

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

Environmental Assessment NV-043-08-004

July 1, 2008

**BORE Truck and Buggy Race
Special Recreation Permit**

Location:

Copper Flat, White Pine County, Nevada

Applicant/Address:

Roger Bowers, Bonneville Off-Road Racing Enterprises

10 Elk Mountain Drive

Redstone, Colorado 81623

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Bureau of Land Management
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I. Background Information

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responding to an application by Roger Bowers with the Bonneville Off-Road Enthusiasts (BORE) racing club for a special recreation permit to hold a competitive truck and buggy motorized race event.

The BLM prepared this environmental assessment (EA) pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA analyzes the site specific impacts of the proposed action and alternative actions to prevent undue and irreversible impacts to the resources found on BLM managed public land. This EA will address two alternatives; the proposed action and a no action alternative. The analysis of the proposed action contained in this EA would be sufficient for subsequent relevant events until the proposed action and/or land management issues change as to require new NEPA analysis.

Project Location

The routes proposed for use are located outside of Ely, Nevada in White Pine County. The legal descriptions for the routes proposed for use are as follows:

T 0170 N, R 610 E, Sections 01-02, 10-12, 13-15, 22-24, 25,36
T 0160 N, R 610 E Sections 01, 12-13
T 0160 N, R 620 E Sections 2-7, 9, 18,
T 0170 N, R 620 E Sections 7, 17-20, 28-30, 31-35

Purpose and Need for Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action would be to respond to an application for a competitive event on public lands by BORE and other racing organizations under appropriate terms and conditions needed to minimize impacts to other resource values and uses. The need for this action is in response to a demand for competitive motorized racing opportunities. The event would provide an organized racing opportunity for participants with motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and full-size vehicles.

Conformance with Land Use Plan

The proposed action is in conformance with the Egan Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Egan RMP states under standard operating procedures, "All lands not specifically designated closed or limited to off-road vehicles will be designated open to such use." (page 39, paragraph 8.b). The proposed race route are located within areas designated as open and is not located within any of the Egan Resource Area locations where organized OHV events were determined as not allowable.

The proposed action is also consistent with the White Pine County Public Land Use Plan. The plan does not specifically address organized events but does say that "A

county wide recreation plan covering year round activities should be developed...Recreational activities should include...off road vehicles” (page 8, Recreation-Policies, 3.).

Scoping and Issues

Scoping

Scoping was done internally with environmental resource specialists and the environmental assessment was posted on the BLM website for 15 days for public review and comments.

Issues

Issues with the proposed action were identified during the internal and external review process. These issues include:

- Noxious and Invasive Weed Species - Preventing the introduction and spread of non-native invasive weeds. The seeds of these weeds could be introduced or spread by participants using the proposed course. Sahara Mustard is of particular concern due to its abundance in the Las Vegas area.
- Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing- Conflicts with range resources and the need to coordinate between events and ranching operations.
- Recreation – Opportunities provided by the event and conflict with other recreation uses.
- Soils - Reducing the level of erosion occurring on segments of existing roads and trails to be used by the racecourse. Additional use of these trails within and after a competitive event could increase the level of erosion.
- Wildlife/Threatened and Endangered Species – Concern over the impact that the race may have on wildlife resources particularly threatened and endangered species that are found in the Clover Wash area.

II. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

No Action

Under the No Action alternative the application for a special recreation permit to hold a competitive truck race would not be granted. The race identified in the proposed action would not occur. The demand for a competitive truck event in the area would continue.

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, the BLM would grant BORE racing club a special recreation permit to hold an organized truck/buggy race on August 15 and 16, 2008.

For analysis purposes the period of use analyzed is from April 1 to October 1 and would be pertinent for analysis purposes until the nature of future proposed actions, change in management plans, or environmental conditions cause this environmental assessment to no longer be accurate and valid. The proposed race course would be approximately 28 miles in length and is located entirely on existing roads, trails, washes and previously disturbed areas. An additional 20 miles of existing roads and trails would also be allowed for competitive use as alternatives to this course for future events. Approximately 3 miles of the proposed course would be located on existing routes which have not previously been used for such an event. The reason for providing more route options for events such as the proposed action would be to allow various segments “to rest” and not be raced on a yearly basis. This approach would also allow the sections of course to be avoided for reasons such as wildfire, drought, conflicts with other legitimate uses of BLM lands in the area, or some other factor which may discourage use of a section of the course. The pit locations, start/finish, and primary concentration of spectators would be located on public land in a location with durable soil and vegetation surface location (see Appendix A for pit/start locations). For each event, participants race the course for approximately 6 laps.

This event would be a competitive race. The proponent expects that 60 event participants and 80 spectators would attend the event. It is anticipated that the popularity of the activity would increase in the future, increasing the number of spectators and participants. For analysis purposes it is estimated that up to 100 participants and 200 spectators would attend events in the future.

Per event stipulations the race permittee would be responsible for all clean-up efforts and any restoration measures required at pit locations and along the permitted courses following the event. The permittee would provide portable toilets for use by spectators and participants. On-site emergency medical services and communication would be provided by the permit holder.

As part of the operations plan and per event stipulations the proponent/permit holder would be required to ensure that participants wash their equipment prior to traveling to the event to reduce the potential for the spread of noxious and non-native invasive weed species.

A Cultural Resource Needs Assessment would be completed prior to the event in coordination with the cultural specialist to ensure that impacts to cultural resources are addressed and mitigated for. A Class III Cultural Resource survey would be completed for any sections of course not previously inventoried to ensure archeology resources are protected. Protection measures would include course adjustment, course marking, or other measures deemed necessary to protect cultural resources. This event would be monitored in accordance with Ely District SRP policy to ensure impacts resulting from this event in regards to weeds and soils would be mitigated. Pre- and post-course inspections would be done of the course and photo monitoring points would be taken to document the impacts.

