

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2011-0029-EA

Lease/Serial Case File No. AZ-310-11-SRP003

Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office

Proposed Action Title/Type: 2011 Jeep Jamboree Tour Rides

Location of Proposed Action: Black Mountains –
T. 21N, R. 19W, Sec 6-8, 17-20 & 30;
T. 21N, R. 20W, Sec 3-5, 8-9, 12-14, 16-17, 20, 22-27, & 35-36.

Applicant (if any): Jeep Jamboree USA, dba Mark A Smith Off-Roading Inc.
2776 Sourdough Flat
Georgetown, CA 95634

CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN:

This proposed action is in conformance with the Kingman Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved March 1995. Remarks:

RR18/V Commercial and competitive recreation uses would continue to be accommodated through the issuance of special recreation permits. Proposals for these permits would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. (Page 76)

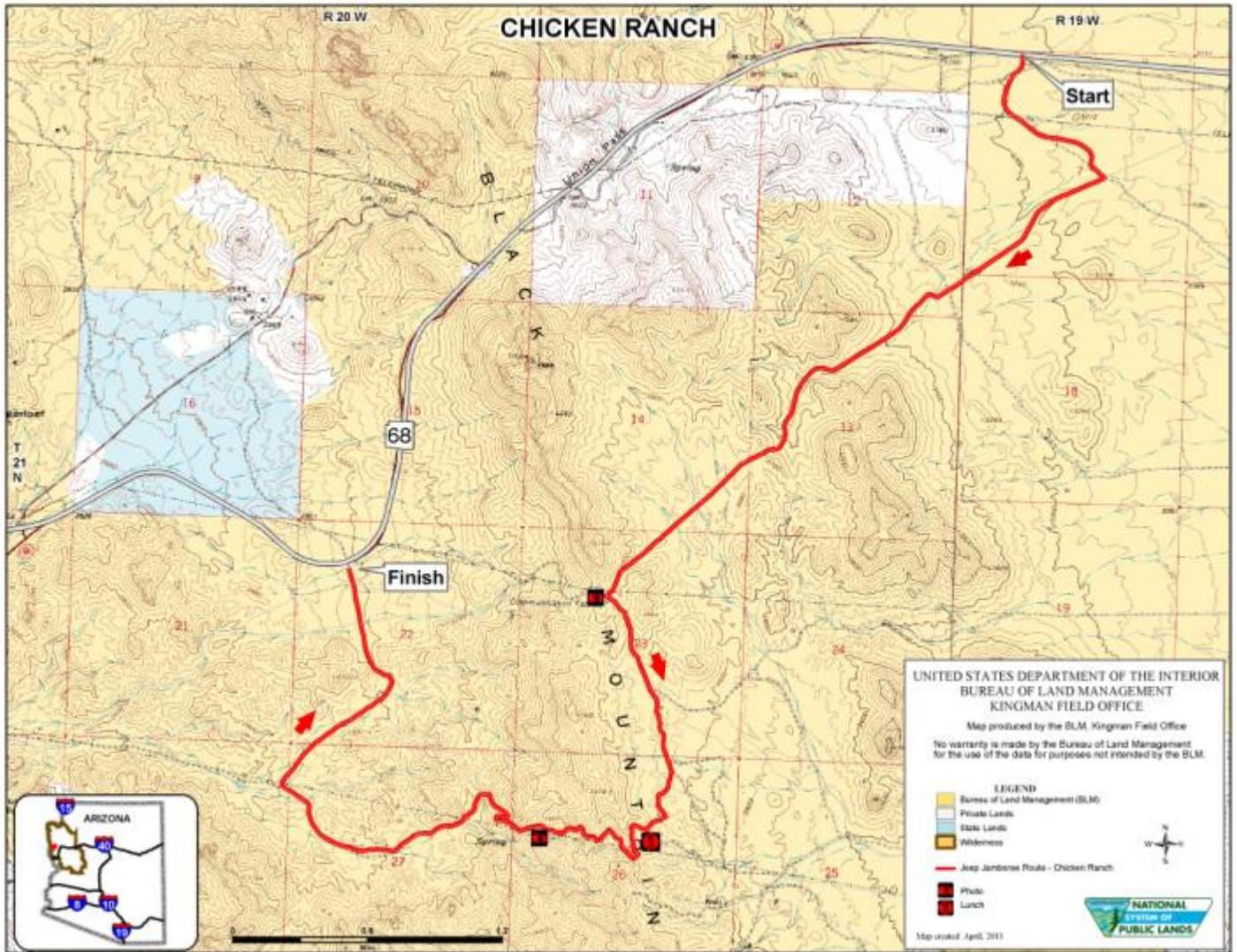
PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION:

