

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

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)**

PART I. – PROPOSED ACTION

BLM Office: Lower Sonoran Field Office

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-0004-CX

Case File No.: AZ-P020-SR15-002

Proposed Action Title/Type: Special Recreation Permit

Applicant: Ajo Community Health Center, d.b.a. Desert Senita Community Health Center

Location of Proposed Action: Ajo, AZ

Description of Proposed Action: Applicant proposes to conduct a one day 5 and 10 Kilometer fun run on February 21, 2015 on established trails on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands west of the town of Ajo, AZ. (see attached maps). Approximately 75 to 100 participants are expected and porta-poties and emergency medical services would be provided.

Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s): Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (September 2012)

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

RM-2.1.1.1 (Ajo Gateway RMZ): Provide local and seasonal residents of Ajo open natural spaces to enjoy recreational activities predominately for motorized activities, as well as nonmotorized opportunities, on BLM-administered lands bordering the Ajo community. Activities include motocross bike riding, mountain biking, and hiking in a system of primitive roads and trails just outside of town. (page 2-102)

RM-3.1.15: At the discretion of the authorized officer, SRPs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis as outlined in 43 CFR 2930, in subsequent policies and guidance (See Appendix A, Best Management Practices and Standard Operating Procedures), and in the decisions below. (page 2-111)

The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decision(s):

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with these plans (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2).

PART III. – NEPA COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION REVIEW

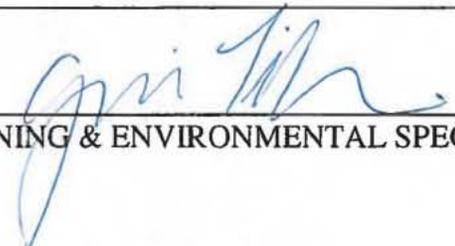
The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 H. Recreation Management (1) Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.

Extraordinary Circumstances Review: In accordance with 43 CFR 46.215, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstance applies to the action or project, and existing NEPA documentation does not adequately address it, then further NEPA analysis is required.

IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed in Part IV, comment and initial for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included in the appropriate block.

Part IV. – EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION

PREPARERS:	INITIALS:	DATE:
Dave Scarbrough	ds	1-23-2015
Ron Tipton	RCT	01/26/2015
Cheryl Blanchard	CB	1/26/2015


 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

1/28/15
 DATE

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(l)) apply. The project would:

(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Yes	No	Rationale: No impacts to public health or safety are anticipated to result from implementation of this project. A shade structure will be provided to guard against sun exposure and port-a-johns will be on site for sanitation purposes. No chemicals or surface disturbing materials posing short or long term public hazards will be used.	Preparer's Initials <u>dlb</u>
	X		

(b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

Yes	No	Rationale: The event will take place on existing vehicle routes of general public lands; no unique resources or geographic areas will be involved.	Preparer's Initials <u>dlb</u>
	X		

(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].

Yes	No	Rationale: No unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources, or controversy over potential environmental effects are known.	Preparer's Initials <u>dlb</u>
	X		

(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Yes	No	Rationale: No uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects are anticipated.	Preparer's Initials <u>dlb</u>
	X		

(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Yes	No	Rationale: The action does not establish precedent for, or foreclose on, any future action.	Preparer's Initials <u>dlb</u>
	X		

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(l)) apply. The project would:

(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Yes	No	Rationale: The action is not connected to, or cumulative with, any other present or reasonably foreseeable future action.	Preparer's Initials <u>dl</u>
	X		

(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.

Yes	No	Rationale: The project area does not contain any known properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.	Preparer's Initials <u>CB</u>
	X		

(h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

Yes	No	Rationale: The area encompassing both the 5 and 10K run routes exist entirely within lesser long nosed bat (ESA-endangered) forage habitat (an area centered on maternity roost sites, unmapped). Approximately half of the proposed run area occurs inside designated, but currently unoccupied Sonoran pronghorn (ESA-endangered) historic range. The proposed run area does not intersect Sonoran desert tortoise habitat (ESA-candidate) or Designated Critical Habitat for the Acuna cactus (ESA-endangered). Direct and indirect effects to nocturnal lesser long nosed bats are avoided because the race is to be run during daytime along existing BLM routes. Because they are not present and because the race is restricted to existing BLM routes, effects to Sonoran pronghorn individuals and habitat are also avoided. The proposed race route avoids habitat for the Sonoran desert tortoise, thus preventing effects to those individuals or habitat. If a tortoise were encountered during the foot race it would be easily avoided and if necessary moved to a safe location nearby. Similarly, effects to Acuna cactus individuals or designated critical habitat are avoided by their absence from the area. In addition to occurring along existing BLM travel routes the proposed action does not include any new permanent structures or ground disturbance, further preventing habitat loss for ESA listed or candidate species. For these reasons the proposed action is expected to have "No Effect" on lesser long nosed bats, Sonoran pronghorn, Acuna cactus, or any associated habitat. The proposed action is to occur along designated BLM routes outside Sonoran desert tortoise habitat and is therefore expected to have "No Impact" on individuals or habitat nor is it expected to lead to a trend toward future listing of individuals or habitat.	Preparer's Initials <u>RCT</u>
	X		