Included as part of the proposed action are the applicable BLM permit conditions checked on the reverse side of Special Recreation Permit form 2930-1 and special stipulations attached which are made a part of the race permit. The permit and

stipulations are attached as Appendix B to this environmental assessment and have been incorporated at mitigating measures inherent to the proposed action for purposes of this environmental assessment.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

No other alternatives are necessary in order to respond to unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. No other alternatives could fill the purpose and need of the proposed action as the proposed course utilizes the only existing roads and trails that would meet the needs of race participants and the permit applicant.

III. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Assumptions for Analysis

For analysis purposes a number of assumptions have been made regarding the event and future events. It is assumed that the season of use for events utilizing these routes is from April 1 – October 1 and that the number of event participants will increase in number over time and that the maximum number anticipated is 100 participants and 200 spectators. The analysis is also based on event participants doing six laps per event and that all stipulations agreed to by the applicant will be followed. Due to the nature of the event and the potential for event participants to travel off of the course it is also assumed that for analysis purposes only the area of potential effect (APE) for analysis is 10 feet on either side of the road, trail, or wash analyzed for use by motorized events. Stipulations of the event still apply and participants are required to stay on existing roads and trails.

General Setting

The subject area contains primarily pinyon /juniper woodland communities, sagebrush steppe, salt desert shrub and mountain brush plant communities between approximately 6,500 feet and 7,800 feet in elevation. Limestone and dolomite soils generally support the following plants which are also the primary vegetation found along the proposed course: single leaf pinyon, Utah juniper, mountain mahogany, mountain big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and black sagebrush. The proposed course is primarily used by OHV recreationists for trail riding and transportation purposes.

<u>Critical Elements</u>	<u>Not Present or Negligible Impact</u>	<u>Present and Not Affected</u>	<u>Present and Affected</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Not Present			
Air Quality	Negligible Impact			The nature of the proposed action and the associated use is anticipated to have a short

				term and negligible impact to air quality.
Cultural		X		Mitigation identified in the proposed action would result in no impacts to cultural resources.
Environmental Justice	Not Present			
Floodplains	Not Present			
Waste (Hazardous or Solid)	Not Present			
Invasive, Non-Native Species			X	A Weed Risk Assessment resulted in a moderate risk rating.
Native American Religious		X		No concerns were identified through consultation.
Prime or Unique Farmlands	Not Present			
Riparian – Wetland Zones	Not Present			
Special Status Plant and Animal Species		X		Sensitive plant and animal species have been identified in the area of the proposed action but not near any of the proposed routes.
Water Quality	Not Present			
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Not Present			
Wilderness Study Areas	Not Present			
Non-Critical Elements				
Land Use Authorizations		X		There would no modifications to land use authorizations

				through the proposed action therefore no impact would occur.
Paleontological Resources	Not Present			Currently paleontological resources are not identified within the project area.
Minerals		X		There would be no modifications to minerals resources through the proposed action therefore no impact would occur.
Visual Resources		X		The proposed action would fall within VRM classifications for the area therefore no impact to visual resources would occur.
Soils			X	Impacts to soil resources are analyzed in the document.
Recreation			X	Impact to recreation resources are analyzed in the document.
Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing			X	Impact to range resources are analyzed in the document.
Vegetation	Negligible Impacts			Mitigation identified in the proposed action combined within minimal levels of new

				ground disturbance activities would not result in more than negligible disruption of any particular vegetative community.
Wildlife			X	Impact to wildlife resources are analyzed in the document.
Woodland Resources		X		Due to mitigation identified within the proposed action no impacts to woodland resources would occur.
Socioeconomics	Negligible Impacts			Due to the minimal level of participants anticipated for these events, impacts to socioeconomic resources are anticipated to be negligible.
Migratory Birds		X		Mitigation identified in the proposed action combined with minimal ground disturbance activities would result in negligible impacts to migratory bird resources.
Wild Horses and Burros	X			

Based on the review of existing baseline data, BLM specialists have identified the following resource areas for further analysis:

- Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species
- Wildlife
- Soils
- Recreation
- Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing

Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species

Affected Environment

The BLM defines a weed as a non native plant that disrupts or has the potential to disrupt or alter the natural ecosystem function, composition and diversity of the site it occupies. A weed's presence deteriorates the health of the site, it makes efficient use of natural resources difficult, and it may interfere with management objectives for that site. It is an invasive species that requires a concerted effort (manpower and resources) to remove from its current location, if it can be removed at all. "Noxious" weeds refer to those plant species which have been legally designated as unwanted or undesirable. This includes national, state, county or local designations. No field surveys were completed for this project. Instead, the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. There are currently infestations of hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*) and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) found along portions of the proposed race route. The following noxious and non-native, invasive species are found in the surrounding areas:

<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	Spotted knapweed
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress
<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	Salt cedar

While not officially inventoried the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur along or near portions of the race course: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), bur buttercup (*Ranunculus testiculatus*), and tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*). This area of the Ely District was last inventoried for weeds in 2003.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative a permit would not be issued for the competitive event. Possible transportation or introduction of weed populations associated with the proposed event would not occur.

Proposed Action

A Noxious and Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for this event, resulting in a moderate rating (see Appendix C). A moderate rating indicates that "possible adverse effects on sites and possible expansion of infestation within the project area" is expected to occur" and that "preventative management measures for

the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of noxious weeds into the area” is required.

Due to the nature of the event and the tendency for vehicles to carry seeds from other sources, there is a moderate risk of areas along the course becoming infested by noxious or non-native invasive weeds. The primary concern for this project is the potential introduction of new weed species into the area from the Las Vegas area. Most of the participants will be coming from the Salt Lake and Las Vegas areas. Vehicles **must** be properly cleaned prior to racing to prevent new weed infestations into White Pine County.

Mitigation measures and BMPs listed in the Noxious and Invasive Weed Risk Assessment would reduce this likelihood as outlined in the event stipulations in Appendix B.

