

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: Dan Westermeyer

Field Office: Stillwater

Lead Office: Stillwater

Case File/Project Number: CA-17007003

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-C010-0530-CX

Project Name: Sierra Safari Dual Sport Ride 2011

Project Description: Annual Dual Sport Motorcycle Ride

Sierra Safari has submitted a Plan of Operation and course route to the Bishop BLM Field Office to conduct their annual dual sport motorcycle run. This event is authorized through a 5 year permit (CA-170-07-003, 2006-2011) issued through the Bishop office. This event is for single axle, dual sport motorcycles and utilizes existing and established routes consisting of bladed county roads, right-of-way access roads and jeep trails. This will be a low speed, family oriented event where no cross country travel is permitted. Event organizers are anticipating 15 participants and 5 support crew who will travel the course in small groups. There will be a lead and sweep vehicle provided by the sponsor. The course provides for several alternate sections where inexperienced riders are able to avoid the more technical sections of the route.

The course passes through public lands in the Bishop and Carson City District and the Toiyabe National Forest. In the Carson City District, the course passes through 20 miles near Whisky Flat and 21 miles near the Lucky Boy area. The event will begin in Mammoth, Ca, with the participants riding to Hawthorne, NV. The route for Day 1 will be through Whisky Flat area where riders can continue directly to Hawthorne or ride to Lucky Boy Pass and then to Hawthorne. During Day 2, participants will leave Hawthorne, drive past the Lucky Boy Mine, up to Cory Peak, through Lucky Boy Pass, through USFS lands, have lunch in Bridgeport, then return using the same route. On Day 3, participants will return to Mammoth riding past the

Lucky Boy Mine, Corey Peak, and Lucky Boy Pass. After the pass, participants will turn east past the Borealis Mine, and then head south and west on Forests Service lands to Mammoth.

The course selected for 2011 has been authorized by the California BLM Bishop Field Office and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and is the same course that was run in 2010. With occasional alterations in the course route, Sierra Safari has been a permittee for this event in this area of Nevada from the BLM or USFS for multiple years and is considered to be in good standing. This type of recreational use of public lands is considered to be casual use but requires a Special Recreation Permit due to the commercial aspect of the event. The event qualifies for Categorical Exclusion under the NEPA process based upon the reference to 516 DM listed below.

Applicant Name: Nevada Event Promotions, Dick Allen

Project Location: Near Hawthorne, NV southeast past Lucky Boy Pass. T7N, R29E

BLM Acres for the Project Area: NA

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.”

Section 8 – REC-2: Land Use Allocations, 1: “All public lands under CCFO jurisdiction are designated open to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use unless they are specifically restricted or closed.”

Section 8 – REC-6: Administrative Actions, 4: “On public land designated open for off highway vehicles, there will generally be no restrictions on use. Organized competitive OHV events have been allowed in Mason Valley, Wilson Canyon, Hungry Valley OHV Area, Moon Rocks, Lemmon Valley MX Area, Dead Camel Mountains, Salt Wells Area, Wassuk Range and in the Frontier 500 and Carson Rally OHV corridors. Organized events will be handled on a case-by-case basis through the Special Recreation Permit review and Environmental review process. Organized activity is generally restricted to existing roads and trail

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)		JK
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)		RW JK JK CS
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)		JK
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		JK
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)		JK
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		JK
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)		JK JK
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)		JK
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)		JK JK
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		JK
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)		JK
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)		JK

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: *SK 09/20/2011*
- Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD*
- Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *DW 9-19-11*
- Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *JW 9-19-11*
- Archeology, Susan McCabe: *SM*
- Water Quality, Gabe Venegas: *GV*
- Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *AS*

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

09/19/2011
(date)