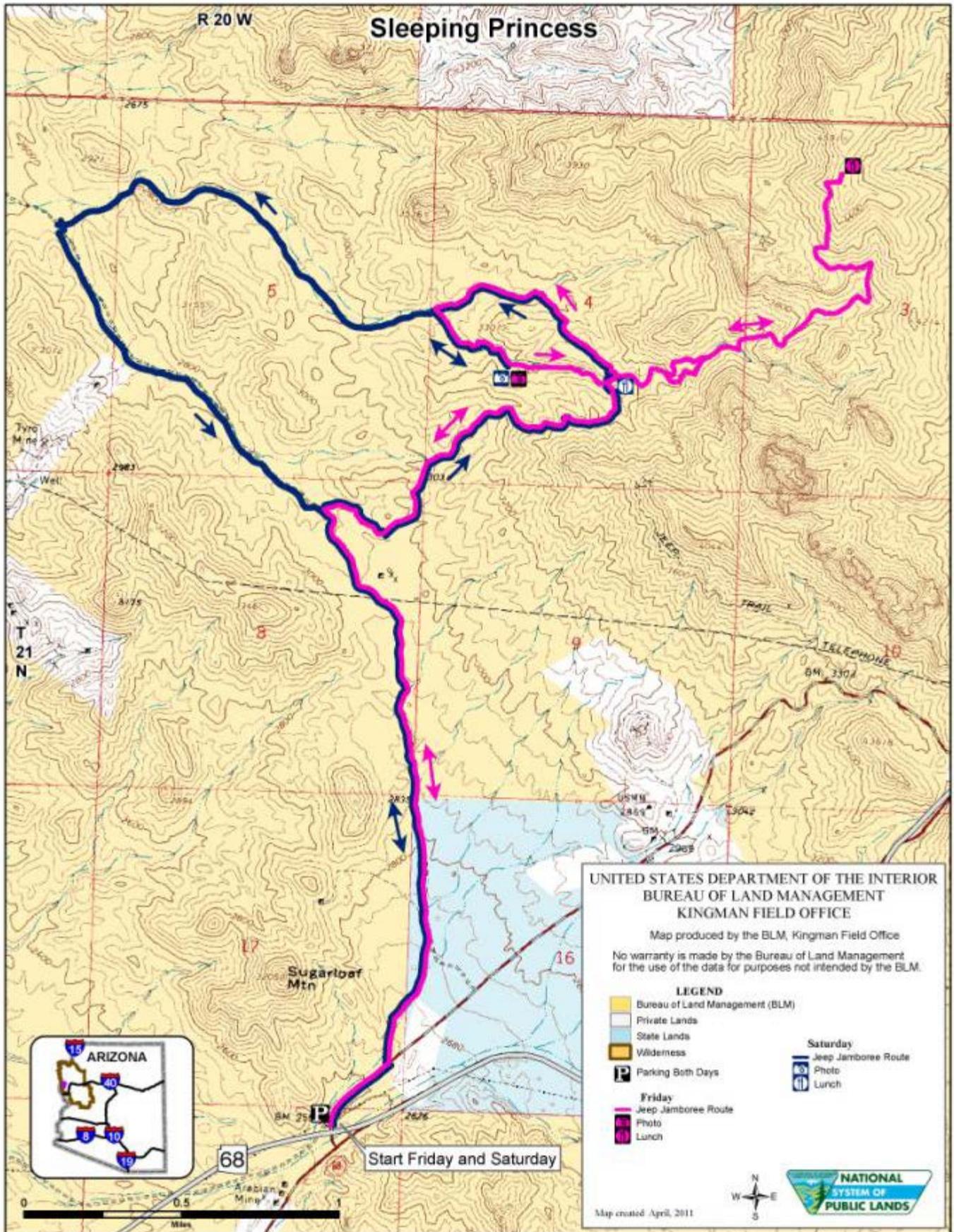
Promote marked and organized non-competitive trail rides for jeeps and four wheel drives.

