

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District
Shoshone Field Office
400 West F Street
Shoshone, ID. 83352

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW SHEET

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2013-0021-CX

A. Project Description

The Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone Field Office (BLM) is responding to an application from USA Cycling for a special recreation permit (SRP) for the use of BLM-administered public lands in conjunction with their 2013 mountain bike national championship race event to be held in Sun Valley, Idaho. USA Cycling is proposing to host the event on Bald Mountain within the permitted ski area for Sun Valley Company. The ski area encompasses land owned by Sun Valley Company, and public lands administered by both the BLM and United States Forest Service (USFS). The event would include multiple races on June 29, 30 and July 6, 2013. All races would use existing trails on USFS and BLM administered public lands as well as Sun Valley Company owned lands. The SRP would include stipulations to which USA Cycling would be required to adhere. See Appendix I.

B. Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances:

This Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances Review Sheet documents the review of the proposed action to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply. If any of the extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action, then an EA or EIS must be prepared. Any evidence or concerns that one or more of the exceptions may apply must be brought to the attention of the manager who is authorized to approve the proposed action.

1. The proposed action would not have any significant impacts on public health or safety.

The mountain bike races as proposed and mitigated would not impact public health or safety. The races would be conducted on designated routes and caution tape will encompass both sides of the trail. Crossing locations will be placed along the course and be manned by staff allowing spectator's access across the course when it is clear. The trails within the permit area would be closed to the general public during the race events to allow for the protection of both the racers and public. Access to the event would be limited and controlled. This minimizes the chance of collisions or use conflicts. See stipulations ff, and hh of Appendix I.

2. The proposed action would not 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

There are no unique geographic characteristics, park or refuge lands, wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers, national natural landmarks, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands or floodplains, national monuments, or other ecologically significant or critical areas within or at the project site. It does fall within a unique recreational area; however, the area is a developed ski area with an existing trail system managed, during the summer, for mountain biking and hiking activities. The proposed activities are not anticipated to impact migratory birds that may be in the area beyond that of the current level.

3. The proposed action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

The proposed permit area and trail system has been utilized by mountain bikers since 1987. There are no known unresolved use or user conflicts within the proposed permit area.

4. The proposed action would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Impacts from the proposed action are predictable. They consist of fugitive dust stirred up by the mountain bikers, impacts to the existing trail tread, and trash or flagging used to identify the race course. Breakaway Promotions and the Sun Valley Company will maintain the trails prior to the race and repair any damaged trail tread post race, see stipulation p of Appendix I. All trash will be removed, stipulations t and ff of Appendix I.

5. The proposed action would not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

The proposed action is not connected to a future action that would require further environmental analysis nor does it establish a precedent for future actions. The proposed action would not significantly reduce other values/resources in the area. The BLM routinely issues permits in the general area and throughout the Shoshone Field Office.

6. The proposed action would not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

This action does not have a direct relationship with any other actions that may have individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The proposed

action is not directly related to any other events or developments on or adjacent to public lands.

7. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

The proposed action does not involve any new ground disturbance and would be restricted to existing roads and trails. There would be no impacts to listed or eligible National Register properties.

8. The proposed action would not 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.

A Special Status Plant Species Assessment was completed by Danelle Nance, BLM Natural Resource Specialist, with a finding that it is unlikely that special status plant species exist within the area of impact of the project.

The project is not likely to adversely impact any animal 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. Compliance with the plant stipulations will decrease the potential impacts to the special status animal species and their habitat. Additional stipulations as described in Appendix I will reduce any possible impacts from ground disturbance, wildfires, etc.

9. The proposed action would not violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

The proposed action would be done in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws. There are no tribal laws in effect for the project area. See stipulations a and u of Appendix I.

10. The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

This proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations within the project area or surrounding areas of Blaine County.

11. The proposed action would not 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 (Executive Order 13007).

The proposed action would not limit access to or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on BLM-administered Federal lands.

12. The proposed action would not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive 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 Executive Order 13112).

There currently are noxious weeds in the project area, such as diffuse (*Centaurea diffusa*), Russian (*Acroptilon repens*), and spotted knapweeds (*Centaurea stoebe*). These are listed by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture as noxious weeds (Idaho Code, Title 22, Ch. 24). They exist primarily along existing roads, riparian areas, and heavily used areas, and although they have not been documented in the project area, they have been treated nearby, and are likely to be found there. It is unlikely that the proposed project would result in introduction, or spread of weedy plants beyond the current level. It is unlikely that this level of activity will contribute to any measurable contribution to the noxious weed population and spread. There are no ground disturbing activities or route creation being authorized, and motorized vehicles will be limited to designated routes. The following stipulations, which would be attached to the permit, would help to reduce the impacts to the existing vegetation and reduce the likelihood of spreading noxious weeds - 1) Avoid driving and/or parking off roads and trails. 2) Ensure that no noxious weeds or invasive plant materials are transported to the project area. 3) If any damage to the soils occurs, rehabilitate the area appropriately.

