

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0046-EA

SRP #AZ-030-14-01

Desert Splash 2013

Applicant: Arizona State Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc.

La Paz County, AZ

Lake Havasu Field Office
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Date: October 2013



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CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 Identifying Information

CASEFILE/ PROJECT NUMBER (optional): SRP #AZ-030-14-01

PROJECT TITLE: Desert Splash 2013

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T10N R18W Sections 18 and 19

T10N R19W Sections 13, 24, 25, and 26

APPLICANT: Parker 4 Wheelers - Arizona State Association of 4-WD Clubs

1.2 Introduction and Project Background

A Special Recreation Permit (SRP) application has been filed by the Parker 4 Wheelers, members of the Arizona State Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc., proposing an organized three day Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) modified jeep and buggy tour event. Seven routes are proposed for use, all of which are situated on approximately 7.5 miles of existing roads and trails that traverse public lands administered by the Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO). The permit application proposes a fee based, public non-speed motorized OHV event accommodating various levels of driving skills on existing routes.

1.3 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to respond to an SRP application from Parker 4 Wheelers for the proposal to utilize Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered public lands located in the Parker, AZ area for a commercial, non-speed OHV single event. The action will be led by trained staff and will accommodate drivers with varying skill levels, thereby providing an accessible, safe, and enjoyable motorized event.

The need of the Proposed Action is to comply with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., which establishes outdoor recreation as one of the principle uses of public lands, and directs the Secretary of the Interior to regulate, through permits or other instruments, the use of public lands (43 CFR 2931.3).

1.4 Decision to be Made

The BLM would decide through analysis, whether or not to authorize Arizona State Association of 4WD Clubs to conduct commercial, motorized OHV tours on authorized routes. All stipulations for the event would need to be adhered to.

The SRP authorization would only apply to routes situated on BLM-administered lands. As there is a federal nexus to non-public lands adjacent to the proposed area of use, the responsibility of obtaining permission for use of privately owned, state owned, and tribal owned

roads and routes lies exclusively on the applicant.

1.5 Conformance with Land Use Plan

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the *Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan* (RMP) approved on May 10, 2007 and is specifically provided for in the following RMP management objectives and decisions:

- Page 103, Special Recreation Permits and Vendor permits will be monitored for compliance and effectiveness on an as-needed basis through the NEPA process.
- Page 117, Monitoring: The interim route network includes the “Existing Roads and Trails” as defined by the Route Inventory Maps. The inventory maps include routes already designated in previous activity plans and these designations still apply. These areas/routes will be monitored for compliance.
- Page 114 TM-17 Public lands within the Gibraltar Mountain Interdisciplinary Management Planning Area, except in the WA and the proposed Shea Road/Osborne Wash Open Area, will be classified as limited to designated roads and trails or limited to designated routes closed seasonally. These designated trails and routes were established under the 2001 Gibraltar Mountain Interdisciplinary Management Plan.
- Page 116 TM-29 The BLM will require permittees (e.g., for hunting, wood gathering, livestock operators) to comply with field office route designations. Exceptions may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

1.6 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

The Proposed Action is in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 2930, Use Authorizations, and Subpart 2932. These laws require Special Recreation Permits for organized recreation activities on BLM administered public lands. This proposal has been submitted within the guidelines of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Manual 2932, and H-2932-1 regulations and policies. In addition, other federal laws and regulations that apply are the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act and the Federal Land Policy Management Act.

1.7 Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues

SCOPING: The principal goals of scoping are to allow public participation in identifying issues, concerns, and potential impacts that would require detailed analysis.

EXTERNAL SCOPING: External scoping was conducted with Arizona Game and Fish Department on September 3, 2013. No concerns were brought forward.

INTERNAL SCOPING: The table in Section 3.1.1 (Interdisciplinary Team Review) summarizes the resources scoped by the interdisciplinary team on September 3, 2013 for the Proposed Action.

CHAPTER 2 - PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Introduction

An SRP application filed by the Parker 4 Wheelers, members of the Arizona State Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc., proposing an organized three day Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) modified jeep and buggy tour event. Seven routes are proposed for use, all of which are situated on approximately 7.5 miles of existing roads and trails that traverse public lands administered by LHFO. A maximum of 250 jeeps would participate in the event, involving a maximum of 25 vehicles per ride, with three separate trips occurring on each route per day. The event would take place from November 8-10, 2013. Event staging would occur at La Paz County Park. Communication between trail leaders and backers assigned for each tour would occur via radio and/or cell phone to ensure safety and to ensure that event participants remain on designated routes.

2.2 Alternatives Analyzed in Detail

2.2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action involves the use of seven runs totaling approximately 7.5 miles of existing routes (See **Appendix B Map**). A maximum of 250 jeeps would participate in the event, with a maximum of 25 vehicles per ride and three trips per day. The anticipated type of OHVs that would be utilized include stock 4WD vehicles, highly modified jeeps, 4X4 buggies, and other modified vehicles that can traverse and climb rugged, steep, rock, and narrow trails. Initial event staging would occur at La Paz County Park and trail staging would take place on approximately 3 acres of disturbed lands alongside Cienega Springs Rd. Trail leaders and backers with radio and/or cellphone access would be assigned to each tour to ensure safety and to ensure that participants remain on designated routes. Each run would be offered daily and would be provided based on participant interest. Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly principles would be followed. No fueling would occur on public lands. Spectators would not be authorized. All stops would take place within the traveled roadway. A Public Land Closure would not be necessary as the authorized routes would remain open to public use. This would not be a competitive or speed event. The duration of activities for the event would occur from November 8-10, 2013.

2.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, an SRP would not be issued. The applicant would not be able to conduct OHV tours as viable options without the use of BLM administered public lands do not exist. This would result in the loss of this particular type of recreational opportunity in the Parker, AZ area. No direct or indirect impacts would occur to the affected environment under the No Action Alternative and the existing routes would remain open for vehicular travel.

2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated From Detailed Analysis

Other routes on non-public lands were proposed by the applicant, but were eliminated for consideration on their own accord due to the necessity of additional permits and letters of authorization from private landholders.

CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Introduction/ Background

This section provides a description of the human and natural environmental resources that could be affected by the Proposed Action and presents comparative analyses of the direct, indirect and cumulative effects on the affected environment stemming from the implementation of the actions under the Proposed Action and other alternatives analyzed.

3.1.1 Interdisciplinary Team Review

The following table is provided as a mechanism for resource staff review, to identify those resource values with issues or potential impacts from the proposed action and/or alternatives. Those resources identified in the table as potentially impacted are brought forward for further analysis.