Wildlife

Affected Environment

The major wildlife populations within the event area include: big game species including mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and elk (*Cervus canadensis*) which provides yearlong habitat and may be scattered throughout portions of the race area, with greater numbers likely near water sources. The project area is not listed as crucial for any of the listed big game species. Upland birds, such as sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) are found in this area. The project is in the Butte Valley Sage Grouse PMU. There are no Sage Grouse leks within 5 miles of the project area. Summer habitat for Sage Grouse is present. Habitat for a number of migratory bird species overlaps the project area, including the Brewer’s sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) and the Sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*). Brewer’s sparrows nest in low shrubs late May to July. Sage sparrows nest on the ground or in low shrubs mid-April to July. No known raptor nest sites occur within five miles of the project area. There is no known pygmy rabbit habitat.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative a special use permit would not be issued for the competitive event. No impacts to wildlife resources from this event would occur.

Proposed Action

Noise associated with the event may temporarily disperse wildlife from watering sources. There would also be a limited possibility that a vehicle rider may collide with any of these wildlife species which could cause injury or death to the rider or wildlife species. Some wildlife may be separated and dispersed from watering sources and out of wash bottoms which may expose them to a higher risk of predation by carnivores. No impacts are expected to migratory birds because of the temporary disturbance to wildlife associated with the event. If the course is to be used during migratory bird season, it would be necessary to do an inventory of any nesting locations along the race route before the event.

Soils

Affected Environment

The project area is located in a relatively small valley with soil types and surface textures which vary considerably. Soils range from deep alluvial deposits in the valley bottoms, to bedrock or soils modified by large volumes of coarse rock fragments in upland areas. Soils are typically coarse textured in the mountains becoming finer textured in alluvial fans and valley bottoms.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be held. Erosion would continue through its natural process on the existing roads, trails, and washes and would not be accelerated from the permitted event.

Proposed Action

New erosion channels may be created by race traffic on the race routes in some locations. Areas such as valley bottoms with finer soil textures may become very soft and powdery during and after the event. Soil shear strength is very weak when dry. If the course is raced while moist, compaction could occur and could cause road degradation and “powdering out”. Implementation of the special stipulations (see Appendix B) would allow for rehabilitation of any unnecessary and undue damage that occurs in relation to the event.

Minimal post-race wind erosion would occur until soil surfaces are stabilized by a moisture event. Higher elevation portions of the course soils contain an abundance of rock fragments, or consist of exposed bedrock which would be minimally affected by wind and water erosion. Due to gentler slopes, cross contour travel direction, and the abundance of rock fragments in soils, little water channelization should occur.

Soil disturbance would be greatest at the main pit area, start/finish line, and along sharp turns in the course. Most soil disturbance would take place on previously disturbed areas which have already been impacted by human or natural causes.

Recreation

Affected Environment

Opportunities within the event area for recreation are medium to high with the majority of the use occurring by local residents. OHV use, driving for pleasure, hunting and wildlife viewing are the primary forms of recreation use in this area. The proposed action is located within the identified Wildlife Management Unit 221. The identified time period overlaps designated hunting seasons for both upland game and big game species. Upland game hunting seasons overlapping April 1 to October 1, include Chukar & Hungarian Partridge, Dusky and Ruffed Grouse, Sage Grouse and possibly Wild Turkey. Big game hunting seasons overlapping April 1 to October 1, include Elk, Mule deer and Pronghorn.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the event would not be held.

Proposed Action

The race would provide an opportunity to help meet the demand for organized competitive OHV events. The event would also provide an opportunity for a group camping experience for event attendees. Pre-race and race activities potentially could disrupt game out of the hunted areas precluding quality conditions and experience for hunters during the days of those activities. The displacement and disruption of hunting opportunities from the proposed action is expected to have a minimal adverse impact because of the linear and temporary nature of the proposed action, the restriction of the event to existing roads, and an abundant amount of open public land that offers equal hunting and recreation opportunities in the greater area.

Mitigation measures related to recreation activities such as hunting include requiring the special recreation permit holder to repair the race route to normal drivable conditions following the event to allow for adequate public access to areas where recreation activities may occur. The BLM authorized officer determines which sections of the race route need to be repaired. See the wildlife section for information regarding impacts to wildlife as it relates to hunting opportunities.

Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing

Affected Environment

Livestock have historically grazed throughout the event location. There is one Grazing allotments that the proposed race intersects. This allotment is the Copper Flat allotment. This allotment may be potentially actively grazed during the race event.

Rangeland health conditions for these allotments are being determined through rangeland health assessments. Health conditions are not described in depth in this document. Rangeland conditions are variable and grazing use of the allotment varies from long term non-use to sporadic use based on fluctuating climatic conditions.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be held. Livestock grazing in the area would remain undisturbed by the event. No impacts to rangeland health would occur.

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action there would be potential for cattle to be temporarily disturbed and displaced from water sources. This is a nuisance to the rancher; however, cattle can return to water and are only displaced during the event which lasts for one or two days. In most circumstances, there is more than one water source for livestock to use on an allotment. The short duration of the event limits the adverse effects on the operation. There would also be a chance of event participants colliding with cattle which could kill or mortally injure both the animal and/or the

rider. Calves especially, are at risk as they are unaccustomed to rapidly moving vehicles and are known to dart into a vehicle rather than away from it. The permit holder and the BLM will be responsible for coordinating with the livestock permittee to mitigate livestock damage. Damage of roads used by ranchers is also possible which could temporarily impede easy travel on the allotments until roads are sufficiently rehabilitated.

Under the proposed action, rangeland health can be impacted through a variety of means including the disturbance of vegetation along roadsides, in washes and in two-track roads. The disturbed soil in these areas can create a seed bed for invasive and noxious weed species to inhabit and become established. Roughed up soil surfaces due to the event, especially on slopes, is more vulnerable to erode following heavy precipitation events. Erosion displaces vegetation, exposes roots and can cause down-cutting and head cuts which can be difficult and expensive to repair. These situations are mitigated through enforcement of SRP permit terms and conditions and through adaptive management and feedback from post-race road and rangeland health monitoring.

Mitigation measures related to livestock operations include requiring the special recreation permit holder to repair the race route to normal drivable conditions following the event to allow for adequate access of the area for the public as well as the livestock permittee and coordinating with permittees. The BLM Authorized Officer determines which sections of the race route need to be repaired.