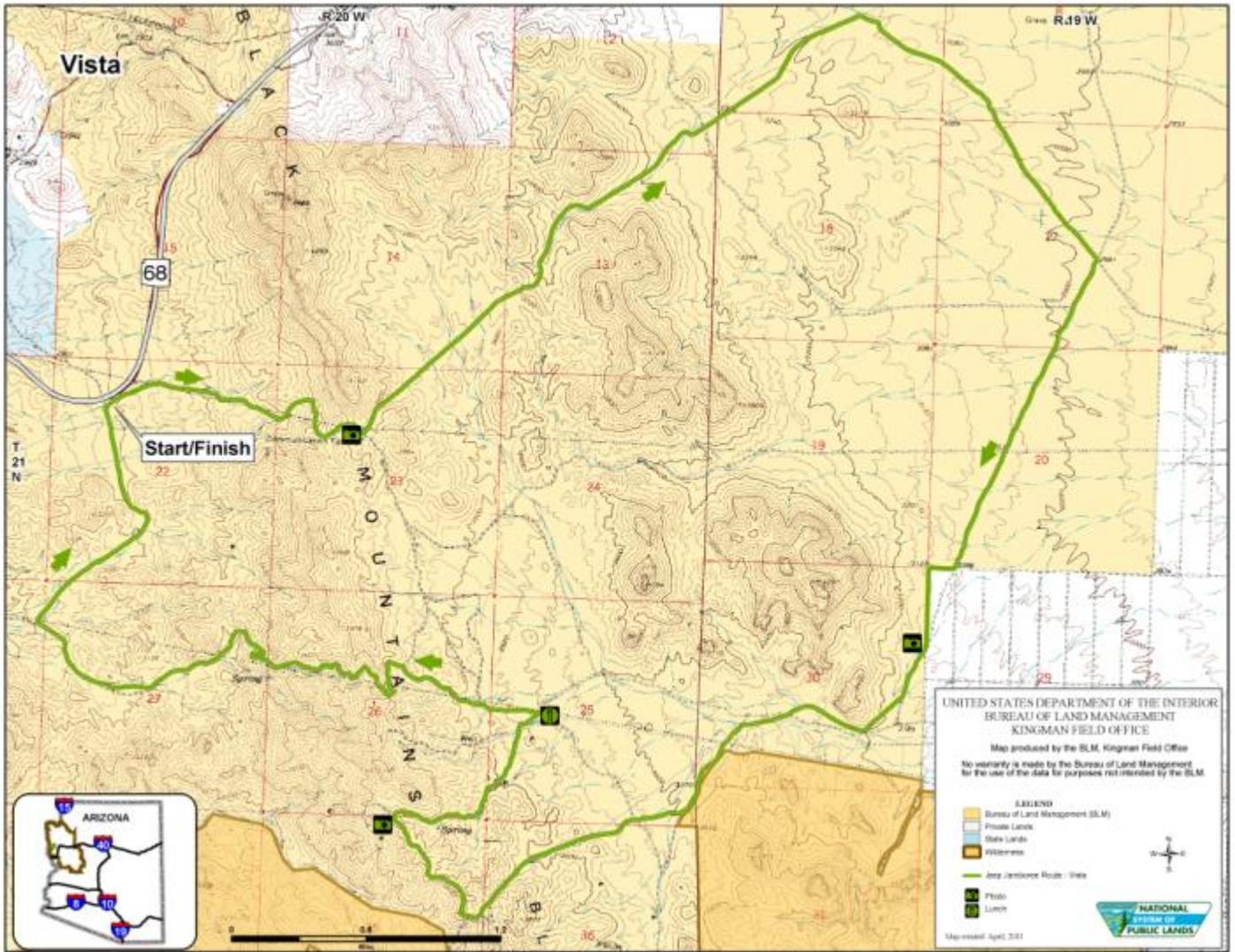
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE:

