

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels  
and Fire Rehabilitation Actions**

**Adventures of a Lifetime  
DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2011-014-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: *Hassayampa Field Office (HFO)*

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: **AZA-35151**

Proposed Action Title/Type: **Special Recreation Permit**

Location of Proposed Action: **Hassayampa SRMA**

Description of Proposed Action: Provide guided tours using all-terrain vehicles with a maximum of 10 riders. Routes include: 1) Highway 93 to Rincon Road to the Scenic Loop heading to the Hassayampa River and 2) Vulture Mine Road to Vulture Peak and mile marker #3. Maximum of 1.5 hours per trip.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: **Bradshaw Harquahala Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan**

Date Approved/Amended: **4/22/2010**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

**RR-30 SRPs are authorized on a case-by-case basis for all recreation activities meeting the requirements in 43 CFR 2930 and applicable manuals, policies, and guidance. RR-31 Issuance of SRPs is at BLM's discretion. BLM will evaluate permit applications on the basis of applicable laws and regulations and conformance with the RMP, including consistency with recreation and other resource objectives.**

**C: Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.5: The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.5:

In addition, 516 DM 11 11.9, Actions for Categorical Exclusion H Recreation Management: Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights;

that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 or 516 DM 11.5 apply.

I considered: the travel routes and proposed activity are on existing roads. However, when the travel management and recreation plan are approved for this Special Recreation Management Area, there may be adjustments to routes to comply with this plan.

**D: Signature**

**Review:** *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects (see Attachment 1). Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mary Skordinsky**  
**Project Lead**

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Leah Baker**  
**Planning & Environmental Coordinator**

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Steven Cohn**  
**Manager**

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:  
**Mary Skordinsky**

**Note:** A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.



BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances<sup>1</sup>  
**Attachment 1**

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> Use will be confined to already existing roads.
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study 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 (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> One travel route uses an existing road within the raptor ACEC
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> N/A
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> None
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> None
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> None, there are other Special Recreation Permit operators in the area, but no conflicts have been identified since the tours remain on approved routes.
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		

<sup>1</sup> If an action has any of these impacts, you must conduct NEPA analysis.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> None
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?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> Use is on existing roads, although there are desert tortoise in the area, the applicant is aware that they are state protected. It is unlawful to collect, harm, harass, or kill desert tortoise.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> None
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> No
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)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> None have been identified.
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> Use is on existing roads.

**Decision**  
**Attachment 2**

**Project Description:**

**Paste Project Description here** Provide guided tours using all-terrain vehicles with a maximum of 10 riders. Routes include: 1) Highway 93 to Rincon Road to the Scenic Loop heading to the Hassayampa River and 2) Vulture Mine Road to Vulture Peak and mile marker #3. Maximum of 1.5 hours per trip.

**Decision:** Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

The 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. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on December 22, 2010. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at 21605 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix Arizona, 85027. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_06/23/2011\_\_\_\_  
**Steven Cohn, Manager**