IV. Cumulative Impacts

According to the BLM handbook Guidelines for Accessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts (1994), the analysis can be focused on those issues and resource values identified during scoping that are of major importance. The issue and resource values of major importance or public concern, which would be analyzed for cumulative impacts, include Cultural Resources, Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species, Wildlife, Special Status Species, Soils, Rangeland health and livestock grazing, Vegetation, Water Quality/Riparian.

Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts could result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions, taking place over a period of time (Council on Environmental Quality, Regulations for Implementation of NEPA, 1508.7).

The cumulative effects study area (CESA) is a five mile radius around the area where the proposed action would take place. A general discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions follows:

Past Actions

Approximately 11 short term motorized events both competitive and non-competitive including trucks, ATVs and motorcycles have occurred within the cumulative effects study area between 1990 and 2005. This same course was used in 2004 by BORE

racing group. Some portions of the proposed course were used during various events in varying years, the most recent being the 2004 Nevada Desert Racing Association ATV Race. Recreation, particularly off-highway vehicle use, has been a popular activity within the CESA and has increased in recent years as tourism increases within the county as a whole. Travel designations within the CESA has been 'open' to cross country travel which has contributed to an increase in user created trails. These user created trails combined with permitted events have contributed to site specific incremental increases in soil erosion and vegetation loss. Hunting, both big game and game birds has been a popular activity in the area. Other activities such as wood cutting also occur but at undeterminable levels. Oil and gas exploration has occurred in the CESA, the most recent being in 2007. Transmission line corridors have been designated in the CESA to direct current and future alignments of power lines. Vegetation treatments including mechanical, hand cut and prescribed burns have been done in the CESA to restore proper fire regimes and vegetation composition.

Present Actions

Grazing within the one grazing allotment currently occurs. Recreation, particularly off-highway vehicle use and hunting continues to be the most popular activities in the project area. Currently, the district is open to cross-country travel. This use continues to contribute to incremental increases in soil erosion. Permitted activities are no longer allowed to travel cross-country reducing the impacts to soils and vegetation associated with these types of activities. The BLM has received applications for two events within the CESA. These are a combination of motorcycle/atv races and truck and buggy races. Hunting of both big-game and game birds continue to be popular activities within the CESA. This has also led to the creation of user created trails which has contributed to the amount of routes currently available to dispersed off-highway vehicle use. The user created trails created through past activities as well as the trails created through permitted activities has contributed to the current levels of off-highway vehicle use. Other recreation activities presently occurring include hiking, cultural tourism, and horseback riding. Levels and extent of casual non-permitted recreation activities is largely unknown.

Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

Reasonably foreseeable future actions include continued use of the area for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, dispersed recreation, and permitted recreation activities. While livestock grazing is expected to continue, adjustments in season of use or numbers of livestock may be made periodically to improve range conditions. Range improvements such as water developments or pasture fences, could be installed to facilitate the grazing program.

Wildlife use is likely to continue. Vegetation treatment projects which will improve wildlife habitat are planned for the area.

The implementation of grazing plans and revisions based on allotment monitoring is expected to improve the range condition. Any improvement in the range condition would lessen the impacts of surface disturbance on the livestock, and wildlife.

Permitted recreation activities are anticipated to occur in the future within this area. The proposed action in the November 2007 Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement identifies limiting truck and buggy courses to four within the district and three events per year within the district. It is anticipated that the proposed routes within the CESA will be one of the four designated courses as identified in the RMP. This plan would also limit travel to existing and designated travel routes. Dispersed recreation activities including off-highway vehicle use, is anticipated to increase within this area as the local communities continue to promote outdoor recreation. Reasonable Foreseeable actions include: preparation and completion of planning documents directed by the new Ely BLM district Resource Management Plan, which will direct and influence how the public uses the area regarding recreation, development, and land sales and transfers into the future. Other reasonably foreseeable actions include additional oil and gas exploration locations, wind energy facilities, additional power transmission lines and vegetation improvement treatments.

Cumulative Impacts

In accordance with the guidance document, “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” (CEQ, 1997), the cumulative effects issues and resources associated with the BORE Truck and Buggy Race identified for further consideration in this EA include:

- Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species
- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Soils
- Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing

Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species

Past and present actions may have introduced and contributed to the spread of invasive, nonnative species within the CESA, and the same may be expected from the reasonable foreseeable future actions. Mitigation measures for all other actions would aid in reducing potential adverse effects. The proposed action may cause incremental increases in noxious weeds however, participants washing vehicles before and after the event and limiting events to previously disturbed sites would minimize this potential. Noxious weeds and invasive non-native species could increase within the CESA in spite of best management practices and standard operating procedures that would be in place for all potential activities.

Wildlife

The cumulative impact on wildlife from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other actions is a contribution to the temporary displacement of wildlife species. Particularly other permitted events in the area, dispersed recreation, and hunting all contribute to the temporary displacement of wildlife in the immediate vicinity of routes utilized for travel and events. This could result in an increase in predation by carnivores and the relocation of wildlife to nearby areas that may be less suitable habitat. Cumulative impacts to wildlife populations in regards to biological costs and reproductive fitness is indeterminable

Soils

Past and present actions have contributed to the creation of additional roads and trails within the CESA boundary which has resulted in erosion channels in certain locations, compaction of soils when moist, and the short term creation of soft and powdery roads and trails within areas of finer soil textures. The location of past permitted events will continue to influence the location of future permitted events and would continue to have similar impacts. Reasonably foreseeable future actions associated with the implementation of a new land-use plan would reduce these impacts by limiting the number of truck and buggy races, locating course for use on more sustainable soils types, and limiting the number of course allowed for this type of use. This course would be consistent with the implementation of the new land-use plan. Limiting travel to designated routes would also reduce or minimize increases in impacts to soils. By following best management practices and standard operating procedures for all activities within the CESA adverse impacts to soil resources would be minimized.

Recreation

Past and present actions have contributed to the creation of additional roads and trails within the CESA boundary which has resulted in an increase in recreational opportunities in the area, particularly for off-highway vehicle use. This increase in use has led to some conflicts between recreation groups, particularly hunting and OHV use. The event has minimal contributions to this conflict due to the season of use having a very small overlap with hunting seasons and the lower quality of hunting in the area.

Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing

Past and present actions have contributed to disruptions to grazing management and loss of available forage. This includes the permitting of recreation activities, dispersed recreation activities, wildlife management, and wild horse management. Stipulations associated with the event and the coordinating of events with grazing permittees for this event would minimize the amount of disruptions to grazing operations and rangeland health and would not contribute to overall impacts.

V. Proposed Mitigation

Mitigation measures incorporated into the proposed action and stipulations applied to the event are sufficient, based on the analysis of environmental consequences no additional mitigation is proposed.

VI. Suggested Monitoring

Monitoring measures incorporated into the proposed action current BLM policy regarding special recreation permits are sufficient, based on the analysis of environmental consequences and the stipulated rules agreed upon by the applicant and the BLM, no additional monitoring is proposed.

VII. Consultation, Coordination, and List of Preparers

Consultation and coordination

BLM Specialists assigned and consulted with regarding the proposed action include:

Kari Harrison, Soil, Air and Water Quality
Mark Lowrie, Rangeland Management Specialist
Bonnie Million, Noxious & Non-Native, Invasive Weeds
Cameron Collins, Wildlife Biologist
Kathy McConnell, Archeologist
Dave Jacobson, Wilderness
Kalem Lenard, VRM and Recreation
Elvis Wall, Tribal Coordination
Gina Jones, NEPA Specialist
Bill Wilson, Minerals
Doris Metcalf, Lands and Realty

Public Involvement

This document was released for public comment and review on the BLM website for 15 days. A letter was sent out to interested and affected parties notifying them of the proposal and the comment period.

VIII. References

Egan Resource Area Resource Management Plan, 1987

White Pine County Public Land Use Plan

Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, 2007

Comments from the resource specialists listed above.

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Decision Record
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
DECISION RECORD
BORE Truck and Buggy Race
Environmental Assessment
NV-043-08-004
Permit Number
NV-040-08-012

Introduction

The proposed action is in response to a request for application to grant a special recreation permit to Roger Bowers with the Bonneville Off-Road Enthusiasts to hold a race on August 15 and 16, 2008 and varying dates between the months of April and October for years to come. This event would provide an organized racing opportunity for the public and club members. The proposed race course would be approximately 28 miles in length and is located entirely on existing roads, trails, washes and previously disturbed areas. An additional 20 miles of existing roads and trails would also be allowed for competitive use as alternatives to this course for future events. The proposed course is located on predominantly BLM managed public land in White Pine County, with small sections of the proposed course crossing through private land. For the portions of course which cross private land, the proponent is required to obtain permission letters from affected private land owners. It is required by the BLM that the proponent supply a copy of any permission letters to the BLM before a permit is issued for the event. It has been determined that an updated analysis of the proposed action was necessary to proceed with issuing this permit. All portions of the course are on existing roads, trails and washes. No cross country travel will be authorized.

Finding of No Significant Impact

I have reviewed Environmental Assessment (EA) NV-043-08-004, dated May, 2008. After consideration of the environmental impacts as described in the EA, and incorporated herein, I have determined that the proposed actions with the standard operating procedures as described in the EA will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to be prepared. This finding and conclusion is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27), both with regard to the context and the intensity of impacts described in the EA. I have determined the proposed action is in conformance with the Egan Resource Management Plan.

Context:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has the authority under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 United States Code 1701 et seq.) (FLPMA)

Intensity:

1) *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse:*

No significant impacts were noted after the completion of similar OHV events. The proposed action will result in improved economics and tourism of the surrounding

communities. Any negative effects caused by the proposed action are thought to be short term and temporary. Negative effects such as damaged roads are required to be repaired as part of the special stipulations that the permit holder agrees to.

2) The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety:

The proposed action will not have significant negative effects to public health and safety. Coordination with county entities and stipulations to minimize any negative effects to the public health and safety of the area are agreed upon by the permit holder. The spread of invasive, non-native species would be minimal and not significant as identified by the weeds risk assessment completed for this event. Stipulations requiring the permittee to implement practices to prevent the spread of noxious weeds would be attached to the permit, and field inspectors would ensure that the stipulations are followed.

3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historical or cultural resources, parks lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas:

The project area is representative of the Great Basin system. No significant impacts are anticipated from the proposed action to floodplains, wetlands, and riparian areas; wilderness values, ACECs, and wild and scenic rivers; Visual Resource Management; cultural, Paleontological, and historical resource values; prime or unique farmlands; environmental justice; water quality (drinking/ground); Native American religious concerns; or migratory birds.

4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial:

The effects of organized events such as this are well known and documented and are not highly controversial. Stipulations are agreed upon by the permit holder to enable any negative effects from the event to be minimized and rehabilitated.

5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks:

There are no known effects of the proposed action which are considered uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration:

The proposed action does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects and does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. All future similar events would be subject to the same environmental assessment standards and independent decision making.

7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant impacts: Based on the conditions set forth in this Finding of No Significant Impact, no significant impacts will occur due to the proposed action. The subsequent land use would be regulated by local, state, and federal regulations as applicable; therefore, no significantly cumulative impacts are anticipated.

8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing on the National Register of

Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources:

The proposed action will not cause the loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historical resources. A cultural needs assessment was completed for this event to determine the threat the proposed action would pose to cultural and historical resources. Mitigation actions identified to ensure cultural or historical resources would not be damaged include avoidance through rerouting the proposed course and barriers to prevent off-road travel into any cultural sites near the proposed routes.

9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973:

The EA has identified that no significant or adverse impacts would result to a threatened or endangered species from implementing the proposed action.

10) Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment: This action is consistent with federal, state, local, and tribal laws and other requirements for the protection of the environment. The proposed action will not violate or threaten to violate any Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Decision Record

I have reviewed Environmental Assessment (EA) NV-043-08-004, dated July, 2008. I have determined the proposed action is in conformance with the approved Egan Resource Management Plan. It is my decision to implement the proposal as described, subject to the attached permit conditions, special stipulations. I hereby approve this proposal which was mitigated through route planning procedures, and requirements contained in permit conditions and special stipulations which are included as part of this decision. This decision is effective on the date of signature.

