

# Lands End Hill Climb

2009

## Operating and Fire Plan

Colorado Hill Climb Association  
Grand Mesa National Forest

# **LANDS END AUTO HILL CLIMB** **OPERATING PLAN**

## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### ***A. Introduction***

The Lands End Auto Hill Climb dates back to 1940 when the AAA Auto Club sanctioned the first race. The race was run in 1940 and 1941 only. During those two years the race was sponsored by AAA Auto Club and was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July both years. Since the AAA as well as Indianapolis also sanctioned the Pikes Peak Hill Climb the summer racing season was: Memorial Day – Indianapolis; 4<sup>th</sup> of July – Lands End Hill Climb, and Labor Day - Pikes Peak Hill Climb. The race, until the late 1980s, used 12.4 miles of Lands End Road, from CCC Camp to the top.

This plan is only for the lower half from the old CCC camp to Wild Rose Picnic Area, with the possibility to extend the finish line up to 4 miles beyond Wild Rose Picnic Area for 2009.

Several categories of vehicles are run in the race: Open Wheel, Champ Cars, Stock cars, Sportsman class, Trucks, Rally cars, Rock Racers and ATVs.

The Colorado Hill Climb Association is the sanctioning body for this event.

### ***B. Purpose of the Plan***

The purpose of this plan is to provide for the protection of the forest resources and provide adequate service for the spectators and race participants. This plan is to form the basis for the operation of the race and insure that steps have been taken to provide for the items agreed upon between the US Forest Service and CHCA.

This plan meets the requirements of Clause 21 of CHCA's Special Use Permit received from the US Forest Service in previous years.

## **II. CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### ***A. Control of the Race Course***

Since the race course is located in Mesa County, the actual law enforcement control of the race course, excluding race activities, is the responsibility of the Mesa County Sheriff's Department. Facilities on the race course, such as campgrounds, etc. are the responsibility of the US Forest Service. However, the Mesa County Sheriff's Department and the Grand Junction District Ranger shall have the authority to temporarily stop the race, as they deem necessary if they determine some aspect of the race and/or weather *create an unsafe condition*.

The race coordination and cohesion will be maintained by the Race Director, Valerie Douglas. The Race Director reserves the right to stop the race for any reason

including, but not limited to safety, adverse weather and emergency. Race Control also has the ability to stop a race for any reason.

During the race, the Race Safety Crew and Race Control in conjunction with the Race Director, are responsible for closing the road to public traffic, clearing the race course prior to first run, releasing race vehicles from the finish line to travel down the race course to the start line, and opening the road to public traffic between qualification race waves and race day race waves. (see CHCA Safety Network section for specific road closure and sweep procedures)

A race wave is all vehicles with paid entry fees, have passed tech inspection, and meet CHCA rules and regulations to compete on qualification day and race day that can cross the start line under their own power.

A race will not be stopped due to spectator or non-spectator wanting to drive the road unless it is a life threatening emergency.

## ***B. Ticket Sales***

Ticket sales will be handled by and accounted for to the US Forest Service by the CHCA.

## ***C. Crowd Control and Law Enforcement***

Crowd Control is under the jurisdiction of CHCA. The CHCA will reach an agreement with the Mesa County Sheriff's Department and surrounding communities to provide personnel to assist with crowd control and support Forest Law Enforcement Officers as needed. Evacuation plans need to be discussed and identified with the event staff. Evacuation plans need to be in place for implementation in the event of a fire and needs to be available to the general public and staff for review prior to the event. The evacuation plan can be found later in this document (attachment A).

Enforcement of laws and regulations governing the occupancy of the use of National Forest is under the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service.

## ***D. Race Day Spectator Traffic***

Due to the location of the two ticket areas and actual racing parts of the road course, all spectators wishing to enter the race area (past the ticket areas) will be able to do so. However, if a race wave is in progress, any spectator wishing entry from CCC Camp can walk through the bottom ticket gate. Spectators/entrants during a race wave will not be allowed to drive a vehicle past CCC Camp/pit area until the entire race wave has completed their run. Likewise, any spectator/entrants that seek to gain entry from the top of the race course down will be stopped in their vehicle no less than ½ mile from the finish line during a race wave that is in progress. They can walk down the race course to spectator as long as they are safely and actively paying attention to the race vehicles and their surroundings.

### **III.FIRE SUPPRESSION PLAN**

#### ***A. Water Trucks***

The CHCA will arrange to have a minimum of two – 250 gallon pumpers located at the race course on both days during actual racing activities. Pumpers are available for dust abatement measures and additional water supply in case of emergency. One shall be located at the start line area and below Wild Rose Picnic Area. In addition to these two units CHCA has notified surrounding area's volunteer fire departments as well as the Mesa County Sheriff's office that a race is in progress.

