



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

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**Date 3/14/2016**

**Categorical Exclusion  
DOI-BLM-CA-C0500-2016-0011**

**North Bay Motorcycle Club Sawmill and Crosscut Enduro SRP  
*Cow Mountain Recreation Area, Lake and Mendocino Counties, CA***

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U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
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***Date:***

***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-050-16-SRP-001

***Project Title:*** North Bay Motorcycle Club 2016 Sawmill and Crosscut Family Enduro SRP.

***Name and Address of Applicant:*** Karl Goetz, 2411 Erickson Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

***Project Location:*** Cow Mountain Recreation Area (South)

***Land Status Verified:*** Yes

***Affected Surface Area:*** 23,000 acres directly and indirectly affected.

***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:***

Ukiah Resource Management Plan (2006)

- Section 2.14 Recreation, Goals, page 23: "Provide a range of outdoor recreation settings, experiences, and opportunities that balance the public's demand while minimizing recreation impacts to other resources."

Public Law 109-362 (Oct 17, 2006) "Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act

- Section 9 (c)(2) - Cow Mountain Recreation Area, Lake And Mendocino Counties, California – Administration – Off-Road and Motorized Recreation: "Motorized recreation shall be a prescribed use within the South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area, occurring only on roads and trails designated by the Secretary for such use, except as needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as precluding the Secretary from closing any trail or route from use for purposes of resource protection or public safety."

***Background Information:*** The applicant is requesting that BLM issue a Special Recreation Permit to North Bay Motorcycle Club for a two-day motorcycle event to occur on the weekend of April 16 – April 17, 2016. A Family Enduro event would be held on Saturday, April 16, and a competitive Enduro event would be held on Sunday April 17. The entire South Cow Mountain Recreation Area, including the Scott's Creek Staging Area, would be closed to the public from Friday, April 15 through Sunday, April 17, 2015 for public safety. Notification to the public of

the closures will be via press releases, web-site, BLM office telephone voice message, Twitter, and signage posted in advance at campgrounds, staging areas and access roads at the South Cow Mountain OHV Recreation Area.

In the event of rain cancellation, alternate dates of May, 13-15, 2016 have been requested.

Recreational use and issuance of associated permits are an authorized, discretionary BLM function. This is an allowable use for the South Cow Mountain management unit.

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):*** BLM will issue a Special Recreation Permit for the above event. Environmental and safety concerns will be mitigated by permit stipulations, and the event will be monitored by BLM personnel to verify compliance.

**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:

- x       **2.1    Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.**
  
- x       **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.**
  
- x       **2.3    Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].**
  
- x       **2.4    Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.**

- x **2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potential significant environmental effects.**
- x **2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.**
- x **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:

/s/ Lawrence Ames, Park Ranger  
Specialist

3/14/2016  
Date