



**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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Date 1/26/2015

**Categorical Exclusion  
DOI-BLM-CA-C05000-0007  
Waves and Whales Trail Run 5K  
*Point Arena – Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument***

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U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
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**Date:** 12/16/2015

**Categorical Exclusion Number:** 516 DM 11.9 H (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.

**Case File/Serial Number:** CA-050-15-SRP-00

**Project Title:** Waves and Whales Trail Run 5K

**Name and Address of Applicant:**

ACORN Partners in Education Director  
Jennifer Ketring  
PO Box 105  
Point Arena, CA 95468

**Project Location:** Point Arena- Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument.

**Land Status Verified:** Yes

**Affected Surface Area:** 3 miles of existing social routes within the Point Arena- Stornetta Unit of the CCONM .

**Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan:** This proposed action conforms to the conditions and guidelines of the following land use plan(s):

**Name of Plan:** Point Arena-Stornetta Unit Interim Management Plan (June 2013)

Point Arena-Stornetta Unit Interim Management Plan

Ch. 2 Proposed Action, Planned Management Actions: “The Stornetta Public Lands IMP would allow for public access and uses, services ...”

Cypress Abbey Phase 1 Acquisition – Grant Deed

California Coastal Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and BLM Agreement - for acquisition of 124 acres

One of the purposes for the acquisition of the 124 acres was for public access, education and recreation.

BLM Manual 6220- National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations

- -Section 1.2 Objectives, (E.) “Provide appropriate recreational opportunities, education, interpretation, and visitor services to enhance the public’s understanding and enjoyment of the Monuments and NCAs.”

**Background Information:** Recreation demands continue as individuals/groups become more engaged in the management and use of public lands, including large groups and events and activities. BLM works with individuals, groups and organizations to assist with providing recreation opportunities while balancing resource impacts and protecting important resources. BLM's Special Recreation Permit (SRP) is the authorization specific to recreational uses of the public lands and related waters. SRPs provide the mechanism to accommodate recreational commercial, competitive, vending, group activities and event uses.

The Point Arena-Stornetta Unit (prior to inclusion to the CCNM and formerly known as the Stornetta Management Area) came to BLM in 3 different and separate transactions: 1 donation of 1,132 acres known as the Stornetta Brothers Land; 1 acquisition of 123 acres known as the Cypress Abbey Phase 1; and 1 acquisition of 409 acres known as the Cypress Abbey Phase 2. The proposed event occurs on the 123 acre portion of the Unit. There were several purposes for donation and acquisition specified in legally binding documents, one of which was recreation and access.

The proposed event is on the 124 acres of the Cypress Abbey Phase 1 acquisition only.

This Categorical Exclusion is proposed to analyze the impacts of the event since it will be a "...minor event" and will comply with NEPA.

**Proposed Action (include discreet actions):** This document has been prepared to analyze the request for the Waves and Whales Run event, a fund raising event proposed by Acorn Partners in Education, within the Point Arena- Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument. This is a single, one-time event with setup on Friday, May 13, 2016 and Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the event day.

Participants Point Arena City Hall will be the staging area for parking with the start and finish line at the Atwood Gate, if needed; overflow parking will be staged on BLM near adjacent to City Hall parking lot. Acorn will coordinate and is required to get permission from the City of Point Arena. There will be no more than 150 participants that will run on the paths within the Unit and 20 support personnel to aid in the event. Participants will park at City Hall and walk on the path (about ¼ mile) to the start/finish line at the Atwood Gate. Staging of participants before and after event will take place on the established gravel road behind the Attwood gate.. Information tables will be set up on City Hall property to encourage participants to congregate there before and after the run. Support personnel will be stationed in areas to help guide participants and ensure compliance of the route. Participants will stay on the route designated for this event to avoid and protect important resources. Temporary directional signs will be placed along the event trail along with a temporary water station on the gravel road. On the event day the event will start between 8:00 a.m. and end by 2:00 p.m. ACORN will provide trash and recycling receptacles around parking and information table areas. Trash will be taken off site by ACORN and disposed after the event. The week prior to the event

A vehicle (one truck) will be placed by the Atwood gate to help with timing, hauling supplies, and staging of the event. Event stipulations and safety precautions are outlined in the Special Recreation Permit.

BLM will require that the Unit will not be closed to the general public the day of the set up and/or the day of the event. BLM will post on BLM Ukiah Webpage the event to notify the public. Postings at the Bend in the Road and City Hall access points will be installed 10-15 days prior to the event. This categorical exclusion is appropriate for this action as there are no extraordinary circumstances present or potentially not effected by the proposed action. The proposed action has been reviewed and none of the extraordinary circumstances apply (516 DM 2, Appendix 2).