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Resource Status</u>	<u>Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis</u>
<u>Air Quality and Climate*</u> <i>Project Lead</i>	PNI	The Proposed Action area is not within a non-attainment area. The OHV runs would create a minor, temporary increase in vehicle emissions and particulates, however overall air quality would not be affected.
<u>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</u> <i>George W. Shannon, Jr., Ph.D</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<u>Cultural, Historic & Paleontological Resources*</u> <i>George W. Shannon, Jr., Ph.D</i>	PI	See Affected Environment and Appendix A
<u>Environmental Justice</u> <i>Project Lead</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<u>Farmlands (Prime or Unique)</u> <i>Project Lead</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<u>Fish Habitat*</u> <i>Doug Adams</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<u>Floodplains*</u> <i>Vacant</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<u>Forest Management*</u> <i>Vacant</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<u>Fuels/ Fire Management</u> <i>Mike Trent</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area.
<u>Geology/ Minerals</u> <i>Amy Titterington</i>	PNI	The Proposed Action would not result in any damage or modification of any existing mining claims and would not affect

		mineral resources of the area.
<u>Grazing/ Rangeland</u> <i>Project Lead</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Invasive & Non-Native Species</u> <i>Doug Adams</i>		Although invasive, non-native species may occur within the proposed project area, the proposed event would be limited to existing roads and routes and would not change the overall occurrence or distribution of invasive, non-native species. Stipulations in the Special Recreation Permit would further reduce the likelihood of inadvertent spread of invasive, non-native plant species.
<u>Lands & Realty</u>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Law Enforcement</u>	PNI	Permittee gained a letter of authorization from the La Paz County Sherriff's Department to operate non-street legal vehicles on County maintained roads.
<u>Migratory Birds*</u> <i>Jennifer House</i>	PNI	Multiple species of migratory birds occur along the proposed tour routes. The noise and disturbance created from the vehicles and people might flush birds from their nests but as these activities are of a short duration. Birds would be able to return to their nests after the vehicles pass and resume nesting without negatively affecting the survivability of eggs or nestlings.
<u>Native American Religious Concerns*</u> <i>George W. Shannon, Jr., Ph.D</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Noise</u> <i>Project Lead</i>	PNI	The proposed project is approximately five miles from the nearest population center; therefore, ambient noise will have no effect on local residents.
<u>Public Health & Safety</u> <i>Bill Parry</i>	PNI	The Proposed Action would not be a speed competition event. Stipulations in the Special Recreation Permit would require the permittee to provide an emergency action plan and carry a list of local emergency contacts on each tour.
<u>Recreation</u> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	PI	See Affected Environment and Appendix A
<u>Socioeconomics</u> <i>Project Lead</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Soils</u> <i>Vacant</i>	PNI	The Proposed Action would remain on existing roads and routes, and would not affect overall soil conditions or cause conditions that could lead to soil erosion.
<u>T & E Species*</u> <i>Jennifer House</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Travel Management</u> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	PNI	Potential impacts associated with touring vehicles on authorized roads and trails would remain the same. All authorized routes would remain open for public use. Only routes inventoried and/or designated open by the LHFO RMP's Travel Management Plans would be proposed for touring operations. While all proposed routes have been inventoried, three routes were not included in the Gibraltar Mountain Interdisciplinary Management Plan. These routes will be evaluated as part of the Cactus Plain Travel Management. Overall, effects to Travel Management are negligible.
<u>Vegetation</u>	PNI	Diverse types of vegetation occur along the proposed routes but

<i>Jennifer House</i>		no vehicle travel is permitted off of existing designated routes so no vegetation would be crushed as a result of these tours.
<u>Visual Resources</u> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	PNI	Since no ground disturbance would be permitted, this resource would not be impacted
<u>Wastes Hazardous or Solid*</u> <i>Cathy Wolff-White</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Water Quality Surface and Ground*</u> <i>Vacant</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Wetlands and Riparian*</u> <i>Doug Adams</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Wilderness, WSAs, Wild & Scenic Rivers</u> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Wilderness Characteristics</u> <i>Amanda Deeds</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Wild Horses & Burros</u> <i>Chad Benson</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Wildlife Aquatic</u> <i>Doug Adams</i>	NP	Resource not present within the project area
<u>Wildlife Terrestrial</u> <i>Jennifer House</i>	PI	See Affected Environment and Appendix A

*Consideration Required by Law or Executive Order

NP = Not Present

PNI = Present, Not Impacted

PI = Present and/ or Impacted

The impacted resources brought forward for analysis include:

- Recreation
- Wildlife
- Cultural Resources

3.2 PHYSICAL RESOURCES

3.2.1 Recreation

Affected Environment: The project area provides unique opportunities for outdoor recreation. Local and traveling visitors alike utilize the site specific public lands under this analysis to off-road, hike, camp, hunt, rock hound, target shoot, and socialize. Lands within the project area provide diverse recreational opportunities in close proximity to backcountry-urban interfaces, while extensive route networks deliver access to semi-primitive recreational settings. The proposed tour routes are open to free, year round public use.

Environmental Effects:

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Impacts: Under the Proposed Action, recreation opportunities would increase in the project area. The applicant would not, by virtue of the permit, have exclusive use of the authorized routes and all routes would remain open to the public. Casual users who travel the proposed routes during the days of the event may experience short term route crowding due to the proposed tour activity.

Protective/ Mitigation Measures: In addition to the attached stipulations (**Appendix A**), the applicant would be required to have trail leaders ensure that participants remain on authorized routes and that they are notified of any casual users utilizing the same trail. The timing and duration of the event would be short term and limited to three days. All routes within the project area would remain open. Thus, no major displacement of recreation use is anticipated and any change in total number of vehicles on the authorized routes would be minimal.

No Action Alternative

Direct/ Indirect Impacts: Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would not issue a SRP to the applicant. Other recreation events and year round actions permitted by LHFO in the Parker, AZ area would continue to exist.

3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.3.1 Wildlife Terrestrial

Affected Environment: Multiple species of wildlife exist along the proposed tour routes. Several species of mammals may utilize the woodland washes as corridors for traveling, food, and shelter. When washes are utilized for roads these species are disturbed and must flee to other non-preferred areas. Some of the species found within the proposed action area include desert bighorn -sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), desert mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), black tail jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*), desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*), cactus mouse (*Peromyscus eremicus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*), and various species of bats.

Environmental Effects:

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Impacts: Under the Proposed Action, OHV travel would be confined to existing designated routes. The presence of vehicles and tourists could cause short term disturbances and displacement of wildlife. The noise and disturbance created from the vehicles and people might flush birds from their nests but as these activities are of a short duration.

