

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ridgecrest Field Office**

Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance

Special Recreation Permit:
United States Desert Racing
Determination NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

SRP Case File No.: CA-D05000-2015-SR16-08
NEPA#: DOI-BLM-CA-D050- 2016-008-DNA

A. Describe the Proposed Action

Dave Earll of U S Desert Racing (USDR) Inc., has submitted a Special Recreation Permit to conduct five (5) separate competitive motorized racing events in the Spangler Hills Off Highway Vehicle Open Area. Each event location for staging and signups will vary from event to event, however, all events will stay in the open area. Each of these events are made up of 3 race (two adult races and one kids race). USDR Round 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 comprise of two adult races (changed locations and race course distances) and a "Kidz Race" in the afternoon typically no more than 4 miles long and close to signups. The duration of the races starts at 9 am and over at 4 pm. All races will be done on Saturday only and all racers will attend the mandatory safety riders meeting. The event dates are as follows, Round 2 February 6, 2016, Round 3 April 16, 2016, Round 4 May 28, 2016, Round 5 October 8, 2016, Round 6 November 12, 2016. On each event day sign-up, kick off at 6:00am and ends at 8:00am. Once signups close each race all participants must attend the mandatory safety riders meeting at 8:45am. After meeting the first race (3 laps maximum and 30 miles long) starts at 9:00am and ends around 1030am. Then, at 10:45am the safety riders meeting for race 2 starts. Race 2 (5 laps maximum and 60 miles) starts at 11am and ends at 12:30 pm. Before the Super Kidz Race, starting at 1:45pm, the mandatory safety riders meeting will take place. Then the start of the Super Kidz Race begins at 2:00 pm and ends 3:30 pm.

Facilities Management: This includes all USDR Rounds 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6

The club has contracted with Portable Toilet Professionals to provide a minimum of 4 Portable Toilets (also known as portable restrooms) during the event. The club will provide trash receptacles with covers at sign up during sign up and through the duration of the event. Most participants and their families are avid outdoor campers and recreationalists, as such they typically provide for their own toilets and trash collection within their RVs, trailers and such. Portable Toilets are provided as a convenience for all inclusive of support personnel and/or spectators. Most participants and their families use the motto, "You pack it in, You pack it out!"



Fuel and Fluids Containment:

A central fuel/service pit area will be provided and monitored by the club. Rider instructions will be provided to each participant when they sign up for the event. The rider instructions include reference to BLMs' best fuel management/spill prevention practices.

Desert Tortoise Stipulations

In addition to the standard stipulations, the following stipulations were developed based upon a formal biological opinion with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Desert Tortoise:

The event sponsor shall designate an individual as a contact representative for overseeing compliance with protective stipulations for the desert tortoise.

All races conducted will use existing routes only and found entirely within the Spangler Hills OHV Open Area or on designated competitive race routes north of the Randsburg Wash road. The selected route shall be clearly flagged to minimize any opportunity for vehicle straying. Flagging shall not be removed before the course is examined for tortoise impacts no later than five days after the event.

Between June 1 and October 31, events shall not start until after 9:00 a.m. when tortoises are more likely to have returned to the protection of burrows. During other months tortoises are generally underground (November 1 to March 1) or have a major activity period extending well into midday (March 1 to June 1).

Trash and food items shall be promptly contained and removed from the area within 48 hours of completion of the event to reduce the attractiveness of the area to ravens and other tortoise predators.

Prior to commencing the event, organized event promoters and sponsors shall provide event participants and spectators with the Bureau's printed materials describing: the occurrence of the desert tortoise in the area; the status of the desert tortoise; prohibitions against take and the penalties associated with take; and methods being employed as a part of the event to protect the desert tortoise and its habitat;

Participants that violate any special desert tortoise stipulation shall be disqualified from the event. Support team members that fail to comply with the stipulations shall result in disqualification of the associated rider(s).

Anyone who accumulates three violations shall be barred from participating in any organized off-highway vehicle event for one year from the date of the third violation.

Safety

Crossing guards will be required whenever an event course crosses a public highway, major dirt road/route, or the railroad.

