

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

**Finding of No Significant Impact
&
Decision Record**

Laughlin Race and Event EA
DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2018-0082-EA

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
702-515-5000



Finding of No Significant Impact

Selected Alternative

Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2018-0082-EA analyzed the No Action Alternative and Proposed Action. The Proposed Action, as described in Chapter 2 of the EA, would allow the BLM to issue multiple Special Recreation Permits (SRP) for highspeed truck/buggy/UTV races and endurance / obstacle events that will occur throughout the year in the Laughlin Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).

The Proposed Action meets BLM's need under The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., which establishes recreation as one of the principal uses of public lands, and directs the Secretary of the Interior to regulate, through permits or other instruments, the use of public lands, which includes commercial recreation use (43 CFR 2931.3(a). The Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) authorizes the BLM to "...issue special recreation permits for group activities and recreation events "(43 CFR 2931.3(b).

Taking into account the BLM's multiple use mandate, the purpose and need for the proposed action is to respond to SRP applications on BLM managed land in Clark County in compliance with FLPMA, BLM SRP regulations, and other applicable Federal laws and policies.

The BLM will decide whether to deny or grant multiple SRP. The BLM 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.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Southern Nevada District Office interdisciplinary review and analysis of EA DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2018-0082-EA determined that the Proposed Action would not trigger significant impacts on the environment based on criteria established by regulations, policy and analysis.

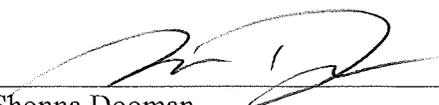
Based on the findings discussed herein, I have determined that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action and will result in no significant impacts to the environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in applicable land use plans. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) to further analyze possible impacts is not required pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Reviewed by:


John Schumacher
Acting Planning & Environmental Coordinator

9/14/18
Date

Approved by:


Shonna Dooman
Assistant Field Manager,
Division of Resources

9/17/18
Date

Decision Record

Selected Action

It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action, as described in Chapter 2 of the Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2018-0082-EA to issue multiple Special Recreation Permits (SRP) for highspeed truck/buggy/UTV races and endurance / obstacle events that will occur throughout the year in the Laughlin Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The complete description of the Proposed Action can be found in Chapter 2 of the EA.

Mitigation Measures

In addition to the standard stipulations found in appendix A of the EA, the following mitigation measures will be required:

- Post-use monitoring will be required to evaluate the damage to surrounding vegetation after each event.
- Weed awareness training will be integrated into the events.
- The affected area shall be inventoried for invasive and noxious weeds annually and prior to any event.
- FEMA floodplain management standards apply.
- Measure is to prevent human caused fires.
- Locate fireworks, pyrotechnics, and fire features in a location that has little to no chance of causing a wildfire and ensure public safety.
- Ensure that any obstacle course burnable fuels (i.e. straw bales, liquid fuels) are far enough from the fire that there is no potential for them to ignite.
- The Proponent will provide education to race participants and spectators on fire prevention and, if appropriate, general environmental safety and lightning safety.
- If sustained winds are forecast to be greater than 10 MPH or gusts greater than 15 MPH the day before or up to the event, the fire features shall not be utilized during the event.

Decision Rationale

As explained in the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the impacts of the Selected Action have been analyzed in the EA and determined not to result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area under NEPA.

Based on information in the EA and consultation with my staff, I have decided to approve the selected action as described in Chapter 2 of the EA as it was found this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and determined to result in no significant impacts.

Protest and/or Appeal

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the

Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and BLM Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

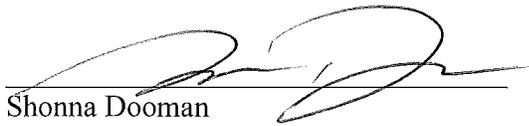
If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to the regulations at 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- 1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- 2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- 3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- 4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Authorized Official


Shonna Dooman
Assistant Field Manager,
Division of Resources

9/17/2018
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment

Laughlin Race and Event EA
DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2018-0082-EA

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
702-515-5000



Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction.....	2
Purpose and Need.....	2
Conformance Summary.....	3
Chapter 2 Proposed Action and Alternatives.....	4
No Action Alternative	4
Proposed Action	4
Chapter 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Effects	11
Resource Evaluation.....	11
Air Quality.....	17
Integrated Vegetation	18
Floodplain.....	22
Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate Wildlife Species.....	23
Fuels and Fire Management	25
Chapter 4 Consultation and Coordination.....	29
Appendix A	A-1

Chapter 1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) will assist the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Vegas Field Office and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any significant effects could result from the analyzed actions. Following the requirements of NEPA (40 CFR 1508.9 (a)), this EA describes the potential impacts of the Proposed Action. A No Action Alternative is also described. The BLM is the lead federal agency for compliance with NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act. Reclamation is a cooperating agency with the BLM for the preparation of this EA. If the BLM and Reclamation determine that the Proposed Action is not expected to have significant effects, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued by each agency and a Decision Record will be prepared by the BLM. If significant effects are anticipated, the BLM will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or select the No Action Alternative.

Races of this type (excluding the endurance/obstacle races which are a recent addition) have been held at this location for many years, and there are established race routes, parking, race pit, and spectator areas. Previous races have been authorized through several NEPA documents, most recently through BLM EA, FONSI, and Decision Record “DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2016-0019-EA” and Reclamation FONSI LC-16-10.

Purpose and Need

Taking into account the BLM’s multiple use mandate and Reclamation’s responsibility to respond to Rights of Use (ROU) requests, the purpose for the proposed action is to respond to Special Recreation Permit (SRP) and ROU applications on BLM and Reclamation managed land in Clark County in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), BLM SRP regulations, and other applicable Federal laws and policies.

The FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., which establishes recreation as one of the principal uses of public lands, and directs the Secretary of the Interior to regulate, through permits or other instruments, the use of public lands, which includes commercial recreation use (43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2931.3(a)). The Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) authorizes the BLM to “...issue special recreation permits for group activities and recreation events” (43 CFR 2931.3(b)).

It is Reclamation’s 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 CFR Part 429 to respond to a request for ROU authorization on Reclamation- administered federal lands.

The BLM and Reclamation will decide whether to deny or grant multiple 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.

Conformance Summary

Land Use Plan: Las Vegas Resource Management Plan	Date Approved: October 1998
---	---------------------------------------

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP), October 1998. The emphasis of the 1998 Las Vegas RMP is to protect unique habitats for threatened, endangered, and special status species while providing areas for community growth, recreation, mineral exploration and development, and other resource uses. The specific objectives and management directions that allow for the actions proposed can be found in Appendix A of the 1998 Las Vegas RMP Record of Decision.

Chapter 2 Proposed Action and Alternatives

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, high-speed truck/buggy/UTV/motorcycle/quad races and endurance/obstacle events would not be permitted on BLM and Reclamation administered lands in and adjacent to the Laughlin SRMA.

Proposed Action

BLM and Reclamation are proposing to issue multiple SRP and ROU for high-speed truck/buggy/UTV/motorcycle/quad races and endurance /obstacle events throughout the year, which may occur for multiple days and the events could happen day or night, on BLM and Reclamation administered lands in and adjacent to the Laughlin Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) (Figure 1). A portion of these events will also be located on BLM administered lands that Clark County Parks and Recreation has a Recreation and Public Purpose(R&PP) Lease.

BLM and Reclamation would each review permit applications submitted by proponents and determine if the individual events would be permitted for that year and if the activities proposed are within the scope of this EA. If approved, BLM and Reclamation would issue SRP and ROU permits for the events. The BLM would serve as the lead agency for the events on both BLM and Reclamation lands and would coordinate with Reclamation on each event. Activities such as vending, filming and media associated with the events will most likely be authorized in the overall event permit; however, there may be cases where separate permits are issued for these activities. These permits would contain both standard and special stipulations to minimize environmental impacts and outline the parameters for use of the area. Each proponent will be responsible for adhering to the stipulations of the permit as well as informing the participants of the stipulations and terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion and ensuring that they are followed.

While most of the routes are on public/federal lands administered by the BLM or Reclamation the proponent may also use existing routes that cross private property and lands administered by Clark County. The proponent will be responsible for obtaining permission from private land owners and securing additional permissions and permits from the state, county, city, and other regulatory agencies when applicable.

During these events, if necessary to ensure public safety and to prevent resource damage, BLM and Reclamation will publish a temporary land closure in the Federal Register. BLM and Reclamation will typically have the closure in effect on the days the event occurs.

High Speed Truck/Buggy/UTV/Motorcycle/Quad Races

At each event, the proponent would begin course preparation up to 14 days prior to the event date. This would include course marking, pit / spectator / staging area delineation, and posting signs. The marking the course would require driving stakes into the ground along the route, typically no more than a foot off the edge of the route. Flagging would be used to mark the course alignment when stakes cannot be used, due to rock or other hard surfaces. The pits / spectator / staging areas would be located in existing disturbed areas and would be outlined in

such a way as to make the boundaries of these areas clear to the public and event teams. Route maintenance may be required pre-event and post event.

Some events may include a controlled pre-run or fun run of the approved course, at controlled speeds on average of 25 MPH but no faster than 35 MPH, during the week prior to the event.

Some events would have a time trial, at race speeds, to determine starting position. Typically, the time trial would be held a few days before each event. The time trials would be limited to an approved course, typically 3-5 miles.

