

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

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-L020-2009-009-EA
February 24, 2009**

COYOTES MOTORCYCLE RACE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ely District Office
Phone: 775-289-1800
Fax: (775) 289-1910



I. Background Information

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responding to an application by Michael Scott Laity with the Coyotes Motorcycle Club for a special recreation permit to hold a MRAN (Motorcycle Racers Association of Nevada) sanctioned competitive motorcycle event.

The BLM is preparing 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 so 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 proposed routes are as follows:

T 18 N, R 64 E

T 17 N, R 64 E

T 16 N, R 63 E

T 60 N, R 54 E

T 16 N, R 64 E

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action would be to respond to an application for a competitive event on public lands by Coyotes Motorcycle Club under appropriate terms and conditions needed to minimize impacts to other resource values and uses. The need for this action is to fulfill a demand for a competitive motorcycle racing opportunity.

Conformance with Land Use Plan

The proposed action is in conformance with the BLM Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (2008) (RMP) pg. 79 “to provide quality settings for developed and undeveloped recreation experiences and opportunities while protecting resources.” Although pg. 81 section REC-11 states that the BLM will “manage four special recreation permit areas totaling approximately 1.3 million acres to provide opportunities for competitive motorcycle special recreation permit events” the RMP does not specify that the Ely District would restrict competitive motorcycle events outside of these special recreation permit areas. The proposed race course is not located within any of the RMP areas where organized OHV events were determined as not allowable. The proposed action also follows management

guidelines set forth by the RMP pg. 44 SS-41 “Where appropriate, restrict permitted activities from March 1 through May 15 within 2 miles of an active greater sage grouse lek.”

Scoping and Issues

Scoping

Issues addressed in this EA were identified through internal scoping and conducted via meetings with BLM resource specialists on January 12, 2009. Major issues identified are as follows:

- Air Quality
- Wildlife
- Soils
- Livestock grazing
- Noxious and Invasive Non-Native Weeds
- Recreation
- Visual Resource Management (VRM)

II. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

No Action

Under the no action alternative the application for a special recreation permit to hold an 80 mile competitive motorcycle race would be denied. The race would not occur.

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, the BLM would grant Coyotes Motorcycle Club a special recreation permit to hold an organized motorcycle race on June 20, 2009. For analysis purposes the period of use is from May 16 to July 31 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 applicable. The proposed course for the 2009 event would be approximately 45 miles in length. Race participants would complete two laps around this 45 mile course. An additional 35 miles of existing roads and trails would also be allowed for competitive use as alternatives to this course for future events. This would allow various segments “to rest” and not be raced on a yearly basis. The majority of the proposed course would be located east and north of Ely, Nevada and east and south of McGill, Nevada on the east side of Highway 93 (Appendix A). Minor modifications of the race course may need to be made based upon on-the-ground conditions on the day of the race. The primary visitor concentration would be located below the White Pine County shooting complex located north and east of Ely on BLM public land. This area would be used for camping for participants and would serve as the main pit area during the event (see Appendix A for pit/start location). Spectators and pit crews would be concentrated in the centrally located pit area.

This event would be a competitive race. The proponent expects 250 + riders to participate in the event. The riders would be split into competitive categories based on vehicle size, engine type,

and rider age, with three categories based on rider skill levels-expert, amateur and novice. A separate short course for young competitors would be established in the pit area and take place on the proposed course.

The race permittee would be responsible for all clean-up efforts and any restoration measures needed at the camping/pit area and along the course. The permittee would provide portable toilets for use by spectators and participants. A water tender would water down the pit area throughout the event to minimize dust. The start would be limited to twenty riders a line per timed start. Emergency medical services and communication would be provided by an ambulance located on site. Additional communication services would be provided by satellite and cell phone service.

As part of the operations plan 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 invasive weed species.

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 avoided. Pre and post course inspections would be done of the course and photo monitoring points would be taken to document the impacts. BLM staff would be present at the event to ensure that stipulations are being followed.

