



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: SUP-Mojave Death Race 2013
Project Number: 13-moja-008/PEPC 44927

Project Description:

David Molinaro has applied for a special use permit to host the Mojave 250+ Mile Death Race. The Orange County Sheriff's Department used to host this race, last held in 2005. Mr. Molinaro has met with park staff -- Larry Whalon, Mark Peapenburg, Danette Woo -- to discuss his plans ahead of applying for a special use permit (November 7, 2011). The race is scheduled for June 1-2, 2013. There will be a maximum of 50 teams (50 x 12 = 600 participants) and up to 150 vehicles. They will also accept up to five teams of six participants each. This event is being advertised on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter; its website is www.mojavedeathrace.com.

Mr. Molinaro originally proposed a non-motorized endurance race that starts and ends in Primm, Nevada. It has 24 running, mountain biking, and road biking relay legs through the Mojave Desert and will last approximately 24 hours. Teams of 12 athletes complete a loop through Baker, south on Kelbaker Road, along Route 66, then north on Lanfair and Ivanpah Roads. There will be race support vehicles and team support vehicles following the route, as well as the competitors. Mr. Molinaro has extensively revised the race route and legs of the race wherein the entirety of the Mojave Death Race will take place in Mojave National Preserve and Route 66 (California Department of Transportation jurisdiction). The revised route plan is available under Internal Documents.

Project Locations:

County, State: San Bernardino, CA
District, Section: Ivanpah Valley, Nipton Moore Road Geographic Marker: Leg 1 (GIS Point) Other: 35,466808, -115.273266
District, Section: Ivanpah Valley, Ivanpah Road/Powerline Road Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 1 (GIS Point) Other: 35.372703, -115.342911
District, Section: Ivanpah Valley, Powerline Rd/Morning Star Mine Rd/Cima Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 2 (GIS Point) Other: 35.253899, -115.512218
District, Section: Cima/Kelso, Kelso-Cima/Kelbaker Rds Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 3 (GIS Point) Other: 35.146786, -115.784429
District, Section: Kelso/Mojave Rd, Kelbaker Rd/Mojave Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 4 (GIS Point) Other: 35.199099, -115.872451
District, Section: Little Cowhole Mtn/Hanks Mtn, Mojave Rd/dirt Rd/Kelbaker Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 5 (GIS Point) Other: 35.256529, -116.057987

County, State: San Bernardino, CA
District, Section: Kelbaker Rd north, Kelbaker Rd/Kelso-Cima Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 6 (GIS Point) Other: 35.013241, -115.651731
District, Section: Kelbaker Rd south, Kelso Depot/Kelso Dunes Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 7 (GIS Point) Other: 34.901119, -115.649148
District, Section: Kelbaker Rd south, Kelso Dunes Rd/Nat Trails Hwy Other: exit point-I40
District, Section: Lanfair Valley, Lanfair Road Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 11 (GIS Point) Other: 34.990187, -115.107018
District, Section: Lanfair Valley, Lanfair Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 12 (GIS Point) Other: 35.044673, -115.158669
District, Section: Lanfair Valley, Lanfair/Ivanpah Rds Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 13 (GIS Point) Other: 35.126686, -115.183421
District, Section: Lanfair Valley, Ivanpah Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 14 (GIS Point) Other: 35.202884, -115.202811
District, Section: New York Mtns, NY Mtn Rd/Caruthers Cyn Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 15 (GIS Point) Other: 35.157097, -115.332436
District, Section: Lanfair Valley, Cedar Canyon Rd/Black Canyon Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 16 (GIS Point) Other: 35.174221, -115.411591
District, Section: Mid Hills, Black Canyon Rd/Wildhorse Canyon Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 17 (GIS Point) Other: 35.174221, -115.411591
District, Section: Hole-in-the-Wall, Black Canyon Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 18 (GIS Point) Other: 35.136363, -115.402570
District, Section: Hole-in-the-Wall/Mid Hills, Black Canyon Rd/Cedar Canyon Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 19 (GIS Point) Other: 35.157465, -115.332359
District, Section: Lanfair Valley, Cedar Canyon Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 20 (GIS Point) Other: 35.202884, -115.202811
District, Section: New York Mountains, Ivanpah Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 21 (GIS Point) Other: 35.292648, -115.236675
District, Section: New York Mountains, Ivanpah Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 22 (GIS Point) Other: 35.329850, -115.276936

County, State: San Bernardino, CA
District, Section: Ivanpah Valley, Ivanpah Rd/Powerline Rd Geographic Marker: Exchange Pt 23 (GIS Point) Other: 35.372703, -115.342911
District, Section: Ivanpah Valley, Powerline Rd/out of park Geographic Marker: Finish Line (GIS Point) Other: 35.466885, -115.272217

Mitigation(s):

- Event organizers must ensure all equipment, supplies, and debris are picked up and removed along the course route and from each exchange point. The Preserve must be left as it was found. The special use permit should include an attachment of Leave No Trace principles.
- Event must be monitored at all times. Visitor protection staff will patrol the event. Contact: Kirk Gebicke
- All motorized vehicles and mechanized transport are to remain on established roads at all times.
- All-terrain vehicles are prohibited on all roads in Mojave National Preserve.
- Desert Tortoise: Do not touch, handle, move, or possess a desert tortoise.
- Desert Tortoise: Vehicles traveling in groups must be spaced far enough apart to ensure visibility of the road surface.
- Desert Tortoise: Check under vehicles before operating.

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.

Explanation:

Mojave National Preserve staff has reviewed the original proposal, met with him twice, and reviewed his revised proposal. The event organizer, Mr. Molinaro, has addressed the Preserve's several concerns satisfactorily. The event needs to be monitored at all times by a patrolling ranger. Event organizers must ensure all organizers, volunteers, and participants are briefed in desert tortoise protective measures; that vehicles park only along road shoulders and do not damage vegetation; and that all exchange points are cleaned up, all equipment is removed and no litter remains. The Preserve's natural and cultural resources should not be significantly adversely impacted if event organizers and participants abide by all permit conditions. Impairment is not expected to result from the proposed activities; therefore, a special use permit may be issued to allow this event to take place in Mojave National Preserve.

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 (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Superintendent: Lawrence J. Wheeler ACTING Date: 5/13/13

NPS Contact: [Signature] Date: 13 May 2013