

Introduction

Identifying Information:

Title, EA number, and type of project:

Laughlin Races in the Year Round racing Area

DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2016-0019-EA

Location of Proposed Action:

Laughlin Events park area (see map in Appendix A)

T.32.S, R.66.E, Sections 7, 8, 9,10,11,14,15,16,17

Name and Location of Preparing Office:

Lead Office - Las Vegas Field Office (LVFO) and number LLNVS01000

Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number:

N/A

Applicant Name:

Bureau of Land Management LVFO Recreation

Purpose and Need for Action:

In accordance with FLPMA (Section 302(b)), public lands are to be managed for multiple uses that take into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is authorized to grant Special Recreation Permits (SRP) on public lands. It is the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) responsibility under the Act of Congress of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388), the Act of Congress approved August 4, 1939 (53 Stat. 1187), Section 10, and 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 429 to respond to a request for Rights of Use (ROU) authorization on Reclamation-administered federal lands. Taking into account the BLM's multiple use mandate and Reclamation's responsibility to respond to ROU requests, the purpose and need for the proposed action is to respond to meet the demand for SRP applications on BLM and Reclamation managed land in Clark County in compliance with FLPMA, BLM SRP regulations, and other applicable Federal laws and policies. The BLM and Reclamation will decide whether to deny or grant the SRP and ROU. The BLM and Reclamation may include any terms, conditions, and stipulations they determine to be in the public interest, and may include modifying the proposed use or changing the route or location of the proposed activity(43 CFR 2930, 43 CFR 429). In the decision process, the BLM must consider how the BLM's resource management goals, objectives, opportunities, and/or conflicts relate to this non-federal use of public lands.

Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:

Internal scoping was done for the project and the following concerns were raised (Affected Resources Form, Appendix B):

- Permission would have to be obtained from private land owners affected by the race prior to issuance of the special recreation permit;
- Ensure that the race stays at least a quarter mile away from springs and other perennial waters to protect riparian areas;
- Concurrence/permission is received by Clark County, NV, and Clark County Law enforcement--METRO;
- Concurrence/permission from Laughlin High School which will act as a spectator area;
- Two-toned and rosy two-toned Penstemon (Penstemon bicolor and Penstemon bicolor ssp. roseus) are BLM sensitive species and concentrations are known along the proposed course;
- Discourage the spread of noxious weeds; and
- The course is located in Low Density desert tortoise habitat, a federally listed threatened species.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

Description of the Proposed Action:

This Environmental Assessment (EA) will analyze impacts of multiple high-speed truck/buggy/UTV events that occur throughout the year on BLM and Reclamation administered lands. The BLM is the lead federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act, and Endangered Species Act. Reclamation is a cooperating agency with the BLM for preparation of this EA. Laughlin based high-speed truck/buggy/UTV events have been occurring since the mid-1990s. These events are a main stay to the Laughlin business/resort community.

From 2006 through 2009 the events were not permitted by the BLM LVFO. This was done in error because the event was limited to a 5–6 mile loop all within Recreation and Public Purpose Leases (R&PP) (N 46521, N 36589, N 37132, N 61968, N 50460, N 30016 and N 30016–1 all issued to Clark County). In 2009, it was determined that the BLM must permit commercial/competitive events on R&PP leased lands.

In 2009 the BLM LVFO received a proposal for a new event in the Laughlin area using the existing course within the R&PP leased lands adding course to the west and crossing the Needles By-Pass Road (State Route -162). This event was promoted by Southern Nevada Off Road Enthusiasts (SNORE) and was named the “Rage at the River,” (RAR). The 2009 December RAR was a 12.7 mile course using the same Start/Finish and staging–pit area in the R&PP leased parcel referred to as the “Laughlin Events Park” (LEP). The Laughlin Tourism Commission (LTC) assisted the establishment of the 2009 RAR and they took a more active role in the 2010 RAR, by establishing designated spectators areas for the events.

The proposed location of these events is low density tortoise habitat. Also, the area is identified as a disposal area in the BLM’s October 1998 Resource Management Plan (RMP) Record of Decision (ROD). The LEP over the years has been established and graded and modified to allow for these events to occur. The LEP is R&PP N 46521 and is held by Clark County Parks and Recreation for a proposed 320 acres “Regional Park”. Reclamation established a long term lease agreement with Clark County for approximately 600 acres just north of N 46521 and the area just above Laughlin High School. As long as these proposals are not being pursued by Clark County and the promoters of these high speed events want to continue with the support of the Laughlin community and others, BLM and Reclamation have determined that this location is an appropriate venue for the events.

The BLM LVFO and Reclamation propose to continue to manage and permit the events for up to five years under this EA. The EA would be examined each year to determine if the actions and impacts remain the same. BLM and Reclamation would issue their own permits for the events. The BLM would serve as the supervising authority for the races on both BLM and Reclamation land and would coordinate with Reclamation on the events. New permits would be prepared each year by BLM and Reclamation for each event promoter. These permits would contain both standard and special stipulations to minimize environmental impacts and outline the parameters for use of the area.

This EA will also analyze 4.21 acres of new routes as depicted on the map in Appendix A.

The BLM and Reclamation are proposing to allow multiple high-speed truck/buggy/UTV events in an area located just west of the town of Laughlin, Nevada. Map 1 shows the proposed existing

and new course. In order for these events to occur, the BLM must issue a SRP and Reclamation would issue a ROU authorization. The event promoter would be responsible for adhering to the stipulations of the permits (Appendix C) and terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion for each event. There are expected to be approximately 400 participant vehicles or racing teams for the events. In addition to the participants, it is expected there will be approximately 5000 — 10,000 spectators at the “Laughlin Events Park” spectator areas. Adequate parking for the spectators will be available at these areas, and on previously disturbed lands on the South West corner of Thomas Edison and Bruce Woodbury Drive. The event proponent will be expected to provide an operations plan and a site management plan for each event. The course will range from between 6 and 16 miles long depending on the configuration of routes used, of which up to 1.8 miles traverses Reclamation lands, up to ½ mile of private land and the remaining miles are on BLM administered lands.

The course would include up to 16 check points in addition to the locations where the course intersects pits and roads, including the Needles Bypass Highway, Nevada State Route 162. Course workers/teams, will be stationed at each of these locations as well as the Start/Finish, staging area, and in the hot pit. A check point is a location where a race monitor(s) logs vehicle numbers and times through that particular point on the race course. Equipment at the check points usually consists of one to two vehicles and up to six personnel, chairs and a small shade structure or a small pop-up trailer located along the side of the race course.

The pit area has been used for the same purpose in past OHV events. These pits will not exceed the areas that have been previously disturbed. The S/F, main pit and staging area are located in an area that is commonly referred to as LEP and have been used for other OHV events, rodeo events, concerts, and by the people of Laughlin for general OHV play. This site is located in T.32S, R.66E, and the NE ¼ of section 14. The S/F, pit and staging area is in an area that is about 60 acres of previously disturbed land on BLM lands. Activities in the pit areas include breakdown repairs and refueling. The spectator areas, for events are within the LEP.

It is anticipated that vendors will be present at the events. Vendors will be allowed by permit only in the Main Pit and spectator areas on previously disturbed lands

Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail:

Under the no action alternative, off-highway vehicle events/races would not be held.

Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

No additional alternatives were considered for this proposal.

Conformance

The proposed action has been reviewed for and found to be in conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3). The action conforms to the Las Vegas RMP, signed October 1998, Objective RC-8, RC-8—a-b-c, page 23 for the Laughlin Special Recreation Management Area.

The statutory authorities underlying the regulations in this part are the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., and the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act, 16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq. (a) The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) contains the BLM's general land use management authority over the public lands, and establishes outdoor recreation as one of the principal uses of those lands (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(8)). Section 302(b) of FLPMA directs the Secretary of the Interior to regulate through permits or other

instruments the use of the public lands, which includes commercial recreation use. Section 303 of FLPMA authorizes the BLM to promulgate and enforce regulations, and establishes the penalties for violations of the regulations. (b) The Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) authorizes the BLM to collect fees for recreational use in areas meeting certain criteria (16 U.S.C. 6802(f) and (g)(2)), and to issue special recreation permits for group activities and recreation events (16 U.S.C. 6802(h)). (c) 18 U.S.C. 3571 and 3581 et seq. establish sentences of fines and imprisonment for violation of regulations. [72 FR 7836, Feb. 21, 2007]

The proposed action is also consistent with Reclamation's authorities and 43 CFR 429.

Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

Resource #1

Minerals

Affected Environment

Mineral materials within the project area are public property and administered by the BLM under the regulations at 43 CFR 3600 (Mineral Materials Disposal) and the Federal Aid to Highway Act. Mineral materials are authorized for disposal by the Las Vegas RMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement (October, 1998). The regulations at 43 CFR 3600 establish procedures for the exploration, development, and disposal of mineral material resources on the public lands, and for the protection of the resources and the environment. The regulations apply to free use permits and contracts for sale of mineral materials. The sale, free use or issuance of a material site right-of-way for mineral materials must be in conformance with the RMP, Minerals Management Section (Code MN), the Federal Aid to Highway Act and the regulations found at 43 CFR 3600. Any mineral materials extracted, severed or removed from public lands without a contract, free use permit or material site right-of-way constitutes unauthorized use. Unauthorized users are liable for damages to the United States, and are subject to prosecution for such unlawful acts.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, high speed truck, buggy, or UTV events racing would not be permitted under the programmatic EA and resources in the area would continue to be subject to existing conditions. Because the proposed courses are located on existing roads and trails crossing BLM and Reclamation lands, the course routes would remain available for casual recreational use.

If the Proposed Action were not approved, special recreation permit applications for individual race events could be considered on the existing courses on a case by case basis. Those events would likely result in impacts to resources similar to those described under the Proposed Action.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

The proposed action where it crosses BLM administered lands has potential to produce excess mineral materials. These mineral materials will need to be used within the right-of-way or stockpiled within the right-of-way for future use at this or another location. If mineral materials are to be stockpiled within the right-of-way for future use, they must be obtained in accordance with the regulations found at 43 CFR 3600 or under the Federal Aid to Highways Act in the form of a contract, free use permit or material site right-of-way before they can be removed from the right-of-way.

If a contract, free use permit or material site right-of-way is necessary for the export of excess mineral materials, the BLM will issue the required contract, free use permit or material site right-of-way so long as it falls within the analyzed area.

Mitigation Measures

1. The proponent is responsible for ensuring that participants in the event and spectators do not enter any mine sites provided in the list of mining operators.

2. The proponent will allow mine personal through road closures so that they may access their mine sites during the race event, however, the race proponent will not allow dump trucks, haul trucks, heavy equipment, etc. to cross the road closers during the race.

Resource #2

Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFWS Designated Species

Affected Environment

Wildlife

The proposed project area supports and is adjacent to lands that support wildlife characteristic of the Mojave Desert. Biological diversity varies according to topography, plant community, and proximity to water, soil type, and season. Wildlife species in the general area include small mammals, rodents, birds and reptiles. For a comprehensive discussion of potential wildlife species that may be present, refer to the most recent Resource Management Plan for the BLM Southern Nevada District.

BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species

BLM sensitive species are species that require special management consideration to avoid potential future listing under ESA and that have been identified in accordance with procedures set forth in BLM Manual 6840 – Special Status Species. A complete list of BLM sensitive species within the area can be found in the Resource Management Plan. Many of these species as well as other wildlife species of concern are also discussed in the Nevada State Wildlife Action Plan (NDOW 2012) and the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Sensitive bird species are also provided protection by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and thus are discussed in the Migratory Bird Section. The following sensitive species could potentially be impacted by the proposed action:

Western chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*)

The western chuckwalla is a BLM sensitive species that is found throughout the deserts of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Chuckwallas inhabit rocky outcrops where cover is available between boulders or in rock crevices, typically on slopes and open flats below 5,000 feet. Typical habitat includes rocky hillsides and talus slopes, boulder piles, lava bed, or other clusters of rock, usually in association Mojave Desert Shrub vegetation. This species requires shady, well-drained soils for nests. The chuckwalla is a widespread species, but is regionally limited by its requirement for rock outcrops. Chuckwallas likely occur within the project area, but would be localized on rock outcroppings.

Banded Gila monster (*Heloderma suspectum*)

The Gila monster is a large, heavy-bodied lizard with a massive head, a short thick tail, and short limbs with strong claws. It has flamboyant dorsal coloration of black and pink, orange, or yellow and occasionally exceeds 50 centimeters (19.7 inches) in total length. The Gila monster's range includes extreme southwestern Utah, southern Nevada, and adjacent southeastern California south through southern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and much of Sonora to Sinaloa, Mexico. Its habitat includes Mojave and Sonoran desert scrub, desert grassland, thorn scrub, and occasionally pine-oak woodland. Threats to this reptile include illegal collection, traffic fatalities, and most severe is habitat destruction from urban and agricultural development.

Mojave shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis occipitalis occipitalis*)

The Mojave shovel-nosed snake is a burrowing, nocturnal snake frequenting washes, dunes, sandy flats, loose soil and rocky hillsides in sandy gullies or pockets among the rocks throughout the Mojave Desert.

Desert glossy snake (*Arizona elegans eburnata*)

The desert glossy snake is a burrowing, nocturnal snake that occurs in a variety of habitat throughout the Mojave Desert including light shrubby to barren desert, glasslands and woodlands. The desert glossy snake generally prefers open areas where the ground is sandy to loamy.

Mojave Desert Sidewinder (*Crotalus cerastes cerastes*)

The Mojave Desert sidewinder is a nocturnal snake hiding in the day in animal burrows or coiled camouflaged in a shallow self-made pit at the base of a shrub. This species is most common where there are sand hummocks topped with creosote bushes, mesquite, or other desert plants but may also occur on flats, barren dunes, hardpan, and rocky hillsides.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, high speed truck, buggy, or UTV events racing would not be permitted under the programmatic EA and resources in the area would continue to be subject to existing conditions. Because the proposed courses are located on existing roads and trails crossing BLM and Reclamation lands, the course routes would remain available for casual recreational use.

If the Proposed Action were not approved, special recreation permit applications for individual race events could be considered on the existing courses on a case by case basis. Those events would likely result in impacts to resources similar to those described under the Proposed Action.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Wildlife species would be displaced as 4.21 acres (1.15 miles of 30' wide course) of habitat are disturbed within the race course area and as high-speed OHV race events occur throughout the course of any given year. The primary direct impacts of the proposed action on wildlife would be killing or maiming of ground dwelling animals during construction and racing; displacement of individuals during construction; the permanent loss and fragmentation of habitat resulting from construction of new race course; increased potential for harassment of wildlife resulting from increase in visitors and participants during races; and increased noise during construction of new course and during races. Indirect impacts could include the introduction and spread of weeds and increased erosion potential. Wildlife species in the general area are common and widely distributed throughout the area and the loss of some individuals and/or their habitat should have a negligible impact on populations of the species throughout the region.

BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species

Impacts to BLM sensitive species are not anticipated to lead to further decline of the species range-wide. Any impacts to sensitive species would be avoided and/or minimized through the special stipulations provided below.

Western chuckwalla & Banded Gila monster

The proposed project area encompasses suitable habitat for western chuckwalla and banded Gila monster. Individuals may be killed or injured if they wander onto the race course. This impact is a greater risk for high speed events as chuckwallas and/or Gila monsters in the road would not likely be seen and avoided by race participants due to high speeds and dust. As proposed, impacts to the species could occur November through February, when these species are less active. If a banded Gila monster or chuckwalla is observed on the road or adjacent to it should be avoided to the extent practical and allowed to leave on its own accord without harassment.

Additionally, during construction of new course:

1. Any Gila monster encounters during project construction must be reported immediately to the Nevada Division of Wildlife at (702) 486-5127.
2. Injuries to Gila monsters may occur during excavation, road-grading, or other construction or maintenance activities. In the event a Gila monster is injured, it should be transferred by an authorized biologist to a veterinarian proficient in reptile medicine for evaluation of appropriate treatment. Rehabilitation or euthanasia expenses will not be covered by NDOW. However, NDOW will be immediately notified during normal business hours. If an animal is killed or found dead, the biologist will immediately freeze carcass and transfer it to NDOW with a complete written description of situation circumstances, habitat, and mapped location.
3. Should NDOW be delayed to assist, biological personnel on site may be requested to remove and release the Gila monster out of harm's way. Should NDOW not be immediately available to respond for photo-documentation, a 35mm camera will be used to take good quality photographs of the Gila monster in situ at the location of live encounter or dead salvage. The pictures, preferably on slide film, will be provided to NDOW and will include:
 - Encounter location (landscape overview with Gila monster in clear view)
 - A clear overhead shot of the entire body with a ruler next to it for scale (Gila monster should fill camera's field of view)
 - A clear, overhead close-up of the head (head should fill camera's field of view)

Mojave shovel-nosed snake, Mojave Desert Sidewinder, Desert glossy snake

The above listed snake species are mainly nocturnal. The primary direct impact of the proposed action on the species would be killing of maiming of individuals present on the event course. As the proposed action includes night tours, there is increased potential for mortality of these species. This impact is a greater risk for high speed events as snakes in the road would be less likely observed and avoided due to high speeds and dust. If any snake species is observed in or adjacent to the course, it should be avoided to the extent practical and allowed to leave on its own accord without harassment.