Protective/ Mitigation Measures: In addition to attached stipulations (**Appendix A**), Harassment of wildlife would be prohibited. The timing and duration of the event would be short term and limited to three days. Any affects to wildlife would be temporary and minimal. Temporary disturbance, limited stops along the proposed tour routes, and special stipulations in the Special Recreation Permit would reduce the likelihood of impacts to wildlife. No direct, indirect or cumulative effects are anticipated.

No Action Alternative

Direct/ Indirect Impacts: Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would not issue a SRP to the applicant. There would be no effect to general wildlife because the event would not occur. Effects to general wildlife caused by on-going activities present in the project area, such as the use of roads and trails by motorized vehicles, would expect to be continued.

3.4 HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

3.4.1 Cultural and Historic Resources

Affected Environment: Recorded sites and artifacts found within the proposed project area indicate continuous occupancy dating from about 5,000 B.C. Trails, sleeping circles, shrines, intaglios, lithic scatters, quarries, and trail markers indicate both Archaic and later Patayan occupation. During the Protohistoric and Historic periods the region was used by the Hualapai, Western Yavapai, and Halchidoma aboriginal groups. The Mohave and their ancestors may also have used the resources of the area. The Spanish traveled through the area between the 1500s and 1700s, searching for mines and Indian villages. In the 19th and early to mid-20th centuries activity centered on ranching and copper, gold, and silver mining.

Environmental Effects:

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Impacts: Direct effects to heritage resources may include damage to artifacts from vehicle travel as well as an increased potential for removal of artifacts from nearby sites by event participants.

Protective/ Mitigation Measures: In addition to attached stipulations (**Appendix A**), the timing and duration of the event would be short term and limited to three days. Under the Proposed Action, OHV travel would be confined to existing designated roads. Collection of artifacts would be prohibited.

No Action Alternative

Direct/ Indirect Impacts: Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would not issue a SRP to the applicant. There would be no effect to cultural resources because the tours would not occur. The potential for effects to cultural and paleontological resources caused by on-going activities present in the project area, such as the use of roads and trails by motorized vehicles, would expect to be continued.

3.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY

1. Past and Present Actions

Historically, the Buckskin Mountains have been used for mining and mineral extraction. The jeep and mining trails are popular for all types of OHVs, including highly modified jeeps and other vehicles that can traverse and climb rocky narrow trails not suitable for stock 4x4 vehicles. Routes are inventoried and contribute to a network of specialized vehicle routes known as recreation zones.

2. Reasonably Foreseeable Action Scenario

The applicant would be authorized to deliver the proposed motorized OHV tours and provide a unique recreation experience for participants while adhering to all resource stipulations. The applicant and other similar organizations may apply for other Special Recreation Permits to run a variety of motorized events within the project area. Event monitoring would determine permit compliance and assist in future permitting actions.

3. Cumulative Effects to Resources

Being a three day event limited to OHVs, any cumulative effects are anticipated to be minimal and temporary. Event participants may return to the project area on their own time increasing casual use of the motorized routes. Cumulative effects are not anticipated for Cultural/Historic Resources, Recreation and Wildlife Management Resources.

CHAPTER 4 – TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

4.1 List of Preparers and Participants

BLM/Lake Havasu Field Office
Amanda Deeds, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Jennifer House, Wildlife Biologist
Dr. George Shannon, Archaeologist
Amy Titterington, Geologist

4.2 Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Suzanne Ehret, Wildlife Manager

CHAPTER 5 – REFERENCES, GLOSSARY

5.1 References Cited

U.S. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. Arizona State Office. Lake Havasu Field Office. March 2001. Gibraltar Mountain Interdisciplinary Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. EA-AZ-070-7000-0043.

U.S. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. Arizona State Office. Lake Havasu Field Office. May 2007. Lake Havasu Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. BLM/AZ/PL-07/002.
<http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/lhfo-final.html>

5.2 Glossary of Terms

ACCESS: The ability to legally make use of route or way across public or private lands; without barriers to use by the public or a specified user.

AUTHORIZED: Invested with legal authority through a written agreement, permit, or other legal document by the BLM.

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION: The gathering and evaluation of information on proposed endangered and threatened species and critical and proposed critical habitat for actions that do not require a biological assessment.

CAMPING, SHORT TERM: Camping for short terms of up to 14 days (in any 28-day period) on BLM-managed primitive or undeveloped public land.

DECISION RECORD: A manager's decision on a categorical exclusion review or an environmental assessment. Comparable to the record of decision for an environmental impact statement, the decision record includes: 1) a finding of no significant impact, 2) a decision to prepare an environmental impact statement, or 3) a decision not to proceed with a proposal. Also see RECORD OF DECISION.

DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS: Legal term used in CFR 8340 — OFF ROAD VEHICLES as a type of limited area designation. The term “roads and trails” includes all types routes use by off highway vehicles.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: An animal or plant species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (as defined in the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1982). Also see THREATENED SPECIES.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA): A concise public document for which a federal agency is responsible. An EA serves: 1) to briefly provide enough evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a finding of no significant impact and to aid an agency’s compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act when no EIS is needed; and 2) to facilitate preparing an EIS when one is needed. Also see ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

EXISTING ROADS AND TRAILS: Legal term used in CFR 8340 — OFF ROAD VEHICLES as a type of limited area designation. The term “roads and trails” includes all types routes use by off-highway vehicles. For the LHFO RMP “existing roads and trails” would be those roads and trails identified on the Route Inventory Maps as of the date of the Record of Decision.

FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT (FLPMA): The act that: 1) set out, for the Bureau of Land Management, standards for managing the public lands including land use planning, sales, withdrawals, acquisitions, and exchanges; 2) authorized the setting up of local advisory councils representing major citizens groups interested in land use planning and management; 3) established criteria for reviewing proposed wilderness areas; and 4) provided guidelines for other aspects of public land management such as grazing.

HABITAT: The natural environment of a plant or animal: 1) Specific parameters of physical conditions used by a single species, a group of species, or a large community. The major components of habitat are generally considered to be food, water, cover, and living space;

LAND USE PLAN DECISION: Establishes desired outcomes and actions needed to achieve them. Decisions are reached using the BLM planning process. When they are presented to the public as proposed decisions, they can be protested to the BLM Director. They are not appealable to Interior Board of Land Appeals.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Land use plans must identify the actions needed to achieve the desired outcomes, including actions to restore or protect land health. These actions include proactive measures (e.g., measures that will be taken to enhance watershed function and condition) as well as measures or criteria that will be applied to guide day-to-day activities occurring on public land.

