

Decision Record for a Categorically Excluded Action

Introduction and Background

Ford Motor Company has applied for a land use permit (LUP) within the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Western Imperial County (WECO) Routes of Travel and one Superstition Mountain open OHV surveyed route (see attached maps).

The applicant proposes to utilize the land in support of the tuning and development of the 2017 Ford Raptor off-road vehicle. Trained Development Engineers will evaluate the subject vehicle over the identified routes with various chassis and powertrain hardware, completing up to 10 passes per day with up to two vehicles. The route will be controlled by safety spotters at each end of a given route and supplemental spotters along the route all in radio contact with the test vehicle at all times. Speeds for any evaluation are defined by what a Raptor customer would be expected to attain during normal, non-destructive use of the vehicle. Timed and speed measured evaluations are not included in any testing.

Medical response personnel will be on hand at all times to provide immediate medical care and implement the provided medical response plan if required. All support vehicles are equipped with safety response equipment including fire suppression (dry chemical and foam), tow straps and tools.

The test vehicles will be equipped with roll bars, 5-point safety harnesses, and fire suppression systems. Drivers wear full face helmets and head and neck restraints during all testing.

Decision and Rationale

It is my decision to approve the proposed action as described in Categorical Exclusion (CX) number DOI-BLM-CA-D070-2016-0014-CX. I find this action conforms to BLM (516 DM 11.9) Categorical Exclusions with no exceptions. I further find this action in conformance with applicable land use plans, laws and regulations and that it will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Policies and Land Use Plans

This action conforms to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, 1980, as amended because it is specifically provided for or is clearly consistent with the Resource Management Plan objectives and decisions.

Administrative Remedies

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs

must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, E-1712, Sacramento, CA 95825.

//Signed//

Thomas F. Zale
Field Manager

11/5/15

Date