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 as design features 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 need of the proposed action as the proposed course utilizes the only existing roads and trails that would meet the demands of race participants and the permit applicant.

III. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

General Setting

The analysis area contains primarily pinyon /juniper woodland communities, sagebrush steppe, salt desert shrub and mountain brush plant communities ranging from approximately 6,500 feet to 7,800 feet in elevation. The mountain brush communities are primarily located on the Duck Creek Basin portions of the course. Calcareous soils generally support the following plants which are also the primary vegetation found along the proposed course: single leaf pinyon pine,

Utah juniper, curleaf mountain-mahogany, mountain big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, black sagebrush, and some white sage. The proposed course is primarily used by OHV recreationists for trail riding and for transportation purposes.

Table 1. Mandatory items for consideration

Resource/Concern	Issue(s) Analyzed? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
<i>Air Quality</i>	Y	The proposed Action would not increase air pollutant concentrations for more than one day. Dust will be reduced by having a water tender on site as defined in the permit stipulations.
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	N	Cultural sites would be negated through the avoidance design feature.
<i>Environmental Justice</i>	N	No minority or low-income groups would be affected by disproportionately high and adverse health or environmental effects.
<i>Fish and Wildlife</i>	Y	No fish present. Individual animals may be temporarily displaced during the race. The proposed action increases the likelihood of collision with wildlife.
<i>Floodplains</i>	N	Resource not present.
<i>Forest and Rangeland Health</i>	N	The proposed action does not conflict with this resource.
<i>Grazing Uses</i>	Y	It is highly unlikely that the proposed action would greatly decrease range productivity, diversity, or vigor. It may displace cattle from grazing along the race course and increases the likelihood of a collision with a racer for one day.
<i>Invasive Non-native Plant Species</i>	Y	Permitted racing activities may increase the risk of noxious or non-native invasive species establishment or spread. Design features of the proposed action and the weed risk assessment (Appendix C) will be followed.
<i>Land Uses</i>	N	No changes in land use would occur.
<i>Migratory Birds</i>	N	No impact to individual birds or bird populations, or to migratory bird habitats because the race is one day and on existing roads and trails.
<i>Mineral Resources</i>	N	No mine claims exist.
<i>Native American Religious Concerns</i>	N	There are no known issues of concern to local tribes.

Resource/Concern	Issue(s) Analyzed? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
<i>Paleontological Resources</i>	N	Does not exist within the race area
<i>Recreation Uses</i>	Y	The proposed use has a positive impact on recreation opportunity and diverse recreation opportunity.
<i>Special Designations other than Designated Wilderness</i>	N	Does not exist within the race area
<i>Special Status Animal Species (Federally protected, Nevada State protected, BLM Sensitive rated)</i>	N	There is an active sage grouse lek within the area of the proposed race but there would be no impact to sage grouse because the race is on existing roads and trails and outside the sage grouse breeding and nesting season.
<i>Special Status Plant Species (Federally protected, Nevada State protected, BLM sensitive rated)</i>	N	Nachlinger Catchfly has been identified approximately ¼ mile away from the race course. Because of the design features impacts to this plant would not occur.
<i>Vegetation/Soils/ Watershed</i>	Y(Soils) N (vegetation & Watershed)	Some soil disturbance may occur. Proposed action design features would limit vegetative disturbances to existing roads and trails therefore impacts would be negligible.
<i>Vegetative Resources (Forest or Seed Products)</i>	N	Proposed Action does not impact Forest or seed product.
<i>VRM</i>	Y	The proposed action is consistent with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class 3 and 4 objectives.
<i>Wastes, Hazardous or Solid</i>	N	No wastes are anticipated
<i>Water Quality, Drinking/Ground</i>	N	Proposed Action would not be in proximity to drinking or ground water.
<i>Water Resources (Water Rights)</i>	N	BLM is subject to State of Nevada water rights laws.
<i>Wetlands/Riparian Zones</i>	N	Proposed Action would not be in proximity to wetlands or riparian areas.
<i>Wild Horses</i>	N	No Herd Management Units overlap the proposed race course
<i>Wilderness</i>	N	No Wilderness overlaps the proposed race course

Air Quality

Affected Environment

No state air quality monitoring sites exist within close proximity to the project area so actual air quality measurements are not available. Although actual measurements are not available the air quality within the project area is anticipated to be in good health due to the remoteness of the area and lack of major pollution sources however, periodic degradation of air quality can be presumed due to regional air pollution.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be held. There would be no impacts to air quality resources.