MINING CLAIM: A mining claim is a selected parcel of Federal Land, valuable for a specific mineral deposit or deposits, for which a right of possession has been asserted under the General Mining Law. This right is restricted to the development and extraction of a mineral deposit. The rights granted by a mining claim protect against a challenge by the United States and other claimants only after the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit. The two types of mining claims are lode and placer. In addition, mill sites and tunnel sites may be located to provide support facilities for lode and placer mining.

MONITORING: The collection of information to determine the effects of resource management and detect changing resource trends, needs, and conditions.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966, AS AMENDED (NHPA): A federal statute that established a federal program to further the efforts of private agencies and

individuals in preserving the Nation's historic and cultural foundations. NHPA 1) authorized the National Register of Historic Places, 2) established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and a National Trust Fund to administer grants for historic preservation, and 3) authorized the development of regulations to require federal agencies to consider the effects of federally assisted activities on properties included on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV): Any vehicle capable of or designed for travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, deriving motive power from any source other than muscle. OHVs exclude: 1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; 2), any fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for official or emergency purposes; 3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by a permit, lease, license, agreement, or contract issued by an authorized officer or otherwise approved; 4) vehicles in official use; and 5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (FOSSILS): The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

PUBLIC LANDS: As defined by Public Law 94-579 (Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976), lands and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior, through BLM, regardless of how the United States acquired possession. In common usage, public lands may refer to all federal land, no matter what agency manages it.

PUBLIC USE: A cultural property is eligible for consideration as an interpretive exhibit-in place, a subject of supervised participation in scientific or historical study, a subject of unsupervised collecting under permit or related educational and recreational uses by members of the general public.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP): A BLM planning document that is prepared in accord with Section 202 of FLPMA that presents systematic guidelines for making resource management decisions for a resource area. An RMP is based on an analysis of an area's resources, its existing management, and its capability for alternative uses. RMPs are issue oriented and developed by an interdisciplinary team with public participation.

ROUTE: any motorized, non-motorized, or mechanized transportation corridor. Corridor may either be terrestrial or a waterway. "Roads," "trails," and/or "ways" are considered routes.

SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT (SRP): An authorization that allows for specific nonexclusive permitted recreational uses of the public lands and related waters. SRPs are issued to control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors, and accommodate commercial recreational uses.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT NETWORK: A system that addresses access requirements to public lands. This includes, but is not limited to: Title 5 rights-of-way, RS 2477 Roads, OHV routes, county maintained roads, trails (hiking, equestrian, bike, and vehicular), authorized or permitted uses (ranchers, miners, and other agencies), and ADA needs. The network aims to also improve the lack of legal access to public lands over private or state lands.

TREAD LIGHTLY: A not-for-profit organization whose mission is to increase awareness of ways to enjoy the great outdoors while minimizing human impacts

WASH: A channel or miniature valley cut by concentrated runoff but through which water commonly flows only during and immediately after heavy rains, or while snow is melting.

WILDERNESS: Area designated by Congress to protect their wilderness values or characteristics as described under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

WILDLIFE: A broad term that includes birds, reptiles, amphibians, and non-domesticated mammals.

5.3 List of Acronyms Used in this EA

BLM - Bureau of Land Management
CFR - Code of Federal Regulations
LHFO- Lake Havasu Field Office
NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
OHV - Off Highway Vehicle
RMP - Resource Management Plan
SRP - Special Recreation Permit

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Stipulations

General

1. The permittee shall comply with all Federal, State, and Local laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, postings, or written requirements applicable to the area or operations covered by the Special Recreation Permit. The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all required Federal, State, and local licenses or registrations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all clients, customers, participants, or spectators under the permittee's supervision.
2. A Special Recreation Permit authorizes special uses of the public lands and related waters and, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including the amount of use. The authorized officer may suspend a SRP if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, the environment, or noncompliance with permit stipulations.
3. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of Federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. The permit privileges are not to be considered property on which the permittee shall be entitled to earn or receive any return, income, price or compensation. The use of a permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
4. Unless expressly stated, the SRP does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of the Federal land by other users. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the area for any purpose.

5. The permittee or permittee's representative may not assign, contract, or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, the authorized officer may approve contracting of equipment or services in advance, if necessary to supplement a permittee's operations. Such contracting should not constitute more than half the required equipment or services for any one trip and the permittee must retain operational control of the permitted activity. If equipment or services are contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.
6. All advertising and representations made to the public and the authorized officer must be accurate. Although the addresses and telephone numbers of the BLM may be included in advertising materials, official agency symbols may not be used. The permittee shall not use advertising that attempts to portray or represent the activities as being conducted by the BLM. The permittee may not portray or represent the permit fee as a special Federal user's tax. The permittee must furnish the authorized officer with any current brochure and price list if requested by the authorized officer.
7. The permittee must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., trail and route conditions, land slides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling limbs or trees, submerged objects, hazardous wildlife, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.
8. In the event of default on any mortgage or other indebtedness, such as bankruptcy, creditors shall not succeed to the operating rights or privileged of the permittee's SRP.
9. The permittee cannot, unless specifically authorized, erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on public lands. Upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to pre-existing conditions.
10. The permittee must present or display a copy of the Special Recreation Permit to an authorized officer's representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request. If required, the permittee must display a copy of the permit or other identification tag on equipment used during the period of authorized use.
11. The authorized officer, or other duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or the permittee's operator, employee, or agent for up to three (3) years after expiration of the permit.
12. The term of the permit shall be for three days from the issuance of the permit on November 8, 2013 and has the potential to be renewed for no more than ten years total with satisfactory performance of SRP.
13. A Yearly Use Report shall be submitted to the BLM Authorized Officer, and will include a detailed summary of the number of vehicles, along with the number of drivers and

passengers involved. If the Yearly Use Report is not received by the established deadline of December 10, 2013 then the permit will be suspended and/or fines assessed.

14. The applicant/permittee is required to provide the Authorized Officer with a copy of a valid insurance policy or proof thereof covering the periods of use, before any use under this permit begins. The required minimum general liability limits are: \$500,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate for bodily injury; and \$30,000 annual aggregate for property damage. The U.S. Government must be named as additional insured on the policy. All liability policies are to specify that the insurance company shall have no right of subrogation (substitution) against the United States of America. 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.
15. The permittee shall pay BLM a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) fee of \$100, effective November 8, 2013. The permittee shall pay BLM 3% of the gross receipts; or the minimum SRP fee, whichever is greater. The minimum advance fee of \$100.00 will be required.
16. The permit will remain valid only if annual fees have been paid.
17. The permittee shall notify the authorized officer of any accident that occurs while involved in activities authorized by this permit which results in: death, personal injury requiring hospitalization or emergency evacuation, or in property damage greater than \$2,500 (lesser amounts if established by State law). Reports should be submitted within 48 hours in the case of death or injury, or 10 days in accidents involving property damage.
18. The permit shall not be construed in any way as preventing public use or access on any public lands except as expressly allowed under the permit.
19. Failure to comply with permit stipulations may result in denial of future permit authorizations for these events, or revocation of permits already issued.