Each race event would typically involve several classifications, including but not limited to, cars, trucks, buggies, UTVs, motorcycles or quads. Typically, the types of events have approximately 300 racers participating on a 12-17 miles course with an additional 3 to 4 pit vehicles associated with each team. In addition to the participants and support crews there is expected to be approximately 200 event personnel, 200 media personnel, and up to 10,000 spectators for each event.

All pit / spectator/ staging area are located adjacent to the proposed course (See Figure 2). Each area utilized for pits / spectator/ staging areas would be located within existing disturbance with an average area of approximately 2-acres. Participants would utilize the pit locations for refueling, repairs and driver/co-driver swap. The pits also serve as a location to tow disabled race vehicles for removal off the event site. The spectator areas will be designated for spectators to safely watch the event. The proponent will manage all pit / spectator / staging areas as described in their approved operation plan.

Endurance/Obstacle Events

Each obstacle event will be held on foot. The spectator / Festival area / start finish line will be set up in the main pit area used for high speed races (Figure 2). Obstacles may include, but are not limited to; climbing wall, swing obstacles, spear throwing, mud pits and fire jump. The obstacles will be installed along a course up to 10 miles long (Figure 3), course on the map is for the 2018 event. On approval, the course configuration and distance may change from year to year, staying on existing trails, roads or dry washes in the area of Figure 3. Two segments of the route located on Reclamation land were previously disturbed by vehicle travel, but have since naturally revegetated and stabilized. All obstacles will be installed in previously disturbed areas and on existing roads and trails. During set up the proponents may require the use of heavy equipment and ATVs/UTVs to complete installation. The construction of some obstacles may require soils to be excavated and moved. Excavation and soil movement would occur entirely within existing disturbance. Course set up and obstacle installation may begin 14 days prior to the event date.

The number of participants will be approximately 15,000 per day with approximately 800 staff/volunteers and 10,000 spectators

It is expected that obstacle race participants will start in small group intervals of approximately 250 participants every 15 minutes until all participants have been allowed to start. The staggered start times will likely help reduce vehicle traffic congestion. This method will also minimize the number of vehicles needing to park or maneuver on Federal lands at any one point. Designated parking areas will be demarcated and staffed by parking attendants. All parking will be within previously disturbed areas. It is assumed that approximately 2,000 vehicles will be parked at any one time within designated parking areas. The number of vehicles will fluctuate throughout the

day as groups that started their races earlier begin to leave the event and new participants prepare to begin their race. Shuttling of participants and spectators from offsite may occur, loading and offloading will occur in previously disturbed areas. The racecourse will be along existing routes or inside of previously disturbed areas, but preferably along wide primitive roads or trails within the designated event area.

Vehicles and construction equipment will need to use these routes and disturbed areas for access to construct and take down obstacles and other structures, along with flagging and course markers. At the site of some obstacles a footprint of approximately 50'x50' may need to be cleared or leveled, within the existing disturbed areas, for the construction of obstacles. The total number of obstacles may vary by event. No new routes will be created, however, grading or road maintenance may occur on existing routes to allow for passage of equipment and vehicles. All grading would be within the existing route width, no route widening or new disturbance would be permitted

The spectator and festival areas will be adjacent to the Start/Finish line and will be clearly demarcated within previously disturbed areas. The festival/spectator area is expected to be approximately 300'x200', and will be where all spectators and participants gather before and after the race. Within the festival/spectator area there will be tents, tables, a stage, fencing, sound system, and multiple obstacles.

ALL events:

Best Management Practices

Standard SRP and ROU Stipulations can be found in Appendix A. The following additional best management practices would apply to all events and would be included as SRP and ROU stipulations as appropriate.

Areas identified for special protection would be delineated with orange snow fencing, or a suitable alternative.

If applicable, the proponent would obtain all necessary permits needed for road crossings. The proponent would have flaggers at all road crossings. The proponents would provide for safe and adequate traffic control at all road/race course crossing and checkpoints. The proponent would ensure that all flaggers wear reflective clothing and have warning flags. Each road crossing would have brooms to help manage any debris that makes its way on the highway.

The proponents would provide BLM and Reclamation with an operations plan to include parking and medical plans for each proposed event. Medical plans would require adequate medical personnel for the event being held. BLM and Reclamation will evaluate these plans for consistency with the Proposed Action and must approve these plans prior to issuing a permit.

Each event will have checkpoints throughout the course. Each checkpoint will have approximately two volunteers/workers for the safety and integrity of the participant. All checkpoints will also have some type of communication with the event promoter if any issue may occur on the course. All checkpoints will be set up in previously disturbed areas.

All race vehicles would have fuel-absorbing mat under the vehicles when fueling and fire extinguishers are required in each team's pit area.

Media may be associated with the events either through the proponent, or under a standalone permit. Media personnel would have some identifying marker i.e. reflective media vest, armband, and vehicle passes in the windshield. All media personnel would be restricted to approved routes.

Some events will have helicopters and or drones to shoot video and still photography. All helicopters and drones would be required to operate within the rules and regulations set forth by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), only landing and refueling in established airports except in case of emergency.

Vending may be associated with the events either through the proponent, or under a standalone permit. Types of vending may include, but are not limited to the sale of, food and beverages including alcohol, merchandise, and photography.

Portable restrooms, showers (Endurance/Obstacle Events), and dumpsters would be located at all pit / spectator / staging areas. The holder shall ensure that non-potable water associated with showers is disposed of in an approved manner. All portable restrooms and dumpsters would be delivered no earlier than three days prior to each event. There will be approximately one portable restroom for every 100 participants.

Pyrotechnics such as, but not limited to, fireworks or flames controlled by propane may be approved within the R&PP lease on a case-by-case basis. If pyrotechnics are approved, fire prevention measures would be identified and put into place. Fireworks, pyrotechnics, and fire features would be placed in a location that has little to no chance of causing a wildfire and that ensures public safety. In the event of high winds, controlled fires would be suppressed and fire related activities curtailed until conditions are more favorable.

Pyrotechnics and Obstacle Race – Fire Feature:

The BLM Fire Management Officer and LVFO Field Office Manager reserve the right reserve the right to cancel activities using fire, fireworks, pyrotechnics or any other incendiary device that may cause a wildfire.

The BLM will conduct an annual fuels assessment in the spring to make a determination of fire risk due to grass. Proposed use of fire, fire features, pyrotechnics or fireworks must be permitted in writing by the BLM Fire Management Officer at least four weeks prior to any planned event.

Any obstacle course burnable fuels (i.e. straw bales, liquid fuels) would be located far enough from the fire that there is no potential for them to ignite. Ensure all smoke management and air quality regulatory requirements, minimization or mitigation measures are met (See Air Resources for more information).

The Proponent will provide education to race participants and spectators on fire prevention and, if appropriate, general environmental safety and lightning safety. Other fire prevention measures are listed in Chapter 3 and in the standard stipulation measures located in Appendix A.

Proponents would be required to have all areas returned to pre-event condition. Course markings, signs, and obstacles must be removed within 14 days following the completion of the event. Portable restrooms and dumpsters will be removed no later than the 72 hours following the event. The Proponent would be responsible for returning all power line roads, Right-of-Way (ROW) and any other routes identified by the BLM to their pre-event condition.