- a. Warning signs will be placed on public highways approximately 200 feet on either side of the crossing and signs warning the public of the crossing too.
- b. Crossing guards will in no way impede the regular flow of traffic on public highways or railways.
- c. Competitors will be flagged to a stop prior to crossing any highway and will proceed across at a speed no greater than 15 mph.
- d. The route may only cross at a 90 degree angle to the direction of the highway or railroad.
- e. The responsibility to yield the right-of-way to oncoming vehicles or trains rests with the operator.
- f. The highway or railway surface will be swept during or after the event to eliminate the buildup of sand or other debris generated by the event.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans and activity, project, management, or program plans, or applicable amendments thereto)

California Desert Conservation Plan (1980)

Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area Management Plan (1992)

XThe proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

California Desert Conservation Area Plan (1980) Recreation Element

 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):

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

California Desert Conservation Plan (1980)

Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area Management Plan (1992)

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment,

biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

Biological Opinion on the Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area Management Plan, Kern and San Bernardino Counties, California (6840 CA-065.26 (CA-932.5)) (1-6-92-F-4).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

Yes. Both organized and unorganized recreational OHV use opportunities are listed on page 16 of the Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area Management Plan and specific descriptions of events found in Appendix 2 on page 29 (Hare and Hound/Hare Scrambles). The Environmental Assessment (EA-CA-065-90-95) for the Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area Management Plan analyzes the impacts of organized recreational OHV events in the Spangler Hills Open area.

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, and resource values?

Yes. There has been no significant change in circumstances or information that would impact the alternatives analyzed in the previous documents.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances? Yes. There is no significant change in circumstances or information germane to the proposed action.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action? Yes. The Spangler Hills Open Area has been approved for these types of events (competitive motorized race events) and follows the management direction of the Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area Management Plan (1992). The methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continues to be appropriate for the proposed action.

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 analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action? Yes. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA documents.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Yes. The cumulative impacts were analyzed in the existing NEPA documents and it was determined that cumulative impacts to soils, vegetation, wildlife, and visual resources were not considered significant.

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

Analysis Team- are those team members able and qualified to conduct and participate in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>
Resource Branch Chief:	Robert Pawelek
Recreation & Wilderness Branch Chief:	Craig Beck
Environmental Coordinator:	Lynnette Elser
Outdoor Recreation Planner:	Eddie Duque
Archaeologist:	Donald Storm
Realty Specialist:	Paul Rodriguez
Realty Specialist:	Elaine Hanson
Wilderness Coordinator:	Marty Dickes
Law Enforcement Chief:	Wayne Dengal

Interdisciplinary Team Check Off List

Resource	No Impact	May Impact	Comment	Specialist Initials & Date
Cultural Resources	x		Exemption B-16	DS /s/ 4 Feb 16
Wildlife		x	Follow BO stipulations	CSW /s/ 2/3/16
Air Quality	x		As analyzed in NEPA document	AN /s/ 2/4/16
Water Quality	x		As analyzed in NEPA document	AN /s/ 2/4/16
Soils	x		As analyzed in NEPA document	AN /s/ 2/4/16
Invasive, Nonnative Weeds	x		As analyzed in NEPA document	AN /s/ 2/4/16
Minerals	x		As analyzed in NEPA document	RP /s/ 2/3/16
Range/ Livestock	x		As analyzed in NEPA document	AN /s/ 2/4/16
Vegetation	x		As analyzed in NEPA document	AN /s/ 2/4/16
Recreation & Open Spaces	x		Public users in area	ED /s/ 1/29/2016
Lands & Realty	x		As analyzed in NEPA document	EH /s/ 2/3/2016
Waste/ Hazardous	x		As analyzed	ED /s/ 2-4-16

Materials			in NEPA document	
Wilderness	x		Not in wilderness or WSA	ED /s/ 2-4-16
Law Enforcement	x		See LE Matrix	WD /s/ 2-4-16

Conclusion

Note: If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box below.

X Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal SRP CA-D05000-SR16-08 USDR Inc. conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM’s compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

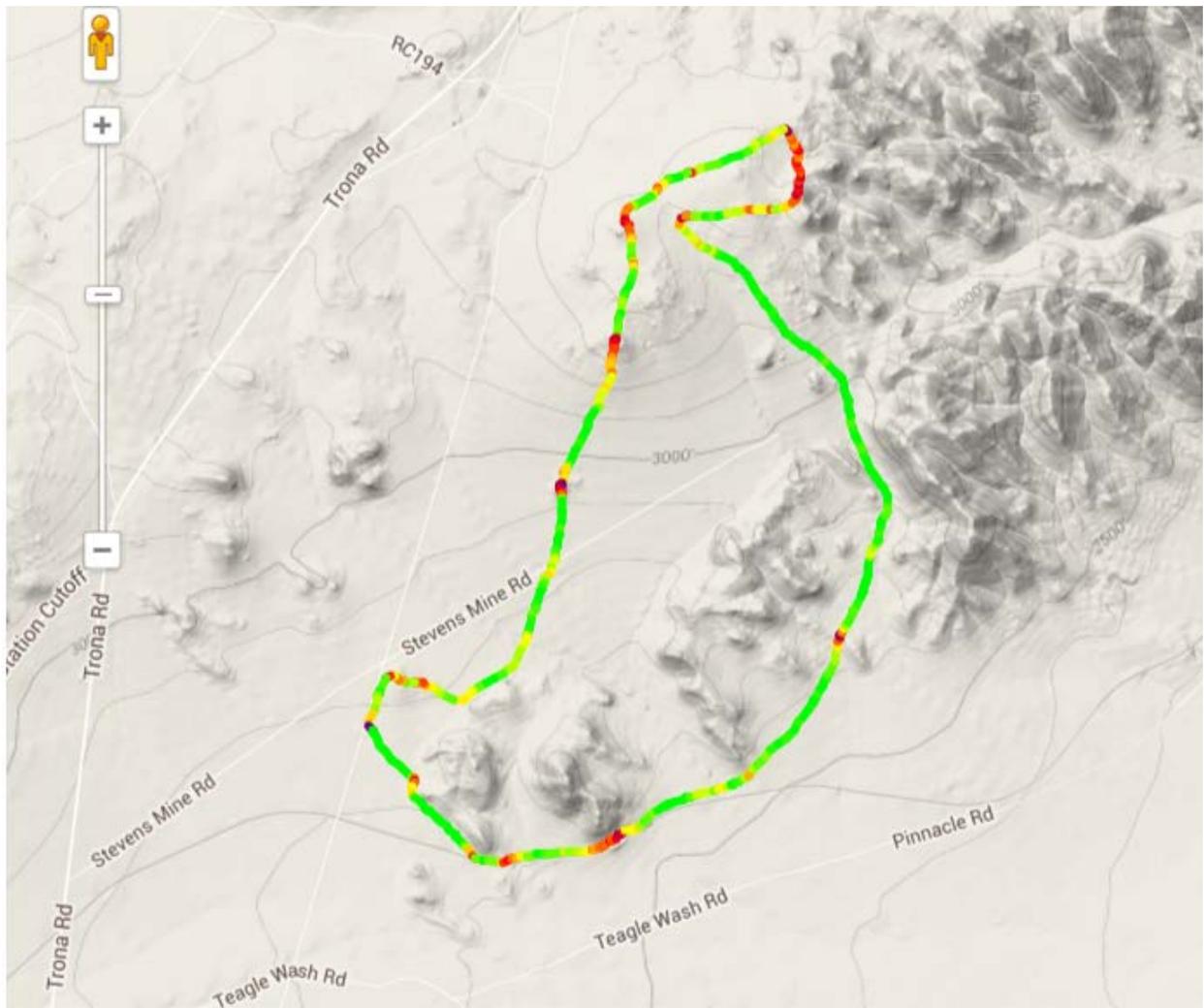
Alex Neibergs /s/
 Environmental Coordinator, Acting