Ride Operations

20. All motorized equipment activity associated with stopping areas, including Start/Finish, Photo Opportunity, Water, Lunch or Restroom Breaks will be conducted within the traveled portion of the road and/or predetermined stopping locations. No vehicle travel (including parking, turn-around, detours, etc.) outside of this corridor will be permitted unless authorized in advance by the BLM Authorized Officer.
21. All vehicles shall stay on the authorized routes. Straying from the course is prohibited. In the event of vehicle breakdown, vehicles shall be moved to the side of the road, but

shall not be moved into areas of existing vegetation. All vehicles shall be removed from the site within 24 hours of the end of the event.

22. No servicing of any motor vehicle will be permitted on any public land. In the event of mechanical trouble, vehicles will be transported to an appropriate service facility or location. If necessary, vehicles in need of repair may utilize existing routes to provide safe access back to appropriate facilities.
23. In the event of vehicles leaving the established road, removal of the vehicle and reclamation of disturbed areas will be required to the satisfaction of the BLM Authorized Officer, including raking of surface disturbance, appropriate removal of spilled oil/fuel, re-vegetation, etc.
24. Nothing in this permit implies permission to use non-Federal land administered by the BLM. It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to coordinate the event with Arizona State Lands Department (ASLD) as necessary, and to obtain written authorization to cross or utilize non-BLM administered land such as ASLD, Tribal Lands, Mohave County Road Department, Arizona Department of Transportation, and private property.
25. Under no circumstances shall the permittee permanently mark routes by placing signs, painting rocks or painting plants.
26. The number of trips per day is limited to three trips per route per day with a maximum of 25 participants and 3 staff vehicles per trip.
27. All gates along the routes shall be left as they are found.
28. Permittee would be responsible for handling emergency situations by calling 911 and/or appropriate emergency services.
29. In the event that a vehicle injures livestock, BLM personnel and/or the grazing permittee in the area will be immediately contacted to make an evaluation of the animal's condition. Under no circumstance will any person other than BLM personnel or the animal's owner be permitted to make a final evaluation of the animal's condition, or to destroy an animal that appears to be suffering.
30. All motor vehicle use will be conducted in a safe manner; reckless driving and/or excessive speed are permit violations.
31. All motor vehicle use will comply with existing local off-highway vehicle regulations. "Local off-highway vehicle regulations" refer to BLM Off-highway vehicle designations on BLM administered lands as established in the Resource Management Planning process, or in emergency closures authorized by a BLM manager.
32. BLM reserves the right to postpone or cancel the tours if weather conditions create a soft road surface that would be conducive to unacceptable road damage by tour vehicles.

Cultural

33. Permittee shall comply with all State and Federal laws relating to prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or artifacts. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management which result in impacts upon archaeological resources, shall be subject to the judicial proceedings of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. As property of the United States, no person may, without authorization, excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any historic or prehistoric site, artifact, or object of antiquity located on public lands.
34. The collection of artifacts or disturbance of archaeological resources on Federal Lands is prohibited and is prosecutable under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Disturbance of human graves are also prohibited. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management, which result in impacts upon archaeological or historical resources, shall be subject to the provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The permittee will immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any archaeological or historical resources encountered during permitted operations and maintain the integrity of such resources pending subsequent investigation.
35. Special collection of artifacts (either historic or prehistoric) or fossils, by permittee or participants on or near any designated route is prohibited. The definition of an artifact is anything over 50 years old that has been made, used or modified by a human. Permittee is required to inform all participants that collecting artifacts, theft or vandalism of any cultural property is a violation of the above mentioned Federal and/or State laws.

Recreation

36. By virtue of the permit, the permittee is allowed to use public routes across public land while conducting motorized tours on designated routes. Vehicle safety and safe driving techniques are to be stressed to all participants.
37. All permitted designated routes remain open for public use; the permittee has no exclusive use of any public route.
38. All trash and litter, as a result of the activity will be disposed of in a proper manner.
39. All vehicle use is limited to the designated routes: All vehicle use will be conducted in a safe manner, reckless driving and/or excessive speed is a permit violation and is prohibited.
40. No overnight camping use, wood, or rock collection is associated with this permit.

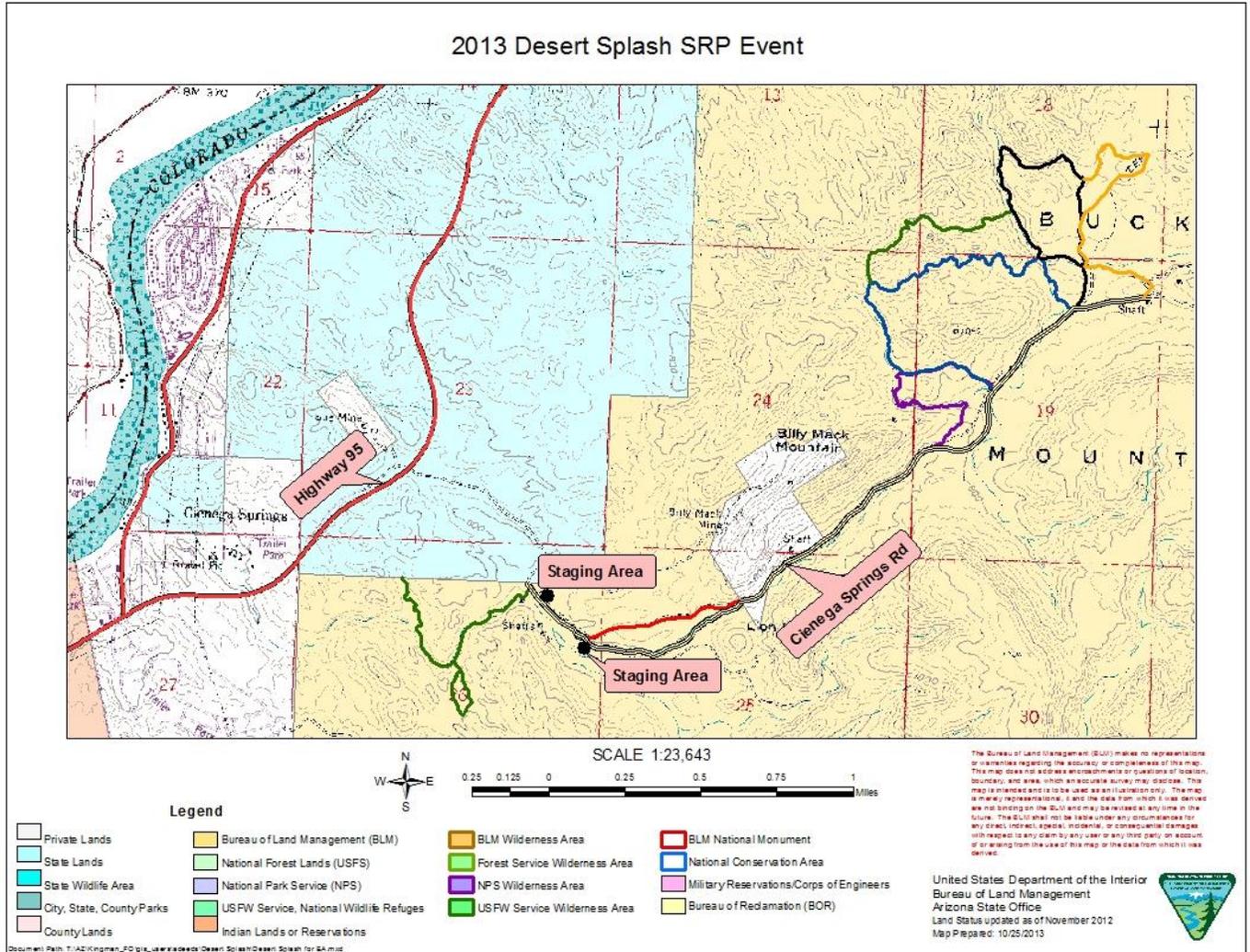
41. The permittee is expected to be familiar with and to practice “Leave No Trace” and “Tread Lightly” land use ethics principles.
42. Permittee and all tour participants are prohibited from stopping at, or entering any and all known and unknown abandoned mine features.
43. Any open mine shafts, abandoned mine structures observed by the permitted would be documented and reported to the BLM Authorized Officer within 24 hours of discovery.