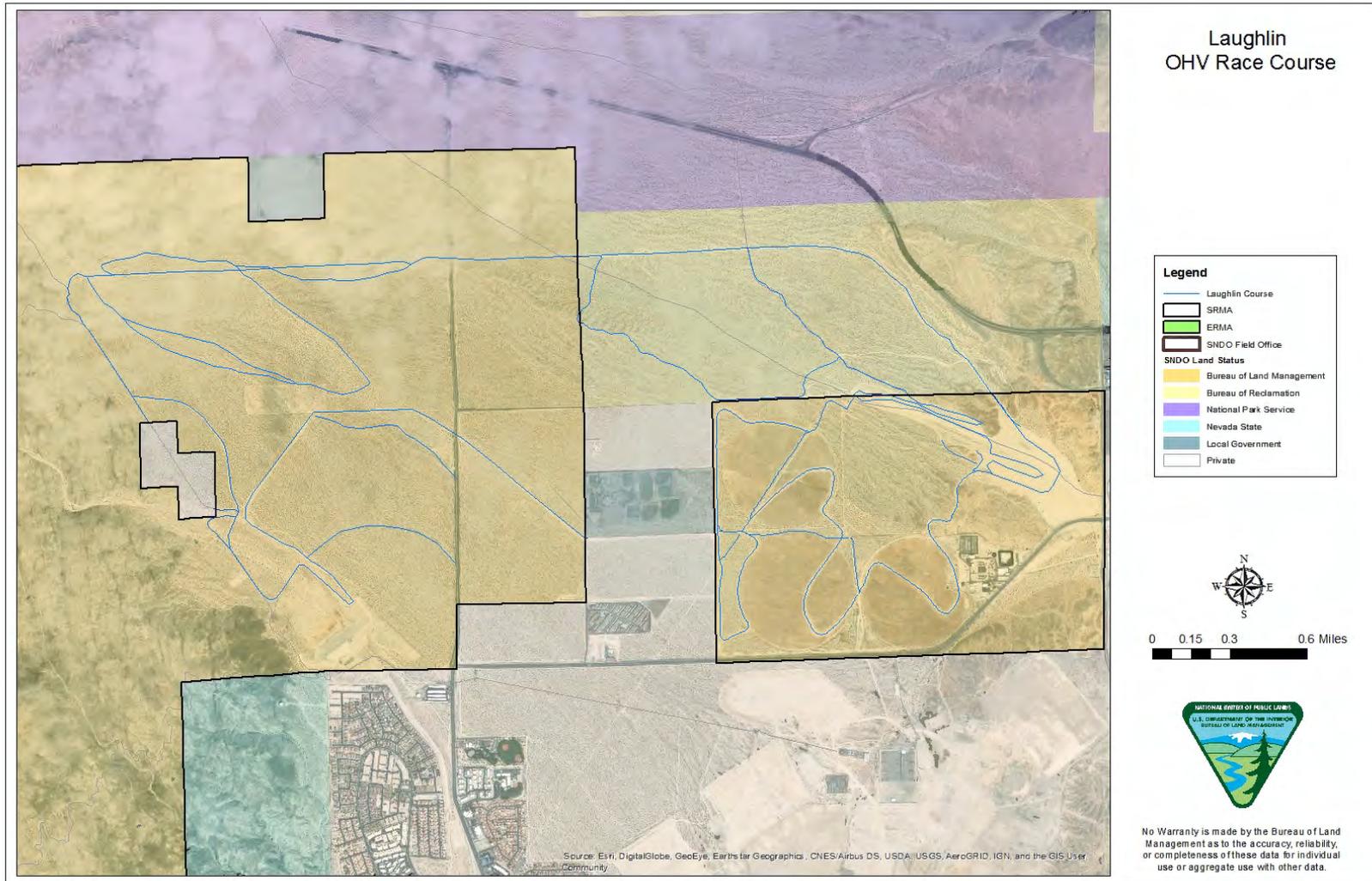


Figure 1: Laughlin Special Recreation Management Area OHV Racecourse

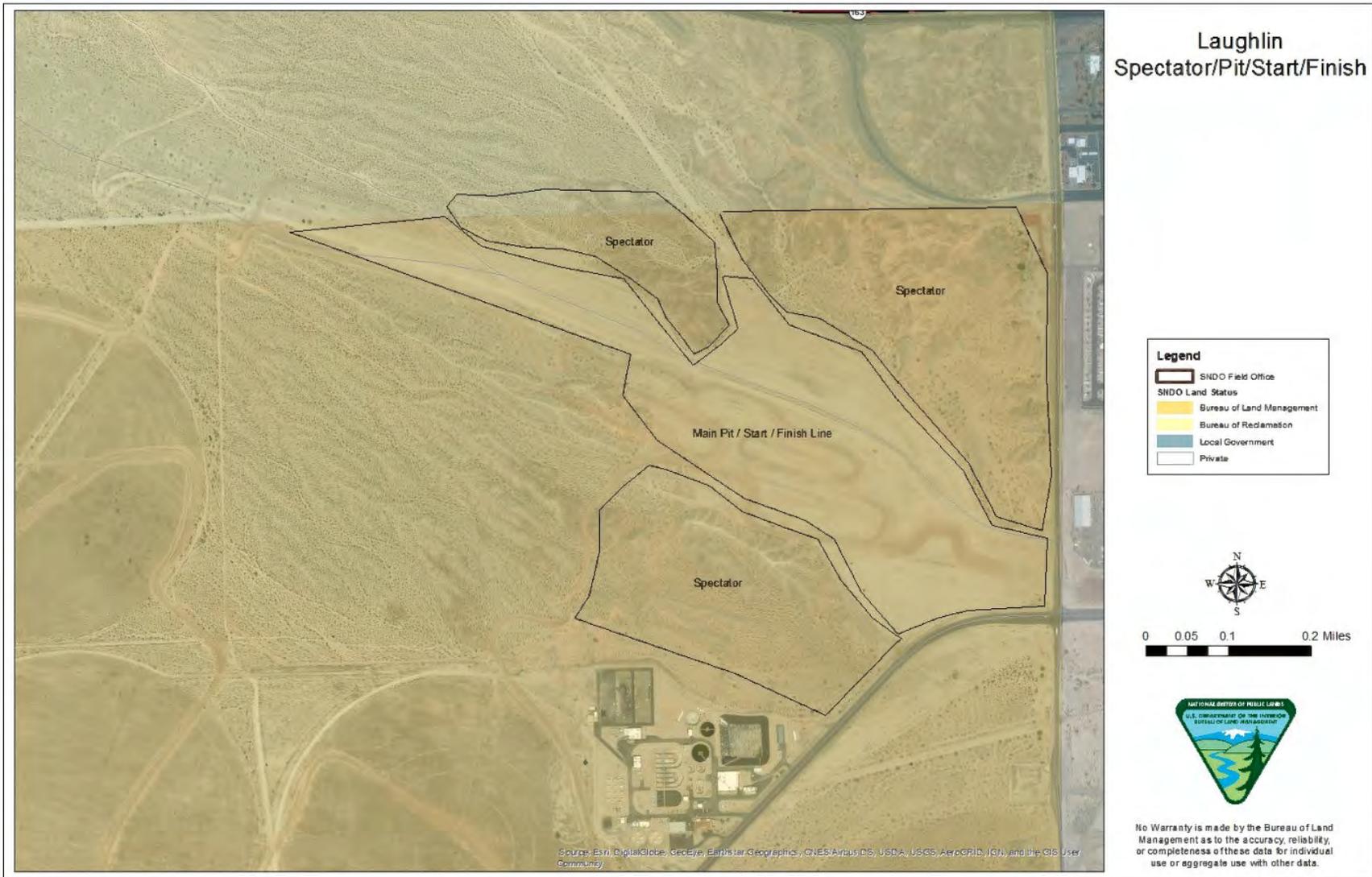


Figure 2: Spectator/Pit/Start/Finish

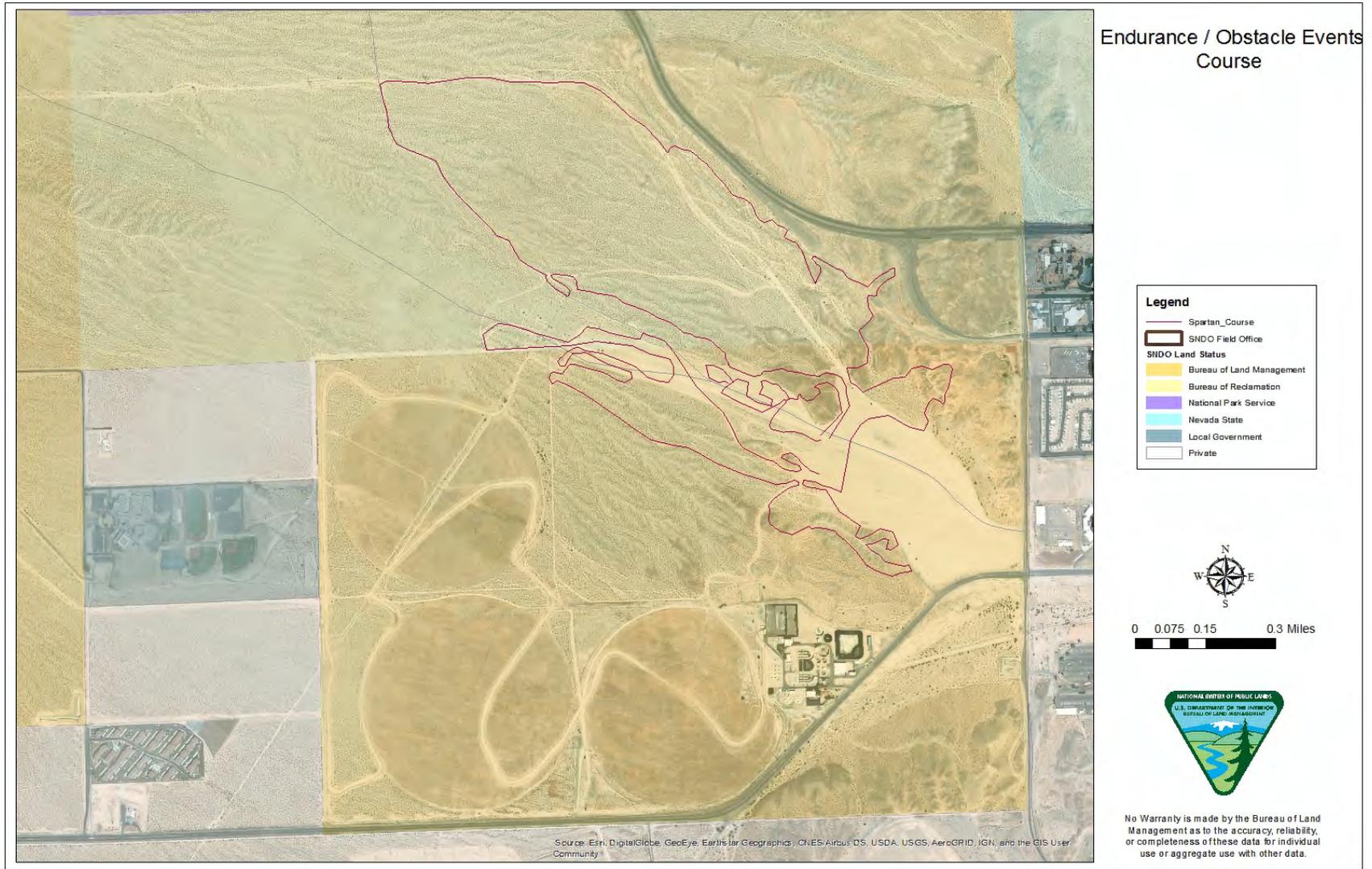


Figure 3: Laughlin Special Recreation Management Area Endurance/Obstacle Events Area

Chapter 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

Resource Evaluation

The following table is a list of all resources considered in the evaluation of the Proposed Action and alternative(s). The resources found that may be affected by this proposal have been carried forward for analysis and are discussed further in this chapter. The resources that are not present or found to not be impacted by the Proposed Action because they would be completely mitigated with the implementation of standard stipulations will not be discussed further.

