

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office
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In Reply Refer to:
2930 (NV030.05)

NOV 01 2010

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Black Rock Field Office is seeking public input as it evaluates a proposal from Black Rock City LLC (BRC) to renew their Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct the Burning Man Festival on the Black Rock Desert playa for the 2011-2015 period. The previous 5-year permit for the 2006-2010 events has expired and BRC is seeking a new 5-year permit.

The festival is held annually on public lands in Pershing County, Nevada on the barren playa of the Black Rock Desert approximately 10 miles northeast of the community of Gerlach, Nevada. The festival has been held since 1990 and has been permitted by BLM since 1992 with the issuance of SRP's.

The operations associated with the event occupy about 4,400 acres of public land for a seven week period starting with fencing the site perimeter the second week of August and concluding in late September with the final site cleanup. The major activities are confined to several weeks in late August and early September associated with final setup, the actual event, and the initial phases of cleanup. During this period, Black Rock City becomes one of the largest cities in Nevada. In 2010, the maximum number of participants attending the event was 51,515.

The major difference between BRC's proposal for their 2011-2015 permit/events and the previous permit is a request to allow a phased increase in the maximum size of the event from 50,000 to 60,000 participants over five years.

In evaluation of the new SRP proposal, BLM is seeking input from interested publics and local and state agencies about the potential impacts (both positive and negative) on the resources of the Black Rock Desert environment, the social services necessary to support such a large event, and economic impacts associated with the event.

Three open house public scoping meetings are scheduled by BLM and BRC to share information about the current proposal, answer questions and allow publics to provide input into the permit issuance process. The workshop times and locations are:

Lovelock Community Center
826th Street
Lovelock, NV 89419
December 7, 2010
5:00 to 7:00 pm

Gerlach Community Center
401 Cottonwood
Gerlach, NV 89412
December 8, 2010
5:00 to 7:00 pm

Hyatt Place Reno-Tahoe
1790 East Plumb Lane
Reno, NV 89502
December 9, 2010
5:00 to 7:00 pm

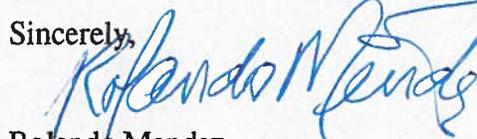
Written comments are also encouraged and may be submitted through December, 13th to Cory Roegner, Attn: Burning Man Permit Renewal, BLM Black Rock Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca NV 89445-2921.

Comments may also be submitted by email to: wfoweb@nv.blm.gov. Email messages should reference "Burning Man Permit Renewal (Roegner)" on the subject line.

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and street addresses of commenters will be available for public review at the Winnemucca District Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Anonymity is not allowed for submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

If you need additional information please contact Cory Roegner, Project Lead, at the Black Rock Field Office at 775-623-1500.

Sincerely,



Rolando Mendez
Field Manager
Black Rock Field Office