

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0015-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:

PROJECT NAME: W.E. Rock-Rock Crawling Event

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T1N, R102W, Sec. 10

APPLICANT: Rich Klein

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The applicant, Rich Klein, doing business as W.E. Rock Events LLC-World Extreme Rock Crawling Championship Series has applied for a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct a competitive rock crawling event within the Rangely Rock Crawling Park. The proposed dates of the competition are April 26-27, 2014 with the competition being held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Admission is \$25.00 for a two-day pass for adults or \$15.00 per day, \$5.00 for kids age 8-15, and kids age 7 and under are free. This event is proposed to be one of a 20 event competitive series in 2014 with races scheduled around the country for the World Extreme Rock Crawling Championship Series. The applicant has promoted and held over 150 rock crawling and dirt racing events over the past 14 years without claim against his insurance policy.

The two-day competitive event would take place at a location within the Rangely Rock Crawling Park near a well pad and an unnumbered BLM road adjacent to the Horseshoe Trail (Figures 1 and 2). This event will be open to the public for both competing and/or spectating. It is estimated that there will be 30 competition vehicles and approximately 200 spectators each day. An established and surfaced parking area near the well pad will serve as the parking area for spectators and the pit area for competitors. These areas will be established, identified, and controlled by event staff. Spectator viewing areas will be defined using stringer pennant and patrolled by event staff. Competition vehicles will move from the pit area to the competition course no greater than 5 miles per hour and with a spotter to ensure safety. A public address system will be used to inform competitors, spectators, and staff of happenings during all event hours. Rich Klein will serve as the Event Marshall and has local phone numbers for area law enforcement and medical assistance if needed. Two judges will be in charge of competitors on the course and 7-12 event staff will be in the spectator areas around the competition courses. Event staff will include one paramedic and two EMT First Responders with advanced medical treatment bags, spine and neck immobilization devices, and back board. Event staff will be identified by wearing W.E. Rock vests and will communicate with each other using FRS family

radios and cell phones between each other, the Event Marshall, and BLM staff. The local law enforcement and local EMS have been notified of the event. A competition driver's briefing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning to explain event rules, safety guidelines, and communications. All competition vehicles will be checked after the briefing and are required to carry at least two fire extinguishers. OHV registration stickers will be required of all competitors participating in this event. See the W.E. Rock-Communication and Safety Plan (Attachment 1) for additional information.

The proposal also includes having a food and drink vendor on site and licensed by the county, if needed. Merchandise is proposed to be offered for sale at the event from the W.E. Rock trailer. Garbage cans will be set up throughout the spectator's areas and the entire event area will be patrolled for garbage post event. Six portable toilets will be available for public use. Media permits will be limited to eight within the competition area at a time. All media personnel will attend a mandatory media meeting at 9:45 a.m. each day of the event and will be identified with W.E. Rock media vests.

The applicant has agreed to and signed a copy of the White River Field Office (WRFO) SRP policy, Colorado BLM SRP Terms, Conditions, and Stipulations, and the Colorado BLM Special Stipulations for Competitive, Organized, and Off-highway Vehicle Events. There are a variety of terms, conditions, and stipulations that are applicable to this proposal found in these documents.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) the following plan:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-43

Decision Language: "Special recreation permits (SRPs) will be issued to qualified guides and outfitters based on need and demand for services."

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, H1: "*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 CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for "Special Area" management (43 CFR 2932.5).*"

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) 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.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 01/07/2014. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists

resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	2/13/2014
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	1/31/2014
Heather Woodruff	Range Management Specialist/ Acting Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	1/22/2014

