

DECISION RECORD

BLM Office: Hassayampa Field Office
DNA

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-P000-2012-001-

Serial No.: AZA-35832

Decision:

It is my decision to approve a Special Recreation Permit for Fred Amator dba Arizona Jeep Tours, LLC from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012. The permit will authorize the permittee to conduct commercial, guided jeep tours on the approved existing trails and roads as depicted on the map for the NEPA document. The permit will be in effect for the time period specified providing the permittee remains in compliance with all terms, conditions and stipulations.

Rational for Decision:

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Bradshaw-Harquahala Approved RMP, April, 2010; the Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan; Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan and Decision Record*, dated July, 2005, and the “*Special Recreation Permits for Commercial Recreation Activities on Public Lands in Arizona*” Environmental Assessment – EA No. AZ-931-93-001, dated August 1993. This action will not have a direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply and/or distribution. Stipulations addressed in the Environmental Assessment should ensure protection of the sensitive resources in the proposed areas. Compliance monitoring will be conducted to ensure these measures are followed and no significant impacts are occurring.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations:

No additional mitigation measures have been identified by resource specialists. The attached “BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office Standard Stipulations for Commercial Special Recreation Permits” are incorporated herein.

_____/S/_____
Hassayampa Field Manager

_____/03/12/2012_____
Date

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_____/S/_____
Lower Sonoran Field Manager

_____/03/15/2012_____
Date

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: *Phoenix District Office (PDO)*

NEPA/TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-AZ-P000-2012-001-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: AZA-35832

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Special Recreation Permit

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: See Maps

APPLICANT (if any): Fred Amator aka AZ Jeep Tours LLC

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The AZ Jeep Tours LLC plans to conduct tours on four existing routes within the Phoenix District, two in the Lower Sonoran FO and one in the Hassayampa FO (see maps). The routes in the LSFO are the Margie's Cove and the Gila Bend Mountains Routes. The AJT plans to use the Castle Hot Springs Road and the Cedar Basin route, west of the Hell's Canyon Wilderness. AJT is a small, one vehicle operation with tours conducted mostly from October through April. A maximum of 3 tours is expected per month on an average of 4 hours with a maximum group size of 5 guests per tour. No picnicking or camping will be done. Water and snacks will be provided. All guides will be first aid and CPR qualified, and Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace skills will be practiced.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: The proposed action is in conformance with the Lower Gila South RMP/EIS; Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South RMP and Decision Record and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan.

Dates Approved/Amended: June, 1988, July, 2005 and April, 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):

This action has been reviewed for conformance, with the above mentioned plans, with respect to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (43 CFR 1610.5). It has been determined that the proposed action does comply with the objectives, terms, and

conditions of these plans. Specifically, this type of action is provided for in the Bradshaw-Harquahala Approved RMP decision numbers: RR-30, RR-31, and RR-33. The Lower Gila South RMP/EIS provided that “Although recreation in the Lower Gila South RMP/EIS area was not identified as a major issue... Visual resource management, management of off-road vehicle (ORV) use, and other recreation resource management will continue as recreation programs” (p.12). The Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan, Appendix 1 stated, “...off-highway and special recreation vehicle use...could benefit from increased management” (p. 24).

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Bradshaw-Harquahala Approved RMP, April 22, 2010; the Lower Gila South RMP/EIS; Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Plan and the Lower Gila South RMP and Decision Record; June, 1988, July, 2005

“Special Recreation Permits for Commercial Recreation Activities on Public Lands in Arizona” – EA No. AZ-931-93-001, August, 1993. This document analyzed the environmental effects of commercial recreation permitting on public lands in Arizona, and established a standard set of “Arizona BLM stipulations for commercial special recreation permits.” The stipulations were designed to protect the lands or resources involved, reduce user conflicts, and minimize health and safety hazards, and are made part of the permit.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the exiting NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes, the proposed action is substantially the same as the action analyzed in the previous environmental assessment. The impacts for the proposed action are essentially the same as analyzed in previous documents and resource conditions are sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA documents.

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes, the range of alternatives in the above referenced environmental document is appropriate with respect to the current proposed action. No new alternatives or concerns have been presented by the public, other agencies, or resource specialists.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes, the analysis in the above referenced environmental assessments is adequate given information currently available. The current situation concludes that no new information or circumstances would substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action. In addition, it has been determined by resource specialists that the proposed action will not have a direct or indirect impact on energy development, production, supply and/or distribution. There are no known planned or proposed energy developments and no such applications have been received by the HFO and LSFO.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Direct and indirect impacts as well as cumulative effects are substantially unchanged from those identified in the above referenced environmental assessment.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

External public involvement and interagency review for the above referenced EA is adequate for the current proposed action.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Andrea Felton	Range Con	Range Program
James Holden	Range Spec	Range Program
Steve Bird	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife/Biological Program
Cody Carter	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife/Biological Program
Cheryl Blanchard	Archeologist	Cultural Program
Chris McLaughlin	Archeologist	Cultural Program
Dave Scarbrough	Recreation Planner	Recreation Program
Mary Skordinsky	Recreation Planner	Recreation Program

CONCLUSION:

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

_____/S/_____02/21/2012_____
Jack Ragsdale

_____/S/_____08/06/2012_____
Leah Baker

_____/S/_____03/12/2012_____
Angie Bulletts **Date**

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.