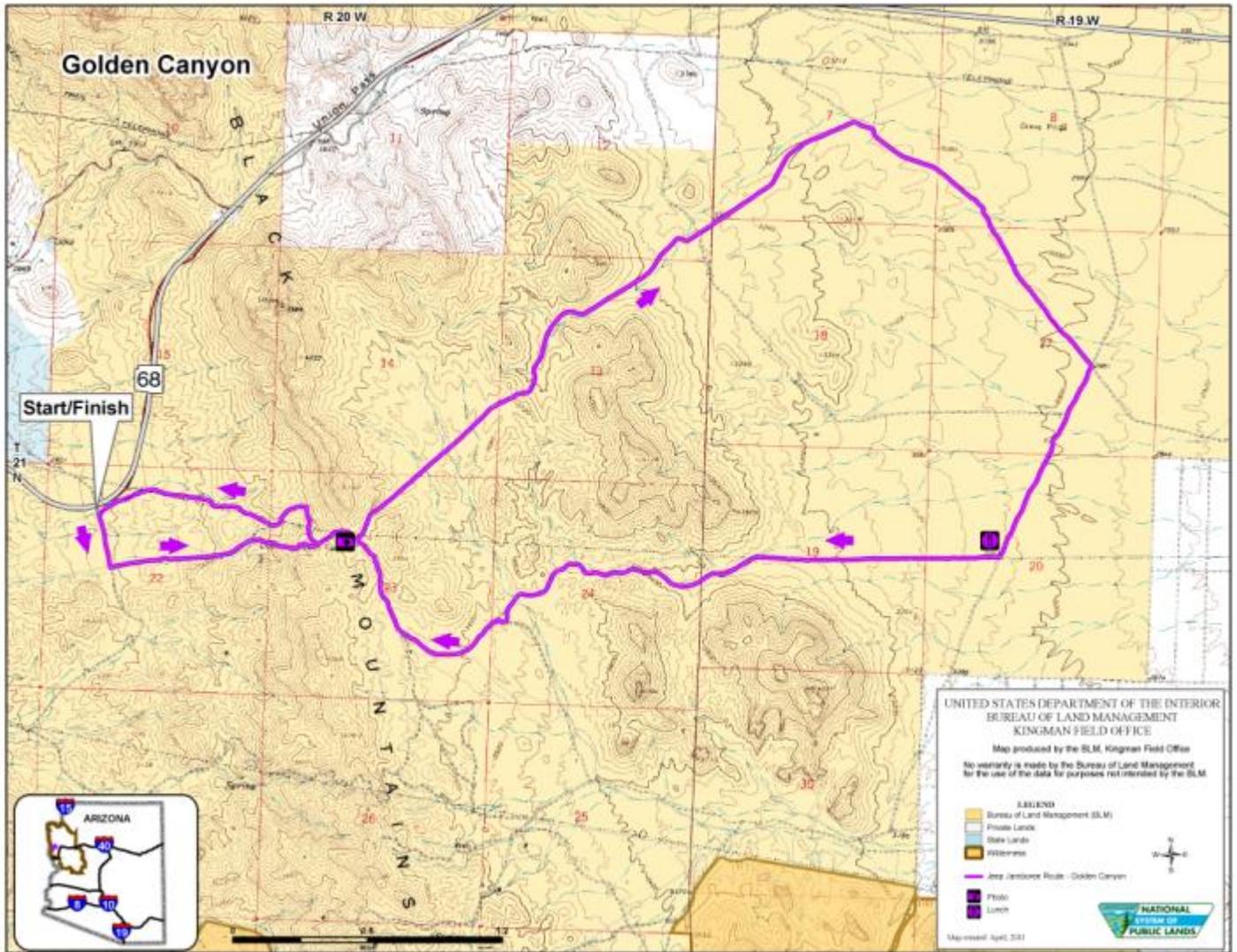
Issue a Special Recreation Permit authorizing Jeep Jamboree USA to conduct commercial jeep tour rides on November 4-5, 2011. There would be three guided rides each on Friday and Saturday, consisting of three different skill levels of operators and equipment, from stock up to modified with intermediate in the middle. (See maps.) The stock rides are Chicken Ranch on Friday and Golden Canyon on Saturday. The intermediate ride are Sleeping Princess (orange route) on Friday and Vista on Saturday. The modified rides are Sleeping Princess (red route) on Friday and Sleeping Princess (blue route) on Saturday. The event would be held on existing roads, jeep trails and navigable washes in the Black Mountains located west of Kingman, AZ. The rides travel five separate routes with some overlapping involved over the two day event. There is a driver's meeting each day at Don Laughlin's Casino and Resort Hotel at 8 am. All rides start at 9 am and finish by 4 pm. The event would consist of one guide per 5 participating vehicles up to an estimated 50 vehicles for the event. See maps for lunch and photo opportunity locations for all the rides.

