

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

OFFICE: *Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM)*

NEPA/TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-AZ-P040-2015-001-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: AZ-P040-SR15-001

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Special Recreation Permit

LOCATION/LLEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sonoran Desert National Monument,
Mormon Battalion Trail

APPLICANT (if any): Rich Radford, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,
Maricopa Arizona Stake.

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The proposed action provides for the issuance of an Organized Group Special Recreation Permit (“SRP”) to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Maricopa Stake, care of Rich Radford. Mr. Radford proposes to supervise a three day- two nights educational and camping event to commemorate a migration event of historical importance to the Mormon faith. Approximately 120 participants will push two-wheeled wooden carts by foot from Hwy 238 on route 8003(see map), transporting camping equipment and supplies, to re-enact an event in Mormon history. The event organizers will provide “port-a-john” toilets and trash receptacles at the Laser and Gap Well campsites, and first aid qualified individuals will accompany the participants. The permit would provide for one motor vehicle to accompany the participants on the trek over the Mormon Battalion Trail (Anza National Historic Trail) to provide emergency water, first aid supplies, and transportation. Motorized access to the area of the proposed campsites and handcart trek for the purposes of pre-event planning would also be permitted. No motor vehicles would be authorized for the areas now closed to motorized use.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: Sonoran Desert National Monument Record of Decision
and Approved Resource Management Plan
Date Approved/Amended: September 2012

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

The Sonoran Desert National Monument RMP page 2-75 states that:

RM-2.1.10: At the discretion of the authorized officer, SRPs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis as outlined in 43 CFR 2930.5; in subsequent policies and guidance (See Appendix D, Best Management Practices and Standard Operating Procedures); and in the decisions below. See also CH-2.1.5, WC-1.1.13.

RM-2.1.11: Organized groups numbering greater than 25 participants will require a special recreation permit. See also CH-2.1.6.

RM-2.1.12: To ensure protection of Monument objects, permits will not be issued for organized groups of more than 200 participants at one site.

The SDNM was established by Executive Order 7397 with the provisions that "...all motorized and mechanized vehicle use off road will be prohibited, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes." No off road travel is to be authorized under the proposed action.

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

The Sonoran Desert National Monument RMP page 2-75 states that:

RM-2.1.10: At the discretion of the authorized officer, SRPs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis as outlined in 43 CFR 2930.5; in subsequent policies and guidance.

"Special Recreation Permits for Commercial Recreation Activities on Public Lands in Arizona" (E.A. No. AZ-931-93-001), August, 1993. This document analyzed the environmental effects of commercial recreation permitting on public lands in Arizona, including "base camps of 14 days or less," and established a standard set of "Arizona BLM stipulations for commercial special recreation permits." These stipulations were designed to protect the lands or resources involved, reduce user conflicts, and minimize health and safety hazards, and are made a part of the permit.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(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 exiting NEPA**

document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The proposed action—the establishment of a single site base camp to be used for a period of less than 14 consecutive days, non-mechanized and non-motorized camp activities, and hiking in the adjacent public lands—is substantially the same type of action for which the environmental analysis “Special Recreation Permits for Commercial Recreation Activities on Public Lands in Arizona” (E.A. No. AZ-931-93-001), August, 1993 was completed. All activities will remain within the scope of this document, and all standard commercial special recreation permit stipulations referenced in the environmental analysis will be attached to, and made a part of, the special recreation permit issued. No additional stipulations specific to this use of the SDNM were identified by Phoenix District BLM staff specialists.

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

Yes. A proposed action, and “no action” were analyzed in the existing EA and they are still appropriate with respect to the current proposed action. No new alternatives or concerns have been presented by the public, other agencies, or resource specialist.

- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and 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. No new information or circumstances with regard to the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action are known.

Standards for Rangeland Health were incorporated into all state Land Use Plans through a statewide amendment in May, 1997; therefore, the proposed action was reviewed to determine conformance with the approved standards. Since all activities included in the proposed action will occur on existing motor vehicle routes and no new areas of surface disturbance will ensue, it has been determined that the proposed action will not impact watershed functional condition or the desired plant communities of riparian and upland areas in the affected area.

- 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. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA documents specified above. The activities proposed to be authorized by special recreation permit are limited to existing disturbed areas and vehicle routes. No discernable incremental cumulative impact to natural resources of the SDNM is expected to result from the proposed action.

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

Yes. During the ongoing land use planning process, extensive public outreach and opportunity for public comment have been provided. No public or interagency concerns about existing recreation permitting on the SDNM have been made evident. As the proposed action has not changed substantially from previously permitted activities, the level of public involvement is believed adequate.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name	Title	Resource/Agency Represented
Dave Scarbrough	SDNM - Manager	LSFO - SDNM
Ron Tipton	Wildlife Biologist	LSFO
Cheryl Blanchard	Archeologist	LSFO
Andrea Felton	Natural Resource Specialist	LSFO

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:

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 constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.



