

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: Ely District Office

Case File/Project Number: Pending

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-C020-2012-0043-CX

Project Name: Nevada Trail Expeditions - Comstock Trophy

Project Description: Ted Oxborrow of Nevada Trail Expeditions (NTE) is requesting a 1 year Special Recreation Permit from the Ely District Office to hold a mountain bike stage race event across Nevada. The proposed June 30 – July 7, 2012 ride will consist of 10 paid riders and 5-10 vehicle support crews. The ride is proposed as an 8-day, fully supported mountain bike race across central Nevada on paved, dirt and graveled roads. The proposed Comstock Trophy course is the same course authorized in 2011 under a separate permittee for a similar event; the major differences being the 2011 event was conducted in September and course direction was west to east (opposite direction).

The event would travel on approximately 23 miles of public land in the SFFO over a two day period. Riders would enter the SFFO July 6th east of Hooten Well travelling west to Fort Churchill, picking up the Back Country Bi-way maintaining a westerly direction. Proceeding past Table Mt. the proposed course veers northwest and crosses Highway 50, connecting to Six Mile Canyon then proceeds to Virginia City where all parties overnight in hotels. The race continues the next morning and heads southwest toward Washoe Lake over to Crystal Bay. Camping on BLM lands is not proposed. Support vehicles will consist of a mix of 4X4 trucks and SUVs. The support vehicles would use main highways and graded dirt roads on an as needed basis.

Applicant Name: Nevada Trail Expeditions, LLC (Ted Oxborrow)

Project Location (include Township/Range, County): The 2012 event starts June 30 near the NV/UT border and ends at Crystal Bay at the North Shore of Lake Tahoe. The event enters the SFFO on July 6.

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 28 acres (SFFO)

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 ZC PZ RC
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:

Eric Pignata, 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

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:



Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

6-7-12

(date)