

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

**Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club Meets  
DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2011-009-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: *Hassayampa Field Office (HFO)*

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: **AZA-32154**

Proposed Action Title/Type: **Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club Meets**

Location of Proposed Action: Hieroglyphic Mountains, Maricopa County

**Gila and Salt River Meridian, T6N R1W Sec. 13-15, 21-28**

Description of Proposed Action: One day commercial orienteering events to be held annually for the next ten years by the Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club. Location of the events will be north of State Route 74 and west of Castle Hot Springs Road. The orienteering events are expected to draw approximately 50 participants/observers/staff and 25 vehicles per event. The events consist of cross-country foot travel using map and compass to locate control bags. The staging area will be located on a disturbed area of public land. Portable toilets, tables, trash cans, and water will be located in the staging area. The control bags will be set up the day before the event. Everything will be removed at the end of the day the event is held.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

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

Date Approved/Amended: **4/1/2010**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): RR-30, RR-31, and RR-33.

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):

**The above decisions authorize the issuance of special recreation permits that meet certain laws, regulations, guidance, and stipulations.**

**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:

Categorical Exclusion H Recreation Management: Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use and overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than three staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.



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: Explain why the project would not have significant impact on public health and safety by describing how the action is designed or planned to keep impacts o a minimum and not impact public health or safety.</b>
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: Identify if any of the above concerns are present in the impact area. Demonstrate how impacts would or would not be significant. Specify Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Study Areas, Monuments, and other areas with special designation. BLM Shall determine whether a proposed action will occur in a floodplain or wetland area. If an action would significantly impact a floodplain or wetland area, this extraordinary circumstance would apply and alternatives must be considered. Note: CXs are not appropriate for actions within a Wilderness Study Area, per the Wilderness Interim Management Policy) or a Wilderness Area. Actions within ACECs. Would and Scenic Rivers, Monuments or other “special designations” may still be permitted as long as the objectives of the special designations are met.</b>
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: Controversy over environmental effects pertains specifically to disagreement over the nature of the impacts among those with special expertise. Controversy does not reflect the level of public concern, support or opposition for an action. Explain whether the impacts of the action are well-known and demonstrated in other projects that have been implemented and monitored. Cite monitoring reports done for similar projects and the conclusions of the reports.</b>

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

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale: Categorically excluded actions generally have very predictable consequences well established as insignificant. If an impact of an action cannot be predicted due to varying circumstances and has potential to be significant, additional analysis would be necessary.</b>
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale: Explain whether the action is connected to another action that would require further environmental analysis or if it would set a precedent for future actions that would normally require analysis.</b>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale: See CFR 1508.7 for a discussion of cumulative actions and impacts.</b>
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?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale: Confirm that cultural surveys have been completed; the appropriate databases have been reviewed; and appropriate concurrence from SHPO and tribes have been received indicating that significant impacts are not expected.</b>
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: Confirm that the appropriate level of Threatened and Endangered Species review, surveys, and coordination and any required consultation, conformance, or concurrence from the US Fish and wildlife Service has been received, indicating that impacts would not be significant. If applicable, confirm that coordination with the Arizona Department of Fish and Game has been completed.</b>
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: Examples include Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, county ordinances, and state statutes. Include or reference the results of coordination and consultation with the appropriate agencies and officials, indicating that the law would not be violated.</b>
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: State whether such populations are present and whether they would receive disproportionate high and adverse human health or environmental effects. State whether health or</b>

		<b>environmental statutes would be compromised. The EPA had developed guidance on addressing environmental justice issues.</b>
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)?		
<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale: Consultation with tribes regarding Indian sacred sites must take place.</b>
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)?		
<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale: Introduction as well as spread within the area must be considered.</b>

## Approval and Decision

### Attachment 2

**Compliance and assignment of responsibility:** Recreation

**Monitoring and assignment of responsibility:** Recreation

**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. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_ /s/Mary Skordinsky/ \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 11/2/10

**Mary Skordinsky**  
Project Lead

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ /s/Leah Baker/ \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 11/2/2010

**Leah Baker**  
Planning & Environmental Coordinator

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ /s/D. Remington Hawes/ \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 11/4/2010

**for Steve Cohn**  
Manager

#### **Project Description:**

One day commercial orienteering events to be held annually for the next ten years by the Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club. Location of the events will be north of State Route 74 and west of Castle Hot Springs Road. The orienteering events are expected to draw approximately 50 participants/observers/staff and 25 vehicles per event. The events consist of cross-country foot travel using map and compass to locate control bags. The staging area will be located on a disturbed area of public land. Portable toilets, tables, trash cans, and water will be located in the staging area. The control bags will be set up the day before the event. Everything will be removed at the end of the day the event is held.

**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).

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_ /s/D. Remington Hawes/ \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 11/4/2010

**for Steve Cohn**

## SUPPLEMENTAL STIPULATIONS

**Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club Events 11/1/2010-9/30/2020**

**Hassayampa Field Office Special Recreation Permit AZA-32154**

In addition to the conditions and stipulations listed on the special recreation permit and the annual operating authorization, the Lower Sonoran and Hassayampa Field Offices have established the following additional stipulations.

