

ASDO NEPA DOCUMENT ROUTING SHEET

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-A010-2011-0016-CX, AZA-35639

Project Title: Soap Creek/Badger Creek Filming Permits

Project Lead: Linda Barwick

Date that any scoping meeting was conducted: N/A

Date that concurrent, electronic distribution for review was initiated: 4/6/2011

Deadline for receipt of responses: **SHORTENED REVIEW PERIOD –
DUE THURSDAY 4/7/2011**

ID Team/Required Reviewers will be determined at scoping meeting or as a default the following:

Gloria Benson, Tribal Liaison
Diana Hawks, Recreation/Wilderness/VRM
Rody Cox, Lands/Realty/Minerals
Lorraine Christian, Wildlife/T&E Wildlife
John Herron, Cultural
Jackie Roaque, Special Status Plants
Ray Klein, GCPNM Supervisory Ranger
Linda Price, S&G
Whit Bunting, Range/Vegetation/Weeds
Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator
John Sims, Supervisory Law Enforcement
Lorraine Christian, ASFO Field Manager

Required Recipients of electronic distribution E-mails only (not reminders):

Andi Rogers (E-mail address: arogers@azgfd.gov)
Sarah Reif (E-mail address: sreif@azgfd.gov)
LeAnn Skrzynski (E-mail address: lskrzynski@kaibabpaiute-nasn.gov)

(Ms. Rogers and Ms. Reif are Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) habitat specialists. Ms. Skrzynski is Environmental Program Director for the Kaibab Paiute Tribe (KPT). They may review and/or forward on ASDO NEPA documents to other employees. If a Project Lead receives comments from any AGFD employee on their draft NEPA document, they should include them in the complete set/administrative record and share them with Lorraine Christian as the Acting, ASDO Wildlife Team Lead. Ms. Christian will then recommend how these comments should be addressed. If a Project Lead receives comments from any KPT employee, they should include them in the complete set/administrative record and share them with Gloria Benson as the ASDO Native American Coordinator. Ms. Benson will then recommend how these comments should be addressed.)

Discretionary Reviewers:

(insert names and titles of any additional reviewers recommended by Project Lead, Manager(s), Environmental Coordinator, or from scoping meetings)

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-A010-2011-0016-CX
Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Arizona Strip Field Office

Case File No.: Multiple Requests

Proposed Action Title/Type: Filming Permits – Soap Creek/Badger Creek Areas

Location of Proposed Action: The proposed action is located within the following described area as shown on the attached map (Attachment 1):

Gila and Salt River Meridian, Coconino County, Arizona

T. 39 N., R. 6 E., sec. 25, N1/2S1/2;
T. 39 N., R. 6 E., sec. 26, NE1/4;
T. 39 N., R. 6 E., sec. 27, SE1/4;
T. 39 N., R. 7 E., sec. 7, SE1/4SE1/4;
T. 39 N., R. 7 E., sec. 8, S1/2S1/2S1/2;
T. 39 N., R. 7 E., sec. 17, E1/2;
T. 39 N., R. 7 E., sec. 30, N1/2SW1/4.
Containing 5 acres, more or less

Description of Proposed Action: Permits would be subject to all provisions of 43 CFR 2920 including the terms and conditions identified in 43 CFR 2920.7 and special conditions listed in Attachment 2; and rental payments as provided by 43 CFR 2920.8.

The Arizona Strip Field Office has received multiple requests for filming in the Soap Creek/Badger Creek areas. Authorized areas are shown on the attached map. These filming requests are for video shoots that involve:

- No more than 12 total people (would also apply to multiple shoots occurring in the same area, at the same time).
- No set construction.
- No use of heavy equipment.
- No use of fire or pyrotechnics.
- No use of motorized or mechanized equipment off designated roads.
- No use of domestic livestock.
- No significant restriction of public access.
- Filming occurring 10 days or less.
- No impacts to cultural resources or listed species.

A current request for filming involves a video shoot of Mr. Peter Lik, a master landscape photographer, who is host of a new TV show on The Weather Channel called “From the Edge with Peter Lik”. The shoot would be for **1 day** at any time during the period of **April 10-16, 2011**. Activities would consist of Mr. Lik, and a guide from the local area, scouting along the rim of the Grand Canyon in the areas of Badger Creek and Soap Creek for areas to film a video. The video would be of Mr. Lik and the guide explaining to a TV viewing audience the beauty of the Grand Canyon and how it was carved out by the Colorado River. The video would end at

sunset with a final scene from the selected areas that had been scouted during the day. Mr. Lik would also be giving photo tips to the TV viewers. There would be ten (10)-crew members, four (4) 4 WD SUVs, one (1) 4WD Jeep, and one (1) Chevy Suburban . The group would be coming from filming a river rafting trip down the Colorado River and would proceed from the landing at Lees Ferry to the various areas of the BLM permit for the video filming. The group would stay on existing roads and then hike to the rim area. There would be no off-road driving. They have obtained a permit for filming in the park service areas.