**Review of Exceptions to CX:** The Departmental Manual (516 DM 2.3A(3) and 516 DM 2, Appendix 2) requires that before any action described by the above CX is used, the list of Extraordinary Circumstances to Categorical Exclusions listed in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 must be reviewed for applicability in each case. The proposed action cannot be categorically excluded if one or more of the listed exceptions apply, thus requiring either an EA or an EIS. When no exceptions apply, the above type of Bureau of Land Management, action normally does not require the preparation of an EA or EIS. The following exceptions apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) and the reviewer must verify that the proposed action DOES NOT:

- 2.1 Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.**
- 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.**
- 2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].**
- 2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.**
- 2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potential significant environmental effects.**
- 2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.**
- 2.7 Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.**

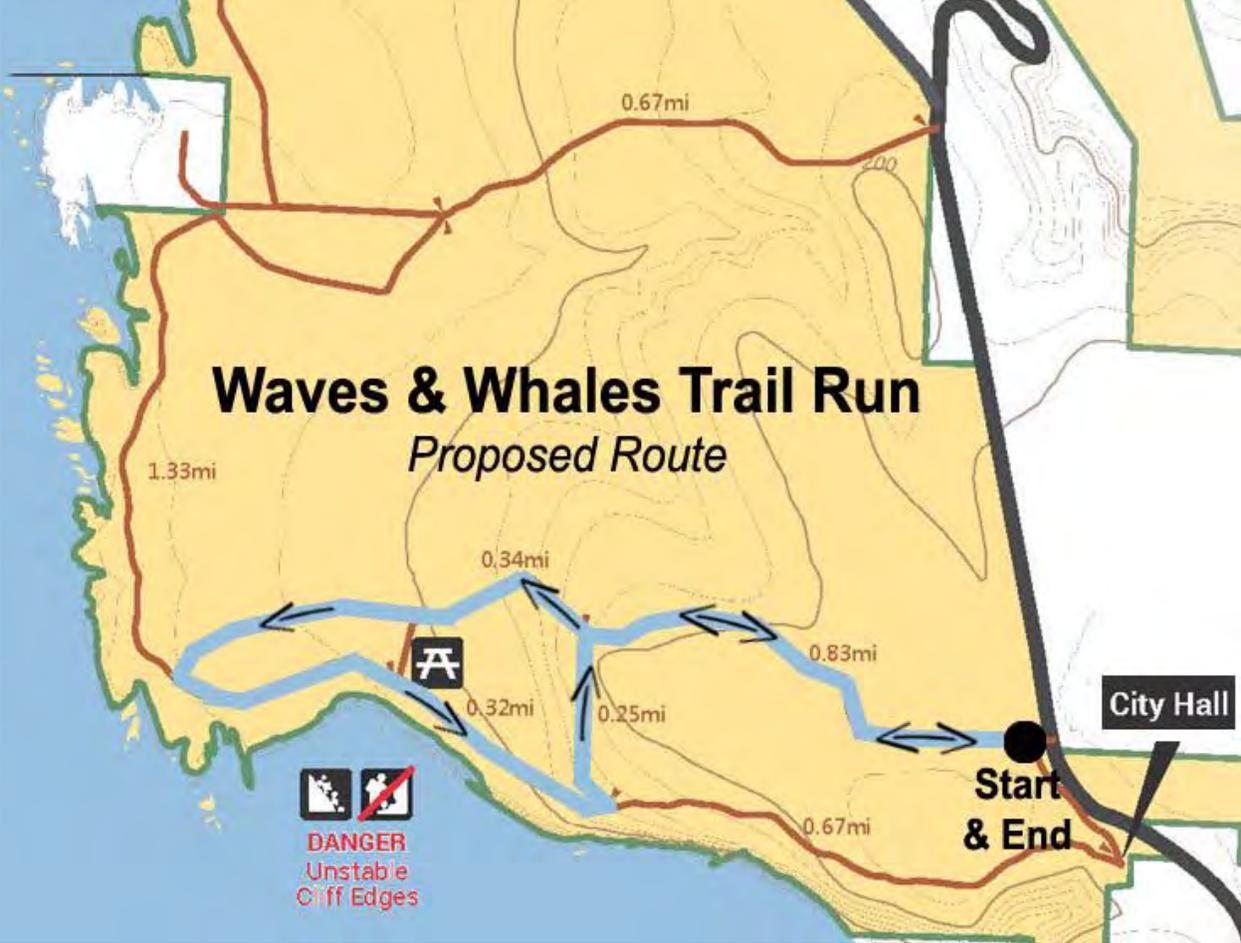
- x **2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.**
- x **2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.**
- x **2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).**
- x **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).**
- x **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).**

Prepared by:

Sarah Mathews  
Outdoor Recreation Planner

12/16/2015  
Date

Attachment 1: Map of Race Area



Proposed Route for Trail Run