USA Cycling National Championship operating plan states that all equipment used on the mountain including, but not limited to, bikes, vehicles, fencing staging, tents, etc. would be prewashed and remain free of all soil and plant material prior to operating on BLM-administered public land. All competitors' bikes will be inspected at check in for soil and debris. The only vehicles allowed on Bald Mountain for the event would be Breakaway Promotions and Sun Valley Company's vehicles which would be washed and inspected prior to accessing BLM-administered public lands.

C. Participating Staff

Name of Participant	Position Title or Resource Expertise	Comments Provided (Initial One)		Date
		None	/ Attached	
Tara Barrier	Wildlife Biologist	TAB		5/15/2013
Danelle Nance	Botanist	JDB for DN		6/7/2013
Lisa Cresswell	Cultural Resources	LC		4/24/13
John Kurtz	Recreation Planner	JK		4/23/13
Kasey Prestwich	Realty Specialist	KP		4/23/13

Appendix I
BLM Shoshone Field Office Additional Stipulations
for
USA Cycling National Championships

USA Cycling National Championships operating plan along with the General Terms and Additional Stipulations are part of your Special Recreation Permit. They describe the responsibilities, requirements, and administrative procedures pertinent to Special Recreation Use Permits issued by the BLM for conducting the USA mountain bike national championships.

Name of Authorized Representative:

Official Name
of Business:

Business Address:

Telephone Number:

E-mail Address: _____

I have reviewed the attached operating plan along with the General Terms and Additional Stipulations and agree to operate under its provisions.

Signature

Date

Appendix I

SHOSHONE FIELD OFFICE
ADDITIONAL STIPULATIONS
(General Terms a – m are found on page 2 of Form 2930-2,)

- n. A property damage, personal injury and comprehensive public liability insurance policy is required for all commercial and competitive permittees. The insurance shall name the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management as additional insured and provide for specific coverage for the permittee's contractually assumed obligation to indemnify the United States. The policy shall also contain a specific provision or rider to the effect that the policy will not be canceled or its provisions changed or deleted before thirty days written notice by the insurance company to the BLM. The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States against any liability for personal injury, loss of life, or property damage arising in any way from activities under the permit. The permit is valid as long as the permittee has current proof of insurance on file.
- o. Permittee, employees, and clients will not interfere with other valid uses occurring on the public land such as grazing, mining, and other recreational uses (including commercial and private).
- p. The permittee will be responsible for the prompt repair of any damages to the trails, utilities, fences and other improvements. The permittee shall take every reasonable precaution to protect natural resource values and any improvement on both private and public lands. Breakaway Promotions will work with Sun Valley Company staff to repair trails on Bald Mountain trail system that will be used for the event. Trail work will be completed within one week after the event is completed. Trail will be repaired to its condition prior to the event.
- q. A Post Use Report will be submitted within 30 days after the end of the use season or no later than December 31. End of season use fee payments must be received by BLM when the Post Use Report is submitted. If the Use Report and fees are not received by January 15 a late fee of \$250 will be assessed. If the Use Report is not received by January 31 the Special Recreation Permit will be suspended. Use under the Permit will not be re-authorized until all fees, including the late fee, have been paid.
- r. No surface disturbance or excavation of cultural resources is allowed. All outfitters, guides and clients shall abide by all current federal regulations pertaining to antiquities use, collection, disturbance, or otherwise as provided in BLM Manual 8110. No antiquities can be removed from public land without a valid permit from an authorized Federal agent.
- s. No overnight camping will be permitted on BLM land.

