



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: SUP-Norco Mojave Ride 2013
Project Number: 13-moja-24/PEPC 46813

Project Description:

Pamalla Barber, representing Norco Mojave Ride, has applied for a special use permit to hold a group equestrian event April 12-20, 2013 in Mojave National Preserve. She originally planned to ride the Mojave Road west to east as they had done in years past but, due to a much lower level of interest this year, has revised the event. Ms. Barber would now like to stage a wagon wheel event at Hole-in-the-Wall where they camp in one spot and do daily trail rides. Both the group and equestrian campsites are reserved for either part or the whole period of time between April 12 and 20; therefore, the group has requested to camp at the roadside campsite on the south side of Banshee Canyon off of Wildhorse Canyon Road. There are 12 riders signed up, with 10 crew vehicles. Day rides are planned as follows:

A loop following the Mid Hills to Hole-in-the-Wall Trail and Wildhorse Canyon Road; A loop following the Barber Peak Loop Trail; A ride into Saddle Horse Canyon; and A ride into Woods Mountains.

A map of the routes is attached. There is also a parking plan attached that was worked out between Pam Barber, Kirk Gebicke, Tim Duncan, and Danette Woo. The plan will accommodate no more than 12 riders with their rigs and the 10 crew vehicles and personnel.

Project Locations:

Location

County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	Hole-in-the-Wall area	Section:	
Geo. Marker:		Other:	

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.

Explanation:

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an interdisciplinary review of the revised proposal for this event. Reviewers were primarily concerned with resource impacts from Norco Mojave Ride participants to the roadside campsite on the south side of Banshee Canyon. The parking plan agreed upon by MOJA staff and Ms. Barber allows parallel parking on either side of the access road to the site for riders' pickup trucks or motor homes plus horse trailers, and crew rigs along the campsite loop itself. This plan minimizes impacts to the area, and contains most of the impact to the footprint of the campsite and access road. No other significant impacts to cultural or natural resources have been identified. Impairment is not expected to result from the proposed activity. A special use permit may, therefore, be issued for the Norco Mojave Ride 2013.

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. Whalon ACTING Date: 4/5/13

NPS Contact: [Signature] Date: 04 April 2013