

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: LLNVC02000-12213

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-C020-2012-0056-CX

Project Name: Red Rock Rumble Horse Endurance Ride

Project Description: Tami Rougeau has submitted a permit application to conduct a horse endurance ride in the Sand Hills, Bedell Flat, Dogskin areas north of Reno, Nevada over the next two years. Ms. Rougeau has operated similar events in the Sand Hills area under a five year permit and has maintained a good record of permit compliance. The two day event would be held in early October. This year the event date is proposed for October 6-7, 2012. Endurance courses generally range from 25-75 miles long with a combination of various loops that accumulate the ride mileage. The proposed event would utilize approximately 42 miles (~37 miles BLM, ~5 miles PVT) of established dirt roads (est. 85%) and trails (est. 15%). Camping, parking and start/finish would be located on public lands at the Stix corral. One vet check and water stop would be located at Stix corral. A combination vet check and water stop using a portable tank (water hauled) would be used at the northernmost part of the course (see map). Eight (6 BLM, 2 PVT) developed water sources along the course would be used rather than hauling water in to those locations (see map). Proposed course loops would be flagged in different colors and proposed directional arrows drawn using white flour on the ground. Flagging would be removed immediately following the event. It is anticipated that the event would draw 75 participants and up to 5 spectators. The project area is located within preliminary general habitat for the greater sage-grouse habitat and not within priority habitat for the greater sage-grouse.

Applicant Name: Tami Rougeau

Project Location (include Township/Range, County): T. 22 N., R. 18 E., S. 1-3, 10-11; T. 23 N., R. 18 E., S. 14-15, 22-25, 27, 34, 36; T. 23 N., R. 19 E., S. 2-3, 6-7, 9-10, 16-20, 30; T. 24 N., R. 18 E., S. 24, 36; T. 24 N., R. 19 E., S. 19, 26-31, 35. **Washoe County.**

BLM Acres for the Project Area: ~38 acres

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:

<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)		X
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)		X
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)		X
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		X
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)		X
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		X
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)		X
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)		X
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)		X
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		X
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)		X
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)		X

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

Realty Specialist: Erik Pignata EP or Perry Wickham ___

Outdoor Recreation Planner: Arthur Callan A

Hydrologist: Niki Cutler nc

Archaeologist: Jim Carter ___ or Rachel Crews RC

Wildlife Biologist: Pilar Ziegler PZ

Botanist: Dean Tonenna DT *Need to include stipulation on weed-free forage during and prior to events*

Planning & Environmental Coordinator: Brian Buttazoni BB

Range Management Specialist: Katrina Leavitt KL or Ryan Leary ___

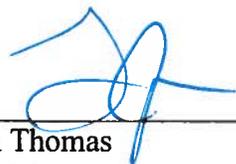
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist: John Axtell ~~_____~~

Geologist: Dan Erbes DE for Dan Erbes

Forester: Coreen Francis CF

DECISION: 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. It is my Decision to implement the Airport Salvage and Rehab project.

Approved by:



Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

9-24-12
(date)