2/4/2016
 Date

Craig D. Beck /s/
 Carl Symons, Acting for
 Ridgecrest Field Manager

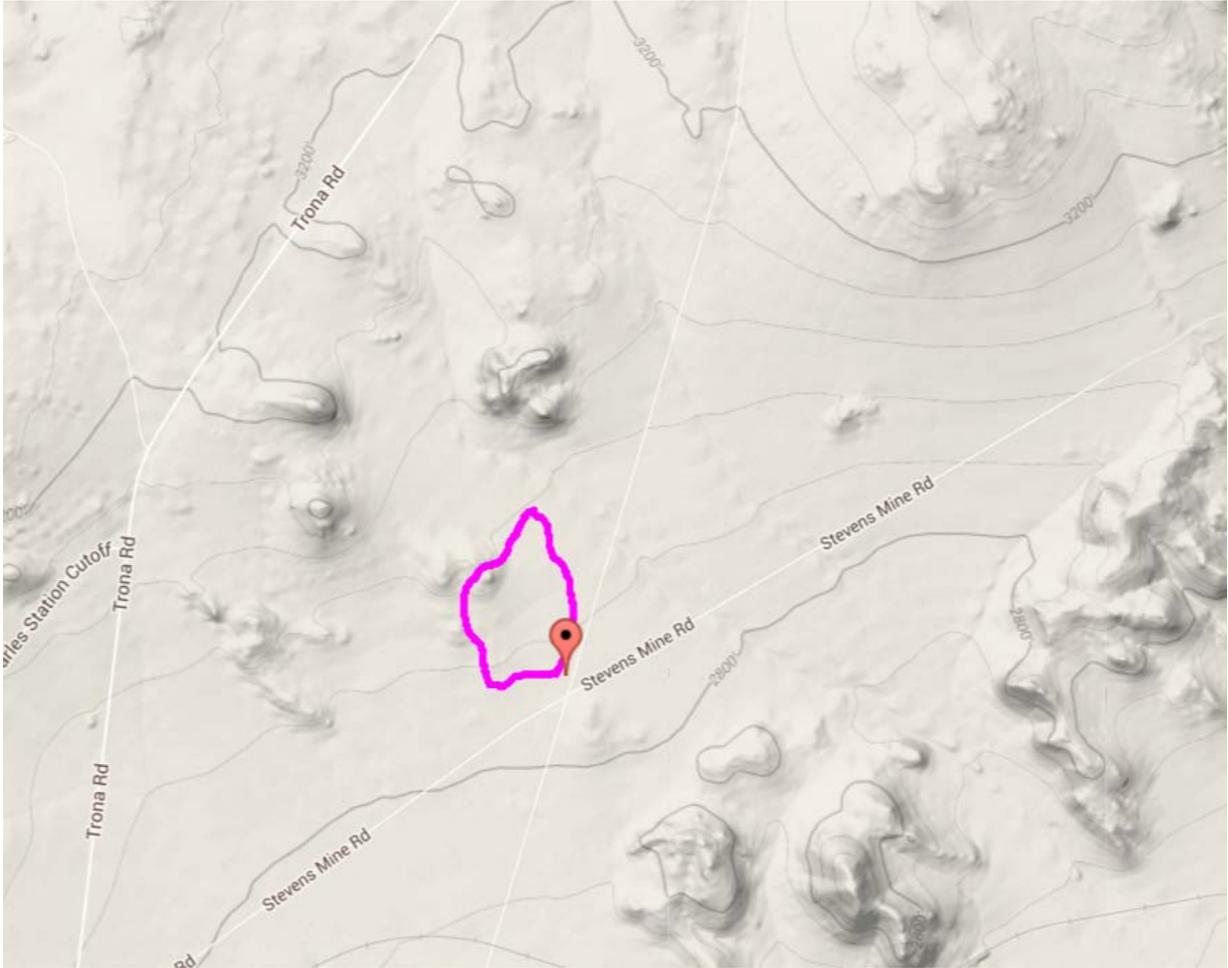
2/4/16
 Date

Round 2 Race Feb 6, 2016



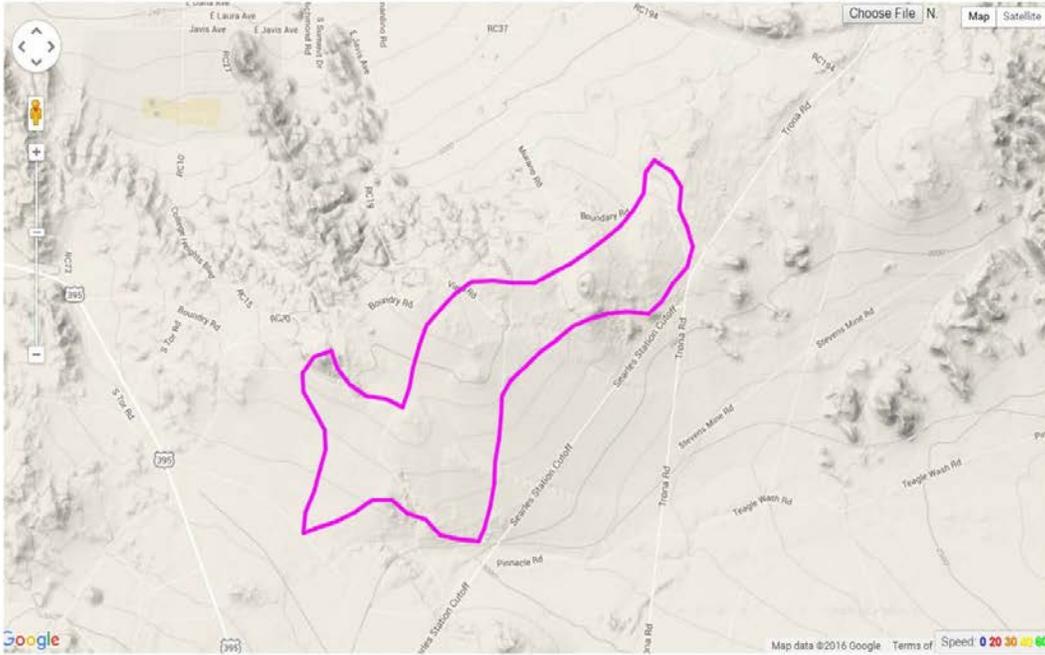
This map shows the race route that will be utilized in Round 2. It