Dallas Meeks, Outdoor Recreation Planner



Gloria Tibbetts, P & E Coordinator

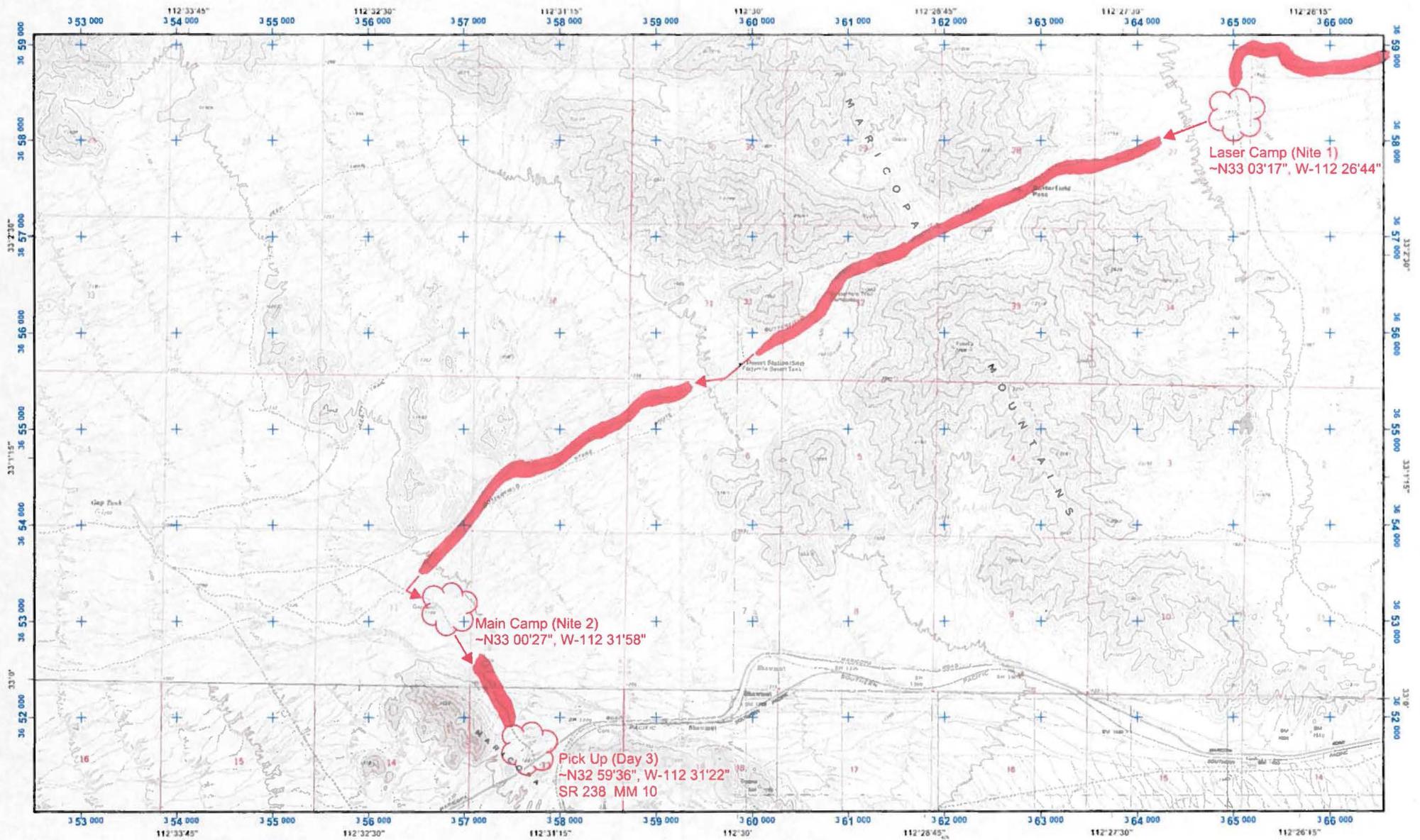


Edward Kender, Field Manager

11/20/14

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.