Table 1. Resources Considered in the Evaluation of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

Resource	May be Impacted (carry forward for analysis)	Not Present or Not Impacted	Rationale for Not Impacted	Digital Signature & Date
ACECs		X	Proposed project area is not within an ACEC.	Janyne Pringle 7/20/18
Air Quality	X		<p>The Proposed Action is in accordance with current RMP requirements and State Implementation Plan stipulations for high speed, competitive and other racing/pit events outside hydrographic basin 213. Fugitive dust emissions are temporary in nature and excessive emissions, should be managed through best management practices (BMPs), i.e., watering pit and parking areas, when necessary.</p> <p>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.</p>	Lisa Christianson 07/25/2018

Conservation Lands		X	The Proposed Action does not occur in or impact any Conservation Lands.	John Schumacher 8/13/2018
Cultural Resources		X	Per the State Protocol Appendix A:1, the undertaking is exempt from the inventory requirements; any areas that may be identified as sensitive will be avoided. There will not be any mechanical measures employed on archaeological sites of cultural/ historic significance	Mike Chodoronek 07/30/2018
Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics		X	The Proposed Action will not adversely or disproportionately impact minority populations, low-income communities, or Tribes. 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. 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.	Deborah Downs 8/13/2018
Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species		X	Present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required	Janyne Pringle 7/20/18
Floodplains	X		Areas are either subject to inundation by 1-percent- annual-chance shallow flooding (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain) where average depths are between one and three feet or subject to be inundated by 0.2% annual chance of flooding.	Boris Poff 6/8/2018
Forestry	X		Cacti and yucca, which are managed under the forestry program, could be impacted by road widening as a result of these events. See analysis under “Integrated Vegetation” section.	Lara Kobelt 5/21/2018
Fuels and Fire Management	X		Carried forward for analysis.	Sean McEldery 8/9/2018

<p>Geology/Mineral Resources</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>Republic Dumpco operates a business near this location. Republic Dumpco must be contacted by the proponent and notified at least 30 days before the event takes place. The proponent is responsible for informing the operator that the road could be used during the event. Contact a BLM Recreation Specialist for contact information for Republic Dumpco.</p> <p>The proponent is responsible for ensuring that participants in the event and spectators do not enter the site.</p> <p>The proponent will allow mine personal through so that they may access their site during the race event, however, the race proponent will not allow dump trucks, haul trucks, heavy equipment, etc. to cross the race course during the race.</p>	<p>Lorri Dee Dukes 8/13/2018</p>
<p>Hydrologic Conditions</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>No new impacts to local hydrologic conditions. Activities are occurring on previously used courses (a portion of the endurance/obstacle route on Reclamation land has minimal existing disturbance), participants must stay on designated roads and trails and spectators must be contained within designated spots.</p>	<p>Boris Poff 06/11/18</p>
<p>Indian Trust Assets</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>Indian Trust Assets are legal interests in property held in trust by the U.S. for Indian Tribes or individuals. Indian Trust Assets have not been identified in the project area and no impact is anticipated.</p>	<p>Faye Streier 8/22/18</p>
<p>Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>Invasive species, including noxious weeds, could be impacted by road widening as a result of these events. Noxious weeds have been found onsite. See analysis under “Integrated Vegetation” section.</p>	<p>Sean McEldery 8/9/18</p>
<p>Land and Realty</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>Lands will not be affected as long as the course does not go through a right-of-way, permit, or lease area, there are no issues. If it does affect a ROW, lease, or permit holder, they must be notified of the event (per 43 CFR 2807.14).</p>	<p>Virginia Morales 7/25/2018</p>

Livestock Grazing		X	Resource not present.	Lara Kobelt 5/21/2018
Migratory Birds		X	Present, but no affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required.	Janyne Pringle 7/20/2018
Native American Concerns		X	There have not been any areas of religious, cultural concerns that were identified based on previous relevant consultations and coordination. Also, no new ground disturbance or adverse effects to any historic properties.	Mike Chodoronek 7/25/2018
Paleontological Resources		X	Not present. Based on review of the relevant maps and literature, there are not any known paleontological resources in the area. As the material source has been previously used, it is unlikely that there will be a discovery. In the event of a discovery, the BLM Archaeologist will be notified immediately. All work will cease in the immediate vicinity of the find and work may not resume until a USFA has been notified by BLM.	Mike Chodoronek 7/25/2018
Recreation/Travel/Wild and Scenic Rivers		X	Recreationists may be temporarily displaced during the events, but no long term impacts are expected. WSR not present.	Kenny Kendrick 7/24/2018
Soils		X	Previously used course. Participants will remain on existing roads and trails (a portion of the endurance/obstacle route on Reclamation land has minimal existing disturbance) and will stage in existing disturbed areas. DO NOT ENTER washes or floodplains during, shortly before, or after thunderstorm precipitation events. No new impacts to soils if washes and floodplains are used during dry conditions ONLY.	Boris Poff 6/11/2018
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Animal Species	X		The project has a “may affect, likely to adversely affect” determination for the desert tortoise and “no effect” for its designated critical habitat. This project will have no effect on any other federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Carried forward for analysis.	Kevin Bryan 7/20/2018

Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Plant Species		X	Resource not present.	Lara Kobelt 5/21/2018
Transmission Corridors		X	<p>Utility corridor present, but not impacted. The Proposed Action is located within a 2,000-foot wide locally designated utility corridor labeled Searchlight-Laughlin. Corridors are preferred locations for siting energy generating facilities. Transmission line rights-of-way include a 500 kV TL (N-03827) and 230 kV TL (N-29605). There are no issues as long as the following lands and realty stipulations are included:</p> <p>1.1 Notify Holders of valid existing rights (i.e., authorized rights-of-way) at least 30 days prior to an event. Prior notification is necessary to ensure there are no conflicts with construction, maintenance, or decommissioning activities in planned event areas.</p> <p>1.2 Proper electrical grounding of any metallic fencing (tortoise fencing), etc., is required to ensure public and wildlife safety, and to avoid disruption or corrosion effects of transmission facilities such as power lines and pipelines.</p> <p>1.3 Ensure continued access to/from energy/utility corridors, and valid existing rights.</p> <p>1.4 Avoid locating staging of vehicles and equipment within designated energy/utility corridors.</p>	Michelle Leiber 7/26/2018
Vegetation	X		Vegetation could be indirectly impacted by road widening as a result of vehicles passing each other during the event, and dust as a result of these events. See analysis under “Integrated Vegetation” section.	Lara Kobelt 5/21/2018
Visual Resources		X	The Proposed Actions are within VRM Class III. The objective of VRM Class III lands, as defined in the Las Vegas RMP, “is for partial retention of the existing character of the landscape. In these areas, authorized actions may	John Schumacher 7/20/2018

			alter the existing landscape, but not to the extent that they attract or focus attention of the casual viewer.” The existing landscape may be altered by the infrastructure of the events, but the visual impacts from events would be temporary in nature. No long term impacts to visual resources should occur as long as all other stipulations are followed.	
Wastes (hazardous or solid)		X	Not present, however, do include standard stipulations into the final permit document(s).	Lisa Christianson 7/25/2018
Water Resources		X	The Proposed Action will not cause any major changes in the runoff characteristics of the site and will not use local water resources.	Boris Poff 6/11/2018
Wetlands and Riparian Areas		X	The Proposed Action does not occur in a wetland/riparian zone.	Boris Poff 6/11/2018
Wild Horse and Burros		X	The Proposed Action is not located within a herd management area and will have no impact on wild horse or burro populations. If wild burros are seen, then standard stipulations will need to be followed.	Tabitha Romero 5/3/2018
Wilderness		X	Resource not present.	Kenny Kendrick 7/20/2018

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 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. The project area is currently in attainment for the above air pollutants.

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, races and events would not be permitted and resources in the area would continue to be subject to existing conditions. Because the proposed courses and staging areas are located on existing roads and trails and within existing disturbances on BLM and Reclamation lands, these areas would remain open for casual motorized recreational use which may add to air pollutants during activity.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action

Under the proposed action there would be a temporary increase in particulates in the form of airborne dust along the race course and in the staging area.

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 not regulated in Nevada, BLM and Reclamation are taking the precaution to impose measures to inform the public of its presence prior to events taking place.

Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Action

Air quality impacts would be short term, lasting only during each event, therefore no cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation Measures

Measures to reduce impacts to Air Quality can be found in Appendix A.

Residual Impacts

Airborne dust would be reduced with implementation of measures in Appendix A.

Integrated Vegetation

Affected Environment

The Mojave creosote - bursage desert scrub is widespread throughout the Mojave Desert, but is valuable because these vegetation communities typically support intact soils with biocrusts that help to prevent erosion and that are more resilient to invasive species, and due to the habitat value this vegetation type has for the federally threatened Mojave desert tortoise. This area has few cacti and yucca species, but does support healthy populations of creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*) shrubs. There is some pre-existing disturbance and edge effects in this area due to roads and unauthorized off-road travel. There are no known sensitive plant species, or sensitive plant habitat, in the proposed project area. Invasive species, including Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) and a state noxious weed, Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) are becoming more widespread in this area and are promoted by disturbance and OHV travel through them while they are seeding.

Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds

The area has been inventoried for weeds (Figure 4). Sahara mustard is the most common Nevada State listed noxious weed present on both the OHV and Endurance/Obstacle event course. Along roads and routes in the area around Laughlin, Sahara mustard has continued to proliferate. In addition, fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*) are known to occur in the area and are both Nevada State listed noxious weeds. The Southern Nevada Cooperative Weed Management Area has worked with the City of Laughlin to reduce fountain grass in the area. Along roads and routes in the area around Laughlin, Sahara mustard has continued to proliferate.

Invasive plants and noxious weeds are managed on public lands by the BLM under the direction of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) established in 1999 (Executive Order [EO] 13112). This statute defines invasive species as "...an alien (non-native) species whose introduction does, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human health" (NISC 2008).

In addition, much of the management of invasive plants and the listing of noxious weeds are regulated by the USDA under the Federal Noxious Weed Act (7 U.S.C. 2801 et seq. 1974).

Executive Order 13112 outlines the federal responsibility to "prevent the introduction of invasive species and provide for their control and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause..." Additionally, Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 555.05 defines "noxious weeds" and mandates the extent that land owners and land management agencies must control specific noxious weed species on lands under their jurisdiction.

Southern Nevada lands are impacted by the presence of noxious and invasive, non-native vegetation. The Las Vegas Field Office (LVFO) has prepared the LVFO Weed Plan that provides guidance for an active integrated weed management program using Best Management Practices (BMP).

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, fewer impacts would be anticipated. Casual OHV use occurs in this area already, but there is likely increased use of several thousand vehicles a year because of

commercial permitting. Therefore the no action alternative would result in fewer impacts to this area. Weeds and invasive plant species would continue to proliferate subject to future treatment activities conducted by the BLM and Reclamation.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would lead to both direct and indirect impacts to native vegetation and potentially sensitive plant species over time. Direct impacts are associated with vehicles pulling off the side of the road onto vegetation and crushing it, and increased use of roads in this area, which could lead to gradual road widening into vegetation. Racing also leads to widening of roads, which destroys desert vegetation and leads to an increase in non-native species, which gradually invade undisturbed desert habitat from the road edges.

Indirect impacts could include increased vehicle traffic, resulting in more non-native species introductions, creating additional edge effect, and generating dust that can inhibit vegetation photosynthesis.

Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds

The Proposed Action may promote the expansion of existing population of noxious weeds onsite. In addition, new weeds or invasive plant species may be introduced to the area. Loss of native vegetation promote invasive and noxious plant species. Sahara mustard may spread locally and vector outside of the area. Vehicles, participants, vendors, spectators, etc. who come in contact with weed seed could carry weed seed with them to other locations or states. Sahara mustard seeds become sticky when wet and easily adhere to any surface.

Increased vehicle and foot traffic during the Proposed Project may increase noxious and/or invasive weeds. Vehicles and people are effective at introducing and/or spreading weeds by discharging weed seed along roadways and paths. Once noxious and invasive plant species are introduced to new areas they effectively compete with native species for sunlight, soil, water, nutrients, and space, thereby reducing forage productivity. Additionally, soil disturbance could reduce the native seed bank associated with the site.

The increase in vehicular and pedestrian activity at the site has the potential to spread non-native invasive annual grasses. Studies suggest that the Mojave Desert is threatened by the spread of non-native, invasive annual grasses which results in increased fire and loss of natural resources (Brooks, Matthew L. "Alien annual grasses and fire in the Mojave Desert." *Madroño* (1999): 13-19). The increase of fine fuels may result in ignitions and ultimately increase the number of wildfires.

Mojave Desert wildfires are occurring at historically unprecedented frequencies and extents and have the potential to dramatically change the species composition in affected areas (Brooks, Matthew L., and J. R. Matchett. "Spatial and temporal patterns of wildfires in the Mojave Desert, 1980–2004." *Journal of Arid Environments* 67 (2006): 148-164). Therefore in addition to competing with native plant species, and reducing the productivity of rangelands, forest lands, riparian areas, and wetlands, the spread of invasive weed infestations, cheat grass in particular, increase fine fuels, thereby increasing the likelihood of fire. Although the non-native annual grasses are not legally designated as noxious by the State of Nevada, their role within the Mojave Desert ecosystem is increasingly important with respect to their relationship to fire and future disturbance

“Indirect effects of OHV activities on vegetation are tied to soil properties altered by OHV traffic, as soil properties typically influence vegetation growth. OHV roads and trails also create edge habitats, which can generate conditions that promote the encroachment of non-native and invasive plant species. Other indirect effects include increased amounts of airborne pollutants and dust raised by OHV traffic. A blanket of fugitive dust on plant foliage can inhibit plant growth rate, size, and survivorship.” (Ouren, Douglas S., et al. "Environmental effects of off-highway vehicles on Bureau of Land Management lands: A literature synthesis, annotated bibliographies, extensive bibliographies, and internet resources." US Geological Survey, Open-File Report 1353 (2007): 225.)

The proposed project occurs in a mostly already disturbed area. If the associated stipulations and BMPs are integrated throughout the proposed project the introduction and spread of noxious and/or invasive weeds may be mitigated and the impacts reduced at the project site and adjacent lands.

Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed project area is largely disturbed and contains Sahara mustard, fountain grass, and tamarisk. The Proposed Action may add to weed infestation in the project area and on surrounding lands. Implementation of the required measures would minimize this effect.

Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds

Existing populations of weeds, new introduced weeds, and local weed propagule pressure would likely increase in the event area and spread to adjoining lands. Weeds would proliferate where ground disturbance occurs. People, vehicles and equipment could spread weeds to other locations and states.

Mitigation Measures

Post-use monitoring will be required to evaluate the damage to surrounding vegetation after each event.

Weed awareness training will be integrated into the events. An educational component shall be added to provide event staff with weed literature. This will promote awareness as well as provide the potential for early detection of weeds on the site. All staff will be made aware of these mitigation measures. See weed standard terms and conditions.

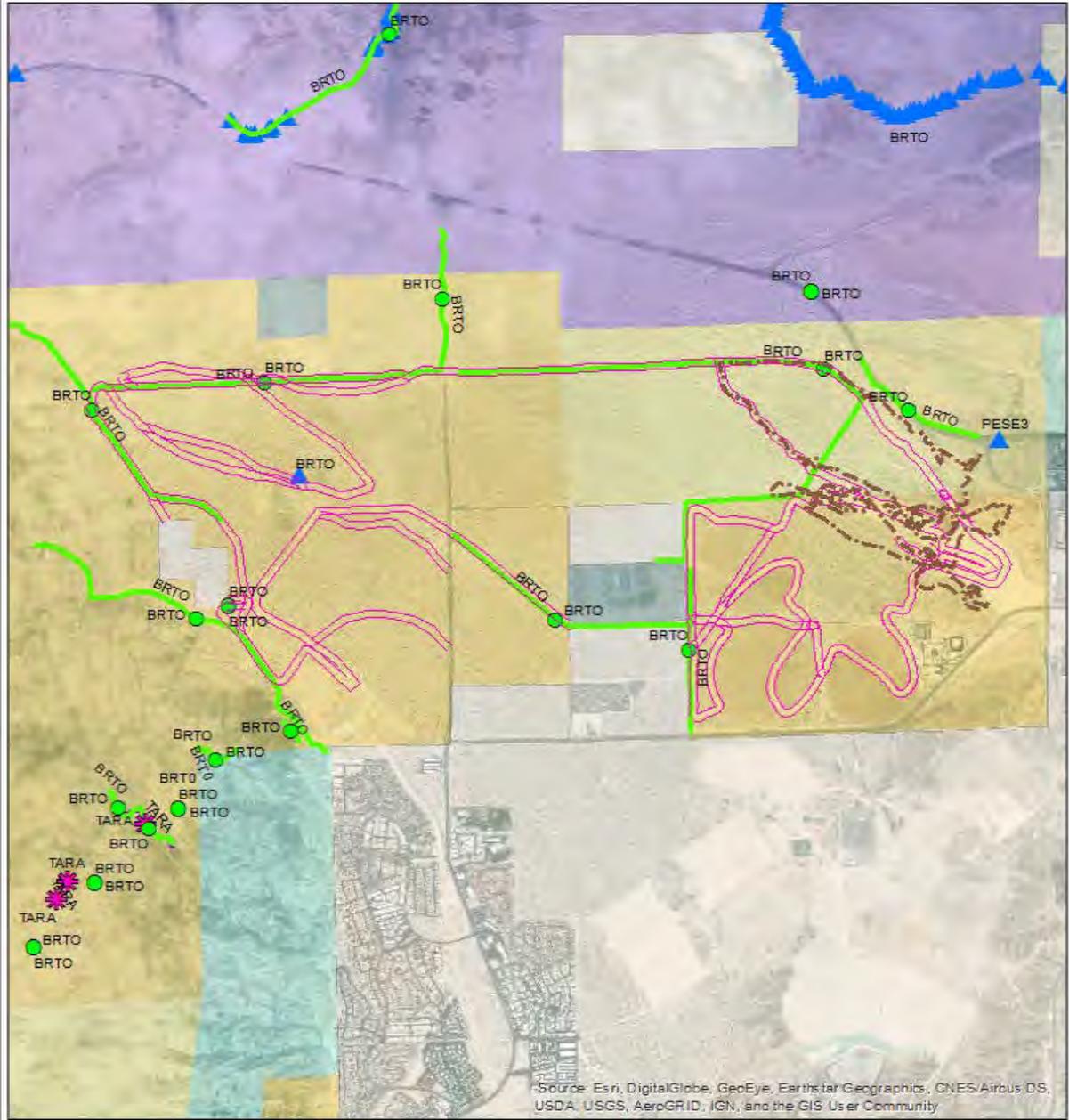
Other measures to reduce the spread of invasive species/noxious weeds can be found in Appendix A.