Rationale for Decision

Approval of this proposal will allow the applicant to conduct the race, which is a legitimate, multiple use activity that will result in no significant impact to important resource values.

Public Involvement

This document was made available for public review for 15 days on the BLM Ely district website and a letter was sent out to interested and affected parties notifying them of the proposal and the comment period.

Appendix A – Map



APPENDIX B - Stipulations

1. This permit is issued for the period specified. It is revocable for any breach of conditions or at the discretion of the Bureau of Land Management, at any time upon notice. This permit is subject to valid adverse claims heretofore or hereafter acquired.
2. This permit is subject to all applicable provisions of the regulations (43 CFR Group 2930).
3. This permit is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No.11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, which sets forth the Equal Opportunity clauses. A copy of this order may be obtained from the BLM.
4. This permit may not be reassigned or transferred by permittee.
5. Permittee must pay the sum of estimated user fees in advance of permit issuance. Adjustments to use fee charges will be based on actual use reported on the Post Use Report.
6. Permittee must observe all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations applicable to the premises; to erection or maintenance of signs or advertising displays including the regulations for the protection of game birds and animals, and must keep the premises in a neat, orderly manner, and sanitary condition.
7. Permittee must take all reasonable precautions to prevent and suppress forest, brush, and grass fires, and to prevent polluting of waters on or in vicinity of the public lands.
8. Permittee must not enclose roads or trails commonly in public use.
9. Permittee must pay the United States for any damage to its property resulting from this use.
10. Permittee must notify the BLM of address change immediately.
11. Permittee must not cut any timber on the public lands without prior written permission from the BLM.
12. Permittee must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the United States and/or its agencies and representatives against and from any and all demands, claims, or liabilities of every nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, damages to property, injuries to or death of persons, arising directly or indirectly from, or in any way connected with the permittee's use and occupancy of the public lands described in this permit or with the event authorized under this permit.
13. Authorized representatives of the Department of the Interior, other Federal agencies, and game wardens must at all times, have the right to enter the premises on official business.
14. Permittee must abide by all special stipulations attached.
15. Permittee must not disturb archeological and historical values, including, but not limited to, petroglyphs, ruins, historic buildings, and artifacts.
16. Permittee must leave in place any hidden cultural values uncovered through authorized operations.
17. The permittee shall comply with all Federal, State, County and local governmental agencies having jurisdiction, ordinances, regulations, orders, postings, or written requirements applicable to the area or operations covered by the special recreation permit. The permittee must contact and receive concurrence and license, where required, from all other federal, state, county and local governmental agencies having jurisdiction. The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all required Federal, State, and local licenses or registrations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all clients or customers under the permittee's supervision.
18. A SRP represents a nonexclusive privilege authorizing special uses of the public lands and related waters and, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including the amount of use. The authorized officer may suspend a SRP if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, the environment, or in the event of noncompliance with permit stipulations.
19. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of Federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. The permit privileges are not to be considered property on which the permittee shall be entitled to earn or receive any return, income, price or compensation. The use of a permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
20. A SRP only authorizes the use, for the time and in the area, as specifically described therein.

21. Unless expressly stated, the SRP does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of the Federal land by other users. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the area for any purpose.

22. The permittee may not assign or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, contracting of equipment or services may be approved by the authorized officer in advance, if necessary, to supplement a permittee's operations. Permit use is not considered here to be a "service" and cannot be contracted. Such contracting should not constitute more than half the required equipment or services. If equipment or services (excludes use under permit) are contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.

23. All advertising and representations made to the public and the authorized officer must be accurate. Although the addresses and telephone numbers of the BLM may be included in advertising materials, official agency symbols may not be used. The permittee shall not use advertising that attempts to portray or represent the activities as being conducted by the BLM. The permittee may not portray or represent the permit fee as a special Federal users tax. The permittee must furnish the authorized officer with any current brochure and price list.

24. The permittee must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., land slides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling limbs or trees, submerged objects, hazardous wildlife, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.

25. Unless specifically authorized, a SRP does not authorize the permittee to erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on the public lands. Any use of the public lands is subject to the condition that upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to preexisting conditions.

26. The permittee must present or display a copy of the special recreation permit to a participant, authorized officer's representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request.

27. The authorized officer, or other duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or the permittee's operator, employee, or agent for up to 3 years after the expiration of the permit.

28. Trash, food items and race-related litter shall be promptly contained and removed from the race area immediately upon completion of the event. The permittee shall dispose of refuse resulting from the permitted use, including flagging, signs, waste materials, garbage, and rubbish of all kinds, and shall guard the purity of streams and other surface waters.

29. The race course shall be confined entirely to a clearly-defined and plainly-marked route as shown on the authorized course maps, consisting of existing roads, washes, old courses and trails. Passing shall be limited to the disturbed areas of these roads, washes, old courses and trails. Passing is not permitted in vegetated areas adjacent to the course. The maximum allowable width of the course shall be no greater than (10) ten feet. Pre-running of the course will not be allowed.

30. The race course and pit area shall be confined entirely to disturbed areas only. The boundaries shall be clearly marked and monitored to the extent necessary to restrict pit crews/spectators and others to the confines of the designated pit and start/finish areas. All course workers must stay in areas assigned. Stakes, flagging materials, equipment, temporary facilities, and all other event-related materials must be removed after the event. The permittee will be responsible for marking the race course and boundaries of spectator parking and pit areas to the satisfaction of the authorized officer. The permittee will not mark the course by painting rocks or plants or other land features.

31. The permittee shall do everything possible to insure that race participants and spectators do not harass or collect wildlife, plants, or livestock.

32. Race officials shall monitor the race to prevent damage from course cutting and participants traveling off course. The permittee shall establish race course checkpoints to prevent short-coursing. Any rider caught short-coursing or passing in no passing areas will be disqualified by race officials. The permittee will be responsible for keeping contestants on the designated route/course. Participants who violate any of the mitigation measures or stipulations shall be disqualified from the race. Additionally, any support personnel or spectators found in violation of the stipulations, associated with a rider or riders shall result in the disqualification of that rider or riders. The permittee will be responsible for public safety in the event area.