### **General**

1. Other landowners The permittee is required to contact private landowners and other governmental agencies whose property is affected by the use associated with the permit. Permits are required from the Arizona State Land Department for access to state trust lands.
2. Operating plan Any changes to the approved plan of operations must first be approved by the BLM.
3. Non-exclusive use The permit does not authorize exclusive use and shall not be construed in any way so as to prevent public use or access on any public lands except as expressly allowed under the permit.
4. Safety The permittee is responsible for ensuring the safety of all participants, spectators, and staff, assuring that all permit actions are in conformance with local, state and federal health and safety standards and providing for appropriate emergency attention. See "Target shooting hazard" below.
5. Hospital emergencies All injuries requiring emergency hospital care will be reported to the BLM within two days of the occurrence and a Death and Injury Report submitted to the BLM within 10 days of the occurrence.
6. Permit changes The BLM reserves the right to alter the terms, conditions or stipulations of a permit at any time for reasons such as significant policy, administrative procedure or stipulation change.
7. Permit availability A copy of this permit and the stipulations must be made available to any participant, BLM employee, or interested party upon request.

### **Motorized Vehicle Use**

1. Regulations All motor vehicle use will comply with existing BLM and state motorized vehicle laws and regulations on public lands relating to use, standards, registration, operation and inspection. Regulations governing off-road vehicle use are prescribed in 43 CFR 8341.1 and include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - A. No person shall operate an off-road vehicle on public lands:

1. In a reckless, careless or negligent manner;
  2. In excess of established speed limits;
  3. While under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or drugs;
  4. In a manner causing, or likely to cause, significant undue damage to or disturbance of the soil, wildlife, wildlife habitat, improvements, cultural, or vegetative resources.
- B. Drivers shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, saddle horses, pack trains, and animal drawn vehicles.
- C. Drivers are prohibited from operating a motor vehicle, unless the driver and each front seat passenger are restrained by a properly fastened safety belt.
2. Washes No motorized vehicles of any type are permitted in riparian areas or in running washes except at road crossings. Substantiated reports of unauthorized use in these areas will result in immediate probation and possible suspension or revocation of permit privileges.

## **Event Area**

1. Target shooting hazard Target shooting is a common activity in the area. There is a potential conflict since cross-country participants may be travelling through “backstop” areas. The permittee is responsible for safety as stated above.
2. Approved locations All activities are to remain in the approved staging/camping and activity areas. No deviation to these areas is permitted without prior BLM approval.
3. Apiary permit in area For the area west of Lake Pleasant, bee keeping is permitted south of the staging area to State Route 74. Swarms and hives are not to be disturbed.
4. Dust suppression The permittee is responsible for complying with Maricopa County dust regulations in the staging area. To control dust, limit vehicle speed and avoid unnecessary off pavement travel. An option is to spray the staging area with water before the vehicles arrive.
5. Access to staging area For the staging area north of State Route 74, a fence separates the paved access road from the staging area. This is an unauthorized fence and may be driven over or around to get to the staging area. If anyone challenges you about being in the area, show them this appendix entry. If necessary call the BLM law enforcement at 1-800-837-9152.
6. Historic and prehistoric resources Participants and staff will be instructed that it is unlawful to disturb, deface, excavate, or remove any historic or prehistoric fragments, objects, or structures. Rock art may be photographed but not touched. Any prehistoric or historic cultural site or human remains discovered by the permittee, participants or staff will be left undisturbed and reported as soon as possible to the BLM.
7. Historic mines Abandoned mines are extremely dangerous and all persons operating

under this permit are prohibited from entering them. Collecting artifacts from the mining area is strictly prohibited.

8. Mining operations Activities will be conducted in a manner that will not interfere with mining or exploration operations. No minerals are to be collected from areas encumbered by active mining claims unless authorized by the claimant(s).
9. Livestock The special recreation permittee must notify the grazing permittee in the Robbins Butte area about the event before it occurs. Get contact information from the outdoor recreation planner for the Lower Sonoran Field Office. Harassment of livestock or destruction of private and public improvements such as fences and gates is prohibited. All gates and fences shall be left as found.
10. Wildlife and protected species Harassment of wildlife, wild horses, or burros, and the taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
11. Desert tortoise and Gila monsters The event area is desert tortoise habitat (category II). Collection, harassment and disturbance of desert tortoises and Gila monsters is prohibited by Arizona State Law. If encountered they should be avoided and not handled. Gila monsters are venomous and can inflict a serious and painful bite.
12. Vegetation Cutting or removal of live vegetation is not permitted.
13. Excessive use If the volume of use is determined to be adversely impacting soils or riparian condition through erosion, bank alteration or other means, the BLM may restrict use of affected areas or routes to allow restoration and recovery of degraded areas. During wet periods, certain road and trail segments may be closed to all traffic. The BLM will consider the applicant's needs when designing and implementing restrictions or watershed restoration efforts that could influence the operation.

## **Event Operations**

1. Public notification The permittee must post temporary signs to be placed at all major access points and intersections in the area notifying public land visitors of the event and of potential access delays to the public lands during the event.
2. Cancellation At the discretion of the BLM, the event may be postponed or canceled due to inclement weather conditions or if warranted by other unforeseen factors.
3. Pre-activity meeting Permittee will hold a pre-activity meeting to discuss event rules, safety procedures, rules of conduct, resource concerns and ethics, and inform participants of course/route conditions.
4. Alcohol Nothing in this permit shall be construed as allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages.
5. Firearms and fireworks No use of firearms or fireworks is authorized.

6. Cleanup The permittee is responsible for removing all signs, flagging, markers, trash and any other event related debris within 24 hours of the completion of the event.

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