

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Lead: Arthur Callan

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

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-2011-C020-~~516~~-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 annual ride is limited to 50 riders plus support crew. 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. 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 annual event will travel on approximately 23 miles of public land in the Sierra Front Field Office, entering the SFFO southeast of Lake Washoe, traveling northeast to Virginia City, down Six Mile Canyon where the course crosses Highway 50, follows the Backcountry Bi-way north of the river to Fort Churchill, and maintains an easterly direction through Hooten Well. 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.

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.

Applicant Name: Todd Whear, World of Wonder Adventures

Project Location: The 2011 event starts September 10 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: NV – Carson City RMP.

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? (project lead/P&EC)		AC
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? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)	AC	mc 9/7 AC RC AS
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		AC
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		AC
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? (project lead/P&EC)		AC
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		AC
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? (archeologist)		RC
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 biologist, botanist)		DT OB
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		AC
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		AC
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)? (archeologist)		RC
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)? (botanist)		DT

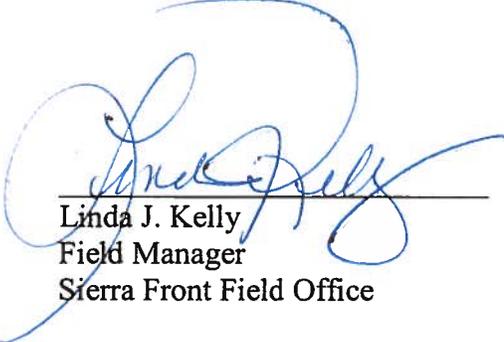
SPECIALISTS' REVIEW: During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

N/A, Realty Specialist
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Nicki Cutler, Hydrologist
Rachel Crews, Archaeologist
Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife
Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants
Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

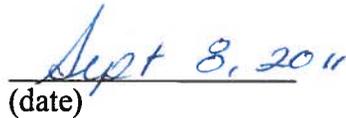
Although BLM Sensitive Species is not described in one of the 12 extraordinary circumstances question, review of the applicability of this CX has taken them into consideration.

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:



Linda J. Kelly
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office



(date)