Proposed Action

In association with the event there would be a temporary increase in airborne particulate matter during the course of the event. This would result in an increase in PM10 and PM2.5 particulates during the event but in unknown quantities. This increase is likely to occur for one day and would then return to the levels found previous to the event.

Wildlife

Affected Environment

The major wildlife populations within the event area include mule deer, elk, pronghorn and chukar partridge. The sections of course located within in Duck Creek Basin are located within year-round habitat for mule deer and elk. Populations of pronghorn and chukar partridge may also be scattered throughout portions of the race area.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

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

Proposed Action

Noise associated with the race may temporarily disperse wildlife from watering sources and cover in close proximity to the race course. There may be a limited possibility that a vehicle rider may collide with wildlife, which could cause injury or death to individual animals. Impacts to wildlife species in the race area would not occur past the day of the race.

Soils

Affected Environment

The project area is typical of the Basin and Range Province which exhibits sharp contrasts in topography, soil, precipitation and vegetation types. Soils in the race area bordering mountain ranges contain a preponderance of various sized fragments derived from decomposed sedimentary and tertiary volcanic rocks. Soil in washes and valley floors consist of silt, clay, sand, small rock fragments and some boulders. Some of these soils along the trails and roads that would be used during the race are prone to erosion and can become very dusty.

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 trail ride.

Proposed Action

New erosion channels may be created by motorcycle traffic on the route in some locations. Areas such as valley bottoms with clay and silt dominated soils may become powdery during and after the event and may last until winds carry it away. If heavy rains occur the soils may become soft. 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.

Livestock Grazing

Affected Environment

Livestock have historically grazed throughout the analysis area. There are three different Grazing allotments that the proposed race intersects. These allotments include West Schell Bench, Duck Creek and Gilford Meadows. All of these allotments are active, being used for both sheep and cattle during summer and fall grazing seasons.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be held. Livestock in the area would remain undisturbed by the event.

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action there would be a potential for cattle and sheep to be temporarily disturbed and displaced from water sources and grazing areas. There would also be a chance of riders colliding with cattle or sheep which could kill or injure both the animal and/or the rider. The race participants would be informed that livestock would be present in the race course area. The proponent would be responsible for coordinating with the livestock permittees to mitigate livestock damage.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species

Affected Environment

For this project the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. The following non-native species are found along the race route:

<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress

The following 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 arvense</i>	Canada thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Black henbane
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Tall whitetop
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Yellow toadflax
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	Salt cedar

While not officially inventoried the following weeds probably occur in or around the project area: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), bur buttercup (*Ceratocephala testiculata*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), and tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*). This area was last inventoried for noxious weed in 2005.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative a permit would not be issued for the race. Possible transmission of weed populations associated with this event would not occur.

Proposed Action

A 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 amount of ground disturbance associated with race events and the tendency for vehicles to carry seeds from other sources, there is a risk of areas along the course becoming infested by noxious or non-native invasive weeds. Any new weed infestations in this area could have adverse effects on the native vegetation due to the relatively weed free nature of the course. If cheatgrass becomes heavily established it could alter the fire regime of the area.

Design features of the proposed action would reduce this likelihood through mandatory washing of OHVs prior to racing as outlined in the event stipulations Appendix B.

Recreation

Affected Environment

Opportunities within the event area for recreation are numerous. This area is popular among OHV users. The analysis area is used by recreationists primarily during hunting season for game birds and big game species. This area has a high dispersed off highway vehicle use due to increasing urban interface recreation.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be held.