Cumulative Effects

Fish and Wildlife

Off-road vehicle races may increase other OHV traffic when races are not occurring and increase the potential for direct and indirect effects on sensitive species, as well as the degradation of potential habitat, particularly during non-regulated racing events. Other types of recreation may increase as a result of bringing more people into the project area, including target shooting,

hiking, casual OHV recreation, and camping. Any increase in human activities in the project area would increase the potential for impacts to sensitive species through intentional or unintentional killing, degradation of habitat, spread of weeds, and increase in the risks of wildfires, vandalism, and trash dumping, and poaching. Under current conditions, effects associated with the proposed race would occur in a small portion of the overall habitat available for sensitive species and State of Nevada and BLM land use restrictions should reduce or mitigate potential cumulative effects to species associated with the race.

Resource #3

Migratory Birds

Affected Environment

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703 et. seq.) protects migratory birds and their nests. A list of MBTA protected birds are found in 50 C.F.R. 10.13. The list of birds protected under this regulation is extensive and the project area has potential to support many of these species, including BLM sensitive species, and their nests. Typically, the breeding season is when these species are most sensitive to disturbance, which generally occurs from February 15th through August 31st. The following sensitive bird species could potentially be impacted by the proposed action:

Western burrowing owl (*Athene cuniculari hypugaea*)

The Western burrowing owl is a diurnal bird of prey specialized for grassland and shrubsteppe habitats in western North America. The owls are widely distributed throughout the Americas and can be found from central Alberta, Canada to Tierra del Fuego in South America. Burrowing owl habitat typically consists of open, dry, treeless areas on plains, prairies, and desert floors. Burrowing owls most frequently use mammal burrows created by animals such as prairie dogs (*Cynomys spp.*), ground squirrels (*Spermophilus spp.*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*) or desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*). The burrows are used for nesting, roosting, cover, and caching prey. In recent decades, the range and species count have been declining primarily due to agricultural, industrial, and urban development that reduce burrow availability.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, high speed truck, buggy, or UTV events racing would not be permitted under the programmatic EA and resources in the area would continue to be subject to existing conditions. Because the proposed courses are located on existing roads and trails crossing BLM and Reclamation lands, the course routes would remain available for casual recreational use.

If the Proposed Action were not approved, special recreation permit applications for individual race events could be considered on the existing courses on a case by case basis. Those events would likely result in impacts to resources similar to those described under the Proposed Action.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Migratory birds in the project area may be disturbed and/or displaced as 4.21 acres (1.15 miles of 30' wide course) of habitat are disturbed and/or noise is generated by course construction, course maintenance and race vehicles. Depending on the time of year for construction, maintenance, and racing, there is the potential to disturb nesting birds within or immediately adjacent to the proposed action. The proponent must comply with the MBTA and avoid potential impacts to

protected birds within the project area. **The proponent will be required to adhere to the following mitigation measures:**

1. Habitat-altering projects or portions of projects should be scheduled outside of the bird breeding season which generally occurs between February 15th and August 31st. If a project has to occur during the breeding season, then a qualified biologist must survey the area for nests immediately prior to commencement of construction activities. This shall include burrowing and ground nesting species in addition to those nesting in vegetation. If any active nests are found, an appropriately-sized buffer area must be established and maintained until the young birds fledge. The buffer area must connect to suitable, undisturbed habitat. As the above dates are a general guideline, if active nest are observed outside this range they are to be avoided as described above.

Western burrowing owl

The direct impacts of the proposed action on western burrowing owl would be loss of nesting habitat and forage, mortality and harassment of individual animals, and decrease in habitat value of adjacent remaining “wildland” areas due to increased human activity in the area. The species is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Proponents will be required to adhere to above mentioned mitigation measures.

Cumulative Effects

Migratory Birds

Off-road vehicle races may increase other OHV traffic when races are not occurring and increase the potential for direct and indirect effects on migratory birds, as well as the degradation of potential habitat, particularly during non-regulated racing events. Other types of recreation may increase as a result of bringing more people into the project area, including target shooting, hiking, casual OHV recreation, and camping. Any increase in human activities in the project area would increase the potential for impacts to migratory birds through intentional or unintentional killing, degradation of habitat, spread of weeds, and increase in the risks of wildfires, vandalism, and trash dumping, and poaching. Under current conditions, effects associated with the proposed race would occur in a small portion of the overall habitat available for migratory birds and State of Nevada and BLM land use restrictions should reduce or mitigate potential cumulative effects to species associated with the race.

Resource #4

Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate Animal Species and Critical Habitat

Affected Environment

Threatened and endangered species are placed on a federal list by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and receive protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The only federally protected species known to occur in the vicinity of the project area is the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). The proposed project is not within desert tortoise critical habitat.

The Mojave Desert tortoise occurs primarily on flats and bajadas with soils ranging from sand to sandy- gravel. They are also found on rocky terrain and slopes. Tortoises occur in saltbush scrub, creosote scrub, and blackbrush scrub habitat types. Within these vegetation types, desert

tortoises can potentially survive and reproduce provided their basic habitat requirements are met. These requirements include a sufficient amount and quality of forage species; shelter sites for protection from predators and environmental extremes; suitable substrates for burrowing, nesting, and overwintering; various plants for shelter; and adequate area for movement, dispersal, and gene flow.

Historical survey data indicate that the area within and surrounding the proposed race course area varies from very low to moderate density tortoise habitat. During a site visit on 1/22/2016, Mark Slaughter, BLM Wildlife Biologist, and other BLM personnel surveyed four miles of the race course in different sections to take a sample of the course for tortoise occupancy. During this survey, one very old burrow, collapsing and vegetation grown in the entrance, was located. Based on the survey data, and no historical documentation of any tortoise mortalities or any desert tortoise found during any OHV events on the course or pits, BLM concludes that the area is very low density desert tortoise habitat and is suitable for year round racing.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, high speed truck, buggy, or UTV events racing would not be permitted under the programmatic EA and resources in the area would continue to be subject to existing conditions. Because the proposed courses are located on existing roads and trails crossing BLM and Reclamation lands, the course routes would remain available for casual recreational use.

If the Proposed Action were not approved, special recreation permit applications for individual race events could be considered on the existing courses on a case by case basis. Those events would likely result in impacts to resources similar to those described under the Proposed Action.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

The proposed project must comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) for consultation with the USFWS on effects to federally listed species. The proposed action has a may affect, likely to adversely affect determination for the federally threatened desert tortoise and no effect for its designated critical habitat, as the project is outside of this range. The proposed project will have no effect on any other federally protected species or designated critical habitat due to absence of the species and/or habitat.

Potential impacts to tortoise from the proposed action would be similar to those described in the Fish and Wildlife section including loss of 4.21 acres (1.15 miles of 30' wide course) of habitat. If not noticed and avoided during construction of new course; maintenance activities; or races, desert tortoises could be either injured or killed (by crushing) or harassed (by being moved out of harm's way). Additional effects include increased predators; increased human presence leading to death or harm to individuals; increase potential for collection of individuals; increased potential for exposure to hazardous materials/chemicals; and increased potential for spread of weeds.

Indirect effects from noise and vibration from race vehicles passing in close proximity to burrows could cause some tortoises to abandon their burrows and seek out other existing shelters. This would temporarily expose them to additional predators and potentially cause them to seek out additional burrows within their territory that may require them to cross the course, potentially exposing them to vehicle strike.

The BLM has extended coverage under their programmatic Biological Opinion (referenced below in mitigation measure) for Reclamation lands within the project area. BLM remains the lead office for consultation on the action.

