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: LLNVC02000-12502
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-2012-C020-0016-CX
Project Name: Pinenut Cracker
Project Description: Robert Braun from Alta Alpina Cycling Club is requesting a 5-year Special Recreation Permit renewal to hold an annual mid-June mountain bike race in the Ruhenstroth area of the Pinenuts. The proposed 2012 event is scheduled for June 19. The ride is proposed as a one day (10 am – 2 pm) mountain bike race on approximately 20 miles of dirt roads and single track trails. Each racer would complete 2-4 laps. Past authorized races attracted around 125-150 racers and up to 30 spectators. Up to three "manned" control points are proposed along the course to verify racers are staying on race course. Most event staging (i.e. participant parking, registration, etc.) would occur at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Event participants would ride from the fairgrounds to the starting line located near the "single tree" trailhead located off Pinenut Road. The club is proposing that the OHV staging area off Pinenut Road west of the "single tree" staging area be identified as an alternate staging site for their event if for some reason the fairgrounds are unavailable.

Race course will be marked with flagging. No new surface disturbance or temporary structures are proposed.
Applicant Name: Alta Alpina Cycling Club
Project Location: Ruhenstroth, Pinenuts; T. 12 N., R. 21 E., S. 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29.
BLM Acres for the Project Area: Area of proposed course is estimated at 10 acres. Proposed staging is estimated at up to 2 acres for both the "single tree" and OHV staging areas located off Pinenut Road.
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)

If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.	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 hc RC PZ
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 PZ
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:

Jo Ann Hufnagle, Realty Specialist
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Niki 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:

Alan R. Bittner
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

2/3/12
(date)