Proposed Action

There would be positive impacts to OHV recreation users. 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. Some dispersed use that occurs would be displaced in the immediate event area for the day of the event. By limiting the analysis season of use this event and future events would occur outside of hunting season minimizing the impacts to hunting recreation during the primary season of use.

Visual Resource Management

Affected Environment

The proposed course is located within an area that has been visually impacted by mineral exploration, road development and OHV recreation. The analysis area is in an area with a VRM classification 3 and 4. According to Visual Resource Management (2003), a VRM classification of 3 is described as management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. A class 4 is described as the level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be permitted. No visual impacts related to the event would occur.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would stay within the visual resource management criteria for the area based upon mitigation measures and design. Every attempt would be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location and minimal visual disturbance.

IV. Cumulative Impacts

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 defined by a 1 mile buffer around the proposed 45 mile course plus the additional 35 miles that could be utilized for future use. A general discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions follows:

Past Actions

Over the past sixteen years this area has been used for seven competitive events. Some portions of the proposed course were used during these events, the most recent being the Coyotes motorcycle race in 2006. Within the CESA there are three grazing allotments that have all been active in the past for both cattle and sheep. Recreation, particularly off-highway vehicle use, has been a popular activity within the CESA and has increased in recent years due mostly to increased urban interface recreation. Previous travel designations in this area have been open to cross country travel and until site specific implementation plans and route designations are complete, motorized travel within the CESA will be limited to existing roads and trails. A transportation plan has been completed for Duck Creek Basin designating roads within the planning area, but not for the Steptoe Valley side of the race course. Past travel designations coupled with an increase in the popularity of off highway vehicle recreation has led to a network of user created trails throughout the CESA. These user created trails combined with previous permitted events have contributed to site specific incremental increases in soil erosion and vegetation loss. Historical mining and weed treatments have occurred, hunting has been a popular activity, and wood cutting also occurs within the CESA but at undeterminable levels.

Present Actions

Currently grazing and recreation are the main actions taking place within the event area. All three grazing allotments are open and active. Some mining claims may exist but very few if any are active operations. Both big game and upland bird hunting occurs within the CESA during permitted hunting seasons. There is continued motorized and non-motorized recreation occurring within the event area. Levels and extent of casual non-permitted recreation activities is largely unknown. In 2004 a comprehensive travel management plan was completed for Duck Creek Basin.

Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

Reasonably foreseeable future actions included 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 number 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. OHV events would continue to be held within the Ely BLM district. Wildlife viewing, hunting, and other recreation opportunities will continue to draw people to the area. Other multiple use activities would continue to take place in the area in the future.

Multiple travel management plans will be written by watersheds that will officially allocate designated roads. Through this planning effort some roads or trails located within the CESA may be eliminated.

Cumulative Impacts

BLM handbook Guidelines for Accessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts (1994) states the cumulative effects analysis can be focused on those issues and resource values identified during scoping that are of major importance.

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 Coyotes Motorcycle race identified for further consideration in this EA include:

- Air Quality
- Wildlife
- Soils
- Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing
- Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species
- Recreation
- Visual Resource Management

Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species

Past and present actions may have introduced or aided in the spread of invasive or non-native invasive weeds within the CESA. Reasonably foreseeable actions have the potential to spread invasive or non-native weeds. Incremental increases in weed infestations may occur from the proposed action. Using best management practices and including stipulations like washing vehicles before and after the event reduce the potential for the spread and introduction of weeds. 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. Permitted events in the area, dispersed recreation, and hunting all contribute to the temporary displacement of wildlife in the immediate vicinity; however, suitable wildlife habitat and cover is likely to increase. This is due to past, present and future travel management actions that will

close roads and limit OHV use to designated roads and trails. This will be beneficial to wildlife species and their habitat.

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, and the creating 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 travel to designated routes. This would also concentrate use which has the potential to increase effects to the designated route. By following best management practices and standard operating procedures for all activities within the CESA adverse impacts to soil resources would be minimized.

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, and wildlife management. Stipulations associated with the event and the coordinating of events with grazing permittees would minimize the degree of disruption to grazing operations and rangeland health, thereby contributing a negligible effect to the overall cumulative impact to rangeland health and livestock grazing.