Laser Camp (Nite 1)
 ~N33 03'17", W-112 26'44"

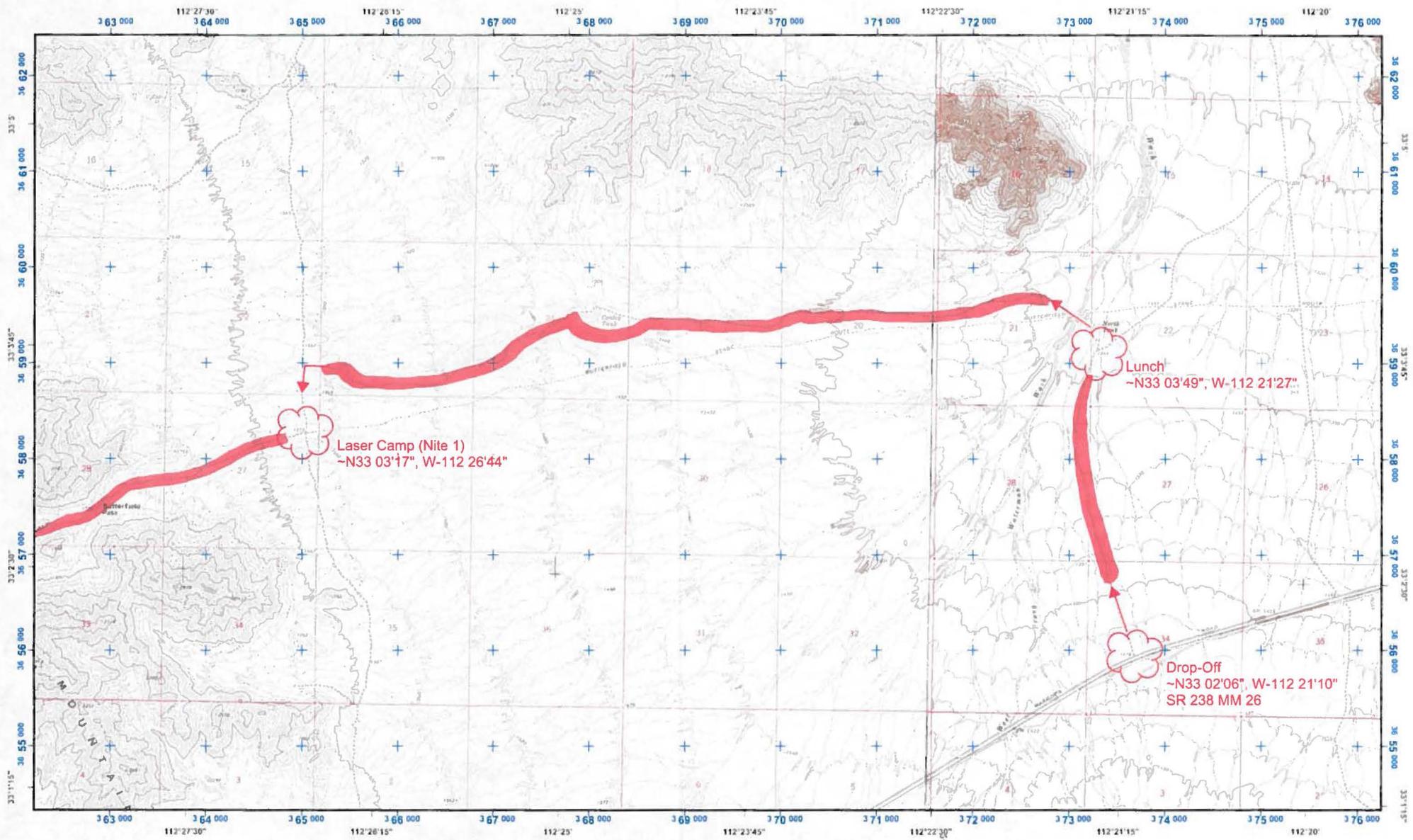
Main Camp (Nite 2)
 ~N33 00'27", W-112 31'58"

Pick Up (Day 3)
 ~N32 59'36", W-112 31'22"
 SR 238 MM 10

Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Projection Zone 12Q 25
 North American Datum of 1983
 1000 meter UTM / USNG / MGRS
 Grid Zone Designator: 12S
 100 000-m Squares UB

1:35000 scale
 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75 2 Miles
 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75 2 Kilometers

Magnetic declination of 121' at center of map
 on March 17, 2011



Laser Camp (Nite 1)
 ~N33 03'17", W-112 26'44"

Lunch
 ~N33 03'49", W-112 21'27"

Drop-Off
 ~N33 02'06", W-112 21'10"
 SR 238 MM 26

Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Projection Zone 12Q 25
 North American Datum of 1983
 1000 meter UTM / USNG / MGRS
 Grid Zone Designation: 12Q
 100,000-m Squares UB

1:35000 scale
 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75 2 Miles
 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75 2 Kilometers

Magnetic declination of 121° at center of map
 on March 17, 2011