All other film permits issued would be subject to same restrictions/stipulations outlined above, and described in Attachment 3. No surface disturbance would occur from any of the proposed filming activities other than prints from foot traffic. Permits would be subject to all provisions of 43 CFR 2920 including the terms and conditions identified in 43 CFR 2920.7.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance:

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: **Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan**

Date Approved: **January 29, 2008**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision, which states in part:

MA-LR-06 “Individual land use authorizations (ROWs, permits, leases, easements) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with other RMP provisions and NEPA compliance. New land use authorizations will be discouraged within avoidance areas (i.e., ACECs, lands supporting listed species, NHTs, riparian areas, and areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics) and allowed in such areas only when no reasonable alternative exists and impacts to these sensitive resources can be mitigated”.

The proposed filming activities would not occur within any avoidance area. In addition, the proposed action does not conflict with other decisions in the LUP.

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 11.9, E (19), which provides for “Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition”.

No site rehabilitation would be necessary because the proposed filming is considered “minimum impact” and would not result in any ground disturbance. 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 apply (Attachment 2).

I considered the short duration and low/minimum impacting nature of the proposal along with the additional special conditions identified in Attachment 3 which would not cause appreciable damage or disturbance to the public lands, their resources, or improvements in accordance with 43 CFR 2920.2-2.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: _____ Date: _____
Lorraine M. Christian, Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Linda Barwick, Land Law Examiner, BLM, Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790; phone (435) 688-3287.

Attachment 2

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES REVIEW AND CHECKLIST

IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed below, and comment for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included where appropriate.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES Does the proposed action...	YES/NO & RATIONALE (If Appropriate)	STAFF
1. Have significant impacts on public health and safety?	NO	RCox
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?	NO	DHawks JHerron LChristian
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?	NO	RCox
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	NO	RCox
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?	NO	RCox
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	NO	RCox
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?	NO	JHerron
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?	NO	LChristian JRoaque
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	NO	LChristian GBenson
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?	NO	RCox
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)?	NO	GBenson
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)?	NO	WBunting

Attachment 3

Permit Terms and Conditions Peacock Productions Film Permit AZA-35639

1. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation and termination of the permit within the authorized limits of the permit.
2. Use areas would be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those areas shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment. "Waste" also includes the creation of micro-trash such as bottle caps, pull tabs, broken glass, cigarette butts, small plastic, etc. No micro-trash shall be left at use areas.
3. The BLM reserves the right to take photographs of any aspect of filming operations for official case file records.
4. No staging areas or off-road vehicle use are authorized. Only existing pullouts along Highway 89A may be used for parking of support vehicles described in the application. No parking off of existing roads is authorized, in order to prevent damage to special status plants and other sensitive resources.
5. All motorized and mechanized vehicles must stay on existing roads, i.e., there would be no off-road driving and all parking must occur in previously disturbed areas.
6. Permittee shall be responsible for the supervision of all participants, spectators, and other persons associated with the activity, and will be responsible for public safety on-site.
7. Permittee must contact and receive concurrence and license, where required from all state, county, and local governmental agencies having jurisdiction, concern, or interest in this activity.
8. Permittee shall be responsible for ensuring adequate sanitation facilities for participants is provided.
9. This permit does not give permission to cross over or use any private land. The permittee will be fully responsible for all trespass on and/or damages to private land which results from the permittee's activity.
10. Disclosure of all aspects of the proposed activity must be completely described in the application. Any changes to the proposed activity must be approved in advance by the authorized officer.
11. Permittee will do everything reasonable, both independently and/or upon request of the authorized officer to prevent and suppress fires caused by their activity on or near lands utilized. Compensation may be required of the permittee for Federal, state, or private interests in suppression and rehabilitation expenses.
12. Where California condors visit a worksite while activities are underway, the on-site supervisor would notify the BLM wildlife team lead at (435) 688-3200. Project workers and supervisors would be instructed to avoid interaction with condors. Project activities would be modified, relocated, or delayed if those activities have adverse effects on condors. Operations would cease until the bird leaves on its own or until techniques are employed by permitted personnel that result in the individual condor leaving the area.