

Worksheet
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

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

A. BLM Office: Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO)

NEPA/Tracking Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-PO20-2015-0015-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: AZA-32584

Proposed Action Title/Type: Commercial Special Recreation Permit (SRP)

Applicant: Superstition's OK Corral Stables, Inc. dba Goldfield Livery - Ron Feldman owner

Location of Proposed Action: T8E, R1N, Sections 1 and 2, G&SRM.

Roads and trails located on county roads, state trust lands and private lands are not authorized under this permit and may not be included in the above legal description.

Description of the Proposed Action: Approve a multi-year (5) SRP authorizing Superstitions OK Corral to conduct commercial guided horseback rides on existing roads, trails and washes, northeast of Apache Junction, AZ. Riders will originate from private land either from the OK Corral Stables located in Section 3, or from the Goldfield Ghost Town, located in Section 1 (see map). Rides are available every day of the week with the high season between October and May. Party size averages 4 people with a maximum of fifteen people. Each ride is approximately one hour with one guide per six people. Ten tours are projected each week during the high use season. Feed will be provided at the corrals. Guides will be trained in first aid/CPR and carry cellular phones in case of emergency. *Leave No Trace* and *Tread Lightly!* principles will be practiced. The attached "Phoenix District Office BLM Standard Stipulations for Commercial Equestrian Special Recreation Permits" are incorporated herein.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans.

LUP Name: "Lower Sonoran Record of Decision & Approved Resource Management Plan"

Date Approved: September 14, 2012

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 decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementations plan decisions:

The proposed action is not specifically provided for in the Lower Sonoran RMP. However, 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.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

This proposed action is covered in the following EA: "Special Recreation Permits for Commercial Recreation Activities on Public Lands in Arizona" Environmental Assessment, AZ931-93-001, dated 8/93.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

The current proposed action is substantially the same action analyzed in the programmatic EA. The EA allows the issuance of SRPs to commercial outfitters and guides conducting outdoor recreation activities that comply with the standard stipulations. These standard stipulations, and additional ones, have been identified and included in this document for the current proposed action.

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?

Two alternatives, proposed action and no action, were analyzed in the existing EA and they are still appropriate with respect to the current proposed action. No new alternatives or concerns have been presented by the public, other agencies, or resource specialists.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action.

The new information or circumstances, discussed in detail below, have appeared since the EA

was written. Each one has been appropriately analyzed and considered by resource specialists for the proposed action and it has been determined that there is either, no affect, or no significant impacts, with regards to the new information and circumstances.

In August of 1999, three changes were made to the listing of "Critical Elements of the Human Environment" which must be considered in all NEPA analysis; Invasive, Non-Native Species, Ground and Surface Water Quality, and Environmental Justice. It has been determined by resource specialists that this proposed action has no direct or indirect impacts on any of these elements in the affected area. Stipulations addressing this element have been added to mitigate any potential invasion of non-native species that might occur in the affected area by the proposed action. Ground and surface water quality will not be affected by the proposed action. In reviewing the proposed action it was determined that the proposed action will not disproportionately affect Native American tribes, or minority and/or low-income groups.

Standards for Rangeland Health were incorporated into all state LUPs through a statewide amendment in May of 1997, therefore, the proposed action was reviewed to determine whether it is in conformance with the approved standards. Since all routes for the proposed action are on existing open roads, trails and washes, with staging on private land, it has been determined that the proposed action will not adversely affect the watershed functional condition or the desired plant community for the affected area. Riparian functional condition is not affected by the proposed action.

In January of 2000 and 2001, five national monuments located in Arizona were designated by Presidential Proclamation to protect objects of scientific or historic interest. Two of these monuments, the Agua Fria and the Sonoran Desert, are located within the PDO. The proposed action does not occur within these monument boundaries, and therefore, the monuments are not affected.

In addition, it has been determined by resource specialists that the proposed action will not have a direct or indirect impact on energy development, production, supply and/or distribution since the proposed action does not occur in an area with any existing utility corridors, there are no known planned or proposed energy developments, and no applications for such use has been received by the LSFO.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

The process used in the existing EA is the agency standard for this type of action. The environmental impacts of the proposed action were analyzed during the development of the EA.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing

NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

The direct and indirect impacts are the same as those identified and analyzed in the existing EA. No new information or circumstances would affect the predicted environmental impacts as stated in the document.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes, the cumulative impacts resulting from activities on public land as described in the proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing EA. Rides are limited to existing open roads, trails and washes; they are infrequent; and are limited to small groups.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

The interagency consultation and public involvement and review associated with the existing EA are adequate for the current proposed action. All agencies and the affected public addressed in the proposed action area had several opportunities for input and review during the analysis process. Nothing in the proposed action has changed, and no new circumstances or concerns have emerged since the EA was written.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

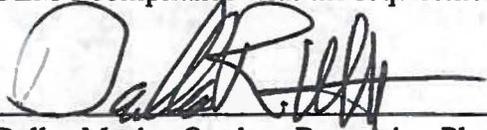
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<u>Gloria Tibbetts</u>	<u>P&E Coordinator</u>	<u>Reviewer/NEPA Compliance</u>

F. Specific Mitigation Measures/Stipulations:

1. An additional stipulation has been added that the permittee contacts BLM when any unsafe mine or adit is encountered. The attached "Phoenix District Office BLM Stipulations for Commercial, Equestrian Special Recreation Permits" are incorporated herein.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.



Dallas Meeks, Outdoor Recreation Planner



Gloria Tibbetts, P & E Coordinator



Edward J. Kender
Field Manager

8/31/15
Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.