

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: Dan Westermeyer

Field Office: Stillwater

Lead Office: Stillwater

Case File/Project Number: SRP-NVC01000-13003

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-C010-2013-0041-CX

Project Name: Modesto Ridge Runners OHV Rally

Project Description: Annual non-competitive, low-speed OHV rally and poker run south of Walker Lake, Hawthorne, Nevada. This event will be held on August 10th, 2013.

The Modesto Ridge Runners have submitted an application to conduct their annual off-highway poker run and rally. This event is for two-axel, motorized vehicles such as dune buggies and jeeps and utilizes existing and established routes consisting of bladed county roads, right-of-way access roads and jeep trails. This will be a low speed, non-spectator family oriented event where no cross country travel is permitted. Event organizers are anticipating 30 vehicles for the event this year.

The 2013 course on public lands is approximately 55 miles in length. The event will begin at the southwest end of the town of Hawthorne, Nevada and head southeast past Rattlesnake Well, then over the Excelsior Mountains to the old town site of Marietta. From Marietta, the course then heads northeast over Moho Mountain past the Moho Mine then continue towards Thunder Mountain and Camp Douglas. From Camp Douglas the course heads northwest through Garfield Flat then across the Army Depot land to the finish at the old town site of Thorne.

There will be three established checkpoints and one checkpoint/fuel stop, located at the side of the road in previously disturbed areas. Some participants will overnight pre and post event in Hawthorne. Travel on BLM lands will be on established dirt roads that have been mechanically created by dozer or grader at some time. Off road travel will not be authorized.

The Modesto Ridge Runners have been permittees for this event in this area of Nevada from the BLM or USFS since 1993 and are considered to be in good standing. This type of recreational use of public lands is considered to be casual use but requires a Special Recreation Permit due to the organized activity and the need to include stipulations. The event qualifies for Categorical Exclusion under the NEPA process based upon the reference to 516 DM listed below.

Applicant Name: Modesto Ridge Runners, Gordon Stewart, Event Coordinator

Project Location: South of Hawthorne, Nevada

All of the course falls on public lands with the exception of short segments on private and military lands. For the NV BLM managed lands, the following township, range and sections apply.

T4N, R33E, Sec. 3,4,5
T5N, R31E, Sec. 1
T5N, R32E, Sec. 17,18,19,27,28,29,30,34,35,36
T5N, R33E, Sec. 25,31,32,35,36
T5N, R34E, Sec 4,5,6,7,18,19,30
T6N, R30E, Sec. 1
T6N, R31E, Sec. 6,7,8,17,28,34,35
T6N, R29E, Sec. 5, 6, 7
T6N, R33E, Sec. 6,7,18,19,20
T6N, R34E, Sec. 31,32,33
T7N, R32E, Sec 6,7,16,17,18,22,23,25,26,36
T7N, R33E, Sec 31
T8N, R31E, Sec 24,25,26

The course crosses the following 1:24:000 quads on NV BLM lands:

Kinkaid, NV 1979	Pamlico, NV 1967
Powell Mountain NE, NV. P.E. 1987	Whiskey Flat NV, P.E. 1989
Rattlesnake Flat, NV. P.I. 1980	Mable Mountain, NV. 1967
Moho Mountain, NV. 1967	Camp Douglas, NV. 1967
Teels Marsh, NV 1967	Little Huntoon Valley, NV. 1967

BLM Acres for the Project Area: N/A

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.”

Section 8 – REC-2: Land Use Allocations, 1: “All public lands under CCFO jurisdiction are designated open to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use unless they are specifically restricted or closed.”

Section 8 – REC-6: Administrative Actions, 4: “On public land designated open for off highway vehicles, there will generally be no restrictions on use. Organized competitive OHV events have been allowed in Mason Valley, Wilson Canyon, Hungry Valley OHV Area, Moon Rocks, Lemmon Valley MX Area, Dead Camel Mountains, Salt Wells Area, Wassuk Range and in the Frontier 500 and Carson Rally OHV corridors. Organized events will be handled on a case-by-case basis through the Special Recreation Permit review and Environmental review process. Organized activity is generally restricted to existing roads and trail

Name of Plan: Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)

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? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		<i>J</i>
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? (Archeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality)		<i>CS</i>
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC)		<i>JDL</i>
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		<i>JDL</i>
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? (PEC)		<i>JDL</i>
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		<i>JDL</i>
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? (Archeology)		JKW
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)		CK
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and Archeology)		JKW LDA
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		JKW
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)? (Archeology)		JKW
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)? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		CS