Each participant is given a waste bag and is required to pack out all foreign material. Some participants use Wag bags or small portable toilets at the lunch stops. Otherwise, participants would be utilizing Leave No Trace principles requiring a shovel to bury human waste. Staff and participants would be staying in hotels or motels in Laughlin, Nevada or Bullhead City, Arizona or staying at private or county campgrounds in the Laughlin/Bullhead City area.









DESCRIPTION OF NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:

If the no action alternative were selected, a permit would not be issued to the applicant.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the KFO Project Scoping Form found in the Administrative Record for this proposal. Resources of concern that are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis will not be discussed here. Resources which could be impacted by the proposed action or alternative are affected are discussed further below.

This section describes the existing conditions of the environment and expected impacts. The table below summarizes the resources reviewed for this project. Resources not present within the project study area, as well as those present and not affected, are not discussed. Those resources that have been identified by an interdisciplinary team as present and potentially affected are discussed further below.

PROJECT RESOURCE REVIEW			
Resources Considered	Not Present	Present and Not Affected	Present and/or Potentially Affected
Air Quality*		✓	
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*		✓	
Cultural and Historic*		✓	
Environmental Justice /Socioeconomics	✓		
Floodplains*	✓		
Grazing		✓	
Hazardous or Solid Waste*		✓	
Invasive and Non-native Species*		✓	
Land Use		✓	
Migratory Birds*		✓	
Native American Religious Concerns*		✓	
Prime and Unique Farmland*	✓		
Threatened and Endangered Species*	✓		
Vegetation			✓
Visual Resources		✓	
Water Quality*	✓		
Wetland or Riparian Zones*	✓		
Wild and Scenic Rivers*	✓		
Wilderness*		✓	
Wildlife			✓
* Consideration Required By Law or Executive Order			

Expected Impacts from the Proposed Action:

Vegetation

Vegetation in the area consists of Mohave Desert scrub which includes such species as flattop buckwheat, creosote bush, white bursage, catclaw acacia, rock pea, and many other species of forbs, shrubs, and cacti. Since traffic will be limited to existing roads and washes, upland vegetation would not be impacted.

However, with travel in washes it is likely that some vegetation like catclaw acacia or cheeseweed would be crushed by the jeeps. Typically the washes are wide with lots of open sand which would allow jeeps to avoid almost all vegetation during the tours but an occasional shrub or forb is likely to be crushed. Crushing will deform but will probably no kill the shrubs and forbs unless it is crushed repeatedly through time and isn't

given a chance to recover. If the crushed shrubs or forbs die, it still would not affect the populations of these plants in the area.

Wildlife

The most common wildlife within the area consists of bighorn sheep, jackrabbits, various mice, gambel's quail, black-throated sparrows, ash-throated flycatchers, rattlesnakes, and lizards. Some forms of small wildlife could be crushed by the passing jeeps but that is unlikely as jeeps will be traveling fairly slowly. Earless and zebra-tailed lizards are more likely to be crushed by jeeps because they bury themselves in the sand on roads and washes to wait for prey. They often remain buried as vehicles approach and get crushed or they try to escape at the last instant and get caught by the other tire. These lizards would be crushed by the first or second vehicle. These few incidences would not affect the overall population of lizards in the area. The Noise disturbance from the jeeps traveling through would cause larger species of wildlife such as bighorn sheep to leave the area until the jeeps pass on. The sheep would resume their normal activities after the jeeps leave the area and this disturbance should not affect their ability to survive in the area. The noise disturbance would be short term less than one hour along the roads and less than 2 hours at any photo or lunch sites. Any wildlife disturbed by the noise would likely return to normal activities after the disturbance ended.

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources are present, in varying densities, throughout the area. Sites include prehistoric artifact scatters, rock art sites, and temporary habitations as well as historic mining era features and artifacts. If the permittee keeps all activities confined to existing roads and trails, it will have no effect on known cultural resources in the area. Any deviation, such as overland travel, could have the potential to adversely impact archaeological sites.

Impacts from the No Action Alternative:

The applicant would not be able to conduct the rides.