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(l)) apply. The project would:		
(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes	No	Rationale: No federal, state, local, or tribal law will be violated by implementation of the action.
	X	Preparer's Initials <u>dl</u>
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
Yes	No	Rationale: No low or minority populations will be affected by implementation of the action.
	X	Preparer's Initials <u>dl</u>
(k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
Yes	No	Rationale: No Indian sacred sites or religious practices are known to occur in the project area.
	X	Preparer's Initials <u>CB</u>
(l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		
Yes	No	Rationale: The action is not expected to contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species of any kind.
	X	Preparer's Initials <u>dl</u>

PART V. -COMPLIANCE REVIEW CONCLUSION

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record, and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

MITIGATION MEASURES/OTHER REMARKS: Standard stipulations for commercial SRPs (attached).

AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL:  DATE: 1/28/15

NAME: EDWARD J. KEUBER

TITLE: LOWER SOUVREAN LAND MANAGER

Note: The signed conclusion on this compliance record is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. A separate decision to implement the action should be prepared in accordance with program specific guidance.

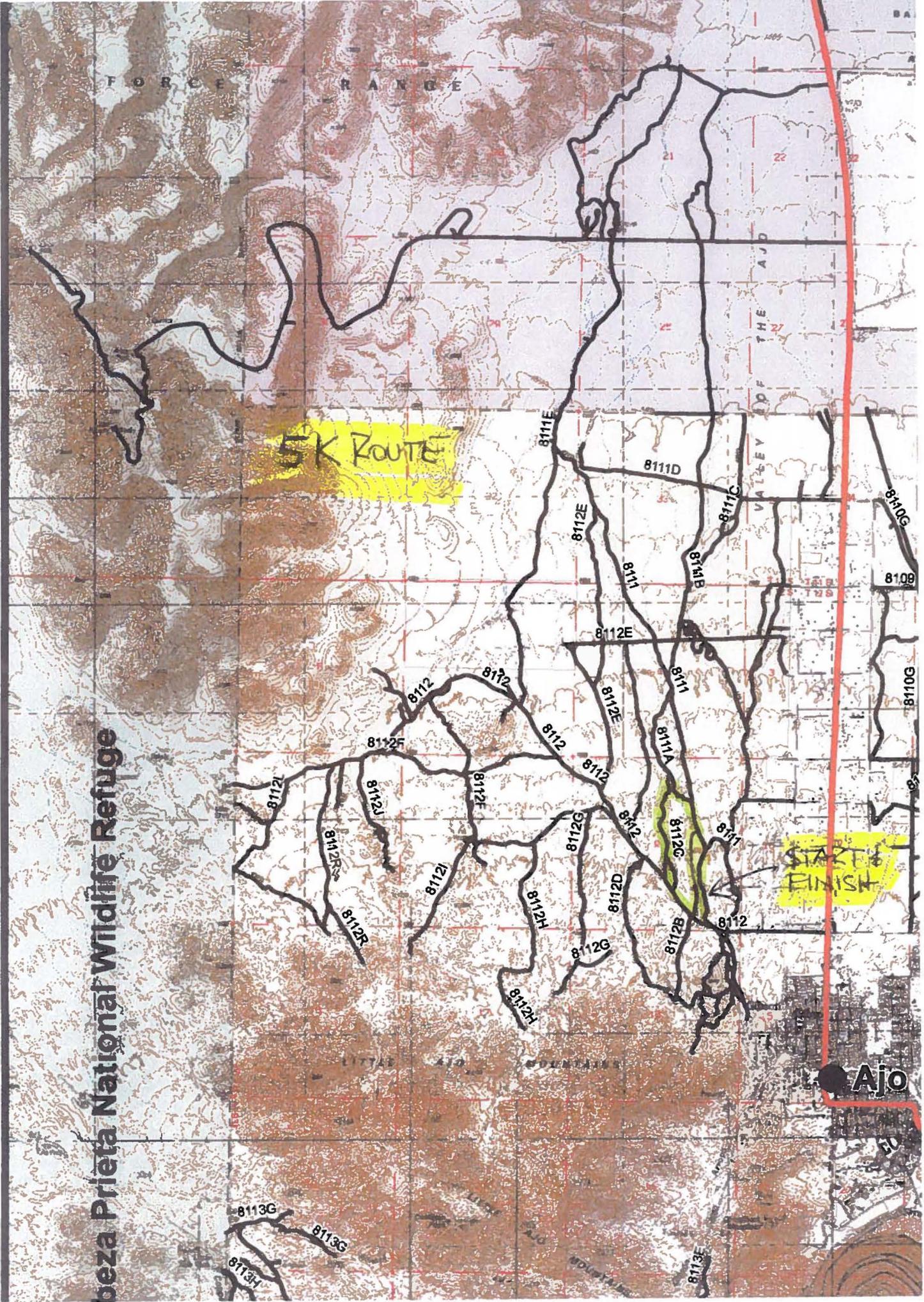
Doña Ana National Wildlife Refuge

FORCE RANGE

5K ROUTE

START & FINISH

Ajo



Doña Ana National Wildlife Refuge

FORCE RANGE

10K Route

VALLEY OF THE AJD

Ajo

