

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)**

**PROJECT NAME: Demonstration Rides Commercial Special Recreation Permit (SRP)**

**APPLICANT: Six Speed LLC**

**PROJECT LEAD: Shannon Bassista**

**NEPA (CX) NUMBER: DOI-BLM-ID-I010-2015-0019-CX**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Six Speed LLC is requesting a SRP to demonstrate the new models of the Polaris utility vehicle at the St. Anthony Sand Dunes. Six Speed LLC is proposing to utilize the open sand dunes east of the Red Road day use parking lot in order to avoid high use areas, as well as remain outside of the Sand Mountain Wilderness Study Area (see Six Speed Permit Location Map). They would operate only in daylight hours, would always have a Six Speed representative in the vehicle with the participant, and were hoping provide 200 rides to visitors in a 3-day period (August 6-8, 2015).

### **PROPOSED ACTION:**

Six Speed LLC would be issued a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to provide demonstration rides to visitors at the St. Anthony Sand Dunes. This permit would be issued for one short-term event (5 days) and would operate on BLM-managed trails and open sands east of the Red Road day use parking lot. Six Speed LLC would stage the demonstration ride event in the large BLM-managed Red Road day use parking lot.

### **CONSULTATION and COORDINATION:**

A description of the proposed action was posted to the online NEPA register. This is available to members of the public through the Upper Snake Field Office (USFO) webpage. No comments were received and no issues/conflicts were identified for this project. The proposed action was also presented to the USFO Interdisciplinary Team on June 15, 2015 and none of the Extraordinary Circumstances pertain to this project.

### **FINDING or RECOMMENDATION:**

The proposed action is categorically excluded as outlined in 516 DM 11.5 Categorical Exclusions, H (1) and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply. I recommend that a SRP be issued to Six Speed LLC in order to operate demonstration rides within a 5-day period at the St. Anthony Sand Dunes.

### **DECISION and RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION:**

Six Speed LLC would be issued a SRP for 5 days in order to operate demonstration rides on the east end of the St. Anthony Sand Dunes. The SRP complies with the BLM Categorical Exclusions for Recreation which states "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. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for "Special Area" management (43 CFR 2932.5)."

### **LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE STATEMENT:**

The proposed action is in conformance with the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan (1985).

### **APPEALS INFORMATION:**

43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) or 43 CFR 2801.10

**Preparer:** Shannon Bassista /s/ Shannon Bassista

Date: 06/25/2015

**NEPA Reviewer:** Marissa Guenther /s/ Marissa Guenther

Date: 06/25/2015

**Upper Snake Field Manager:** Glen Guenther /s/ Glen Guenther

Date: 06/25/2015

### **Extraordinary Circumstances Requiring Preparation of an EA or EIS**

(516 DM 2, Appendix 2)

The action described in categorical exclusion # DOI-BLM-ID-I010-2015-0019-CX has been reviewed to determine that none of the extraordinary circumstances listed below pertain to the proposed action.

#### **DM Number and Extraordinary Circumstance**

- 2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety  
*The proposed action will have no significant impacts on health or safety of the public.*
- 2.2 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.

*There is no wilderness, wilderness study areas and wild and scenic rivers present within the project area. The SRP would not impede opportunities for recreation. This project is not located within a riparian-wetland area, Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) or Research Natural Area (RNA), therefore, no impacts would occur. This project occurs in an open sand dune area and would not have any significant impacts to migratory birds.*

The proposed undertaking is an exempt undertaking and excluded from case-by-case review with Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as per Stipulation V.A.1., Appendix C of the 2014 State Protocol Agreement between Idaho BLM and the Idaho SHPO. The project would have no effect to historic properties.

- 2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].  
*The proposed project would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.*
- 2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.  
*There are no known highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks are anticipated as a result of issuing a SRP.*
- 2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.  
*The proposed action would not establish a precedent for future actions.*
- 2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.  
*The proposed action would not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. No cumulatively significant effects are anticipated.*
- 2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.  
*There are no known historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the NRHP located near the proposed permit location and the proposed action would have no significant impacts.*
- 2.8 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.  
*There are no T&E or Proposed species, or critical habitat present within the project*

*area, no significant impacts to these species would be expected.*

- 2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

*The proposed action does not violate any federal law or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. No cumulatively significant effects anticipated.*

- 2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

*The proposed action would have no adverse effects on low income or minority populations.*

- 2.11 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).