V. Proposed Mitigation

Design features incorporated into the proposed action are sufficient, based on the analysis of environmental consequences no additional mitigation is proposed.

VI. Suggested Monitoring

Design features incorporated into the proposed action are sufficient, based on the analysis of environmental consequences no additional mitigation is proposed.

VII. Consultation, Coordination, and List of Preparers

Consultation and coordination

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

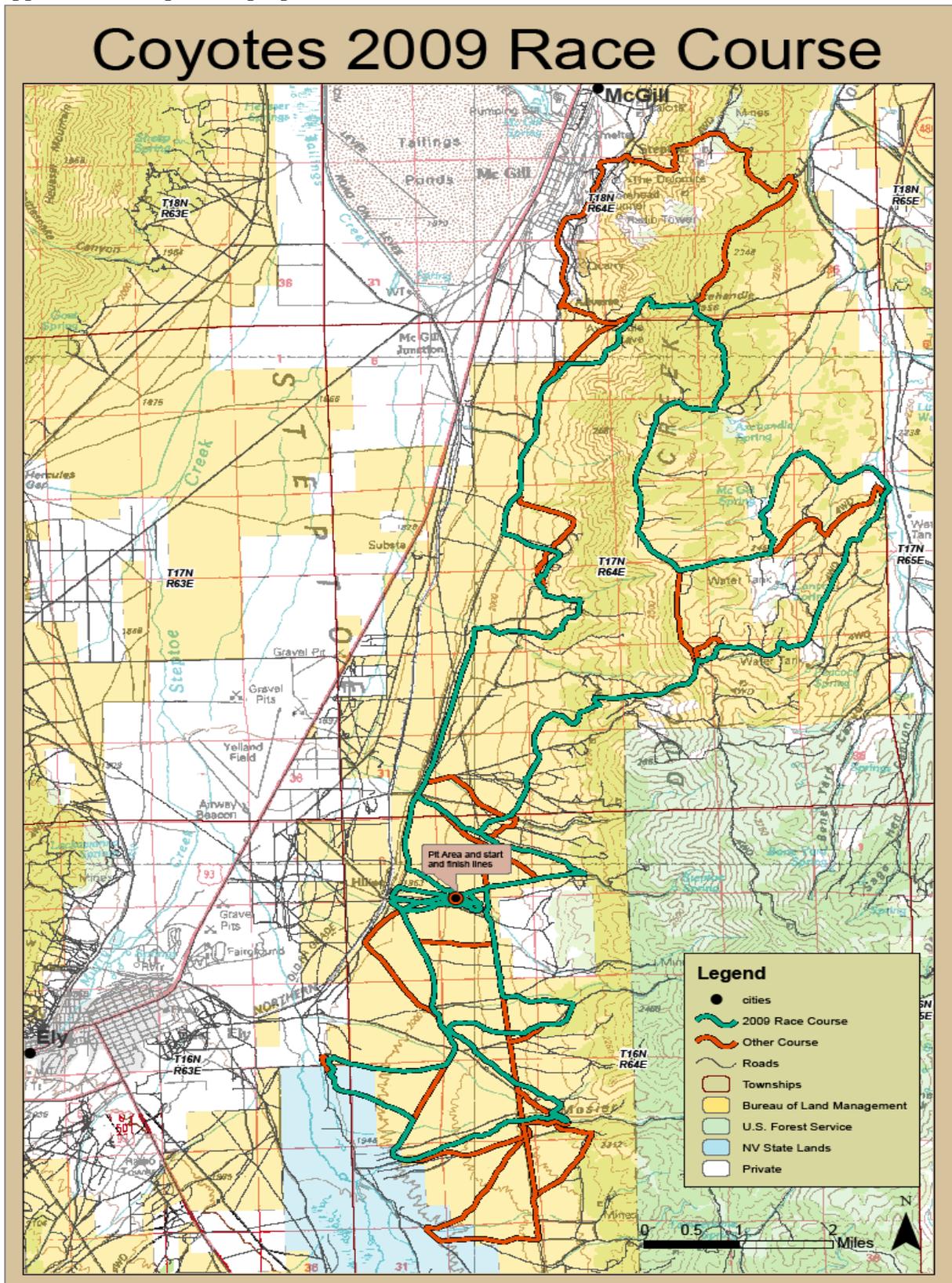
- Craig Hoover, Range
- Paul Podborny, Wildlife
- Shawn Gibson, Archeology
- Kalem Lenard, VRM and Recreation
- Bonnie Million, Noxious and Invasive Weeds

