pp)