Cumulative Impacts:

There would be no cumulative impacts to T&E species and BLM sensitive species as long as the event is held on existing roads, jeep trails and navigable washes. The cumulative impacts to cultural resources would be minimal due to the low site density of the area, the lack of ground disturbing activity and the event is held on existing roads, jeep trails and navigable washes.

DESCRIPTION OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS:

The event would be postponed or cancelled if the road surface is saturated with precipitation from recent inclement weather for safety purposes.

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Abe Clark	Rangeland Management Specialist, BLM
Len Marceau	Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM
Paul Misiaszek	Geologist
Ammon Wilhelm	Wildlife Biologist, BLM
Tim Watkins	Archaeologist, BLM

Preparer(s): / s / Len A. Marceau

Len Marceau, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Kingman Field Office

APPENDIX 1

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Kingman Field Office
2755 Mission Boulevard
Kingman, Arizona 86401
www.az.blm.gov



**GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING DESERT TORTOISE ENCOUNTERED
ON ROADS AND VEHICLE WAYS**

1. Stop your vehicle and allow the tortoise to move off the road.
2. If the tortoise is not moving, gently** pick up the tortoise and move it approximately 200 feet off the road to a shaded location.
 - a. Do **not** turn the tortoise over.
 - b. Move the tortoise in the direction it was traveling. If it was crossing the road, move it in the direction it was crossing.
 - c. Keep the tortoise within 12-18 inches of the ground, move slowly so as not to cause it to become alarmed.
 - d. Release the tortoise under the shade of a bush or rock.

** Tortoise store water in their bladder. If a tortoise becomes alarmed its defense is to void its bladder onto the captor. This could lead to dehydration of the tortoise and potentially to death.



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE

**2011 Jeep Jamboree Tour Rides
NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2011-0029-EA**

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the discussion of environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The potential impacts that have been identified are localized and are of relatively short duration. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan.

/ s / Don McClure for
Ruben A. Sánchez
Field Manager, Kingman Field Office

10/13/2011
Date

DECISION RECORD

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE

2011 Jeep Jamboree Tour Rides NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2011-0029-EA

It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in Environmental Assessment **DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2011-0029-EA**. This decision would result with the issuance of a Special Recreation Permit to Jeep Jamboree Inc. authorizing the 2011 Jeep Jamboree USA commercial tour rides on November 4-5, 2011 on public land.

Rationale:

My decision to approve the Proposed Action analyzed in **DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2011-0029-EA** is based on the following:

The Proposed Action has been analyzed, with no significant impacts anticipated, as stated in the FONSI signed on October 13, 2011, thus and Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The environmental assessment adequately covers all affected resource values.

Implementation of the proposed action provides commercial guided tour rides in the west and east areas of the Black Mountain, north and south of Arizona Highway 68.

Mitigation measures would reduce or eliminate potential impacts to desert tortoise, chuckwalla, rosy boa, and other wildlife.

The decision to allow the Proposed Action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation, and is in conformance with the *Kingman Resource Management Plan*.

Alternatives Considered:

Proposed Action:

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Each participant is given a waste bag and is required to pack out all foreign material. Some participants use Wag bags or small portable toilets at the lunch stops. Otherwise, participants would be utilizing Leave No Trace principles requiring a shovel to bury human waste. Staff and participants would be staying in hotels or

motels in Laughlin, Nevada or Bullhead City, Arizona or staying at private or county campgrounds in the Laughlin/Bullhead City area.

All Stipulations to be attach to permit.

General

1. The permittee shall comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, postings, or written requirements applicable to the area or operations covered by the Special Recreation Permit. 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, customers, participants, or spectators under the permittee's supervision.
2. A Special Recreation Permit authorizes 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 noncompliance with permit stipulations.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The permittee or permittee's representative may not assign, contract, or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, the authorized officer may approve contracting of equipment or services in advance, if necessary to supplement a permittee's operations. Such contracting should not constitute more than half the required equipment or services for any one trip and the permittee must retain operational control of the permitted activity. If equipment or services are contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.
6. 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 user's tax. The permittee must furnish the authorized officer with any current brochure and price list if requested by the authorized officer.
7. The permittee must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., trail and route conditions, landslides, 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.