Cumulative Effects

T&E, Sensitive Species

Off-road vehicle races may increase other OHV traffic when races are not occurring and increase the potential for direct and indirect effects on desert tortoise and sensitive species, as well as the degradation of potential habitat, particularly during non-regulated racing events. Other types of recreation may increase as a result of bringing more people into the project area, including target shooting, hiking, casual OHV recreation, and camping. Any increase in human activities in the project area would increase the potential for take of desert tortoise and/or other species through intentional or unintentional killing, degradation of habitat, spread of weeds, and increase in the risks of wildfires, vandalism, and trash dumping, and poaching. Under current conditions, effects associated with the proposed race would occur in a small portion of the overall habitat available for desert tortoise and sensitive species and State of Nevada and BLM land use restrictions should reduce or mitigate potential cumulative effects to species associated with the race.

Mitigation Measures

Special Stipulations:

1. Section 7 consultation for SRPs and ROU permits issued under this EA will be covered under the current Programmatic Biological Opinion (84320-2010-F-0365.R003) **contingent on compliance with the terms and conditions**, which have been attached to this EA for desert tortoise. This project will disturb a total of 4.21 acres (1.15 miles of 30' wide course) of tortoise habitat. The proponent will be required to pay remuneration fees of \$3,549.03 based on the current year's rate of \$843/acre of disturbance. Terms and conditions and minimization measures in the above Biological Opinion contain measures to avoid and minimize potential impacts, including take, to desert tortoise (NV-052-16-030).
2. All SRPs and ROU permits covered under this programmatic EA will require additional review (one month in advance) by a BLM Wildlife Biologist to make a permit specific Section 7 determination, provide terms and conditions, to ensure that seasonal restrictions and measures are adhered to, and to comply with tracking and reporting requirements, per the BO.
3. At this time, only the post mortality sweep will be required. If there are any documented mortalities or injuries, a further assessment will be completed prior to the next race, during the active desert tortoise period.

Resource #5

Air Quality

Affected Environment

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the following common air pollutants: ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulates less than less than 2.5 microns and less than 10 microns (PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀), and lead (Pb). They have developed primary and secondary NAAQS for these air pollutants to protect human health and prevent environmental and property damage. High speed off-road events such as those described in the proposed action have the potential to create a short term increase in the particulates PM 2.5 and PM10.

Recent geologic research has identified the potential for naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) minerals in mountain ranges and associated erosion deposits bordering the Colorado River in Southern Nevada. NOA has been detected in the vicinity of the proposed project area.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, high speed truck, buggy, or UTV events racing would not be permitted under the programmatic EA and resources in the area would continue to be subject to existing conditions. Because the proposed courses are located on existing roads and trails crossing BLM and Reclamation lands, the course routes would remain available for casual recreational use.

If the Proposed Action were not approved, special recreation permit applications for individual race events could be considered on the existing courses on a case by case basis. Those events would likely result in impacts to resources similar to those described under the Proposed Action.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

A temporary increase in particulates could result in airborne dust in the vicinity of the racecourse. This impact is expected to be mitigated by compliance with the mitigation measures described below.

The NOA sampling was preliminary and the amount, extent, and potential health risk of the NOA is not known. Currently there are no regulations regarding NOA in Nevada. Although this is not a regulated substance in Nevada, BLM and Reclamation are taking the precaution to impose mitigation to inform the public of its presence.

Cumulative Effects

Air quality impacts would be short term, therefore no cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation Measures

Special Stipulations:

1. The race organizer shall provide the information statement below to race recipients and spectators for their awareness of NOA found in the vicinity of the race course. The information statement shall be provided in writing to each race participant and copies of the written notice shall be available for viewing by spectators at the entrance/exit of spectator areas and at any information tables or booths. The posted text shall be easily legible from a distance of 10 feet. "Recent geologic research has identified the potential for naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) minerals in mountain ranges and associated erosion deposits bordering the Colorado River in Southern Nevada. NOA has been detected in the vicinity of the race course. The NOA sampling was preliminary and the amount, extent, and potential health risk of the NOA is not known. As a precaution, we are informing race participants and spectators of the presence of NOA. More information on NOA can be found at: http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/NOA/docs/Asbestos%20FAQ_ENG_web.pdf" 1.
2. The permittees shall be responsible for compliance with all dust abatement and air quality standards during the event.
3. All race vehicles must remain on the existing race course and spectators must be limited to designated spectator areas.

Resource #6

Socio Economic

Affected Environment

Laughlin is located on the Colorado River in Southern Nevada. Laughlin's population in 2016 is approximately 8,226 and is projected to reach up to 22,000 by 2025. Laughlin's main industry is gaming. There are ten resorts and casinos that directly employ approximately 11,000 regional residents. Those resorts and casinos have also helped create up to 2,000 tourism-related jobs in the area. Historically, about 60% of Laughlin's gross revenues come from the gaming departments of the resorts. In 2006, just over \$615 million in gross gaming revenue and nearly \$112 million in room revenue was recorded (Laughlin Economic Advisory Committee, 2007).

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, high speed truck, buggy, or UTV events racing would not be permitted under the programmatic EA and resources in the area would continue to be subject to existing conditions. Because the proposed courses are located on existing roads and trails crossing BLM and Reclamation lands, the course routes would remain available for casual recreational use.

If the Proposed Action were not approved, special recreation permit applications for individual race events could be considered on the existing courses on a case by case basis. Those events would likely result in impacts to resources similar to those described under the Proposed Action.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action, there would be an increase in spending levels in Laughlin during pre and post event activities. Increased spending on food, fuel, and overnight accommodations would occur. Race participants and spectators may also participate in gaming and entertainment activities. The estimated number of entrants for each event would be up to 400. Entrants would bring along family and support crews for the duration of the event. There could be as many as 5,000 spectators at the Laughlin Events Center for events. Socioeconomic effects would occur in the short term for the duration of events.

Cumulative Effects

Past and present actions in and around Laughlin that have contributed to the Laughlin economy include development, recreation, tourism, and gaming. Most socioeconomic impacts in Laughlin result from tourism and gaming. The Proposed Action is a continuation of the type of organized recreation activities that have contributed to the socioeconomics of the area. Specific information about reasonably foreseeable future actions that may occur in Laughlin is not currently available, precluding a comprehensive analysis of potential cumulative socioeconomic impacts.

The proposed action would not result in population growth, displace population, change employment levels, reduce wage and salary earnings, cause a substantial increase in county expenditures, or create a substantial demand for public service. It is expected that the cumulative socioeconomic effects of the Proposed Action would be beneficial.

Resource #7

Indian Trust Assets

Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in property held in trust by the U.S. for Indian Tribes or individuals. Reclamation's ITA Policy, dated July 2, 1993, requires evaluation of the potential effects of proposed actions on ITAs. Reclamation's ITA Policy defines ITAs as "legal interests in property held in trust by the U.S. for Indian tribes or individuals". ITAs have not been identified in the project area; thus no impact to ITAs is anticipated from the No Action Alternative or the Proposed Action Alternative.

Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:

[Describe consultation efforts here.]

Table 1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 consultation.	Programmatic Biological Opinion (84320-2010-F-0365.R003)
Bureau of Reclamation	Right of Use Authorization	Environmental Assessment

List of Preparers

Aleta Nafus	Weed Management Specialist
Ashley Holcomb	Biologist
Boris Poff	Hydrologist
Christopher Linehan	Outdoor Recreation Planner
James Wilkinson	Geologist
Jimmy Linares	Biologist
Kerri-Anne Thorpe	Realty Specialist
Kirsten Cannon	Public Affairs Specialist
Krystal Johnson	Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
Lisa Christianson	Environmental Protection Specialist
Mark Slaughter	Natural Resource Supervisor
Melanie Cota	Biologist
Nicollee Gaddis	Planning and Environmental Coord.
Sean McEldery	Supervisory Fire Management Specialist
Stanley Plum	Archaeologist
Stephen Leslie	Natural Resources Specialist

