

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: LLNVC02000-13503

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-C020-2013-0001-CX

Project Name: High Desert Horse Endurance Ride

Project Description: Permit Renewal: Nancy Upham has submitted a permit renewal application to conduct a horse endurance ride in the Carson Plains / Adrian Valley areas north of Yerington, Nevada over the next five years. Ms. Upham has operated similar events in these areas under a five year permit and has maintained a good record of permit compliance. The proposed course differs from some of the previously authorized course; however all proposed course is located on roads. The annual two day event would be held in mid-October or early November starting in 2013 and would stage out of Fort Churchill State Park Scout Camp. 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 64 miles (~35 miles BLM, ~29 miles PVT) of established dirt roads (100%); one river crossing and no trails (0%). Camping, parking and start/finish (2) would be located on state lands. Seven "stops" (2 BLM, 5 PVT) in various combinations of use (water, vet, start/finish) have been proposed along the course (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 around 30 spectators.

Is the project located within preliminary general habitat for sage-grouse? Yes No

Is the project located within preliminary priority habitat for sage-grouse? Yes No

Applicant Name: Nancy Upham

Project Location (include Township/Range, County): T. 16 N., R. 24 E., S. 2, 5, 8-9, 11-16, 21-22; ; T. 17 N., R.24 E., S. 1-5, 10-13, 15, 22-24, 26-28, 32-35; T. 18 N., R. 24 E., S. 22, 25-27, 32-36; T. 18 N., R. 25 E., S. 13, 23-24, 26-28, 31-33; T. 18 N., R. 26 E., S. 5, 7, 8, 17-18.

Lyon County.

BLM Acres for the Project Area: ~25 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 CCFO".

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 ___ or Perry Wickham PW

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

Planning & Environmental Coordinator: Brian Buttazoni BB

Range Management Specialist: Katrina Leavitt ___ or Ryan Leary ___ or Kathryn Dyer KD

Wild Horse and Burro Specialist: John Axtell JA

Geologist: Dan Erbes DE or Joel Hartmann ___

Forester: Coreen Francis CF

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.

Approved by:

for BB
Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

Jan 2, 2013
(date)