33. The permittee is required to post warning signs, at all known mine shafts and other hazardous areas which occur within 100 feet of the race course or pit/spectator area and will verbally inform race participants of all hazards at the pre-race meeting.

34. All children and animals of course workers shall be limited to their designated area only.

35. Recreation Use Permit First Aid Stipulation for OHV events involving enclosed canopy motor vehicles (Truck and buggy races, and movie stunts): Permittee shall insure the provision of first aid services capable of locating, rendering aid to, and evacuating any accident victim. First aid service shall include an ambulance unit which is dedicated to the event and has no public call response responsibility, and is permitted by the local authority having jurisdiction. (Use of a public entity is permitted where no suitable private services capable of being event dedicated are available or located within 100 miles of the main event site.) This unit shall only be acceptable if staffed and equipped to the local standards as prescribed by the authority having jurisdiction. A means of suppression of a fire in an incipient stage, and for the extraction of victims from within a motor vehicle must be provided, and remain dedicated to the event. This includes the provision of a hydraulically operated gas or electric powered tool system for the cutting and spreading operations related to victim extrication from vehicles. A reliable means for the first aid provider to contact emergency dispatch centers shall be required. Additionally, the permittee will arrange with the local Emergency Medical Service/Hospital for coordination of emergency services.

36. Staking, flagging materials, equipment, temporary facilities, litter and all other event related materials will be removed by the permittee within 15 working days following the event.

37. The race start will start in intervals, depending on class. Mass starts will be held on private ground or in approved sandy soil areas only.

38. The permittee shall make every effort to repair the race route to normal driveable conditions following the event. A Post Race Evaluation of the course will be completed by the Authorized Officer. Upon inspection, a determination will be made on which portions of the course, if any, need to be rehabilitated. The permittee will be required to completely rehabilitate resources listed in the Post Race Evaluation within 45 days of receiving the Post Race Evaluation.

39. This permit does not give permission to cross over or use any private lands during the event. The permittee will be fully responsible for all trespass on and/or damages to private land which result from the conduct of the event.

40. The use of improved trails on BLM land is permitted, but the right to use county, state or federal roads crossing BLM lands is neither granted, nor implied by the issuance of this permit.

41. The permittee will be responsible for the prompt repair of any race-related damages to utilities and related improvements to a condition which is at least as good as the condition just prior to the race. The permittee will be responsible for the repair and/or restoration of any improvements placed on public lands by BLM or its authorized users that may be damaged as a result of the event.

42. The permittee shall be responsible for ensuring that adequate sanitation facilities for participants and spectators are provided.

43. The permittee shall complete the post-race portion of the permit and return it to the Ely Field Office within fifteen (15) calendar days of the completion of the event. In addition, the permittee will immediately notify the Field Manager, or his Authorized Officer of any serious injuries or fatalities which occur in connection with the event. A written incident report will be submitted with the completed post-race portion of the permit. The Ely Field Office will provide a permittee incident report form which details all necessary information to be furnished for any serious injuries or accidents.

44. The permittee will do everything reasonable, both independently and/or upon request of the Authorized Officer, to prevent or suppress fires caused by the race or related activities on or near the lands utilized. Compensation may be required of the permittee for Federal, State, or private interests in suppression and rehabilitation expenses.

45. Use Fees shall be calculated at 3% of the adjusted gross fees collected or \$4.00 per event participant, whichever is greater. Gross receipts include the total income which has been generated from the permitted activity (on public lands) before deducting costs such as insurance, prizes, other permit or license fees, etc. Gross receipts would also include total supplemental monies collected through sponsor contributions, other donations, the sale of clothing, specialized equipment, or food or beverages (on public lands) when sold on an incidental basis at the permitted activity. Use Fees must be paid within (15) days following the event. If a Special Recreation Permit Application fee (\$80.00) has been charged in advance it will be deducted from the adjusted gross fees.

46. The permittee is responsible for clean-up and assumes liability for any and all releases of hazardous substances and or oil (more than one quart) disposed on public land as defined in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances

Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300). Permittee will immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any and all releases of hazardous substances and or oil (more than one quart) on public land.

47. The permittee will inform all event participants and staff that collection, excavation or vandalism of archaeological artifacts or sites is illegal on public land. Collection or disturbance of artifacts and other archaeological, historical, and materials by the permit holder, its representatives, employees, or event participants shall not be allowed. Offenders shall be subject to prosecution under the appropriate State and Federal laws.

48. Should any cultural resource (historic or pre-historic site or object) be discovered by the permit holder, representatives, or event participants on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer. The permit holder must stop all activities in the discovery vicinity, protect the discovery and notify the BLM Authorized Officer immediately upon discovery of archaeological artifacts or human remains. To determine the appropriate actions to follow to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values, event activities in the discovery vicinity must cease until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer.

49. The permittee shall comply with 43 CFR 7.18 and shall not make available to the public any information concerning the nature and location of any archaeological resource.

50. The permittee will be responsible for the cost of the evaluation of cultural resources impacted by event or participant activities. Any decision as to proper mitigation measures to be taken will be made by the Authorized Officer, in consultation with resource specialists.

51. Prior to entering public lands, the contractor, operator, or permit holder will provide information and training regarding noxious weed management and identification to all personnel who will be affiliated with the implementation of the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to noninfested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.

52. To eliminate the transport of vehicle-borne weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all vehicles and heavy equipment used for the completion, maintenance, inspection, or monitoring of ground disturbing activities or for authorized off-road driving will be free of soil and debris capable of transporting weed propagules. All such vehicles and equipment will be cleaned with power or high pressure equipment prior to entering or leaving the work site or project area. Cleaning efforts will concentrate on tracks, feet and tires, and on the undercarriage. Special emphasis will be applied to axles, frames, cross members, motor mounts, on and underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies.

*Non-compliance with any above permit stipulation will be grounds for denial of future permits, and/or race cancellation.