8. In the event of default on any mortgage or other indebtedness, such as bankruptcy, creditors shall not succeed to the operating rights or privileged of the permittee's SRP.
9. The permittee cannot, unless specifically authorized, erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on public lands. Upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to pre-existing conditions.
10. The permittee must present or display a copy of the Special Recreation Permit to an authorized officer's representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request. If required, the permittee must display a copy of the permit or other identification tag on equipment used during the period of authorized use.
11. 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 expiration of the permit.
12. The term of the permit shall be November 4-5, 2011. The event anticipates 50 vehicle entries.
13. The applicant/permittee is required to provide the Authorized Officer with a copy of a valid insurance policy or proof thereof covering the periods of use, before any use under this permit begins. The required minimum general liability limits are: \$500,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate for bodily injury; and \$30,000 annual aggregate for property damage. The U.S. Government must be named as additional insured on the policy. All liability policies are to specify that the insurance company shall have no right of subrogation (substitution) against the United States of America. The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States against any liability for personal injury, loss of life, or property damage arising in any way from activities under the permit.
14. The permittee shall pay BLM a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) fee of \$100, effective March 1, 2008. The permittee shall pay BLM 3% of the gross receipts; or the minimum SRP fee, whichever is greater. The minimum advance fee of \$100.00 will be required up front, with any balance owed to be paid with the submittal of a Post Use Report.
15. Post-Use Report shall be submitted to the BLM Authorized Officer within thirty (30) days of the completion of the permit, and will include a detailed summary of the number of tours and vehicles, along with the number of guides and participants involved.
16. The permit shall not be construed in any way as preventing public use or access on any public lands except as expressly allowed under the permit.
17. The permittee shall notify the authorized officer of any accident which occurs while involved in activities authorized by this permit which results in: death, personal injury requiring hospitalization or emergency evacuation, or in property damage greater than \$2,500 (lesser amounts if established by State law). Reports should be submitted within 48 hours in the case of death or injury, or 10 days in accidents involving property damage.

18. Harassment of livestock, wildlife, wild horses, or destruction of private and public improvements such as fences and gates is prohibited. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
19. The collection of artifacts or disturbance of archaeological resources on Federal Lands is prosecutable under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Disturbance of human graves are also prohibited. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management, which result in impacts upon archaeological or historical resources, shall be subject to the provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The permittee will immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any archaeological or historical resources encountered during permitted operations and maintain the integrity of such resources pending subsequent investigation.
20. Special collection of artifacts (either historic or prehistoric) or fossils, by permittee or participants is prohibited. The definition of an artifact is anything over 50 years old that has been made, used or modified by a human. Permittee is required to inform all participants that collecting artifacts, theft or vandalism of any cultural property is a violation of the above mentioned Federal and/or State laws.
21. Failure to comply with permit stipulations may result in denial of future permit authorizations for these events, or revocation of permits already issued.
22. BLM would monitor all lunch, photographic locations and selected segments of the routes.
23. A post ride of all routes would be conducted by the BLM.

Ride Operations

24. All activity associated with staging areas, including start and finish, lunch and photographic stops will be conducted within the traveled portion of the road. No vehicle travel (including parking, turn-around, detours, etc.) outside of this corridor will be permitted unless authorized in advance by the BLM Authorized Officer.
25. The designated route shall be adequately marked with flagging to ensure that participants do not stray from the route. Under no circumstances shall the sponsor mark the course by painting rocks or plants.
26. Temporary course markings would not be placed on the course prior to one week of the start of the event. All temporary markings shall be removed immediately after the event has finished.
27. It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to coordinate the event with Arizona State Lands Department (ASLD) as necessary, and to obtain written authorization to cross or utilize non-BLM administered land such as ASLD, Mohave County Road Department and private property.
28. Nothing in this permit implies permission to use non-Federal land administered by the BLM. It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to coordinate the event with Arizona State Lands Department (ASLD) as necessary, and to obtain written authorization to cross or utilize non-BLM administered land such as ASLD, Mohave County Road Department, Arizona Department of Transportation and private property.