Residual Impacts

Residual impacts include increases in disturbances to native plant communities, and increases in non-native plant species.

Aggressively managing invasive or noxious species will limit residual effects to manageable levels. This is made possible by maintaining discontinuous, dispersed native vegetation, nonflammable native species, propagation and planting of native species, or complete removal of all vegetation.

Laughlin Weed Inventory



Legend

Endurance Corridor Events	NCRS_code	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Forest Service
OHV Recourse	BRT0	Bureau of Land Management	National Park Service
T2018_All_lines_ShapesToCentroids	TARA	Bureau of Reclamation	Nevada State
NCRS_code	2015_SVDO weeks_of	Department of Defense	Local Government
BRT0 Sahara mustard		Department of Energy	Private
TARA Tamarisk		Fish and Wildlife Service	

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

Figure 4: Laughlin Weed Inventory

Floodplain

Affected Environment

About 55 percent of the Proposed Action occurs within an area that has been designated as Floodzone AO by FEMA. The remaining 45 percent have an annual 0.2 percent chance of flooding, according to FEMA. Areas within Floodzone AO are subject to inundation by 1-percent-annual-chance shallow flooding also known as 100 year floodplain (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain) where average depths are between one and three feet. Average flood depths derived from detailed hydraulic analyses are shown in this zone. Some Zone AO have been designated in areas with high flood velocities such as alluvial fans and washes. In general, communities are encouraged to adopt more restrictive requirements for these areas. Areas of 500-year flood are inundated by 0.2% annual chance flooding.

Federal activities within the 100 year floodplain require consideration of Executive Order (EO) 11988 “Floodplain Management”. This EO requires federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the activities in this floodplain would not take place on federal land, and there would be no additional impacts to floodplains in this area.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action

The nature of the Proposed Action (i.e., desert races) occur on previously used courses and spectators and support personnel are staged in previously disturbed areas. The race activities are temporary and no new permanent structures or floodplain development would take place. Most of the routes available for these type of activities in the Laughlin area fall within one of these two floodplain types. Therefore, no practicable action alternatives for desert racing are available to locate the Proposed Action outside the floodplain within the Laughlin area. Because no new permanent structures or floodplain development would take place, the Proposed Action would not result in adverse effects to the floodplain, and therefore the Proposed Action should be in compliance with EO 11988.

Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would be in accordance with EO 11988 and would not cause adverse impacts to the floodplain. The Proposed Action would not contribute impacts to the floodplain in the area.

Mitigation Measures

Measures to reduce impacts can be found in Appendix A.

Residual Impacts

None.

Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate Wildlife Species

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 indicates that the project area and surrounding the Laughlin area has low tortoise density to moderate density tortoise habitat. Undisturbed lands within and adjacent to the proposed project site contain the key habitat requirements for desert tortoises to survive.

Therefore, there is the potential for tortoises to be present within and adjacent to the proposed project site and may wander onto the project site during project related activities.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

None of the impacts to desert tortoise or desert tortoise habitat associated with the proposed races and events would occur under the No Action Alternative.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action

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 (*Gopherus agassizii*) and no effect for its designated critical habitat. 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.

The primary direct impacts of the Proposed Action on the desert tortoise would be killing or maiming of tortoises, displacement of individuals, and increased potential for harassment of tortoises. Indirect impacts could include increased noise, introduction and spread of weeds, and increased erosion potential. If not noticed and avoided during operation, maintenance, and/or decommissioning activities, desert tortoises could be either injured or killed (by crushing) or harassed (by being moved out of harm's way) during project related activities. The project may contribute to displacement of individuals, increased potential for harassment of federally protected species, increased human presence leading to death or harm to individuals or collection, increased weeds and increased access to area by general public.

Section 7 Consultation for this project is covered under the Programmatic Biological Opinion (84320-2010-F-0365.R038) contingent on compliance with the terms and conditions. **Terms and**

conditions and minimization measures in the above Biological Opinion contain measures to avoid and minimize potential impacts, including take, to desert tortoise. A copy of the terms and conditions has been uploaded to ePlanning (Sec 7 Log # NV-052-18-084). The BLM has extended coverage under their Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Reclamation lands within the project area. BLM remains the lead office for consultation on the action.

Cumulative Impacts

OHV races may contribute to increases in 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 degradation of potential habitat, particularly during non-regulated racing activities. 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 the 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 action 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 impacts to species associated with the Proposed Action.

Mitigation Measures

The proponent must comply with all terms and conditions of the biological opinion (84320-2010-F-0365.R038) which have been attached to this EA for desert tortoise (Section 7 Log# NV-052-18-084).

Residual Impacts

No residual effects should occur as long as the proponents adhere to the desert tortoise mitigation measures/stipulations.

Fuels and Fire Management

Affected Environment

The proposed event area and activities fall within the Las Vegas Interagency Communication Center (LVICC) Dispatch Area. The BLM, National Park Service, Reclamation, Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), and Clark County Rural Fire all have jurisdictional responsibility for responding to wildfires that threaten lands within their jurisdiction. The BLM manages fire response through the Las Vegas Field Office Fire Management Plan (2004). Reclamation manages fire response through an agreement with the BLM and the Lower Colorado Fire Management Plan (2014). NDF has fire response for the Big Bend of the Colorado River Recreation Area immediately south of the proposed event area. The event area is within wildland urban interface, adjacent to the community of Laughlin, Nevada.

Wildfires have occurred adjacent to the event area and have ranged in size from 0.1–20.0 acres (Figure 5). Wildfires have occurred in or adjacent to the project area within the last decade. The environmental effects wildfires in this area are short and long-term loss of ecosystem services including damage or destruction of native Mojave Desert plant species and habitat. Most if not all native Mojave Desert plant species are not fire adapted. The threatened desert tortoise is not fire adapted. Wildfire could threaten the nearby wildland urban interface, human safety, and public and private property. Fires that ignite and burn in ephemeral annual grass such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), schismus (*Schismus barbatus*) or red brome (*Bromus rubens*) may increase fire occurrence once an annual grass fire cycle has become established. Green fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*), tamarisk, or salt cedar (*Tamarix spp.*), and sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) are Nevada State listed noxious weeds, are known to occur in this area and are fire hazards. Areas that are barren or devoid of vegetation would present little to no wildfire risk. Vegetation and fuels in this area can vary annually due to local and regional climate and environmental factors.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, SRP and ROU authorizations for high speed vehicle races and endurance/obstacle races would not be issued at the Laughlin SRMA and wildfire impacts would remain the same as current levels. Invasive plant species could expand and result in increased combustible fuels, which in turn could result in larger fires.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action

A human caused ignition from OHVs, race activities or human activities could result in a wildfire, especially during fire season, periods of high fire danger, when fire restrictions are in effect or when ephemeral grass fuel loads are high. The proposal to use pyrotechnics and to include fire jumps as part of the endurance/obstacle race SRP are of particular concern. The environmental effects of a wildfire are damage to property, or destruction of native Mojave Desert plant species and habitat.

The project proposal includes the use of pyrotechnics, fireworks, and obstacle course live fire features, which could cause a wildfire. OHV racing activities could result in wildfires. Spectators can accidentally start fires. Over 10,000 people including spectators, participants and event staff could be attending the OHV race events. Over 25,000 people including spectators, participants

and event staff could be attending the Endurance/Obstacle events. As a result, human caused fires are possible without minimization measures.

The potential direct environmental effects of a wildfire are threats to human safety, public and private property, and infrastructure within the wildland urban interface as well as damage or destruction of native Mojave Desert plant and animal species and habitat. Most if not all native Mojave Desert plant and animal species, including the federally threatened desert tortoise, are not fire adapted.

Areas that are barren or devoid of vegetation would present little to no wildfire risk. Vegetation and fuels in this area can vary annually due to local and regional climate and environmental factors. Areas where fuels, vegetation or weed treatments are carried out could have reduced wildfire risk.

Indirectly, wildfire could lead to short and long term loss of ecosystem services from damage or destruction of native Mojave Desert plant species and habitat. Fires that ignite and burn in ephemeral annual grass such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) or red brome (*Bromus rubens*) may increase fire occurrence once an annual grass fire cycle has become established. Increased disturbance from race activities may increase invasive plant species which in turn could result more combustible fuels and larger, more destructive wildfires.

Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Action

Cumulative Effects are changes to the area's fire frequency and size, loss of ecosystem function, native plant species, and habitat due to natural and human caused wildfires. Repeat fires are likely to perpetuate the annual grass fire cycle and degrade environmental conditions over time. These potential impacts would be minimized by the stipulations described in Appendix A and the Best Management Practices included in the Proposed Action.

Mitigation Measures

Fire restrictions are generally enacted May through October.

In the event of an unplanned ignition that causes a wildfire the proponent will be held responsible for all costs of suppression and damaged resources pending a fire Origin and Cause Investigation.