Performance evaluation, violations, and penalties:

Performance will be based upon:

- 1) Stipulation and Operating Plan Compliance;
- 2) Protection of Resource Values; and
- 3) Quality and safety of services provided to the public.

Performance levels are:

A= Acceptable: Permittee is in compliance with permit stipulations; has taken prompt steps to rectify any performance issues and complaints; does not repeatedly violate conditions, or show a disregard for stipulations.

P= Probationary: Where there has been repeated violations or a disregard for permit stipulations, the permittee will be placed in probationary status.

U= Unacceptable: Permittee willfully and/or repeatedly violated permit conditions to provide substandard service to the public. Conduct is lacking in reasonableness or responsibility to the point that it becomes reckless or negligent.

Violations and Penalties

A= Complaints and issues may be discussed over the phone or in writing. When due dates or completion dates are established, the permittee will be afforded a 15 day grace period, unless otherwise specified.

P= A notice on Noncompliance (Notice) will be issued by the Authorized Officer specifying in what respect the permittee has failed to comply, the terms of the probationary status, and the consequences of further noncompliance.

U= Permit privileges would be revoked for one to three years.

A notice of Noncompliance and Decision to Terminate permit privileges would be issued by the Authorized Officer. The permittee would be allowed the opportunity to appeal the decision under Title 43 CFR, Part 4.

Critical Standards - a breach of critical standards can lead directly to administrative penalties, suspension or revocation of a permit. Critical standards are necessary for the health and welfare of the public and protection of resources.

The permit shall be suspended or revoked if required State or local licenses pertaining to public health and safety are revoked.

Violation of mandatory Federal or State safety requirements will result in probationary status or loss of permit privileges.

The conviction of a violation of any Federal or State law or regulation concerning the conservation or protection of natural resources, the environment, endangered species or antiquities that is related to permit operations will result in probationary status or loss of permit privileges.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THESE PERMIT CONDITIONS AND SPECIAL STIPULATIONS. I HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO OBLIGATE THIS ORGANIZATION TO THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS.

SIGNATURE

DATE

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS

2008 BORE Truck & Buggy Race White Pine County, Nevada

On April 30th, 2008 a Noxious & Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for the 2008 BORE Truck and Buggy Race in White Pine County, NV. Roger Bowers with Bonneville Off-Road Enthusiasts (BORE) has submitted an application for a Truck and Buggy Race in the Copper Flat area August 15 and 16, 2008. All of the routes that they would be using have been used by this group in the past. Variations of the course have been raced in 1997, 2001, 2003, 2004, and 2005 by this group. The proposed staging area/pit location is off of Hwy 50 and is the same pit/start location used for previous events. The course is 32 miles in length and would be raced for six laps. Approximately 20-30 vehicles are anticipated for the event and 75 spectators.

No field surveys were completed for this project. Instead, the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. There are currently infestations of hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*) and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) found along portions of the proposed race route. The following noxious and non-native, invasive species are found in the surrounding areas:

<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	Spotted knapweed
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress
<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	Salt cedar

While not officially inventoried the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur along or near portions of the race course: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), bur buttercup (*Ranunculus testiculatus*), and tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*). This area of the Ely District was last inventoried for weeds in 2003.

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area.

None (0)	Noxious weed species are not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious weed species in the project area.
Low (1-3)	Noxious weed species are present in the areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious weeds into the project area.
Moderate (4-7)	Noxious weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious weeds within the project area.
High (7-10)	Heavy infestations of noxious weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (5) at the present time. Due to the nature of the event and the tendency for vehicles to carry seeds from other sources, there is a moderate risk of areas along the course becoming infested by noxious or non-native invasive weeds. Vehicles **must** be properly cleaned prior to racing to prevent introducing new weeds to the area.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious weed establishment in the project area.

Low to Nonexistent (1-3)	None. No cumulative effects expected.
Moderate (4-7)	Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely but limited.
High (8-10)	Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

For this project, the factor rates as High (8). Most of the race route is considered to be weed-free. Any new weed infestations in this area could have adverse effects on the native vegetation. If cheatgrass becomes heavily established it could alter the fire regime of the area.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

None (0)	Proceed as planned.
Low (1-10)	Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious weed populations that get established in the area.
Moderate (11-49)	Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction of spread of noxious weeds into the area. Preventative management measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.
High (50-100)	Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed site and controlling existing infestations of noxious weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

For this project, the Risk Rating is (**Moderate, 40**). Based on this risk rating, preventative management measures are needed for this project. Preventative measures to help mitigate the possible effects of the race on the native plant communities include:

Preventative measures: Take before and after observation photos of key impact and possible weed vector areas, as required by our OHV monitoring report. These photo points are repeated as the course is used in following years.

Active measures: Insure the promoter knows about and promotes the stipulation requiring the racers to wash their race vehicles before the event. Racers who do not comply will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification.

Reactive measures: Notify the proper weed control agency concerning treating any populations of noxious weeds observed following the race. Establish photo point sites at key locations (as outlined in the BLM rangeland guide) in relation to course impacts and existing or possible weed populations along the course. Revisit these

monitoring points for three years to monitor any changes related to weeds. Monitor any known infestations and do follow up treatments as necessary.

In addition to these measures the following Ely District BMPs will be followed:

- Prior to entering public lands, the contractor, operator, or permit holder will provide information and training regarding noxious weed management and identification to all personnel who will be affiliated with the implementation of the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to noninfested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.
- To eliminate the transport of vehicle-borne weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all vehicles and heavy equipment used for the completion, maintenance, inspection, or monitoring of ground disturbing activities or for authorized off-road driving will be free of soil and debris capable of transporting weed propagules. All such vehicles and equipment will be cleaned with power or high pressure equipment prior to entering or leaving the work site or project area. Cleaning efforts will concentrate on tracks, feet and tires, and on the undercarriage. Special emphasis will be applied to axels, frames, cross members, motor mounts, on and underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies.

Reviewed
by:

4/30/2008

Bonnie M Million
Ely District Noxious & Invasive Weed
Coordinator

Date