

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: Black Rock FO

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-NV-W030-2013-0007-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: SRP # NVW03500-13-03

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: USCRPL 'Traveler' Space Shot

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T.35 N., R.25 25 E, sec. 36

APPLICANT (if any):

Jordan Noone representing
USCRPL
1415 Spruce St.
South Pasadena, CA 91030

A. Description of the Proposed Action with attached map(s) and any applicable mitigation measures.

Background: This launch is proposed to take place on the Black Rock Desert playa during the 2013 annual Arizona High Powered Rocketry's (AHRP)'BALLS Launch' event scheduled for September 20-22, 2013 (SRP # NVW-03500-09-04). AHRP has been hosting this event for close to two decades, and this is year five of the current five year permit. Approximately 200 to 250 people attended last year's event. This includes participants, family and friends. This is an annual event that attracts participants from many parts of the United States and the world. Portable restrooms are provided by AHRP and most of the participants utilize self-contained motorhomes.

Participant's projects must be submitted to and approved by a board of Tripoli members before an invitation to the event is issued. Launch towers are free standing structures secured with metal stakes and fitted with steel plates that protect the playa surface from the blast of the rocket motors. Rocket recovery is via parachute. AHRP discourages spectators not directly involved in the event, but this is not an exclusive use permit.

Proposal: University of Southern California Rocket Propulsion Laboratory (USCRPL) is an undergraduate student-run group operating out of the University of Southern California (USC). USCRPL is involved in the development and construction of high powered rockets. Mr. Noone (representing USCRPL) has requested permission to launch a rocket (motor class R19, 383 with a total impulse of

221,388 N^{*}S) capable of reaching a nominal altitude of 340,000 feet Above Ground Level (AGL). The dates of October 4, 2013 and October 18, 2013 have been requested as back-up dates. Launch coordinates are centered on UTM Zone 11 320099.07, 4524842.23, and this is consistent with: 1) the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of 2000; and 2) the Land Use Plan. Specifically, the Act in Section 5.3 states “*Permitted events – The Secretary may continue to permit large scale events in defined, low impact areas of the Black Rock Desert playa in the conservation area . . .*” and in the land use plan REC-28 states: “*Rocket launching activities would be required to use the rocket launching area (12,499 acres) indicated on Map 2-15, unless otherwise approved for public safety, resource concerns, or due to specific operating requirements.*”

There have been similar rocket launches on the Black Rock Desert playa in the past. The Civilian Space Exploration Team (CSXT) after 3 previous attempts successfully launched their rocket to 72 miles (380, 000 feet) in May 2004 (EA # NV-020-02-22; SRP # NV-023-02-02). In addition, AHPR have been permitted on the playa in roughly the same location for over a decade (EA # NV-020-02-23).

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Resource Management Plan for Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and Associated Wilderness and other Contiguous Lands in Nevada
Date Approved: July 2004

Other Documents: H-2930-1 – Recreation Permit Administration
Date Approved: 08/07/2006

Other Documents: Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of 2000
Date Approved: December 2000

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for the following LUP decisions:

R-28: Rocket launching activities would be required to use the rocket launching area (12,499 acres) indicated on Map 2-15, unless otherwise approved for public safety, resource concerns or due to specific operating requirements.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name, number and date (DR/FONSI or ROD) all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Special Recreation Permit for CXST Spaceshot
EA # NV-020-02-22
Decision Date: 5/23/02

AeroPac and Balls Rocket Launches
EA # NV-020-02-23
Decision Date: 6/7/02

Special Recreation Permit for CXST Spaceshot
EA # NV-020-03-19
Decision Date: 6/9/2003

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The USCRPL's proposal is essentially similar in rocket design and stability and propulsion and launch method to that analyzed for the CXST attempts (EA # NV-020-02-22). The proposed location and geographic location is in the area analyzed for rocket launches in the BR-HR RMP.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

The USCRPL proposal is consistent with the previously evaluated and subsequently approved actions in the above two EAs.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. At the present time there is no new information or circumstances that have changed that would substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action. In addition, design advances in amateur rocketry have increased the accuracy of predictive performances models used by the proponent and the FAA to establish the required waiver.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. At the present time there is no new information or circumstances that have changed that would substantially change the direct, indirect and cumulative effect of the new proposed action.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. In addition to the normal scoping methods and processes used for the two EAs and RMP mentioned above, this document will be posted on the Winnemucca District web site. The Friends of the Black Rock-High Rock and Arizona High Powered Rocketry web sites will also post information regarding the proposed action.

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E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name /Title	Resource/Agency Represented	Signature/Date	Comments (Attach if more room is needed)
Kathy Ataman	Cultural Resources	\S\ K Ataman 06/13/2013	
Kathy Ataman	Paleontological Resources	\S\ K Ataman 06/13/2013	
Joey Carmosino	Native American Religious Concerns	\S\ V J Carmosino 06/12/2013	
Joey Carmosino	Recreation	\S\ V J Carmosino 06/12/2013	
John Callan	Wastes, Hazardous & Solid	\S\ John Callan 05/17/2013	
Rob Burton	Soils	\S\ Robert Burton 06/05/2013	
Rob Burton	Air Quality	\S\ Robert Burton 06/05/2013	
Kathy Cadigan	T & E Species (Plants & Animals)	\S\ K Cadigan 05/30/2013	
Kathy Cadigan	Special Status Species (Plants & Animals)	\S\ K Cadigan 05/30/2013	
Kathy Cadigan	General Wildlife Habitat	\S\ K Cadigan 05/30/2013	
Kristine Struck	Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas	\S\ Kristine Struck 06/12/2013	No mechanical recovery w/in Wilderness/WSA. Must notify us if lands in
Kristine Struck	LWC	\S\ Kristine Struck 06/12/2013	Wilderness or WSA.
Rob Bunkall	GIS Support	\S\ Rob Bunkall 06/12/2013	
Lynn Ricci	NEPA Coordinator	\S\ Zwaantje Rorex for Lynn Ricci 09/05/13	

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion (If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM' compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

\S\ V J Carmosino

Signature of Project Lead

\S\ Zwaantje Rorex

Signature of NEPA Coordinator

\S\ Victor Lozano

09\07\2013

Signature of the Responsible Official

Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.