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The proposed event area has been covered by several Class III (100 percent) pedestrian inventories (Conner and Davenport 2006 compliance dated 4/10/2006, Hadden 2000 compliance date 9/5/2000, Ramirez, and Bowen 2013 compliance dated 2/4/2013, Selle 2010 compliance date 11/29/2010) One archaeological site, 5RB.2119 has been identified in the general area and official determined to not be eligible for nomination to or listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Provided the terms and conditions of the SRP are strictly adhered to there should be no adverse impacts to any cultural resources that might be listed as Historic Properties by the Colorado State Historic Officer.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American religious concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Special Status Wildlife Species: There are no threatened or endangered wildlife species that are known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area. The Rangely Rock Crawling Park is located in mule deer severe winter range, a specialized component of winter range that supports virtually all of a herd during the most extreme winters (heavy snowfall, temperature etc.). Typically these ranges receive the heaviest use from December through April. Activity (noise, traffic, human presence) during these times has the potential to displace local wildlife and contribute to increase energetic demands. The WRFO generally applies a timing stipulation (TL-08 WRFO-ROD) which precludes disrupting activities in big game severe winter ranges from December 1 – April 30. After consultation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, it was agreed upon that W.E. Rock Events LLC would be granted a *one year* (December 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014) modification to the timing stipulation as: 1) the proponent had already scheduled the entire series and changing the dates would have been both a logistical and financial burden and, 2) the event, as proposed would take place only a few days prior to April 30 and would likely have minor influence on local big game populations. The proponent was notified that this was a one-time modification and all future events must take place after April 30.

Special Status Plant Species: The Proposed Action is located 100-300 meters to the north of potential BLM sensitive plant species habitat. This potential habitat has been identified using

new GIS data combining soil and geologic formation data layers. These potential habitat areas are subject to plant surveys.

Weather conditions during the month of April in the proposed area are sporadic and access roads to the Proposed Action could be wet or dry. If weather conditions are not favorable and the area is dry fugitive dust from spectators traveling the dirt road to the event can drift towards the potential habitat covering plants. If plants are covered it will prevent plant photosynthesis from occurring as well as prevent blooming. Fugitive dust may indirectly impact pollinator species by negatively affecting plant reproduction through stigma competition. All activities will be held on existing disturbance and no new disturbance will be occurring.

No plant surveys have been performed at this time on the potential habitat area. Due to timing circumstances for this event plant surveys will not be completed prior to the April 2014 event.

REFERENCES CITED:

Conner, Carl E. and Barbara Davenport

- 2006 Class III Cultural Resource inventory Report for the proposed RMR Government #10-3 Well Location and A Short Linear Route in Rio Blanc County, Colorado, for Rio Mesa Resources, Inc. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (06-11-11: SHPO # RB.LM.R984)

Hadden, Glade

- 2000 Cultural Resource Inventory of the Proposed Rio Mesa RMR Gov't 10-1 and 10-2 Wells in the Johnson Draw Locality of Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado. (00-10-09: SHPO # RB.LM.R423)

Rameriz, Joseph, and Kristin Bowen

- 2013 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of White River Field Office Livestock Trails in Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties, CO. Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado. (12-10-18: SHPO # MC.LM.R666).

Selle, Michael

- 2010 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for Additional Trails in the Rangely Rock Crawling Park Rio Blanco County. Bureau of Land Management, Meeker, Colorado. (10-10-23: SHPO # RB.LM.R1193)

MITIGATION:

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.

2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the applicant must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: Compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after the event. Specific mitigation developed in this document and standard terms, conditions, and stipulations for competitive OHV Special Recreation Permits will be followed. The applicant will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be required to resolve such issues in a timely manner as defined in writing, which will be determined based on the urgency and magnitude of the issue.

NAME OF PREPARER: Aaron Grimes, Outdoor Recreation Planner

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

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, H1. 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 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:


Field Manager
Brent Walter

DATE SIGNED: 02/20/2014

ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1- Overview of W.E. Rock event