MAP

Laughlin Year Round Racing Courses

Legend

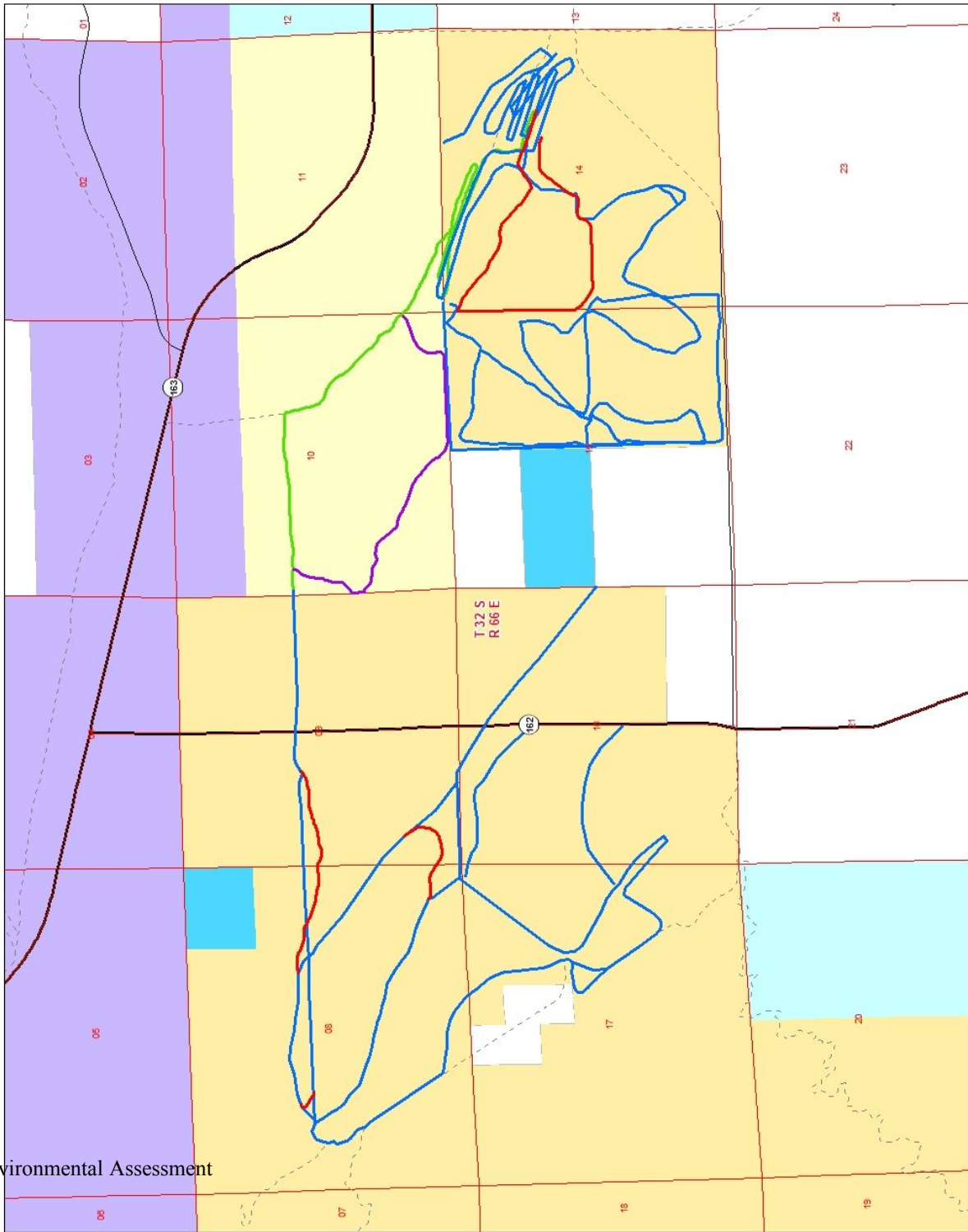
- BOR Optional Course segment
- Laughlin proposed additions
- Laughlin for BO
- BOR PREFERRED ROUTE
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Arterial
- Collector
- Local
- Back Country Byway
- - - Res course
- - - Res tracted

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Clark County, NV
- National Park Service
- Nevada State
- Private



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



Affected Resources Form

Interdisciplinary Team Determination

NP = Not Present. Resource is not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = Present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = Present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in this EA

Table 2. Affected Resources Form

Resource List	Impact	Impact Analysis	Initial Internal Review Complete		Final Review Requested		
			Specialist Digital Signature	Date	Request (X)	Initials	Date
Air Quality	NI	No issues.	Lisa Christianson	01/27/2016			
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	NP	The proposed project area is not within an ACEC.	Jimmy Linares	1/26/2016			
BLM Natural Areas/Conservation Lands	NP/NP	Resources are not present in the project area.	Steve Leslie	12/14/15			
Climate Change/ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	NI	Currently, there are no emission limits for suspected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, for this project, and no technically defensible method for predicting potential climate change contributions from GHG emissions during construction of the proposed action. However, there are, and would continue to be, several efforts to address GHG emissions from federal activities, including BLM authorized uses in future planning documents.	Lisa Christianson	01/27/2016			

Cultural Resources	NP	This is exempt per the Nevada State Protocol Agreement Appendix A.2: "Maintaining, replacing or modifying existing projects, facilities, routes, or programs that do not disturb additional surface area, or historic properties; or where the ground has been previously disturbed to the extent that historic properties could not exist; or where the facility itself is not a historic property." The direct APE has been rased since 2009 and is disturbed to the point of no historic properties existing. No historic properties exist within an indirect APE of one mile of the direct APE.	Stan Plum	12/29/15			
Environmental Justice	NI	The Proposed Action will not adversely or disproportionately impact minority populations, low-income communities, or Tribes (see Section 3.19 and EO 12898, Environmental Justice). No group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group would bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from the proposed action.	Nic-ollee Gaddis	12/18/15			
Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	NP	There are no prime or unique farmland designations in the District.	Nic-ollee Gaddis for Krystal Johnson	12/18/15			
Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species	PI	The project has the potential to impact wildlife species in the area. Carry forward for analysis.	Jimmy Linares	1/26/2016			
Floodplains	PI/NI	Some courses are located in FEMA designated floodplains. Participants must remain on existing/approved roads and trails and will stage in existing disturbed areas. DO NOT ENTER washes or floodplains during rain or shortly before or after precipitation events. No new impacts to floodplains or will not impact downstream flooding if washes and floodplains are used during dry conditions ONLY.	Boris Poff	12/18/15	X		

Fuels/Fire Management	NI	Fire restrictions are generally enacted May through October. Compliance with fire restrictions is mandatory while fire restrictions are in effect. Specific non-compliant activities may be permitted in writing on a case by case basis by a line officer after review and approval by the Fire Management Officer (43 CFR 9212). Conditions that support wildland fire spread can occur any time of the year in Southern Nevada. In general and when fire restrictions are not in effect, use standard fire prevention measures and best management practices to prevent fires.	Aleta Nafus	1/19/16			
Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	NI	There are no active mining claims in the area. However, there is an active mining operation in Section 9. Access to the mining operation will not interfere with the proposed activity. However, the applicant should notify the mining operation of upcoming events due to possible dust and crowd control. If excavation that produces mineral materials within the ROW is necessary, the mineral materials must be used within the ROW or stockpiled on site for disposal by the BLM. If mineral materials are to be stockpiled on site for a future disposal, specific BLM use authorization in the form of a contract, free use permit or material site right-of-way will be necessary before the stockpiled mineral materials can removed from the ROW. Please analyze the stockpiling, future disposal and removal of mineral materials from the site in the NEPA document. Affected Environment, Environmental Effects and Mitigation sections are provided below.					
Hydrologic Conditions	NI	Mostly previously used course. Applicant must stay on designated roads and trails and spectators must be contained within designated spots. Location and size of new disturbance (mostly in wash) will not impact hydrologic conditions of the area.	Boris Poff	12/18/15	X		

Invasive Species/ Noxious Weeds	NI	<p>All disturbance and travel vectors have increased risks of introducing and transporting weeds. Courses and routes for all speed and non-speed events shall be inspected for weeds by recreational staff prior to scheduled events on that particular course. Any areas found to be infested will be marked and will be avoided until the weeds are either eradicated or under control. If weed infestations along courses and routes cannot be avoided or treatments cannot be done to control the weed infestations, then that portion of the course(s) and route(s) will be avoided entirely. All equipment and machinery (this includes the nooks and crannies of undercarriages) will be cleaned using compressed air or water to remove mud, dirt and plant parts before entering or leaving public lands. Pits and staging areas for the use of equipment storage, machine and vehicle parking or any other area needed for the temporary placement of people, machinery and supplies should be located in areas that are relatively weed-free. Travel through weed-infested areas should be avoided or minimized. Standard mitigation measures apply.</p> <p>Proponents have an obligation to report observed site weed infestations to BLM personnel to aid in protecting the resources.</p>	Aleta Nafus	1/19/16			
Lands/Access	NI	As long as the race course does not affect or go through a right-of-way, lease, or communication site area, and as long as this event is held in the same area as previous events, and has been previously analyzed in an EA, there are no issues. If it does affect a ROW, or lease holder, they must be notified of the event and concur with the event (per 43 CFR 2807.14).	Kerri-Anne Thorpe	1/21/16			
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	NP	There are no lands managed for wilderness character in the project area.	Steve Leslie	12/14/15			
Livestock Grazing	NP	The proposed action area is not located in any authorized grazing allotments.	Ashley Holcomb	1/21/16			
Migratory Birds	PI	The project has the potential to impact migratory birds in the area. Carry forward for analysis.	Jimmy Linares	1/26/2016			