Dave Jacobson, Wilderness
Zach Peterson, Forestry and NEPA coordination
Brenda Linell, Lands
Dave Davis, Minerals
Mark D'Aversa, Soil, Air, Water, Riparian
Melanie Petersen, Hazardous & Solid Waste
Elvis Wall, Native American

Public Involvement

This document was released for public comment and review on the BLM website for 30 days. A letter was sent out to interested and affected parties notifying them of the proposal and the comment period.

Appendix A- Map of the proposed race course



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 Aevent 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 District Office within fifteen (15) calendar days of the completion of the event. In addition, the permittee will immediately notify the Field Manager, or a 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 uninfested 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 axels, 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

DATE

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS

2009 Coyotes Motorcycle Race

White Pine County, Nevada

On January 15, 2009 a Noxious Weed Risk Assessment was completed for the 2009 Coyotes M/C race in White Pine County, NV. The proposed action is to grant a special recreation permit to Scott Laity with Coyotes M/C for a motorcycle race to be held on June 20-21st. Racers would ride two laps around the proposed 45 mile course that encompasses three different loops to provide a racing opportunity for different age and skill levels. The race will have approximately 250 riders and 150 spectators. The proposed course is located on predominantly BLM managed public land, with small sections of the proposed course crossing through state and private land. For the portions of course which cross these lands, the proponent is required to obtain permission letters from all parties affected. It is required by the BLM that the proponent supply a copy of any permission letters before a permit is issued for the event. All portions of the course are on existing roads, trails and washes. No cross country travel is being proposed. Portable toilets, dumpsters, and a water tender for dust control will be provided by the permittee. A mass by class start will be utilized to decrease widening of the road and related resource damage.

No field surveys were completed for this project. Instead, the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. The following non-native species are found along the race route:

<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress

The following 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 arvense</i>	Canada thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Black henbane
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Tall whitetop
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Yellow toadflax
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	Salt cedar

While not officially inventoried the following weeds probably occur in or around the project area: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), bur buttercup (*Ceratocephala testiculata*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), and tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*). This area was last inventoried for noxious weed in 2005.

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 amount of ground disturbance associated with race events 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 spreading weed infestations.

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 vehicle before the event. Racers who do not comply will be subject to disqualification.

Reactive measures: Notify the Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Coordinator 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.