Figure 2- Detailed map of W.E. Rock event

Attachment 1 - WE Rock Safety and Communication Plan

Figure 1-Overview of W.E. Rock event

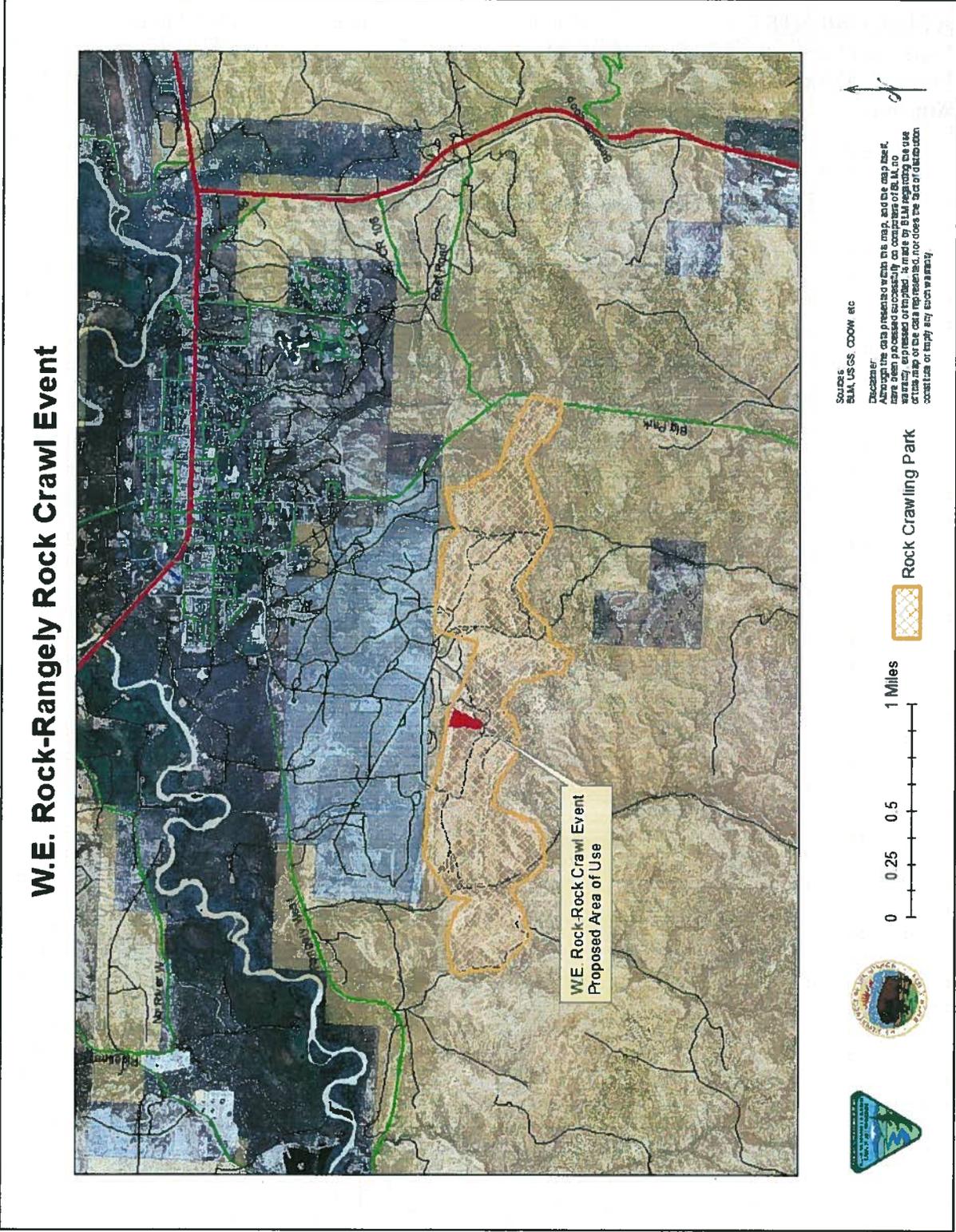
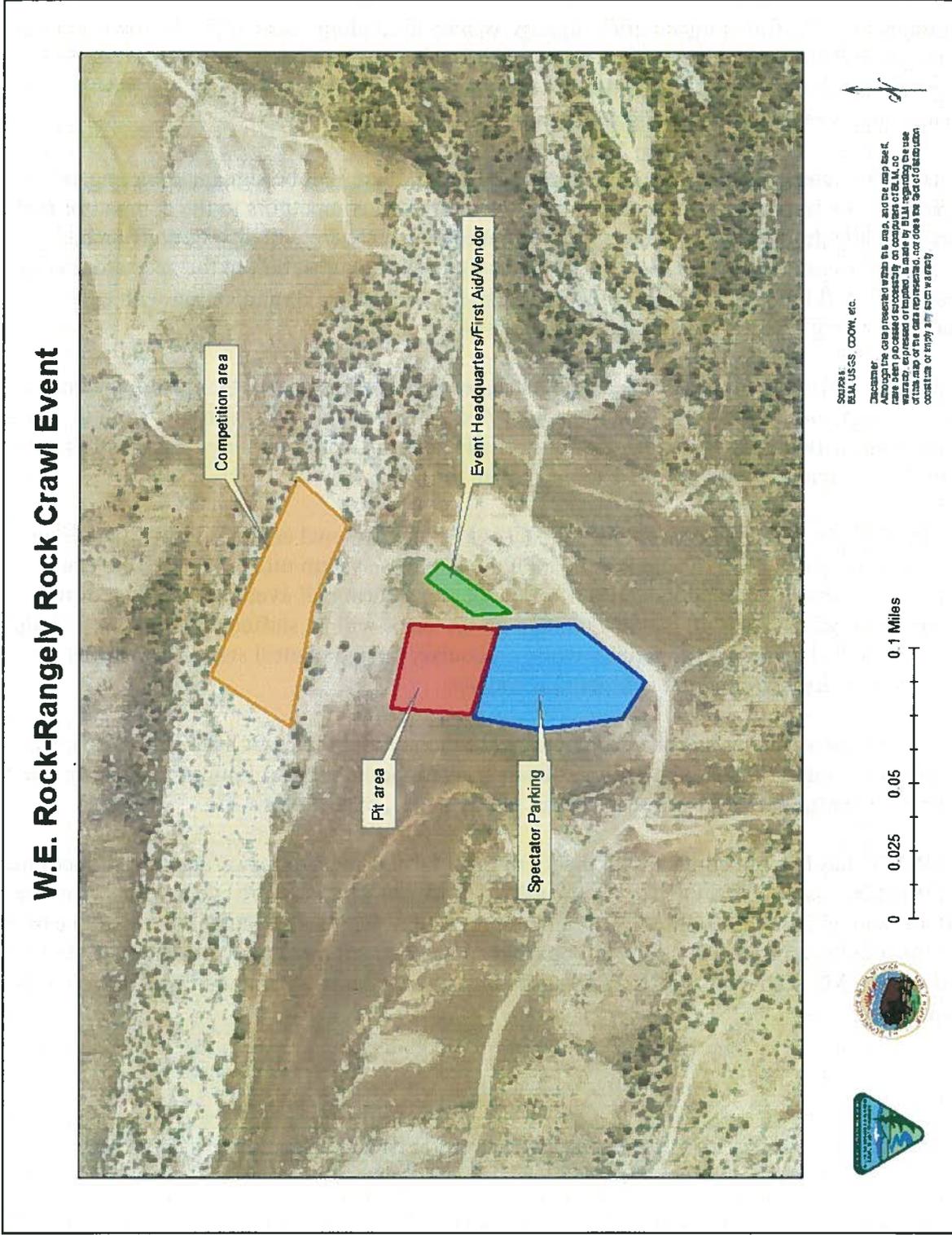


