

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Twin Falls District
Burley Field Office
15 East 200 South
Burley, Idaho, 83318

**Worksheet
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2015-0017-DNA

BLM Office: Burley Field Office. **Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** N/A.

Proposed Action Title/Type: City of Rocks Horse Endurance Ride

Location of Proposed Action: Location of Proposed Action: Idaho - Township 15S., 16S. Range 23E., 24E.

A. Description of the Proposed Action

Description of Proposed Action: Conduct a horse endurance ride on existing roads and trails in the vicinity of Castle Rocks and City of Rocks, see enclosed map. The event would take place on Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, National Park Service, Private and State of Idaho managed lands. BLM can only authorize use on BLM managed lands and the applicant must get authorization for use of lands other than BLM. The ride would be a timed event that requires horse and rider to ride a pre-marked course. The route would be temporarily signed, flagged with survey flagging or ground chalked at intersections to indicate the correct route. All riders are required to stay on the marked course. No new ground disturbance would be allowed. Each day will have a short ride (25 or 30 miles) and a long ride (50 miles). The rides each day will begin approximately between 6:30 and 7:30 (time depends somewhat on weather). The short rides take between 3 and 6 hours to finish. The long rides between 5 and 10 hours to finish. There is a 1 hour rest period in the middle of each ride, the rests will be at the 'Vet Check' locations. The event would be conducted on June 04 – June 07, 2015. Horse endurance rides typically have 40-60 entrants. Camping and staging for this event would occur on private property. Water for the horses would be made available through natural and man-made water sources located along the course. This event would be sanctioned by the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC). AERC established the rules for endurance competition, events are sanctioned and must meet AERC guidelines.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Cassia Resource Management Plan (RMP). Date Approved/Amended: 1985.

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 1985 Cassia Resource Management Plan (RMP) does not specifically address horse endurance rides or special recreation permits. However, it does state in the Resource Management Guidelines (page 8) under Recreation Management, “BLM will manage recreation on the public lands. A variety of means to maintain or improve recreation opportunities will be considered. Some areas may be subject to special restrictions to protect resources or eliminate or reduce conflicts among uses.

In the Cassia RMP under Management Area 8, City of Rocks, (p. 27) it states: “Considerable recreational use occurs in the area including rock climbing, sightseeing, hiking and hunting.”

In the Cassia RMP under Management Area 8, City of Rocks, (p. 28) it states: “Wheeled vehicles limited to existing roads and trails. Snowmobiles restricted to designated routes.”

C. Identify the applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.

The applicable NEPA is City of Rocks Horse Endurance Ride, NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0016-CX. This NEPA document is relevant because it was completed on 7-2-12 and is for the same event as the horse endurance ride event as described in DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0016-CX, except the new dates would be June 04 – June 07, 2015. The route proposed for the 2015 event would use the same route that was analyzed for the horse endurance ride in 2012.

There is documentation relevant to the Proposed Action that is associated with DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0016-CX including; Special Status Plant Species Assessment, Idaho Bureau of Land Management Archaeological and Historic Inventory Record Exempted Undertakings, and Wildlife Specialist Report. These documents are relevant because they are for the same type of event and the same route that was analyzed and described in DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0016-CX.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new 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 existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes, the new Proposed Action is essentially the same as what was analyzed for in the existing City of Rocks Horse Endurance Ride CX 2012, and the 2015 Horse Endurance Ride would use the same route (no new routes) that was analyzed for the horse endurance ride in 2012.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

Yes, the resource concerns with the City of Rocks Horse Endurance Ride CX that were analyzed in 2012 are still appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action. The environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances remain the same with the current Proposed Action as they did with the existing Proposed Action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, or 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, the existing analysis is valid and there are no new issues or circumstances affected by the new Proposed Action. The existing City of Rocks Hosre Endurance Ride CX still supports a finding of no significant impacts.

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, indirect, and cumulative effects of the current Proposed Action are unchanged from those identified in the 2012 City of Rocks Horse Endurance Ride CX.

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

Yes, the public involvement and interagency review associated with the 2012 City of Rocks Horse Endurance Ride CX are adequate for the Proposed Action.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name	Title	Resource/Agency Represented
Dennis Thompson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	BLM, Burley Field Office
Suzann Henrikson	Cultural Resources	BLM, Burley Field Office
Jeremy Bisson	Wildlife/Threatened & Endangered Animals	BLM, Burley Field Office
Jason Theodozio	Vegetation/Threatened & Endangered Plants	BLM, Burley Field Office

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the Cassia Resource Management Plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/Amanda M. Dodson
Amanda M. Dodson
Field Manager (Acting)

5/01/2015
Date

1 Enclosure

1. Horse Endurance Ride 2015 Map (1p)