Utilize standard fire prevention measures and best management practices to prevent fires.

The Proponent will provide education to race participants and spectators on fire prevention and, if appropriate, general environmental safety and lightning safety.

If fire restrictions are in place, work with BLM Fire Management to ensure adequate suppression resources are available to suppress any possible event caused wildfire. These resources could include, at minimum, on-site BLM firefighting resources such as a wildland fire engine, fire crew, Incident Commander, and an off-site Las Vegas Interagency Communication Center (LVICC) dispatcher.

In the event of a wildfire resulting from the proposed activities, the proponent will implement an emergency response (as described in the proponent's Fire Safety Plan, approved by the BLM) in coordination with on-site BLM staff, including law enforcement and fire personnel. The Proponent will be responsible for immediately notifying LVICC of any wildfires. If LVICC is

unavailable, Lake Mead Dispatch or 911 will be immediately contacted. The Proponent will make all accommodations to allow immediate safe entry of firefighting apparatus and personnel. This includes mitigating UAV, helicopter or other aviation activities associated with the event to allow for public and fire fighter safety during a fire response. See standard stipulations for more information.

Residual Impacts

Casual use and other activities would continue and could result in human caused fires. Lightning caused fires could occur. However, if fuels and invasive vegetation were managed fire risk could go down because of decreased combustible vegetation.

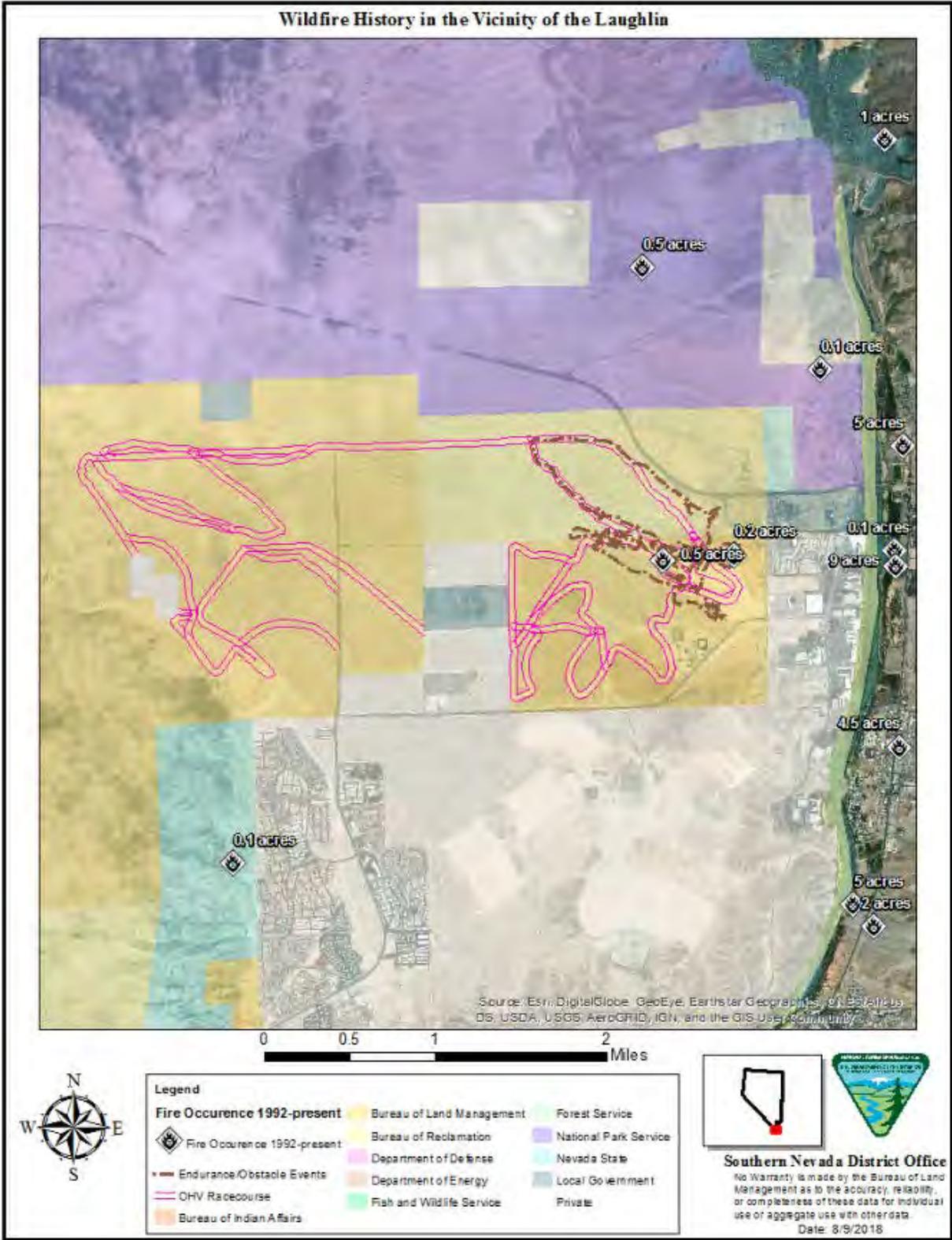


Figure 5: Wildfire History in the Vicinity of Laughlin

Chapter 4 Consultation and Coordination

Table 4.1 List of Persons, Agencies, and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose
Bureau of Reclamation	Issuance of permits for events effecting both agencies based on analysis found within this EA.

Internal Review:

Analysis was completed by BLM and Reclamation staff as identified in Table 1.

Appendix A

Standard Stipulations

The following stipulations and mitigation measures must be implemented unless the stipulation/measure is not applicable to the permitted event. Those stipulations/measure that include “if applicable, if used, or if constructed” are to be implemented if the Proposed Action includes that activity or design.

1. General Resource Stipulations

- 1.1. The Holder shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations for the protection of resources and the environment, to include but not limited to air, cultural, hazmat, soil, vegetation, water, wildlife.
- 1.2. As part of project reclamation, the Holder will be responsible for ensuring that any boreholes, wells, or other openings in the ground are backfilled and properly covered, according to the Nevada Regulatory Statutes.
- 1.3. The Holder shall remove from public land and properly dispose of any and all trash, litter, debris, waste, excess materials, including flagging and signs, or other substances and materials resulting from the use under this authorization. All trash and food items shall be promptly contained within closed, raven-proof containers.
- 1.4. The Holder shall provide the information statement below to race participants and spectators for their awareness of Naturally Occurring Asbestos 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 informing race participants and spectators of the presence of NOA. More information on NOA can be found at: http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/airquality/announcements/Documents/asbestos/AsbestosFAQ_ENG_web.pdf
- 1.5 The Holder shall pay the United States for any damage to its property resulting from this use.
- 1.6 At the request of BLM and/or Reclamation, the proponent shall implement measures to minimize disturbance and erosion along race routes, at obstacle areas, and any other areas authorized for use. This may include but not be limited to: route design to minimize erosion, limiting the width of the route with flagging or other barriers or delineation, establishment of course checkpoints and chicanes, stabilizing erodible areas or installing drainage and/or waterbars. All measures shall be approved by BLM and/or Reclamation and shall be at the expense of the proponent. This includes the previously disturbed but revegetated portion of

the Endurance/Obstacle race course on Reclamation land. At this location the route shall not exceed 15 feet and the potential measures discussed above shall be implemented as needed.

- 1.7 Any new disturbance not authorized by BLM or Reclamation shall be restored by the Holder. This restoration shall include development and implementation of a restoration plan approved by BLM and/or Reclamation. This restoration plan shall include an assessment of damages, timeline for restoration, required restoration, monitoring, and if necessary, a watering schedule. The Holder shall be responsible for all costs associated with restoration.
- 1.8 All vehicles, including race, race support personnel, maintenance, course worker, and general public vehicles, shall be restricted to existing routes before, during, and after races and shall be informed of the restriction by the Holder.
- 1.9 Upon completion of the BLM's post course inspection, the Holder shall grade access roads identified by the BLM as being damaged during the race. Grading shall not occur without a BLM monitor.

2. Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species

- 2.1. Compliance with the special stipulations below will help to ensure desert tortoises are not impacted:
 - 2.1.1. A speed limit of 25 miles per hour shall be required for all vehicles travelling on existing roads, except during each race.
 - 2.1.2. Should a desert tortoise enter the area of activity, all activity shall cease until such time the animal leaves the area of its own accord.
- 2.2. All drivers must check underneath vehicles and equipment before moving to ensure no tortoise has taken cover underneath parked vehicles.
- 2.3. The Holder will comply with the terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion File No. 84320-2010-F-0365.R004 for this project. The Biological Opinion is on file at the Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District Office. The terms and conditions are attached.
- 2.4. The Holder, upon completion of the Proposed Action, must submit Appendix G found in the terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion (attached). Please forward Appendix G to the BLM, Attn: Wildlife Biologist, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89130. Failure to abide by the terms and conditions of the grant and Biological Opinion, could result in temporary suspension of all activities within your ROW area per 43 CFR 2807.16 and 43 CFR 2807.17.

3. Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- 3.1. Any cultural and/or paleontological resources (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the Holder, or any person working on his behalf on public or federal lands shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the Authorized Officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant

cultural or scientific values. The Holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation. Any decision regarding suitable mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the Holder. Holder shall be responsible for the resultant mitigation costs.