Figure 2-Detailed map of W.E. Rock event



Attachment 1 - WE Rock Safety and Communication Plan

Rangely, CO.

April 26th-27th 2014

Rock Crawl Competition

Signage: Various travel information signage will be used along route from the town of Rangely to the competition site. Signs will include directional arrows, mileage or distance remaining and, event identifier (WE Rock rock crawl). All signs will be mounted to corrugated plastic sign boards and use wood stakes for positioning.

Once the travelers are directed to the competition site, there will be signage directing and separating the traffic between vendors to the vendor area, competitors to the competitor parking area (pit) and the spectators to the spectator parking area. There will also be staff on hand directing spectator traffic on the days of the event in the area just before the spectator parking area. Staff will be in identifiable safety vests, and be in radio communication with event Marshall, using FRS family radios on channel 11.

Spectator viewing areas are defined using stringer pennant to separate them from the competition areas. Competitor vehicles travel at no speed greater than 5 mph when moving from the pit area to the competition areas, less than that of normal shopping center parking lots, in addition the vehicles move about with a spotter to make sure those around the vehicle are safe.

All staff will be assigned FRS radios; all staff will have personal cell phones with the Event Marshalls phone number. There will be a Public Address system utilized during the event to inform competitors, spectators and staff of happenings during all event hours. Each of the competition areas (7 within the area marked on the map) will be staffed with at least 2 "judges" who will be in charge of competitors while on course. Crowd control staffer's (7 to 12) will be in the spectator areas around the competition courses.