Native American Concerns	NI/PI	Pending comments from CRIT, Fort Mojave, and Chemehuevi	Stan Plum	12/29/15			
Paleontology	NP	No paleontological strata will be effected.	Stan Plum	12/29/15			
Rangeland Health Standards	NI	Four fundamentals of rangeland health are listed in Title 43 CFR § 4180.1. These include watersheds, ecological processes, water quality, and habitats. Potential impacts to these values are analyzed as part of the vegetation, hydrology, wildlife and federally listed species sections and are not analyzed in this section.	Ashley Holcomb	1/21/16			
Recreation	NI	Recreationists may be temporarily displaced during the events but no long term impacts are expected.	Chris Linehan	1/26/2016			
Socioeconomics	NI	The Proposed Action would not have a disproportionately high or adverse effect that would place socioeconomic burdens on the citizens of Clark County and nearby cities due to the limited context and intensity of the proposal.	Nicollee Gaddis	12/18/15			
Soils	PI/NI	Mostly previously used course. Participants will remain on designated roads and trails and will stage in mostly disturbed areas. New disturbance is located next to established roads or in washes. DO NOT ENTER washes or floodplains during rain or shortly before or after precipitation events. No significant impacts to soils if races are conducted during dry conditions ONLY.	Boris Poff	12/18/15	X		
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	NP	Based on known locations and habitat requirements, Threatened, Endangered or Candidate plant species are not present.	Mark Slaughter	1/21/16			
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	PI	The project has a may affect, likely to adversely affect determination for the desert tortoise and no effect for its designated critical habitat. Carry forward for analysis.	Mark Slaughter	1/26/2016			
Travel Management	NI	Recreationists may be temporarily displaced during the events but no long term impacts are expected.	Chris Linehan	1/26/2016			
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	NP	Not present, however do include standard stipulations into the al document(s).	Lisa Christianson	01/27/2016			

Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ ground)	PI/NI	Mostly previously used course. Participants will remain on designated roads and trails and will stage in mostly disturbed areas. New disturbance is located next to established roads or in washes. DO NOT ENTER washes or floodplains during rain or shortly before or after precipitation events. No significant impacts to water resources if races are conducted during dry conditions ONLY.	Boris Poff	12/18/15	X		
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	NP	There are no wetlands/riparian zones present in the project area.	Boris Poff	12/18/15			
Wild and Scenic Rivers	NI	The proposed activity is near the Hiko Spring eligible WSR segment however the proposed activity will not affect the segment.	Chris Linehan	1/26/2016			
Wilderness/WSA	NP/NP	Resources are not present in the project area.	Steve Leslie	12/14/15			
Woodland / Forestry	NI	Cactus and yucca are considered government property and regulated under the BLM Nevada forestry program. Cactus and yucca may be present within the project impact area. To the extent practical, cacti and yucca within the project area should be avoided by this action. Any cactus and yucca that cannot be avoided must be disposed of in an off-site trash receptacle. Due to the low density of yucca and cactus at the project site, if cactus and yucca are unable to be avoided the overall impacts would be considered negligible.	Ashley Holcomb	1/21/16			
Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species	NI	Minor impacts (reduced survival and recruitment) to individual plants expected to result from new course construction, existing road widening, and soil compaction. Continued use of the roads and trails is likely to contribute in a cumulative manner to reduced long-term regeneration of the local vegetation community. The vegetation community affected, is widespread, common, and would not be threatened by the proposed action. There are no known occurrences of BLM sensitive species within the project area. Therefore no impacts to BLM sensitive species are expected.	Ashley Holcomb	1/21/16			

Visual Resources	NI	<p>The proposed action is located on lands in Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) Class II in a landscape that is modified by existing motorized race course. The proposed action would result in ephemeral modifications to the characteristic landscape while racers and spectators are present, but would not contribute to long-term changes in the VRI class.</p> <p>The proposed action is also located in VRM Class III. The objective of VRM Class III is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be moderate. Management activities may attract the attention but shall not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes shall repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. Since the proposed action would be located on existing race motorized race course, it would not result in changes to the characteristic landscape. The proposed action would dominate the view of the casual observer in the very short term while events are being held. Although the proposed action may be in short term conflict with VRM Class III objectives, Class III objectives would be met in the long term following the completion of events.</p>	Steve Leslie	12/14/15			
Wild Horses and Burros	NP	The proposed courses are not located in an active herd management area, there will be no impacts to wild horses or burros.	Krystal Johnson	12/23/2015			

Stipulations

Stipulations specific to individual locations or specific activities may be added in addition to these stipulations at the discretion of the Authorized Officer.

Critical standards are stipulations and requirements necessary for the health and welfare of the public and protection of resources. A breach of critical standards can lead directly to administrative penalties, suspension or revocation of a permit.

Standard Stipulations:

1. The permittee shall provide a copy of insurance showing the “US Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management” as additionally insured 10 business days prior to the event. Permittee must notify the authorized officer for the BLM 30 days prior to modification or termination of this insurance. The insurance must match the time period for the permitted event and the name of insured must match the name on the permit. The insurance must meet or exceed minimum coverage. The permittee must receive in writing from the BLM that the insurance is sufficient.
2. The permittee shall not block or close roads or trails unless specifically authorized by this permit.
3. The permittee shall pay the United States for any damage to its property resulting from this use.
4. The permittee shall immediately notify the authorized officer of address changes, changes of points of contact or contact information.
5. The permittee will provide the BLM with an agreed upon space to provide interpretation and to conduct event and visitor use surveys.
6. The permittee shall not disturb archeological and historical values, including, but not limited to, petroglyphs, ruins, historic buildings, and artifacts. Any hidden cultural values uncovered through authorized operations shall be left in place and reported to the BLM.
7. The permittee shall monitor all aspects of the event and all conditions affecting public safety.
8. The permittee shall ensure any aircraft operations will be outlined in the operations plan and be in conformance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Clark County Department of Aviation (CCDOA) regulations and policies.
9. The permittee shall post warning signs, at all known mine shafts and other hazardous areas which occur within 100 feet of the event course or pit/spectator area and will inform event participants of all hazards with pre-event notices such as the event website, participant registration packets and at any mandatory meetings.
10. The permittee shall follow the BLM approved operations plan and follow through with any commitments made to outside entities and/or agencies.

Race Details:

11. The permittee shall inform individuals (including minors) accompanying event participants that ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles, unless authorized through the

Authorized Officer, are not to be driven in the open desert, in pits, on roads or on trails before, during, or after race events. Failure to comply may result in disqualification of the participant.

12. The permittee shall ensure race vehicles operate only in the designated pit areas, approved race course or authorized retrieval routes.
13. The permittee shall not allow race support crews to repair a disabled race vehicle outside of an authorized pit area or in the parking area.
14. The permittee shall only allow retrieval vehicles to travel on existing routes that have been identified and approved in the event operations plan. Retrieval shall occur only by staff identified to the BLM in the mandatory staff meeting, EMTs, BLM employees, or the permittee. Retrieval on an active race course shall occur only after a flagger is in place. If participants cannot be reached by traveling on the approved routes, the retrieval vehicle will not travel to the disabled vehicle and/or participants. Race participants will need to wait until the race has concluded. Retrieval of disabled vehicles after the event has been concluded must be done via the approved course or retrieval routes. Under no circumstance may new disturbance be created to retrieve a disabled vehicle.
15. The permittee shall require each race team supply assign a team captain at registration. The team captain will be responsible for their team and ensure all rules and regulations are followed. The team captain will sign a statement that he or she has read and understands said rules, regulations, stipulations, etc. and will ensure the team adheres to the same.
16. Starting Interval will not exceed 25 at a time every 30 seconds for each class and each race.