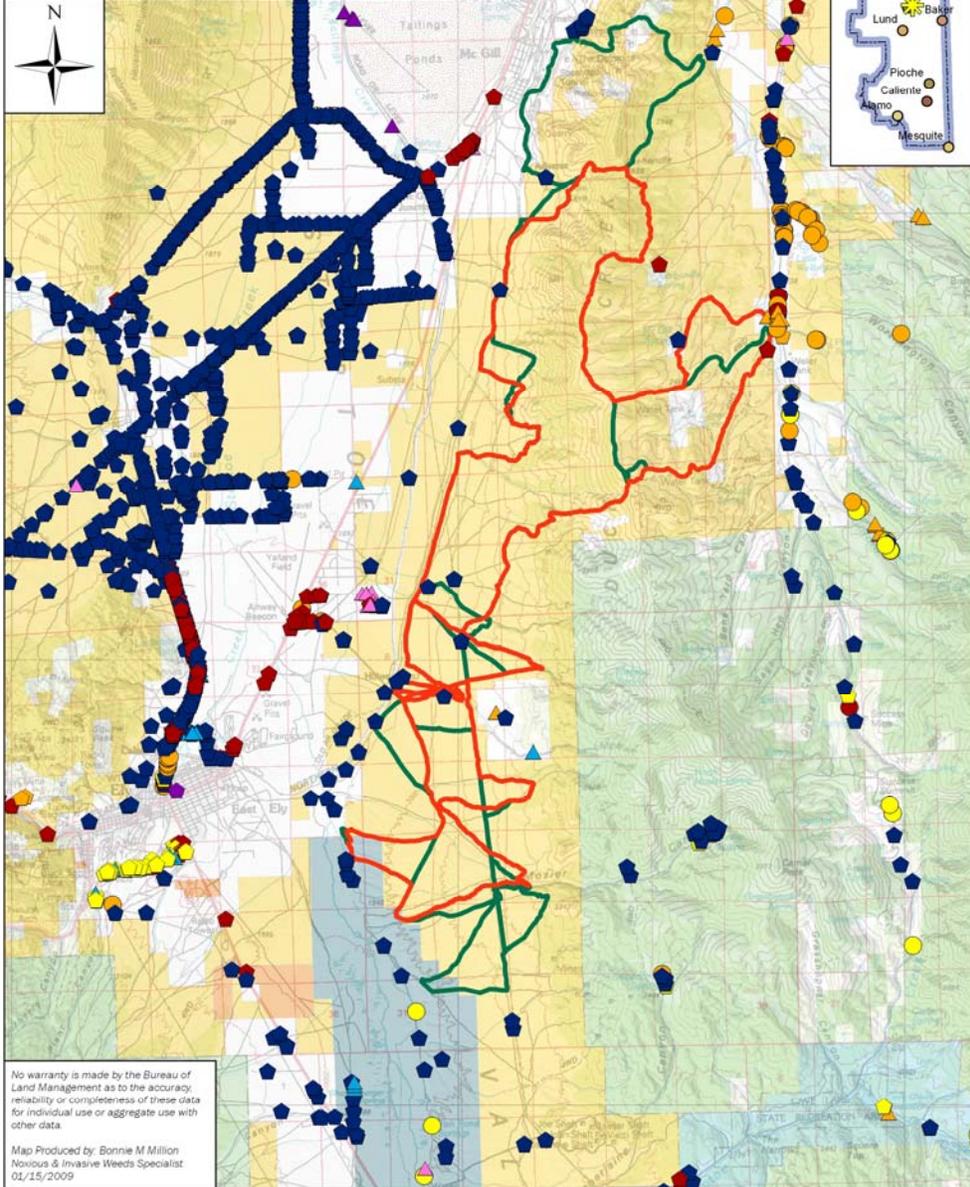
In addition to these measures the following Ely District BMPs will be followed:

- 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 uninfested 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: _____
Bonnie M. Million
Ely District Noxious & Invasive Weed Coordinator

01/15/2009
Date

2009 Coyotes Motorcycle Race Documented Noxious & Invasive Weed Infestations



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Map Produced by: Bonnie M Million
Noxious & Invasive Weeds Specialist
01/15/2009

Legend

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2009 race course | MUSK THISTLE | SQUARROSE KNAWEED | BLM |
| Alternate routes | RUSSIAN KNAWEED | TALL WHITETOP | US Forest Service |
| BLACK HENBANE | SALT CEDAR | WATER HEMLOCK | Bureau of Indian Affairs |
| BULL THISTLE | SCOTCH THISTLE | WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS | NV State Park |
| CANADA THISTLE | SPOTTED KNAWEED | YELLOW TOADFLAX | NV Dept of Wildlife |
| | | | Private |



BLM

Ely District Office



References

BLM 2007. Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Ely District. U.S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office, Ely, Nevada. Novemeber 2007.

40 Code of Federal Regulations. Council of Environmental Quality, Regulations for Implementation of NEPA. Section 1508.7.

BLM 2004. Guidelines For Assessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts. U.S Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. April 1994.

CEQ 1997. Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act. Council on Environmental Quality. January 1997.