

DECISION RECORD & CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Project Name: MRA Hare Scramble and Poker Run (OR-M060-2009-0016-CX)

Prepared By: Dennis Byrd **Title:** Outdoor Recreation Planner

BLM Office: Ashland R.A., Medford District. Phone # (541) 618-2369

DESCRIPTION & LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action involves authorizing the Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA) to conduct two separate events sponsored by the Oregon MRA. The events adhere to safety rules set forth by the American Motorcycle Association. The first event, the MRA Hare Scrambles, is a two day event that would be held April 18th and 19th 2009. The Hare Scramble event is expected to have between 100-140 participants. The second event, the MRA Poker Ride, would occur on May 3, 2009, and is expected to have between 200-300 participants.

Each event would involve the use of existing roads and trails within the Timbered Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Management Area (see attached map).

To comply with state fire regulation the club would be required to contact to Oregon Department of Forestry prior to the event. The City of Jacksonville Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) staff would be on site and fire suppression equipment would be staged at the MRA's Lilly Prairie property (indicated on the attached map). Portable toilets would be provided by MRA and placed in pairs in the stage and pit areas at Lilly Prairie. Regular traffic would be delayed Galls Creek Road, Forest Creek Road, and Kane Creek Road during the event, however, for no more than 45 minute intervals and given information regarding the delay by a club representative. The road would be posted by Friday, the weekend prior to the event, to alert the public of potential delays. Radios would be used by event staff to regulate traffic and to provide added safety. Weed cutting and pruning of overhanging branches may be performed inside the road prism for safety.

The following project design features are required conditions for the authorization of the proposed recreation events:

- All known T&E plant sites would be well marked and speeds would be reduced to 10 mph in those areas. Bikes will be cleaned before entering public lands.
- The Oregon State noise statute of 99dbs would be strictly enforced.
- All event materials would be removed within seven days of the event.
- In the event of inclement weather such as heavy rain or snow, the event date must be changed and approved by BLM. If modifications to the event courses or dates are not possible, it shall be cancelled. The soil moisture will be less than 20 percent by weight at a three inch depth and granitic soils shall be 18 percent or less. Soil moistures will be monitored and be determined by BLM. Seven days prior to the event the BLM will make a determination on soil moisture levels. The MRA will be informed of these results. Weather trends will be monitored during the seven day period to determine if additional soil moisture monitoring is needed. If it is determined by BLM's soil scientist that soil moisture levels will likely be exceeded the day of the event, a decision will be made as to whether a cancellation or a postponement is necessary.
- To comply with state fire regulation the club would be required to contact to Oregon Department of Forestry prior to the event.
- The MRA will be required to provide the BLM with written permission for access from all landowners where the event crosses that landowner's private or municipal property.
- All materials (flagging, signs, and trash) are to be removed within 7 days of the event's completion.

- The MRA will be required to conduct trail maintenance work on specified trail segments before and after the event. Maintenance work will involve raking out burms and ruts and putting in water bars. Trail maintenance work will be done with hand tools unless otherwise directed by the BLM. The BLM resource staff will identify locations and work to be done to trail segments. BLM staff will be on site during the event and trail maintenance work to ensure that requirements are carried out as specified. Work to be done is not exceed 40 work hours with a minimum of 20 work hours required. A work hour equals one individual working for 1 hour.
- The City of Jacksonville's EMT staff will be on site and fire suppression equipment would be staged at the MRA's Lilly Prairie property (indicated on the attached map).
- Portable toilets would be placed in pairs at the start and finish areas.
- In the event that fire restrictions prohibit the use of OHV's off improved road, trail courses would be modified to remove unimproved road and un-maintained trail segments from the course.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

The proposed action described above is in conformance with and tiered to the 2008 *Medford District Record of Decision (ROD) and Resource Management Plan (RMP)* and Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of Resource Management Plans for the Western Oregon of the Bureau of Land Management. (USDI 2008). The proposed action and alternatives are in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

The proposed action would not create adverse environmental effects under the categorical exclusion exceptions, unless as noted. The proposed action will:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Categorical Exclusion Exception</u>
()	(X)	1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.
()	(X)	2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
()	(X)	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)] not already decided in an approved land use plan.
()	(X)	4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.
()	(X)	5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
()	(X)	6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but significant cumulative environmental effects. (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a)).
()	(X)	7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
()	(X)	8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
()	(X)	9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
()	(X)	10. Have disproportionate significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
()	(X)	11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).

- () (X) 12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

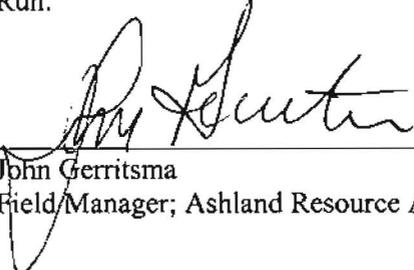
The proposed action has been reviewed against the twelve criteria listed above for an exception to a categorical exclusion and does not fall under any exception as identified in 516 DM 6, Appendix 2. The project qualifies as a categorical exclusion under under 516 DM 11.9 H(1).

<u>Dennis Byrd</u> Prepared by	<u>Outdoor Recreation Planner</u> Title	<u>January 28, 2009</u> Date
<u>Kristi Mastrofini</u> Reviewed and Edited by	<u>Environmental Coord.</u> Title	<u>March 23, 2009</u> Date

DECISION

Based on the Categorical Exclusion Review documented above, I have determined this project proposal involves no significant impact to the human environment. Therefore, this project is categorically excluded from NEPA documentation under 516 DM 11.9 H (1), and no further environmental analysis is required.

It is my decision to authorize the MRA to conduct their April 2009 Hare Scramble and May 2009 Poker Run.



John Gerritsma
Field Manager; Ashland Resource Area

4/14/09

Date

EFFECTIVE DATE OF DECISION

This decision is effective upon signing by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect pending any appeal (43 CFR 2931.8).