Race Course Stipulations:

17. The permittee shall prevent damage from participants traveling off course; and shall establish course checkpoints to prevent course cutting. The permittee will be responsible for keeping participants on the designated course.
18. The permittee shall build chicanes and at least four turns at the beginning of the race to ensure competitors do not trample vegetation.
19. The permittee shall clearly define and plainly mark the area/course as shown on the authorized use area maps. The permittee will not mark the course or hazards by painting rocks or plants or other land features. The course, pits and spectator areas will be marked by permittee staff only, not by participants.
20. Widening of the course is not allowed; passing shall be limited to areas of the authorized course four feet or wider.
21. The permittee shall schedule a time to preview the course with a BLM representative, before any event activities to ensure that the course, all facilities, pits, staging areas, road crossings, temporary closure control points and spectator areas are properly marked as approved.

Permittee Staff:

22. The permittee shall provide a BLM liaison who will accompany and/or be available to BLM staff for the entirety of each event. The BLM liaison must have the authority to act on any aspect of the event.

23. The permittee shall require event personnel (volunteer or paid) to be on site at designated positions a minimum of 60 minutes prior to the start of the event. The permittee shall have standby personnel for situations when a position needs to be filled.
24. The permittee shall require a mandatory meeting for event personnel. The meeting will take place at a time mutually agreed upon by BLM and the permittee prior to the event. At the meeting the permittee will be responsible for reviewing the rules, procedures, safety plans and stipulations. Event personnel shall sign in at the meeting, provide a contact method during the event, and describe their role on the sign in sheet. The permittee shall provide the BLM a copy of this sign in sheet.
25. The permittee shall ensure event personnel do the following:
 - Wear reflective vests and maintain a means for 2-way communication.
 - Conduct a personnel check in with event control at the start and end of the event.
 - Are ready for duty. The permittee shall replace any personnel who is intoxicated.
 - Perform duties only of their assigned position and not participate in any other activity that takes them away from their assigned duty. (i.e. pitting for a race team)
 - Remain in their designated positions and perform their duty until the conclusion of that day's racing activities, or a time agreed upon by the BLM.

Pit Area:

26. The permittee shall not allow anyone to consume alcohol within any pit area from the start of the event until completion of that day's racing activity. Anyone found or suspected of being intoxicated or under the influence must be denied entry or asked to leave the pits (main or alternate). The permittee shall have event personnel monitoring and enforcing rules and regulations at each pit area.
27. The general public will be allowed only in designated spectator areas identified in the approved operations plan. The permittee shall require all people who are authorized in the pits to wear event bracelets. These bracelets shall identify the team or driver number.
28. The permittee shall manage all pits/staging areas as approved within the event operations plan. The permittee shall ensure all pets are leashed in the staging and pit areas.

Hot Pit Area:

29. The permittee shall work with BLM staff to create a hot pit area. The permittee will mark and sign the hot pit area and have an event personnel at the hot pit to ensure only team members are in the designated area. Team members and event personnel shall wear safety vests and have fire extinguishers on site.
30. The permittee shall ensure no pets, children under the age of fourteen, campfires, campstoves, or barbecues are in the hot pits. The permittee shall also ensure no smoking or welding occurs while fueling or working around fuel containers.

Spectator Area:

31. The permittee shall manage the spectator area as outlined in the approved operations plan. The permittee shall ensure spectators remain within the boundaries of the approved spectator area(s). The permittee shall post signs at the entrance to the spectator area(s) with the rules and regulations for the event. The permittee shall have event personnel monitoring and enforcing rules and regulations at each spectator area.
32. The permittee shall enclose spectator areas with a barrier approved by the Authorized Officer.

Sanitation:

33. The permittee shall provide a sufficient number of restrooms to support the estimated number of individuals that will be at each start/finish area, pit location and/or spectator area on public lands. All temporary restroom facilities must be staked down to prevent toppling from high winds and must be removed from area within 48 hours after the event. Specific restroom stationing and numbers will be identified in the approved operations plan. At a minimum, the permittee shall provide one toilet per every 50 people. The permittee shall ensure these toilets are pumped every day during the event.
34. The permittee shall provide trash receptacles. The permittee shall remove all event related trash within 48 hours from the conclusion of the event. The number and placement of trash will be approved via the operation plan.

Medical Attention:

35. The permittee shall provide emergency medical services (EMS), capable of locating, rendering aid to and evacuating any accident victim(s). The permittee shall provide a medical plan that identifies the provisions of EMS.

Fuel and Fluids Management:

36. The permittee shall be responsible for clean-up and assumes liability for any and all releases of hazardous substances by event participants on public land including but not limited to, gasoline, diesel fuel, antifreeze, oil, and solvents. Event participants include all event personnel, race participants, pit crews, spectators and vendors covered by the permittee. Permittee will immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any and all releases of hazardous substances on public land.
37. All vehicles will be inspected by the permittee for fluid leaks, and any vehicle leaking fluids will be disqualified from the race. Any fuel or hazardous waste leaks or spills will be contained immediately and cleaned up at the time of occurrence. Contaminated soil will be removed and disposed of at an appropriate facility.
38. The permittee shall provide a method of controlling and capturing all fuel. At a minimum this requires an impermeable membrane with raised edges capable of containing any fuel spilled during fueling or storage. Absorbent materials (commercially produced spill pads, diapers) must be available to soak up spilled fuels. This does not apply to fuel located within fuel trucks or fuel drums not in use and stored in trucks or trailers. Empty fuel containers must be stored in trucks or trailers. The permittee shall provide a method of controlling and capturing fluids (oil, transmission, etc.) during vehicle maintenance and repairs. All fluids must be contained in spill proof containers. At a minimum this requires an impermeable membrane with raised edges capable of containing any fluid spilled during maintenance or

storage. Absorbent materials (commercially produced spill pads, diapers) must be available to soak up spilled fluids.

Safety and Hazard Mitigation for High Speed Events:

39. The permittee is to ensure participants and spectators safety by not starting races until spectators are a safe distance from the course.
40. The permittee shall conduct an organized, mandatory driver's meeting limited to Government Officials, Event Officials, Driver of Record, Co-Driver and Team Captain. Rules and regulations will also be provided on the permittee's event website and delivered in the driver/team captain race registration packet. All critical information for the event will be discussed during this meeting. If a driver/team is not present they will not be able to participate in the race. Each team captain will sign in.
41. Race vehicles shall contain high visibility clothing for occupants to use in case of an accident or breakdown so that they may be seen by other participants.

Poker Run and Demo Course:

42. The permittee shall ensure participants of the poker run and people driving demo vehicles will not exceed 25 mph.
43. The permittee must get the demo course approved by a BLM official before operation.
44. The permittee shall allow no more than seven vehicles on the demo course at a time.
45. The permittee shall allow no more than 50 entrants for the family poker run. The permittee shall require registration for the event.

Environmental Stipulations:

46. The permittee shall ensure participants yield to all livestock, wildlife, horses, or burros on or near the approved course. The permittee shall clear the course before each event to ensure that no livestock, wildlife, horses, or burros have wandered onto the course. The permittee shall notify the BLM immediately if any of the above are found on the course.
47. The permittee shall ensure that event participants and spectators do not harass or collect wildlife, plants, or collect, damage or deface archaeological features or artifacts.
48. The permittee shall ensure staff, participant or spectator vehicles do not enter washes, floodplains or dry lakes during rain or shortly before or after precipitation events.
49. The permittee shall ensure passing only occurs within the course boundaries and no vegetation or habitat is damaged by participants attempting to pass.
50. The permittee shall ensure that no passing will be allowed where the proposed course crosses rare plant habitat unless there is at least 4 feet of established road surface.
51. The permittee shall have water trucks on site and shall use them under their own discretion or under direction of the BLM to control dust created from the race or associated activities including the poker run and demo course.

Post Activity Stipulations:

52. The permittee shall repair all event-related damages to rights-of-ways, facilities and improvements within 72 hours after the event. If they are not returned to a condition that is satisfactory to the Authorizing Officer within the 72 hours, the BLM may bill the permittee for the cost of the repairs.
53. The permittee shall remove all staking, flagging materials, equipment, temporary facilities, and all other event related materials within 15 days following the event.

Activity Site Rehabilitation:

54. The permittee shall be responsible for all costs associated with restoration (please note that this is separate from the desert tortoise remuneration fees as required by the biological opinion). The determination for the cost of rehabilitation and where the funds are spent will be determined on whether the disturbance is classified as a “Reoccurring Issue” or an “Unforeseen Disturbance.”