Wildlife, Desert Tortoise and Protected Plants

44. Desert Tortoise. Care shall be taken not to disturb or destroy tortoises or their burrows. Handling, collecting, damaging, or destroying desert tortoises are prohibited by Arizona State Law. During all tours special care should be given to watch for and avoid any desert tortoise that may be present on a roadway.
45. Handling of Desert Tortoise. If a tortoise is endangered by any activity that activity shall cease until either the tortoise moves out of harm's way of its own accord, or until the authorized biologist is able to remove the tortoise to safety. Tortoises shall be handled only by a BLM authorized Wildlife Biologist, and shall be moved solely for the purpose of preventing death or injury. The authorized biologist shall be responsible for taking appropriate measures to ensure any desert tortoise relocated from the project site is not exposed to temperature extremes which could be harmful to the animal.
46. Inspection under Vehicles. If a vehicle is left for any occasion the driver shall inspect underneath any parked vehicles immediately prior to moving the vehicles. If a desert tortoise is beneath the vehicle, the authorized Biologist shall move the tortoise from harm's way. Alternatively, the vehicle shall not be moved until the desert tortoise has left of its own accord.
47. Native Plants. State protected plant species shall not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed without prior authorization from the BLM.
48. All wildlife and migratory birds shall be observed from a distance. Any injured wildlife shall be reported to the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. at (928)342-0091.
49. Harassment of wildlife, wild horses or burros, or destruction of private and public improvements such as fences and gates is prohibited. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
50. State protected plant species, including all cacti shall not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
51. Participants will be prohibited from approaching bighorn sheep on foot or by vehicle.

Appendix B – Maps

2013 Desert Splash SRP Event



Appendix C – Photos



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0046-EA

SRP #AZ-030-14-01

Review:

Prepared by: \s\Amanda Deeds Authenticated Amanda Deeds Amanda Deeds, Outdoor Recreation Planner` Project Lead	11/01/2013 Date
Reviewed by: : \s\Dave Daniels Authenticated Amanda Deeds Dave Daniels CRD Planning & Environmental Coordinator	4/30/2014 Date
Reviewed by: : \s\Jayson Barangan Authenticated Amanda Deeds Jayson Barangan Assistant Field Manager Recreation & Visitor Services	11/01/2013 Date
Reviewed by: : \s\Kimber Liebhauser Authenticated Amanda Deeds Kimber Liebhauser Field Manager Lake Havasu Field Office	11/04/2013 Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**LAKE HAVASU FIELD OFFICE
Desert Splash 2013
Parker, AZ
DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0046-EA**

Background

A Special Recreation Permit (SRP) application has been filed by the Parker 4 Wheelers, members of the Arizona State Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc., proposing an organized three day Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) modified jeep and buggy tour event. Seven routes are proposed for use, all of which are situated on approximately 7.5 miles of existing roads and trails that traverse public lands administered by the Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO). The permit application proposes a fee based, public non-speed motorized OHV event accommodating various levels of driving skills on existing routes.

Determination

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0046-EA), I have determined that the Proposed Action does not constitute a federal action having a significant impact on the human environment. Therefore an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the *context* and *intensity* of the impacts described in the EA.

Context

The Proposed Action involves the use of seven runs totaling approximately 7.5 miles of existing routes. A maximum of 250 jeeps would participate in the event, with a maximum of 25 vehicles per ride and three trips per day. The anticipated type of OHVs that would be utilized include stock 4WD vehicles, highly modified jeeps, 4X4 buggies, and other modified vehicles that can traverse and climb rugged, steep, rock, and narrow trails. Initial event staging would occur at La Paz County Park and trail staging would take place on approximately 3 acres of disturbed lands alongside Cienega Springs Rd. Trail leaders and backers with radio and/or cellphone access would be assigned to each tour to ensure safety and to ensure that participants remain on designated routes. Each run would be offered daily and would be provided based on participant interest. Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly principles would be followed. No fueling would occur on public lands. Spectators would not be authorized. All stops would take place within the traveled roadway. A Public Land Closure would not be necessary as the authorized routes would remain open to public use. This would not be a competitive or speed event. The duration of activities for the event would occur from November 8-10, 2013.

Intensity

1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

The Proposed Action would impact resources as described in the EA. Measures to reduce impacts were incorporated in the design of the action alternatives. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA and associated appendices are considered significant.

2) The degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health or safety.

The Desert Splash event is designed to minimize impacts to health and public safety by requiring an emergency action plan, trail assistants, and radio communication. Although off-roading activities have some inherent risk to public safety, the applicant executes measures that ensure that safety risks are minimal.

