



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: SUP-Youth Quail & Chukar Hunt
Project Number: 10-moja-049/PEPC 32780

Project Description:

Mojave National Preserve, in partnership with California Department of Fish & Game, Quail Unlimited/Forever, Santa Clarita Valley Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation, Safari Club International, and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, propose to hold a Youth Quail & Chukar Hunt. This effort is in support of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, a Presidential Memorandum signed by President Barack Obama on April 16, 2010. This initiative supports and promotes innovative community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and reconnect Americans to the outdoors.

Up to 50 pre-registered youth, ages 10-18, will be educated, exposed and guided on a hunt for desert upland game animals in Mojave National Preserve. Target youth include minority children and those from single-parent households in southern California communities who would otherwise not have exposure to the outdoors and public lands. Activity partners are helping youth to obtain and meet hunter safety education and licensing requirements. All applicable rules and regulations pertaining to Preserve use and hunting will still be in effect and enforceable.

Base camp will be established at the Hole-in-the-Wall group and equestrian campsites. A section of the Hole-in-the-Wall campground will be set aside for any overflow of participants, if needed. Educational displays and talks are scheduled for Friday and Saturday night at the pavilion (ramada). Volunteers will cook and provide Saturday and Sunday morning breakfast and a Saturday night dinner. On Saturday (October 23), two to three youths will be paired with a guide and dogs and be assigned an area to hunt. Sunday will be a hunt-on-your-own day. Nothing will be sold during the event. Gifts and trinkets (e.g., t-shirts, hats, water bottles,, etc.) will be given to participating youths.

Project Location:

County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
Location 1			
District:	Hole-in-the-Wall	Section:	group and equestrian campsites
Location 2			
District:	Hole-in-the-Wall	Section:	campground
Location 3			
District:	throughout Mojave National Preserve	Section:	

Mitigation(s):

- No mitigations identified

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

D.4 Issuance of permits for demonstrations, gathering, ceremonies, concerts, arts and crafts shows, etc., entailing only short-term or readily mitigable environmental disturbance.

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an interdisciplinary review of the proposed action. This special event is being hosted by Mojave National Preserve and is supported by park management. The Visitor Protection, Interpretation and Maintenance divisions will be assisting Resource Management in putting on this event. Reviewers identified some issues that have since been clarified (see reviewers' comments). They did not identify potentially significant adverse impacts. It is, therefore, concluded that is proposal may be categorically excluded from further review under the National Environmental Policy Act. Impairment to the natural or cultural resources of Mojave National Preserve is not anticipated.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent/ DENNIS SCHRAMM/ *Louanna J. Whalen*
Date: 10/4/10

NPS Contact Person: DANETTE WOO/ *Danette*

Title: Environmental Compliance Specialist

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