

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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**Project Creator:** Dan Westermeyer

**Field Office:** Stillwater

**Lead Office:** Stillwater

**Case File/Project Number:** SRP-NV-040-11-02

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion**

516 DM 11.9(H) : Recreation Management (1): Issuance of SRP's 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.

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0525-CX

**Project Name:** Mountain Bike Nevada

**Project Description:**

Todd Whear from World of Wonder Adventures, Inc. is requesting a 5-year Special Recreation Permit from the Ely District Office to hold an annual Mountain Bike Nevada event. However, a 2-year probationary period is required for all new SRP holders. Upon a satisfactory performance review of the first two years, Mountain Bike NV will then be eligible for a 5-year renewal. The ride is proposed as an 11-day, fully supported mountain bike ride across central Nevada on paved, dirt and graveled roads. The ride is limited to 50 riders plus support crew. Each day riders will be traversing some of Nevada's most rugged and isolated landscapes and 9 counties; primarily following the American Discovery Trail.

The event will travel approximately 80 miles in the Stillwater Field Office, traveling from Top Gun at the 95 Alternate road east towards Carson Lake, around the Bunejug Mountain then along Salt Wells Basin to Four Mile Road. At the intersection with the Paiute Pipeline Road, the course heads to Rawhide and then to Gabbs at which point it enters the Battle Mountain District. Much of the course follows the same route utilized by the Vegas to Reno and the VORRA Fallon off road races. The proponent is proposing to use 10 "camps" in various locations along the 11-day ride. 9 out of the 10 "Camps" will be on private property, within a state park, or in a hotel. One camp is proposed on BLM in the Stillwater Field Office at Rawhide along the Paiute Pipeline Road in the same location that Best in the Desert Vegas to Reno OHV race has established a vehicle pit stop for many years.

There will be several vehicles towing trailers supporting the riders at each camp location. The vehicles will consist of a mix of 4X4 trucks and SUVs depending on the number of participants requiring support. The support vehicles will be taking the main highways and graded dirt roads when needed, driving from camp to camp.

Packing of camp gear and general site cleanup will be performed by all of the support crew members. All support crew members are responsible for establishing the camp for the rider's arrival. This includes staging rider's bags, setting up pop-ups, tables, chairs, kitchen/mess area, toilets, showers, trash cans, recycling receptacles, power station, sanitary station, lunch table and establishing the tent area. A Porta-Potty will be provided at each camp site. The minimum and maximum rider limits will require 8-15 support crew depending on the number of paid riders. The proponent estimates that there will be about 1 support crew for every 4 paid riders. The September 2011 ride will consist of 7 paid riders, 5 volunteer crew riders and 4-5 vehicle support crew. The Nevada State Parks is supporting this event as a method to promote the American Discovery Trail.

**Applicant Name:** Todd Whear, World of Wonder Adventures

**Project Location:** The event starts at Crystal Bay at the North Shore of Lake Tahoe and travels across Nevada to the Nevada/Utah state line.

**BLM Acres for the Project Area:** Not applicable

**Land Use Plan Conformance:**

Section 8 – REC-2: Desired Outcomes, 1: “Provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities on public land under the administration of the Carson City Field Office.”

**Name of Plan:** Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)

**Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances:** The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria: (Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		JD 9-7-11
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (Archeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality)		JD 9-7-11 AS 9/7/11 DW 9/7/11 RV 9/7/11
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC)		JD 9/7/11
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		JD 9/7/11
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (PEC)		JD 9/7/11
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		JD 9/7/11
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (Archeology)		
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (Wildlife)		JD 9-7-11
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and Archeology)		JD 9/7/11
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		JD 9/7/11
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (Archeology)		
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		JD 9-7-11

**SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:**

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

- Planning Environmental Coordinator, Steve Kramer: *[Signature]* 9/7/11
- Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *[Signature]* 9-7-11
- Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *[Signature]* 9-7-11
- Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *[Signature]* 9-7-11
- Archeology, Susan McCabe:
- Water Quality, Gabe Venegas: *[Signature]* 9/7/11
- Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *[Signature]* 9-7-11

**CONCLUSION:** Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

*Teresa J. Knutson*  
Teresa J. Knutson  
Field Manager  
Stillwater Field Office

*09/07/2011*  
(date)