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Planning Environmental Coordinator, Angelica Rose: *AR 7/23/13*
 Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD 7/22/13*
 Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *DW 7/22/13*
 Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), Chris Kula: *CK 7/22/13*
 Archeology, Jason Wright: *JKW 7-22-13*
 Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *CS 7/22/13*

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:

Teresa J. Knutson
 Teresa J. Knutson
 Field Manager
 Stillwater Field Office

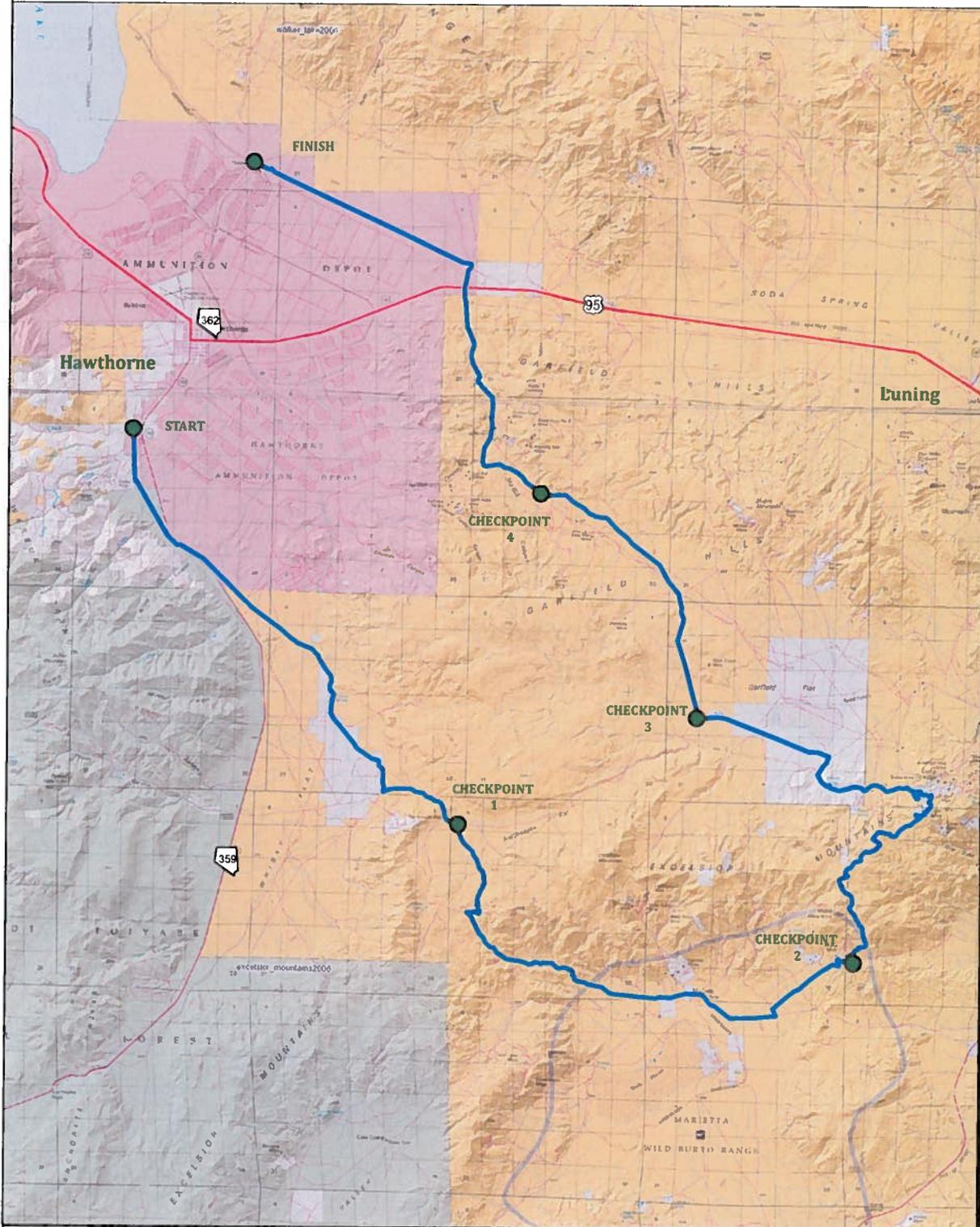
7/25/2013
 (date)

Modesto Ridge Runners

High Desert Run OHV Rally

August 10, 2013

BLM



Legend

- MRR_Checkpoints_2013
- MRR_Course_2013_A



Map Produced by DMW 7/11/13



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
5865 Morgan Mill Rd
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 885-6000

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Carson City District Office