The race course will be watered as seen fit by either the Race Director or the Chief Steward in order to mitigate dust.

#### ***B. Engines***

The CHCA will arrange to have a minimum of one fire protection vehicle located at the race course both days during the actual racing activities, with the Lands End Fire Department "on call" for both days. In addition to the units, CHCA has notified the surrounding area's fire departments as well as Mesa County Sheriff's office that there is a race in progress.

#### ***C. Rule Book Requirements***

The CHCA rule book requires that each race vehicle be equipped with an on-board fire extinguishing unit and each pit area is also required to have a 5 lb dry chemical extinguisher visible during race hours.

#### ***D. Safety Network***

All of the Safety Network locations in between the start line and finish line will have portable fire extinguishers (approximately 8 locations).

#### ***E. Signage***

Fire prevention signs are to be posted by the Forest Service.

#### ***F. Closure due to fire danger***

Subject to fire danger the Forest Service may close areas to use, prohibit open fires, and/or impose other preventative measures. CHCA will notify all spectators if any fire restrictions are in place. Crowd control personnel will monitor for compliance and enforce the restrictions as needed.

**See Attachment A for further details for evacuation plan.**

## **IV. ON SITE AMMENITIES**

### ***A. Portolets***

A minimum of 3 portolets (port-a-potties) will be provided on the course. One will be placed at the start line, one at Bob's Knob, the other at the finish line. CHCA will contract with an outside vendor for the placement of the portolets. The company will check them daily and pump them as necessary.

### ***B. Garbage and Litter Plan***

The CHCA has negotiated an agreement with a local trash company for the placement of dumpsters on the day prior to the start of racing activities. The location for the roll off dumpster will be in the pits at the start line.

CHCA will arrange for a local group such as Boy Scouts to walk the road after the event to pick up cans, etc for aluminum revenue. As noticed during a road survey pre-race there is already cans and litter on roadside and the CHCA should not be held responsible for the pre-race event trash problems, but this will be corrected by youth groups.

## **V. ADVERTISING AND MEDIA COVERAGE**

### ***A. Means***

The following means of advertising will be used in connection with the Lands End Hill Climb:

- 1.** Programs printed and distributed by contracted persons of the CHCA.
- 2.** Pre-race posters announcing hill climb to be distributed in Grand Junction and surrounding communities.
- 3.** Pre-race publicity on several local radio stations and news outlets will be utilized.
- 4.** National publications will include brief articles and add the event to their "calendar of events" listing.

## **VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND SAFETY NETWORK**

### ***A. CHCA Safety Network***

During both days of racing activities the CHCA Safety Network will be in control of safety on course and utilize two systems of communication.

- 1.** Safety Crew = two persons with equipment able to respond to an emergency situation that are properly trained as first responders to race specific incidents.
- 2.** Safety Network Personnel - The CHCA Safety Network is comprised of fire and EMS first responders. This is the same crew that handles safety at the Pikes Peak Hill Climb and is well trained and practiced on how to assess a situation in the event of an emergency during a race. CHCA Safety Network personnel attend the CHCA races and act as safety for each race. They are versed in the vehicle type per class, its safety construction, and driver history. As a Safety Crew member all are required to be trained in race car shut down procedures, extrication, firefighting, EMS, high speed impact medicals, rapid trauma assessments, high angle rescues, wild land fire fighting, driver safety restraints, hazardous materials, ICS systems, and methanol fuel fires.
- 3.** Equipment used by Safety Network – General items and equipment carried by a safety crew includes extraction equipment, medical bag, fire extinguisher, ropes, brooms, floor dry, mobile and handheld communication devices.
- 4.** First to respond to an incident – Race Control will request an emergency unit to respond to an incident. Race Control will identify the unit to go to the incident. This can either be a Safety Crew or local EMS, or a combination of both.
- 5.** On Scene Incident Manager – The on scene incident manager is the person from the CHCA Safety Network until the incident is clean or relieved by a higher authority. CHCA Safety Network personnel are in charge of the incident due to the hazards and knowledge of the race cars and drivers. They are trained in EMS, fire, extraction, and care for the environment.

If the safety personnel state that they need additional resources to control the scene then a second safety truck, fire truck, ambulance, police etc would be dispatched to the scene. An incident commander will then assist with control of the incident. CHCA uses the Incident Management System. The IMS (NFPA 1561, Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System) is a nationally recognized system for managing emergency situations. It is a system with considerable flexibility, allowing it to grow or shrink based on the demands and magnitude of the situation.