is a continuous loop that crosses Stevens Mine Road.

Kids Race Round 2 Feb 6, 2016



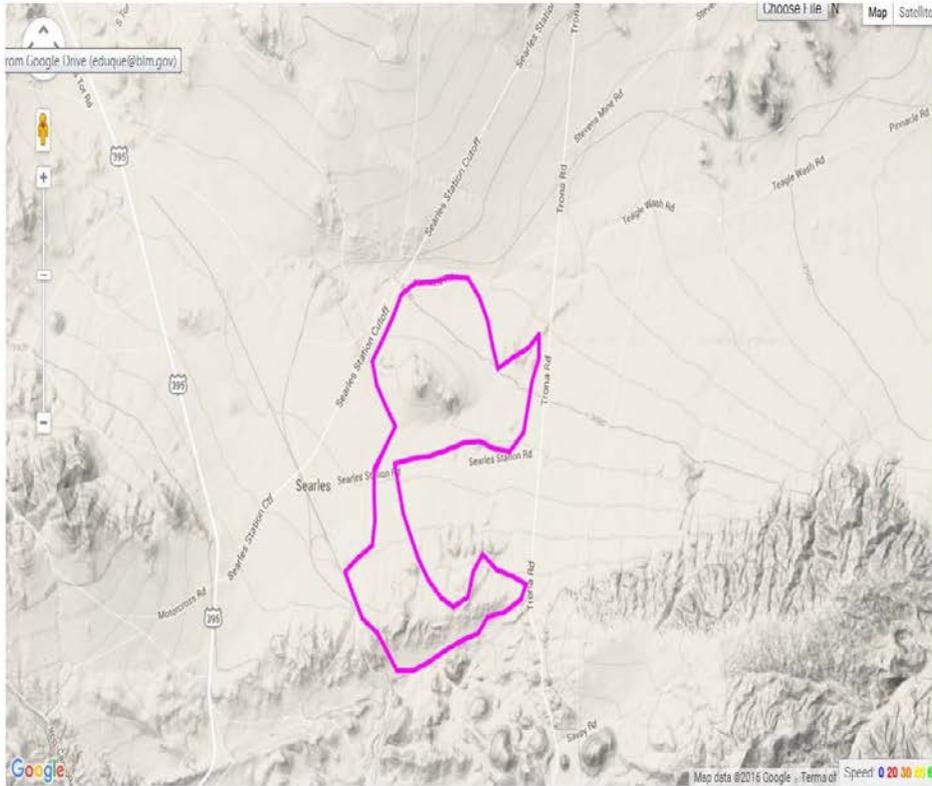
This map shows the race route that will be utilized in the Kids Race Round 2. It is a continuous loop that is located north of Stevens Mine Road.