3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

The project area is located on public lands administered by the Lake Havasu Field Office. There are no farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area.

4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

Scoping for the Proposed Action and background information was made available to affected and interested agencies during the 30-day scoping period that was held between September 3, 2013 and September 27, 2013. No controversies were identified.

5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

There are no highly uncertain or unique or unknown risks in implementation of the Proposed Action.

6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects of represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

The Proposed Action would not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects. Any other actions would be subject to separate analysis under NEPA.

7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

A cumulative effects analysis was conducted as part of the EA, and it determined that there were no cumulatively significant effects associated with the selected alternative.

8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss of destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

BLM has made the determination that the project would not affect historic resources. Design features for managing sites that are determined to be potentially impacted by motorized tours include: limitations on stopping locations and situations prohibiting off trail and route travel, the collection of artifact collection, and disturbance of archaeological sites.

9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

No federally listed species under the ESA, or critical habitat for such species, are present on, or in the vicinity of, the Desert Splash event and therefore would not be impacted by the Proposed Action.

10) Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan. The action does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

FONSI

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the discussion of environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan.

\\s\Kimber Liebhauser Authenticated Amanda Deeds
Kimber Liebhauser
Field Manager
Lake Havasu Field Office

11/04/2013
Date

DECISION RECORD

**LAKE HAVASU FIELD OFFICE
Desert Splash 2013
La Paz County, AZ
DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0000-EA**

Introduction

A Special Recreation Permit application has been filed by the Parker 4 Wheelers, members of the Arizona State Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc., proposing an organized three day Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) modified jeep and buddy tour event. The Proposed Action involves the use of seven runs totaling approximately 7.5 miles of existing routes. A maximum of 250 jeeps would participate in the event, with a maximum of 25 vehicles per ride and three trips per day. The anticipated type of OHVs that would be utilized include stock 4WD vehicles, highly modified jeeps, 4X4 buggies, and other modified vehicles that can traverse and climb rugged, steep, rock, and narrow trails. Initial event staging would occur at La Paz County Park and trail staging would take place on approximately 3 acres of disturbed lands alongside Cienega Springs Rd. Trail leaders and backers with radio and/or cellphone access would be assigned to each tour to ensure safety and to ensure that participants remain on designated routes. Each run would be offered daily and would be provided based on participant interest. Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly principles would be followed. No fueling would occur on public lands. Spectators would not be authorized. All stops would take place within the traveled roadway. A Public Land Closure would not be necessary as the authorized routes would remain open to public use. This would not be a competitive or speed event. The duration of activities for the event would occur from November 8-10, 2013.

Scoping and Public Involvement

On 09/03/2013 the Proposed Action was evaluated by the BLM's interdisciplinary team. Issues that were raised during the review include:

- Cultural resource protection
- Potential for terrestrial wildlife disturbance

On 09/03/2013 the BLM initiated a 30-day scoping period with Arizona Game and Fish Department. No concerns were brought forward.

Land Use Conformance

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the *Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan* (RMP) approved on May 10, 2007 and is specifically provided for in the following RMP management objectives and decisions:

- Page 103, Special Recreation Permits and Vendor permits will be monitored for compliance and effectiveness on an as-needed basis through the NEPA process.
- Page 117, Monitoring: The interim route network includes the “Existing Roads and Trails” as defined by the Route Inventory Maps. The inventory maps include routes already designated in previous activity plans and these designations still apply. These areas/routes will be monitored for compliance.
- Page 114 TM-17 Public lands within the Gibraltar Mountain Interdisciplinary Management Planning Area, except in the WA and the proposed Shea Road/Osborne Wash Open Area, will be classified as limited to designated roads and trails or limited to designated routes closed seasonally. These designated trails and routes were established under the 2001 Gibraltar Mountain Interdisciplinary Management Plan.
- Page 116 TM-29 The BLM will require permittees (e.g., for hunting, wood gathering, livestock operators) to comply with field office route designations. Exceptions may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

Authority

Implementation of the Proposed Action is under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and regulations found at 43 CFR 2930.

Environmental Commitments

- **Recreation**
As described in Section 3, recreation opportunities would increase in the project area. The permittee would not, by virtue of the permit, have exclusive use of the authorized routes and all routes would remain open to the public. Casual users who travel the proposed routes during the days of the event may experience short term route crowding due to tour activity. In addition to attached stipulations, permittee would be required to have trail leaders and gunner to ensure that participants remain on the routes and are notified of any casual users utilizing the same trail. The timing and duration of the event would be short term and limited to three days and other designated routes within the project area will remain open. Thus, no major displacement of recreation use is anticipated and any change in total number of vehicles on the authorized routes would be minimal.
- **Wildlife Terrestrial**
As described in Section 3, the presence of vehicles and tourists could cause short term disturbances and displacement of wildlife. The noise and disturbance created from the

vehicles and people might flush birds from their nests but as these activities are of a short duration. In addition to attached stipulations, harassment of wildlife would be prohibited. The timing and duration of the event would be short term and limited to three days. Any affects to wildlife would be temporary and minimal. Temporary disturbance, limited stops along the proposed tour routes, and special stipulations in the Special Recreation Permit would reduce the likelihood of impacts to wildlife. No direct, indirect or cumulative effects are anticipated.

- **Cultural and Historic Resources**

As described in Section 3, effects to heritage resources may include damage to artifacts from vehicle travel as well as an increased potential for removal of artifacts from nearby sites by event participants. In addition to attached stipulations, the timing and duration of the event would be short term and limited to three days. Under the Proposed Action, off-highway vehicle travel would be confined to existing designated roads. Collection of artifacts would be prohibited.

Special Stipulations

8. The permittee shall comply with all Federal, State, and Local laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, postings, or written requirements applicable to the area or operations covered by the Special Recreation Permit. The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all required Federal, State, and local licenses or registrations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all clients, customers, participants, or spectators under the permittee's supervision.
9. A Special Recreation Permit authorizes special uses of the public lands and related waters and, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including the amount of use. The authorized officer may suspend a SRP if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, the environment, or noncompliance with permit stipulations.
10. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of Federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. The permit privileges are not to be considered property on which the permittee shall be entitled to earn or receive any return, income, price or compensation. The use of a permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
11. Unless expressly stated, the SRP does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of the Federal land by other users. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the area for any purpose.

