

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: SFFO**

**Lead Office: SFFO**

**Case File/Project Number: NVC02-13507**

**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-C020-2013-0009-CX**

**Project Name: Rides of March Horse Endurance Ride**

**Project Description:** Tami Rougeau has submitted a permit renewal application to conduct a horse endurance ride in the Sand Hills, Bedell Flat, Dogskin areas north of Reno, Nevada over the next five years. Ms. Rougeau has operated similar events in the Sand Hills area under other multi-year permits and has maintained a good record of permit compliance. The annual two day event would be held in mid-March. The proposed event in 2013 is March 16-17. 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 47 miles (34 miles previously authorized; 13 miles "new") of established dirt roads (est. 85%) and trails (est. 15%) all on BLM. 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. Ten additional water stops have been proposed along the course. 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 plus 30 crew and support personnel.

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: Tami Rougeau**

**Project Location:** T23N, R19E, S. 2, 5, 7-23, 27-33; T23N, R18E, S.13, 24-25. Washoe County.

**BLM Acres for the Project Area:** 35 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>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>

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

**Realty Specialist:** Perry Wickham \_\_\_ or Erik Pignata ESP

**Outdoor Recreation Planner:** Arthur Callan AC

**Hydrologist:** Niki Cutler nc

**Archaeologist:** Jim Carter \_\_\_ or Rachel Crews RCC

**Wildlife Biologist:** Pilar Ziegler PZ

**Botanist:** Dean Tonenna DT

**Planning & Environmental Coordinator:** Brian Buttazoni BB

**Range Management Specialist:** Katrina Leavitt \_\_\_ or Ryan Leary RL or Kathryn Dyer \_\_\_

**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:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Thomas  
Field Manager  
Sierra Front Field Office

3-4-13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)