- t. All trash will be removed by the permit holder.
- u. Operation and maintenance of all sanitation, food service, and water supplies, systems and facilities shall comply with the standards of the local department of health and the United States Public Health Service.
- v. Food and/or equipment caches will not be allowed unless prior approval is obtained from BLM's authorized officer. Location of proposed caches must be described in the permit application.
- w. Standing trees (alive or dead) may not be cut for use in constructing temporary facilities.
- x. Permittee may be held responsible for fire suppression costs resulting from wildfire caused by permittee, employees or clients.
- y. Wildfire should be reported immediately to the Interagency Fire Dispatch Center in Shoshone or Boise. Permittee is responsible for informing employees and clients of the current fire danger and required precautions that may be placed in effect by the BLM.
- z. The permittee is prohibited from inhibiting, limiting or reducing access to public lands within the permit area.
- aa. Issuance of a permit by BLM does not guarantee legal access to public lands. Access to public land by the permittee is assured only when legal access for the general public is available. Where legal public access is not available it is the permittee's responsibility to obtain permission from the landowner(s) to travel through or use private lands.
- bb. Vehicles must stay on existing roads and ways. No cross-country use of motorized or mechanical vehicles is authorized except in an emergency situation.
- cc. Issuance of a permit by BLM does not guarantee the permittee's use of specific public areas, nor does it grant the exclusive use of any area by the permittee.
- dd. The permittee is responsible for ensuring that participants and spectators stay within designated use areas.
- ee. The permittee is responsible for crowd control, ensuring that the event is orderly, does not endanger bystanders or participants, and is conducted in a peaceable manner to enhance recreation satisfaction and promote well being.
- ff. The permittee will take all reasonable measures, including publication of notices in the local news media, to inform other recreationists of the event and of associated temporary road and trail restrictions. Cautionary signs to forewarn other recreationists of the race are required on major access routes and intersections.

- gg. The permittee will sign and/or flag sensitive areas including but not limited to routes, staging areas, parking and pit areas. The permittee will ensure that all signing materials are immediately removed upon completion of the event.
- hh. During the event, the permittee will provide on-the-ground staff monitoring to ensure that use occurring is confined to the areas actually authorized by the permit. The permittee will provide flagmen at all road and trail crossings.
- ii. The permittee is responsible for ensuring the safety of all spectator, entrant, concessionaire, and/or support personnel assuring that all permit actions are in conformance with local, State, and Federal health and safety standards and by providing appropriate emergency medical personnel and facilities. The permittee shall provide adequate communication facilities on-site to coordinate the event safely and cope with emergencies.
- jj. The permittee is responsible for furnishing self-contained chemical sanitation facilities and trash receptacles at locations as necessary, to keep these serviced, neat and clean during the event, and to provide for off-site disposal of all refuse and human waste generated from the event, in accordance with all applicable local, State, and Federal ordinances, laws and regulations.
- kk. The permittee shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the United States and/or its agencies and representatives against and from any and all demands, claims, or liabilities of every nature whatsoever, including but not limited to damages to property and injuries to or death of persons that arise directly or indirectly from or that are in any way connected with the permittee's use and occupancy of the lands authorized by this permit.
- ll. The BLM recognizes and endorses the use of the principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly as appropriate wildland ethical behavior for the recreating public. The permittee is required to follow these principles listed below.
- mm. All trails used will be repaired to their conditions prior to the event.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Reference the full LNT booklet at: <http://www.lnt.org/TeachingLNT/LNTEnglish.php>

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the area and what to expect, travel in small groups, select appropriate equipment, and repack food to reduce litter at the source.

Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces

Concentrate use in popular areas, spread use in remote areas, avoid places where impact is just beginning.

Pack It In, Pack It Out

Reduce litter at the source by repackaging food, dispose of trash and garbage properly.

Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out

Dispose of human waste responsibly, minimize soap and food scraps in waste water, avoid contaminating water sources when washing, and dispose of fishing and hunting waste appropriately.

Leave What You Find

Minimize site alterations, avoid damaging trees and plants, leave natural objects and cultural artifacts, avoid disturbing wildlife, reduce your impact on other users.

Minimize Use and Impact From Fires

Be aware of regulations and weather conditions. Stoves are often the best option. If you must build a fire, use existing fire rings. Collect only dead and downed wood or bring your own.

TREAD LIGHTLY!

Reference the details of principles at:

<http://www.treadlightly.org/edu.mv?edu=Recreation%20Tips>

Travel only where permitted.

Know what areas/roads/trails are open to vehicles. Some roads may still have snow banks or muddy conditions in the third week of April so those should be avoided until they dry out (no riding on uplands to avoid snow banks).

Respect the rights of others.

Be considerate of others on the roads/trail that you travel. Vehicles yield the right-of-way to bicycles, hikers, and horses.

Educate yourself.

Obtain information on your destination before you go. If you have questions contact the managing agency of the area(s) you are visiting.

Avoid streams, meadows, wildlife areas, etc.

Be aware of wildlife habitat. Crashing through underbrush or across open meadows upsets the balance of nature, destroys nesting sites, and disturbs wildlife.

Drive and travel responsibly.

Use common sense. Avoid muddy roads and trails and stay out of meadows and wetlands.

Additional information on the Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! Programs are available at the Shoshone Field Office or on their respective internet sites.