USDR ROUND 3 APRIL 16, 2016



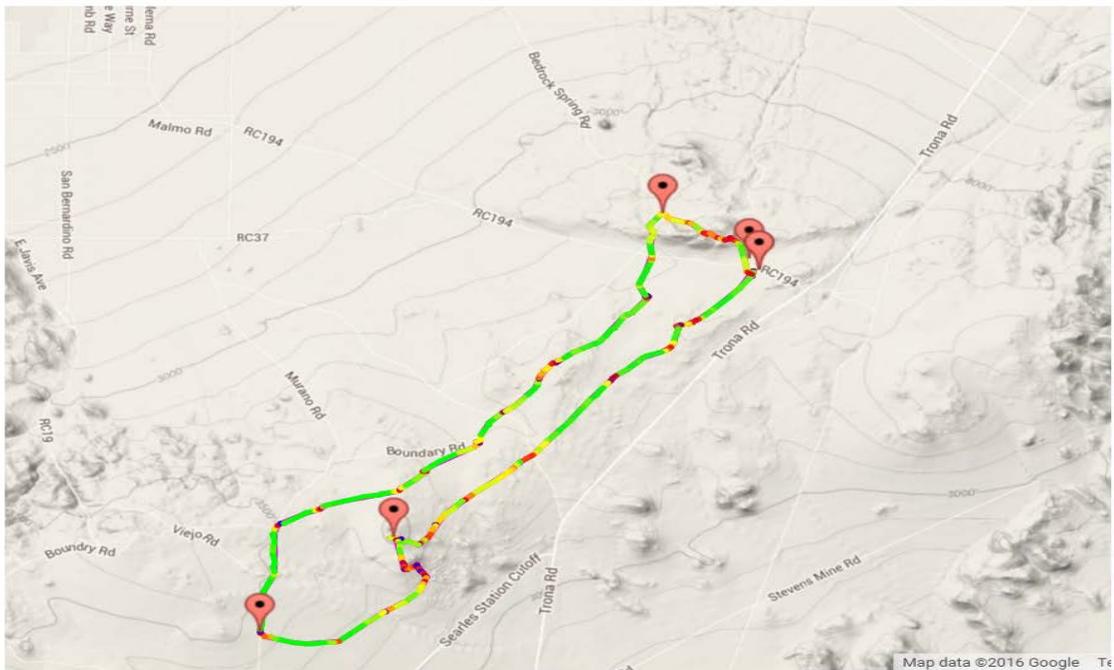
This map shows the race route that will be utilized in Round 3. It is a continuous loop that is located north and west of Searles Station Cutoff.

USDR ROUND 4 MAY 28, 2016



This map shows the race route that will be utilized in Round 4. It is a continuous loop that is located between Searles Station Cutoff and Trona Road.

USDR ROUND 5 OCT 8, 2016



This map shows the race route that will be utilized in Round 5. It is a continuous loop that is located north and west of Searles Station Cutoff.

The following map shows the race route that will be utilized in Round 6. It is a continuous loop that is located north and west of Searles Station Cutoff

This map shows the race route that will be utilized in Round 5. It is a continuous loop that

USDR ROUND 6 NOV 12, 2016