29. In the event of vehicles leaving the established road (for whatever reason), removal of the vehicle and reclamation of disturbed areas will be required to the satisfaction of the BLM Authorized Officer, including raking of surface disturbance, appropriate removal of spilled oil/fuel, re-vegetation, etc.
30. In the event that a vehicle injures livestock, BLM personnel and/or the grazing permittee in the area will be immediately contacted to make an evaluation of the animal's condition. Under no circumstance will any person other than BLM personnel or the animal's owner be permitted to make a final evaluation of the animal's condition, or to destroy an animal that appears to be suffering.
31. The permittee shall provide a person at each gate to prohibit the movement of livestock through the gate during the event. All gates along the routes shall be closed after use.
32. The permittee shall ensure that non-street legal vehicles comply with Arizona State law and do not operate on public roads.
33. The speed limit for all vehicles involved in the tours shall be 35 miles per hour on public land.
34. All participants and staff shall power wash their Off-Highway Vehicles prior to travelling on public lands pertaining to this permit. The power wash would remove noxious weeds and prohibit the spread of noxious weeds on public lands.
35. All participants shall maintain a safe distance of twenty (20) feet from all open mine shafts.
36. Each participant shall be knowledgeable of the "*Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoise Encountered on Roads and Vehicle Ways*" (Appendix 1), "*Tread Lightly!*'s *Responsible Recreation Tips – Four Wheeling*", and *Leave No Trace's – Seven Outdoor Ethicss*. Brochures shall be provided to the permittee for dispersal.

Roadway Surface Concerns

37. There would be no modification of the existing roadway by the permittee or any event personnel.
38. BLM reserves the right to postpone or cancel the tours if weather conditions create a soft road surface that would be conducive to unacceptable road damage by tour vehicles.

The “**No Action**” **alternative** was considered for this project. Under the “No Action” alternative, the proposed rides would not occur.

Appeals: This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the Kingman Field Office, 2755 Mission Blvd. Kingman AZ 86401 within 30 days from the date of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) for a stay (suspension) of this decision during the time that your appeal is being review by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal (43 CFR 4.21). A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with the Kingman Field Office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay:

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood os the appellant’s success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Approved By:

/ s / Don McClure for

Ruben A. Sánchez
Field Manager, Kingman Field Office

10/13/2011

Date

PROJECT COORDINATION

Agenda

10:30 a.m.

May 3, 2011

Facilitator: Andy Whitefield Recorder: Tim Watkins Timekeeper: Matt Porebski

Agenda Items: Brief description, legal description, general location, name of presenter, time needed.

Rules: 90 minute meetings
No side conversations
Stick to time limits

Additional agenda items added at end of meeting if time permits

PAST DUE CLEARANCES: County Free Use Pit EA's need comments.

DECISION RECORDS TO BE DISCUSSED:

NEPA LOG (update on each project in the log) at end of meeting:

PROJECTS:

1. **Special Recreation Permit for Jeep Jamboree USA.**

Issue a Special Recreation Permit authorizing Jeep Jamboree USA to conduct commercial jeep tour rides on November 4-5, 2011. There would be three guided rides each on Friday and Saturday, consisting of different skill levels of operators and equipment. The event would be held on existing roads, jeep trails and navigable washes in the Black Mountains located west of Kingman, AZ. (See maps.) The rides travel four separate routes with some overlapping involved over the two day event. There is a driver's meeting each day at Don Laughlin's Casino and Resort Hotel at 8 am. All four rides start at 9 am and finish by 4 pm. The event would consist of one guide per 5 participating vehicles up to an estimated 50 vehicles. See maps for lunch and photo opportunity locations for all the rides.

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The EA is located at blmshare/nepa/ea_eis/SRPs/2011 Jeep Jamboree USA_EA
Comments due June 3, 2011. (Len 20 minutes)

2. **Golden Valley Cemetery Protection Project**

Tim will be putting together an EA in cooperation with Hualapai Department of Natural Resources to implement a protection plan for a historic Hualapai cemetery in the vicinity of Connico Point in Golden Valley, AZ. A Class III survey will be conducted on May 4 and 5, 2011. Once the survey is complete, we

will begin working on the EA to construct a fence around the cemetery areas and possibly a buffer zone fence as well. The Hualapai Tribe still needs to determine the type of fence to be placed around the burial areas. Once this decision is made, BLM will work with the Hualapai to procure materials and construct the fence(s). Once the EA is completed, it will be put in the nepa folder for comments. Comments will be due by mid June, 2011. (Tim 5 minutes)

Attendees: Paul Misiaszek, Tim Watkins, Len Marceau, Paul Hobbs, Wade Reeves, Matt Porebski, Don McClure

Next meeting: May 16, 1:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Len Marceau

Recorder: Tim Watkins

Timekeeper: Paul Hobbs