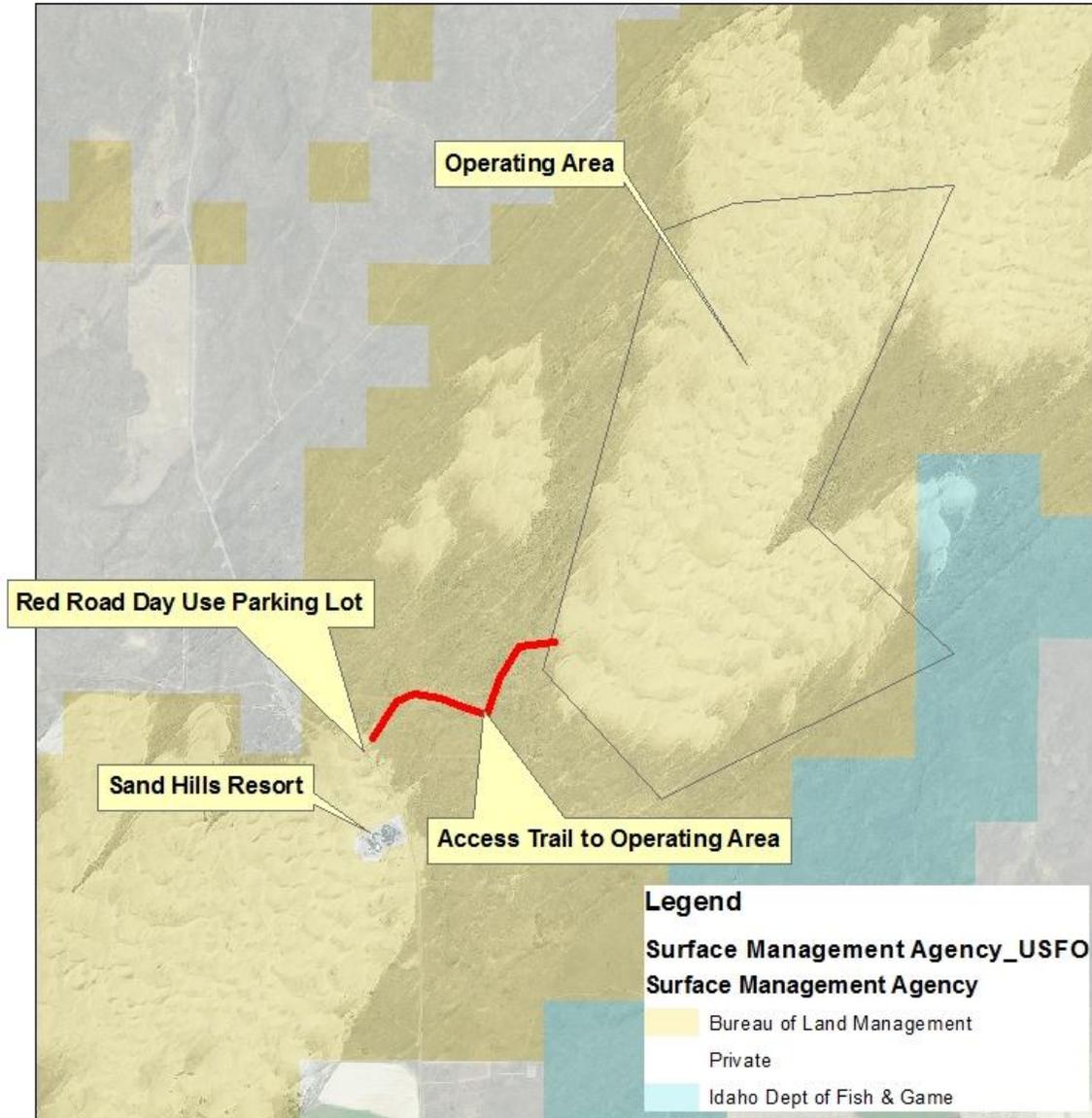
*There are no known sacred sites in the project area. The project will not limit access, and would have no known effects on traditional resource use of the area.*

- 2.12 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).

*The proposed action is not anticipated to contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.*

Map: Six Speed Permit Location

# Six Speed Permit Location



Map Created: 6/24/2015

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