Local Law enforcement has been contacted as to the intent of WEROCK to secure this event on the proposed dates. Once the permit has been granted, both the local Police Department and the Sheriff's department will be notified again of any needs, expectations, etc.

WEROCK has been in contact with the local EMS Office and has forwarded the contact info to the WEROCK staff EMS Officer for the two to work out details of the event. Local Ambulance will be used in case of non-life threatening emergencies, while air-evac will be used in case of life threatening emergencies, this will be determined by a combination of WEROCK staff EMS and Local EMS staff. WEROCK EMS staff consists of at least 1 Paramedic and 2 EMT First responders.

Safety Plan:

WEROCK EMS Staff; 1 paramedic (Colorado State Certified), 2 EMT First Responders (Colorado State Certified).

Emergency Equipment on hand: Including but not limited to, Back Board, neck and spine immobilization devices, advanced medical treatment bags. Ambulance will be on stand-by for transportation if needed.

Pit area will be off to one side of the event area, a 5 mph speed limited is enforced by the event Marshall in the pit at all times (punishment is DQ from the event). Vehicles move from pit to competition area with a spotter to make sure anyone around is safe and aware of the moving vehicle. (this is not a race, no vehicles are moving at more than 5mph)

If there is a rollover or accident on the comp course, the team has the right to try and up right the vehicle to complete the run, staff will determine if the driver is safe to continue the course. If the driver is injured the WEROCK EMS staff will deal with the situation as needed. If evacuation is needed the Paramedic or the Event Marshall will call 911. Only 1 vehicle is allowed on any one course at a time. Being that the event site is only a few minutes from town response time for an ambulance if needed should be less than 10mins in each direction.

A drivers meeting (briefing will be held at 9am on Saturday April 26th, this one hour before the start of the competition. The meeting will include and address event rules, Park rules, and safety guidelines. BLM Staff is encouraged to attend.

WEROCK for 13 years has encouraged spectators to tour the pit area, again this is not a race but a trials competition where speed is not an issue. Our sport is built around technical CRAWLING of the vehicles and creating FANS of our spectators. In 13 years and nearly 200 events we have never had a spectator vs vehicle accident, again this is not a race where speed is an issue.

Spectators are kept at a minimum of 20 feet from the competition vehicles while on course, in a possible rollover area the distance will be greater (distance dependent on the course and terrain.)

Courses are surrounded by Stringer pennant that defines the comp courses, there will be a pole sign with the course number on it, inside the comp course area the route is laid out using numbered cones to determine course flow. Larger cones identify the start and finish of each course. No course should be greater than about ¼ of an acre in size. In most cases the entire comp area is under 5 acres.

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DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: W.E. Rock-Rock Crawling Event

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0015-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0015-CX, authorizing the issuance of a Special Recreation Permit to Rich Klein for the purposes of conducting a two-day competitive rock event and associated other activities within the Rangely Rock Crawling Park.

Mitigation Measures

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the applicant must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM informed the public about this project by listing it on the online WRFO NEPA Register on January 14, 2014 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, H1. 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 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

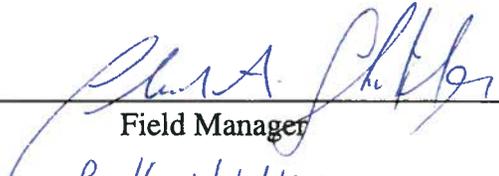
ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Process for Appeals

An appeal is an opportunity for a qualified party to obtain a review of a BLM decision by an independent board of Administrative judges within the Department of Interior’s Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). The IBLA determines whether the BLM followed applicable laws and regulations, adhered to established policies and procedures, and considered relevant information in reaching a decision.

Individuals, who believe they are adversely affected by a BLM decision to deny, modify or cancel a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) may appeal the decision. Appeals are made to the IBLA under Title 43 C.F.R., Part 4, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. §4.411. A person who wishes to appeal to the IBLA must file in the office of the officer who made the decision a notice that he wishes to appeal. “Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals” is enclosed for your convenience.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager
for Kent Walter

DATE SIGNED:

02/20/2014