12. The permittee or permittee's representative may not assign, contract, or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, the authorized officer may approve contracting of equipment or services in advance, if necessary to supplement a permittee's operations. Such contracting should not constitute more than half the required equipment or services for any one trip and the permittee must retain operational control of the permitted activity. If equipment or services are contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.
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14. The permittee must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., trail and route conditions, land slides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling limbs or trees, submerged objects, hazardous wildlife, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.
52. In the event of default on any mortgage or other indebtedness, such as bankruptcy, creditors shall not succeed to the operating rights or privileged of the permittee's SRP.
53. The permittee cannot, unless specifically authorized, erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on public lands. Upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to pre-existing conditions.
54. The permittee must present or display a copy of the Special Recreation Permit to an authorized officer's representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request. If required, the permittee must display a copy of the permit or other identification tag on equipment used during the period of authorized use.
55. The authorized officer, or other duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or the permittee's operator, employee, or agent for up to three (3) years after expiration of the permit.
56. The term of the permit shall be for three days from the issuance of the permit on November 8, 2013 and has the potential to be renewed for no more than ten years total with satisfactory performance of SRP.
57. A Yearly Use Report shall be submitted to the BLM Authorized Officer, and will include a detailed summary of the number of vehicles, along with the number of drivers and

passengers involved. If the Yearly Use Report is not received by the established deadline of December 10, 2013 then the permit will be suspended and/or fines assessed.

58. The applicant/permittee is required to provide the Authorized Officer with a copy of a valid insurance policy or proof thereof covering the periods of use, before any use under this permit begins. The required minimum general liability limits are: \$500,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate for bodily injury; and \$30,000 annual aggregate for property damage. The U.S. Government must be named as additional insured on the policy. All liability policies are to specify that the insurance company shall have no right of subrogation (substitution) against the United States of America. 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.
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64. All motorized equipment activity associated with stopping areas, including Start/Finish, Photo Opportunity, Water, Lunch or Restroom Breaks will be conducted within the traveled portion of the road and/or predetermined stopping locations. No vehicle travel (including parking, turn-around, detours, etc.) outside of this corridor will be permitted unless authorized in advance by the BLM Authorized Officer.
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shall not be moved into areas of existing vegetation. All vehicles shall be removed from the site within 24 hours of the end of the event.

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67. In the event of vehicles leaving the established road, removal of the vehicle and reclamation of disturbed areas will be required to the satisfaction of the BLM Authorized Officer, including raking of surface disturbance, appropriate removal of spilled oil/fuel, re-vegetation, etc.
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76. BLM reserves the right to postpone or cancel the tours if weather conditions create a soft road surface that would be conducive to unacceptable road damage by tour vehicles.

Cultural

77. Permittee shall comply with all State and Federal laws relating to prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or artifacts. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management which result in impacts upon archaeological resources, shall be subject to the judicial proceedings of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. As property of the United States, no person may, without authorization, excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any historic or prehistoric site, artifact, or object of antiquity located on public lands.
78. The collection of artifacts or disturbance of archaeological resources on Federal Lands is prohibited and is prosecutable under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Disturbance of human graves are also prohibited. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management, which result in impacts upon archaeological or historical resources, shall be subject to the provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The permittee will immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any archaeological or historical resources encountered during permitted operations and maintain the integrity of such resources pending subsequent investigation.
79. Special collection of artifacts (either historic or prehistoric) or fossils, by permittee or participants on or near any designated route is prohibited. The definition of an artifact is anything over 50 years old that has been made, used or modified by a human. Permittee is required to inform all participants that collecting artifacts, theft or vandalism of any cultural property is a violation of the above mentioned Federal and/or State laws.

Recreation

80. By virtue of the permit, the permittee is allowed to use public routes across public land while conducting motorized tours on designated routes. Vehicle safety and safe driving techniques are to be stressed to all participants.
81. All permitted designated routes remain open for public use; the permittee has no exclusive use of any public route.
82. All trash and litter, as a result of the activity will be disposed of in a proper manner.
83. All vehicle use is limited to the designated routes: All vehicle use will be conducted in a safe manner, reckless driving and/or excessive speed is a permit violation and is prohibited.
84. No overnight camping use, wood, or rock collection is associated with this permit.

85. The permittee is expected to be familiar with and to practice “Leave No Trace” and “Tread Lightly” land use ethics principles.
86. Permittee and all tour participants are prohibited from stopping at, or entering any and all known and unknown abandoned mine features.
87. Any open mine shafts, abandoned mine structures observed by the permitted would be documented and reported to the BLM Authorized Officer within 24 hours of discovery.

Wildlife, Desert Tortoise and Protected Plants

88. Desert Tortoise. Care shall be taken not to disturb or destroy tortoises or their burrows. Handling, collecting, damaging, or destroying desert tortoises are prohibited by Arizona State Law. During all tours special care should be given to watch for and avoid any desert tortoise that may be present on a roadway.
89. Handling of Desert Tortoise. If a tortoise is endangered by any activity that activity shall cease until either the tortoise moves out of harm's way of its own accord, or until the authorized biologist is able to remove the tortoise to safety. Tortoises shall be handled only by a BLM authorized Wildlife Biologist, and shall be moved solely for the purpose of preventing death or injury. The authorized biologist shall be responsible for taking appropriate measures to ensure any desert tortoise relocated from the project site is not exposed to temperature extremes which could be harmful to the animal.
90. Inspection under Vehicles. If a vehicle is left for any occasion the driver shall inspect underneath any parked vehicles immediately prior to moving the vehicles. If a desert tortoise is beneath the vehicle, the authorized Biologist shall move the tortoise from harm's way. Alternatively, the vehicle shall not be moved until the desert tortoise has left of its own accord.
91. Native Plants. State protected plant species shall not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed without prior authorization from the BLM.
92. All wildlife and migratory birds shall be observed from a distance. Any injured wildlife shall be reported to the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. at (928)342-0091.
93. Harassment of wildlife, wild horses or burros, or destruction of private and public improvements such as fences and gates is prohibited. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
94. State protected plant species, including all cacti shall not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
95. Participants will be prohibited from approaching bighorn sheep on foot or by vehicle.

Rationale

Under the Proposed Action, the Parker 4 Wheelers of the Arizona State Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc. would conduct one three day jeep tour event under a BLM Special Recreation Permit. The project would not have significant effects to the human environment and the Finding of No Significant Impact is hereby incorporated by reference. The decision to allow the Proposed Action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation, and is in conformance with the Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan.

DECISION

It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2013-0046-EA. The Proposed Action will be subject to the stipulations attached to this environmental assessment.

APPROVED

\s\Kimber Liebhauser Authenticated Amanda Deeds
Kimber Liebhauser, Field Manager
Lake Havasu Field Office

11/04/2013
Date

APPEALS

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the Lake Havasu Field Office, 2610 Sweetwater Avenue, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406 within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10 for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with the Lake Havasu Field Office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.