Reoccurring Issues:

The BLM has determined that conducting restoration on areas that will most likely be re-disturbed under future permitted events is not practical or cost effective. On areas adjacent to the track that have the potential to be disturbed in future races, such as on corners, a fee per acre of disturbance based on the Southern Nevada District Restoration Guidance will be assessed and on-site restoration will not be required. The funds will be deposited into the BLM’s restoration account and will be used for off-site restoration in desert tortoise ACEC’s. To assess the restoration fee, the District Restoration Guidance for R4 areas (multiple use lands), and the disturbance level of D1 (damage caused by drive and crush activities) will be used. The plan requires a D1 disturbance in an R4 area to receive earthwork (re-contouring and de-compaction if needed) and seeding. The required fee will be calculated at \$4,500 per acre of disturbance. This fee may be adjusted to meet current costs for equipment, labor and materials.

Unforeseen Disturbance:

Any new disturbance of tortoise habitat occurring outside the approved race course that would appear to create a new route, such as when a car or group of cars short cuts the course to gain an advantage, or new disturbance occurring around any of the associated facilities, such as spectator parking areas expanding due to lack of spectator area management or media personnel driving cross-country, a restoration plan will be required. Restoration requirements for the habitat disturbance will be determined using the BLM approved District Restoration Guidance. The permittee will be required to pay for the BLM, or a BLM approved contractor, to develop a restoration plan which details the required steps for restoration and includes an assessment, required restoration, monitoring schedule and if necessary, a watering schedule. After receipt of the BLM approved restoration plan, the permittee will pay all cost associated to have the plan implemented as directed by the BLM.

Disturbance in Special Areas:

New disturbance in special areas, such as in penstemon habitat or incursions into the designated Wilderness, will be treated as and costs assessed the same as “Unforeseen Disturbance” and require a restoration plan and full restoration regardless of how the disturbance occurred.

Media:

55. The permittee shall ensure all media personnel adhere to the applicable special recreation permit stipulations and biological opinion terms and conditions issued for the event. The permittee shall schedule a meeting, to be held prior to the event, and will inform the media personnel of the rules and conditions that they must follow. The permittee shall ensure media personnel receive a map of the approved access for media personnel identified in the operations plan. This meeting will be mandatory and all media personnel will be required to sign a statement that they have read and will abide by the stipulations for the event prior to receiving their credentials.
56. If media personnel are present, the permittee shall inform them and ensure they travel to different parts of the course using existing roads that are not part of the race course with travel restricted to 25mph or less. All cross-country travel off of designated roads will be accessed via foot only.
57. The permittee shall limit media coverage to 50 personnel.

Vending:

58. The permittee shall limit the number of vendors for the event to ten.

Fire Prevention:

59. The permittee shall ensure that when fire restrictions are in effect, that participants and staff adhere to all rules governing campfires, etc.
60. The permittee shall ensure all campfires are confined to an approved burn pan or barrel.
61. The permittee shall ensure all race vehicles have an approved spark arrestor.
62. In the event of a fire, the permittee shall be responsible for the following:
 - a. Reporting the fire to BLM
 - b. Making all accommodations to allow immediate safe entry of fire fighting apparatus and personnel.
 - c. Paying all costs of suppression, damaged resources, and post-fire rehabilitation determined to be directly caused by activities associated with the event as determined by a fire Origin and Cause Investigation.

Noxious Weed Prevention:

63. The permittee shall coordinate with trained BLM staff to inspect all courses and routes for noxious weeds within three weeks of the scheduled race
64. The permittee shall report the results and potential follow-up measures to the BLM noxious weed coordinator or BLM recreation staff.
65. The permittee shall locate pits and staging areas for the use of equipment storage, machine and vehicle parking or any other area need for the temporary placement of people, machinery and supplies in a weed free area.

66. The permittee shall avoid all types of travel through weed- infested areas.
67. The permittee shall ensure all event staff and participants will be briefed of the requirement to clean vehicles and equipment and be made aware of weed infestations on sites that must be avoided.
68. The permittee will be held responsible for any weed infestations that are spread or introduced as a result of project related activities.
69. If a problem is identified and avoidance or removal is not possible, the permittee shall set up inspection and equipment cleaning sites to prevent the spread of weeds upon departure from the event. Before leaving the site, all race vehicles will be inspected by a qualified professional (with appropriate experience identifying and treating weeds).
70. The permittee shall ensure race vehicles and related equipment and machinery (this includes the undercarriages) will be cleaned using compressed air or water to remove mud, dirt, and plant parts before the start of the race and immediately following the race. Seeds and plant parts will be collected, bagged and appropriately disposed of in dumpsters destined for a local landfill.

Geology/Mineral Resources/Energy Production:

71. The permittee is responsible for ensuring that participants in the race and spectators do not enter any abandoned mine sites and mine sites currently being reclaimed.

Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species:

72. The permittee shall comply with the terms and conditions from B.O. File No. 84320-2010-F-0365.R003.
73. The permittee shall ensure all event participants and staff receive a fact sheet on the Desert Tortoise that describe the reasons and need for protection, and definition of take and potential penalties under the Endangered Species Act for harassment of the Desert Tortoise. Participants and staff must sign an acknowledgement form that the permittee shall return to the BLM.
74. The permittee shall ensure all staff checks the ground beneath all vehicles and the area around all tires for tortoises prior to moving vehicles if they are located in one spot for more than five minutes.
75. The permittee is responsible for submitting a completed Desert Tortoise Section 7 Compliance Form, attached Appendix G in the provided Terms and Conditions to the BLM within 30 days after the race.
76. If any active nests of western burrowing owls or any other bird species are encountered, avoidance will be exercised.
77. The permittee shall inform all staff and participants that if a banded gila monster, chuckwalla, snake or any other wildlife is observed on the road or adjacent to it, the animal will be avoided to the extent practical and left alone and allowed to leave the area of its own accord. Participants should not harass or harm wildlife encountered.

Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species:

78. The permittee shall ensure any vehicles that break down in areas of known rare plant occurrences must be removed via the course rather than traveling off road after the conclusion of the race.
79. The permittee is responsible for restoring unauthorized impacts to the vegetation communities that provide habitat to the desert tortoise and other wildlife species. This includes impacts associated with increasing in course width due to passing, corner cutting and off road travel by tow vehicles, as well as unauthorized staging areas, campgrounds, vendor areas and other unauthorized activities.

Land and Property Issue:

80. The permittee shall notify all holders of BLM right-of-ways, leases, or communication sites in writing before the event. The permittee shall provide a copy of this notification if requested by the BLM. If the holders recommend any actions, the permittee will notify the BLM of these recommendations and take them into consideration.
81. The permittee is responsible for obtaining permission from the private landowner if access to the event or the course itself includes crossing over private lands.
82. Permittee must properly close the Desert Trail on the west side of SR-163 during the race and limit any driving on the trail
83. Permittee must install a temporary plywood overlay covered by non-native material over the trail, where the trail intersects with the race track, one day before the race and remove the protective overlay the day after the race; specific instructions from Reclamation for any trail repair shall be adhered to by the permittee. The design of the trail is a 10 foot wide trail, graded, placement of a Geo textile fabric, placement of 6 inches of 3/4 inch road base, watered and then rolled to a 85 percent compaction. Through washed the edges are lined with rock to harden the outside edges.
84. The permittee shall obtain and provide all necessary production elements including but not limited to: temporary fencing, power, tents, spectator seating, portable restrooms, traffic control, parking, event signage, garbage disposal, recycling bins, etc.
85. Permittee is responsible for all post-event clean up.
86. That Permittee shall provide dust control.

Course and Route Maintenance (Pre and Post Race):

87. Upon completion of the BLM's post course inspection, grading of access roads identified by the BLM as being damaged during the race will begin. Grading shall not occur without a BLM monitor.
88. The permittee shall ensure that cactus and yucca are avoided during road maintenance. No maintenance will occur in washes or areas where no distinct road margins are visible.

I declare I have read and understand all of the stipulations and the B.O., File No. 84320-2010-F-0365.R003, standard terms and conditions associated with this Special Recreation Permit, LLNVS0-0530-15-031. I acknowledge that as signee of the permit and these stipulations that I am fully responsible for all of the mitigation measures and compliance with stated permit stipulations and that non-compliance with any permit

stipulations will be grounds for denial of future permits, and/or cancellation of current permits, and/or prosecution of applicable Federal, State and/or Local laws.

Applicant's Name (Print)

Signature

Date

Performance Evaluation:

Performance will be based upon compliance with the Special Recreation Permit Stipulations, Terms and Conditions of the Biological Order, compliance with the Permittee's Operating Plan, Permittee's Protection of Resource Values, and the quality and safety of services provided to the public.