4. Hazardous Materials

- 4.1. If hazardous materials/substances are used or present within the authorized area, the Holder shall immediately notify the Authorized Officer of any release (leaks, spills, etc.) of hazardous substances, toxic substances, or hazardous waste. As required by law, Holder shall have responsibility for and shall take all action(s) necessary to respond to and fully remediate releases (leaks, spills, etc.) within the authorized area. A copy of any report required or requested by any federal, state, or local government agency as a result of a reportable release or spill of any hazardous substances shall be furnished to the Authorized Officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved federal, state, or local government agency.
- 4.2. All vehicles shall be inspected by the Holder for fluid leaks, and any vehicle leaking fluids shall be addressed prior to the race. Any fuel or hazardous waste leaks or spills shall be contained immediately and cleaned up at the time of occurrence. Waste materials known or found to be hazardous waste shall be disposed of at an approved treatment, storage or disposal facility.

5. Survey Monuments

- 5.1. Holder shall protect all survey monuments found within the authorization area. Survey monuments include, but are not limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments. If any of the above are to be disturbed during operations, the Holder shall secure the services of a Professional Land Surveyor or Bureau cadastral surveyor to perpetuate the disturbed monuments and references using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States and Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 329, Perpetuation of Corners. The Holder shall record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the Authorized Officer. If the Bureau cadastral surveyors or other federal surveyors are used to restore the disturbed survey monuments, the Holder shall be responsible for the survey cost.

6. Fire and Fuels

- 6.1. Compliance with fire restrictions is mandatory while fire restrictions are in effect (43 CFR 9212). Fire restrictions are generally enacted May through October. Fire restriction orders are available for review at BLM district offices and on the BLM website.
- 6.2. The use of standard fire prevention measures should be practiced at all times (43 CFR 2805.12). Conditions that support wildfires can occur any time of the year in Southern Nevada.
- 6.3. The Holder shall immediately report fires to 911 or (702) 631-2350 and make all accommodations to allow immediate safe entry of firefighting apparatus and personnel.

- 6.4. An Origin and Cause Investigation will be carried out on any human caused fire by BLM law enforcement or their designated representative. To minimize disturbance of potential evidence located at the fire scene, the applicant/proponent shall properly handle and preserve evidence in coordination with the BLM. The BLM shall pursue cost recovery for all costs and damages incurred from human-caused fires on BLM lands when the responsible party(s) has been identified and evidence of legal liability or intent exists. Legal liability includes, but is not limited to, negligence and strict liability (including statutory and contractual liability), products liability, etc.
- 6.5. OHV: Ensure guides responsible individuals carry fire extinguishers, buckets, shovels or other means to suppress and extinguish fires. Exhaust systems and other hotspots can heat up enough to ignite grass or other debris that has built up on the machine which can drop off and cause a wildfire. Remove build-up or clean debris from the machine's hotspots as needed and in compliance with weed stipulations to prevent fires. Staying on designated routes will also help prevent fires because these areas are generally clear of vegetation. Other mitigation measures that prevent wildfires are possible and would be considered.
- 6.6. OHV: Fire restrictions include prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle or combustion engine equipment without a spark arrestor (43 CFR 8343.1 (c)). Year round compliance with 43 CFR 8343.1 (c), 43 CFR 9268.3, and NRS 475.060 as applicable will further reduce risk of an ignition, simplify compliance, and increase enforceability with respect to the proposed activities. "Posting appropriate signs or by marking a map which shall be available for public inspection at local Bureau offices, the authorized officer may indicate those public lands upon which no off-road vehicle may be operated unless equipped with a properly installed spark arrestor."
- 6.7. Pyrotechnics and Obstacle Race – Fire Feature:
 - 6.7.1. The proponent shall notify the BLM no less than 2 weeks prior to their use. This notification must include number of features, fuel sources, duration of active fires, and identify fire suppression equipment and staff that will monitor the features for the duration of burning.
 - 6.7.2. The proponent shall only utilize these features in areas of previous disturbance completely denuded of vegetation.
 - 6.7.3. If sustained winds are forecast to be greater than 10 MPH or gusts greater than 15 MPH the day before or up to the event, the fire features shall not be utilized during the event.
- 6.8. Coordinate activities with BLM Fire Management on a case by case basis where needed or when fire danger is high.

7. Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

- 7.1. The Holder will keep their project area free of state-listed noxious weeds, such as Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), for the life of the project. The Holder shall perform annual monitoring for invasive species/noxious weeds. Any detections of noxious weeds should be reported to the SNDO Weed Management Specialist immediately (702-515-5000) to determine best course for treatment.

- 7.2. The use of pesticide treatment requires the Holder to coordinate with the BLM SNDO weed management specialist (702-515-5000) and prepare, submit, obtain, and maintain a pesticide use proposal (PUP) to utilize pesticides for project activities.
- 7.3. In order to reduce the accidental spread of noxious weeds, the Holder and any contractors shall avoid or minimize all types of travel through a state listed noxious weed-infested areas that can be carried to the project area. In order to minimize the threat of spreading noxious weeds project-related equipment (i.e. undercarriages and wheel wells) should be cleaned of all mud, dirt, and plant parts before moving into relatively weed-free areas or out of relatively weed-infested areas. Project workers shall inspect, remove, and dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on their clothing and personal equipment, bag the product, and dispose of it in a dumpster. If you have questions, consult with the BLM SNDO noxious weed coordinator.
- 7.4. During construction and maintenance activities the Holder shall:
 - 7.4.1. Review the annual weed inventory prior to any ground disturbance;
 - 7.4.2. Limit the size of any vegetation and/or ground disturbance to the absolute minimum necessary to perform the activity safely and as designed.
 - 7.4.3. Begin activities in weed free areas whenever feasible before operating in weed-infested areas.
 - 7.4.4. Locate equipment storage, machine and vehicle parking or any other area needed for the temporary placement of people, machinery and supplies in areas that are relatively weed-free;
 - 7.4.5. Avoid or minimize all types of travel through weed-infested areas or restrict major activities to periods of time when the spread of seed or plant parts are least likely.
- 7.5. If landscaping is part of the project design, the Holder will ensure that landscaping does not contain state-listed noxious weeds, such as fountaingrass (*Pennisetum setaceum*).
- 7.6. The permittee will be held responsible for any weed infestations that are spread or introduced as a result of project related activities.
- 7.7. 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).

8. Mineral Resources

- 8.1. If construction activities produce excess mineral materials from within the boundaries of the Proposed Action, the mineral materials must be used within the boundaries of the Proposed Action or stockpiled within the boundaries of the Proposed Action for future disposal by the BLM. If construction activities require that excess mineral materials be exported from within the boundaries of the Proposed Action as they are generated, then written authorization, a mineral material sales contract, a free-use

permit, etc. must be obtained from the BLM by the Holder prior to exporting the excess mineral materials from within the boundaries of the Proposed Action.

- 8.2. If mineral materials are to be stockpiled on site for a future disposal, specific BLM use authorization in the form of a written authorization, mineral material sales contract, free-use permit, etc. must be obtained from the BLM prior to exporting the excess mineral materials from within the boundaries of the Proposed Action.

9. Migratory Birds

- 9.1. In compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, habitat-altering projects or portions of projects should be scheduled outside of the bird breeding season, which generally occurs February 15th through August 31st. If a project has to occur during the breeding season, then a qualified biologist must survey the area for nests, including ground nesting species, immediately prior to commencement of construction activities. If any active nests are found, an appropriately sized buffer area must be established and maintained until the young birds fledge. If feasible, the buffer area should connect to suitable, undisturbed habitat. As the above dates are a general guideline, any active nests that are observed outside this range, must be avoided as described above.
- 9.2. Any infrastructure for projects will be designed and constructed in a manner that does not allow open pipes that birds or other wildlife could be trapped in. This includes fencing, gates, or other materials with open holes. All open pipes will be capped or secured so that wildlife cannot access.
- 9.3. If lighting is installed on buildings or required by the FAA, lighting on buildings should be down-shielded and those structures/towers required by FAA to have lighting installed, should have flashing lights with the minimum intensity required by the FAA to prevent migratory bird collisions.
- 9.4. If project involves power lines and/or power line posts, the Holder shall follow Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) guidelines (Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines (2006) and Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines (2012)) to reduce this risk through facility design and comply with MBTA and other federal wildlife laws, due to potential for electrocution, collision, and nesting/perching by migratory birds on overhead power lines.
- 9.5. If guy wires are used on structures (including power line posts and communication towers) they must be marked with bird diverters so they are visible to prevent injury/mortality to birds through collision.

10. Air Quality

- 10.1. 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.

11. Fish and Wildlife, Excluding Federally Listed Species

- 11.1. If artificial water sources are used, ensure that they have a properly installed and designed escape ramp to allow for wildlife to flee in the event of accidental entrapping.

11.2. Project supplies or equipment where wildlife could temporarily hide will be inspected prior to moving them to reduce the potential for injury to wildlife. Supplies and equipment that cannot be inspected, or from which wildlife cannot escape or be removed, will be covered or otherwise made secure from wildlife intrusion or entrapment at the end of each work day.

11.3. If any Gila monsters are encountered during project construction they must be reported immediately to the Nevada Division of Wildlife at (702) 486-5127.

12. Wild Horse and Burro

12.1. If wild horses and/or burros are encountered in or near the authorized area do not feed, harass, or otherwise interact with the animal. Report sick or injured animals, or violations to animals to the BLM immediately.