



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

Date 04/11/2016

**Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-CA-C050-2016- 0014**

**2016 North American Trail Ride Conference Cowboy Camp Ride
Special Recreation Permit**
Cache Creek Natural Area, Bear Creek Unit, Colusa County

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ukiah Field Office
2550 North State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
Phone: (707) 468-4000
FAX: (707) 468-4027

Date: 04/11/2016

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-004

Project Title: 2016 North American Trail Ride Conference Cowboy Camp Ride Special Recreation Permit

Name and Address of Applicant: Jean Armer
3255 McCoy Road
Colusa, CA 95932

Project Location: Cache Creek Natural Area, Bear Creek Unit, Colusa County

Land Status Verified: Yes

Affected Surface Area: Up to 50 miles of existing trail within the Cache Creek Natural Area and approximately 8 acres of camping/staging area would be used for the event would be used for the event.

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

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."

- Section 3.4 Cache Creek, 3.4.2.1 Visual Resource Management, page 55: "Middlecountry Zones VRM Class III..."

-Figures BLM Lands and Management Units, Cache Creek Figure 5a, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications identified on the map.

Background Information: Recreation demands continue as individuals/groups become more engaged in the management and use of public lands. High use requests are handled through the BLM's Special Recreation Permit (SRP) process. Permitted events are one way for BLM to

respond to recreation demands. BLM works with individuals and clubs to assist with providing recreation opportunities while balancing resource impacts.

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 an event known as the 2016 Cowboy Camp Region 1 NARTC Ride, a competitive equestrian event within the Cache Creek Management Area. Approximately 25 Participants will ride on designated trails, with the horses going over or through natural obstacles. Riders will be judged on horsemanship. Riders and equipment would arrive on May 20, 2016 and the morning of May 21, and leave by the evening of May 22. Participants and livestock will camp overnight at the Cowboy Camp Equestrian Camping Area. The event will occur over two days: a full-day ride on Saturday, May 21 and a half-day ride on Sunday, May 22.

Proponent has requested vehicle access for veterinary checks and to transport water for horses. The trails, crossings, and facilities identified within the proposal and are currently being used by visitors who frequent the area on a regular basis for recreational equestrian riding. The event will avoid the Cache Creek Wilderness area

This is an allowable use for the Cache Creek Management Area.

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

04/11/2015
Date