**6.** Role of Race Control - Race control is the heart and brains of the race. They are responsible for knowledge of where a race car is at all times. They communicate all locations of a race car by tracking numbers and communicating with the flag stations/corner worker. They dispatch needed resources according to information relayed via radio traffic from the flag stations and spotters. It is Race Controls responsibility to ensure that everyone is safe and if needed can shut the race course down for an emergency.

**7.** It is very important that no one enters the race course without race control granting permission. Race control is in charge of maintaining control of the roadway at all times and is assisted by the chief steward and race directors to ensure that all rules are followed.

**8.** Flag Station/Corner Worker – the flag person stationed at a check point that acts as the eyes and ears for the Chief Steward, Race Control and for the Safety Network. They notify race control of an incident and will brief control of the incident and if response is required.

**9.** Emergency Medical Evacuation Procedures – the paramedic on scene is the person in charge of medical care to patient (s) requiring emergency medical evacuation.

For example: Assuming that there is a critical patient and it has been determined by on scene medical care that a rapid transport is needed. In a serious medical emergency the race safety crew would have called for an ambulance and that ambulance is ALS (Advanced Life Support). CHCA Safety Crews are EMT qualified and above, by protocol they will brief and turn patient care over to a higher level of care for advanced treatment or transport. *Case scenario: driver with serious head injury is treated by Safety Crew and determined to need further care. Call is made to control to send ambulance to transport patient. Upon arrival of ambulance they decide to fly the patient out, it is the ambulances call to fly patient out being that they are Advanced Life Support and generally have communications with the E.R. and doctor on duty to request this and have local knowledge of the trauma system in place to treat this call.*

**10.** Incident Vehicle Recovery – Safety Network personnel will be in charge of the recovery due to a number of factors. They will work with the recovery team (wrecker) to remove the vehicle when the time comes. The race safety personnel are trained in assisting the wrecker crews to prevent damage to the vehicle being recovered, the environment and the safety of bystanders. The vehicles can cost in excess of \$100,000.00 and we do not want to do more harm than is needed to remove it. We are also responsible for the environment and race course due to having a permit issued thru the Forest Service and want to leave with as little foot print to the environment if possible.

**11.** Closing and Sweeping the Road - Procedure to close road takes the following steps: 1. Close the road to downhill traffic. 2. Close the road to uphill traffic. 3. After a small time frame Race Control will monitor and communicate with all flag stations that a sweep vehicle is going to start. 4. Sweep vehicle starts from start line. Flag stations are to call the sweep vehicle through their location as they pass. The sweep vehicle is normally a race safety vehicle with red lights and siren to give all spectators and officials knowledge that the race is going to begin. The race safety crew is clearing the road and also checking

locations of safety workers and spectators to make sure everyone is in a safe location and there are no hazards and the road is race ready.

**12.** Safety Network Radios - depending on the availability of FM radios, from 8 to 10 network locations will be stationed throughout the race course. The radios will be separate frequency and shall be strictly used for starting, stopping and cautioning race cars, should another car get into trouble. EMS working in addition to CHCA Safety Network will receive race radios with the exception of the EMS unit located at race control (usually Bob's Knob) as a race radio is available for use at race control for EMS.

**13.** Message Network and Timing – The Radio Club will also be charged with responsibility of operating two sets of timing devices, primary and back-up. During the two days of racing activities this will be from start line to Wild Rose Picnic Area or finish line area. This is done by lights and hand held systems and does not interfere with safety network radios.

**14.** The Safety Network will be in touch (radio contact) with the race officials and also fire and ambulance equipment on site, and the St. Mary's Flight for Life helicopter during both days.

## **VII. FEES AND SCHEDULE**

### ***A. Fees***

The CHCA will pay the Forest Service a fee for this use permit.

Spectator fees for this event shall be determined by CHCA. A one charge schedule is considered to avoid complications of bookkeeping. The CHCA, being a non-profit organization, returns 80% of gate receipts after expenses to participants, the other 20% goes to advertising, etc.

The CHCA will be responsible for all expenses in conjunction with the staging of the race, exclusive of arrangements made for road reparation.

### ***B. Schedule***

Practice runs will be staged on Saturday from 8 a.m. until approximately 4:30 p.m. On race day, Sunday, the vehicles will run from old CCC Camp (start line) to the Wild rose Campground (finish line). They will start with the pace car at 9:45 am and will have two runs. The race will run until all entries are completed, approximately 6 hours.

## **VIII. ENVIRONMENT**

### ***A. Purpose***

It is the understanding of all parties that the Lands End Road is part of the Grand Mesa National Forest and is within the city of Grand Junction's watershed area and therefore, it is incumbent upon all parties to protect all timber, undergrowth, etc as much as possible within the areas of controllable items.

### ***B. Plan***

In cooperation with the US Forest Service those areas are designated ecologically sensitive and subject to unusual conditions shall be marked off as closed areas. This might apply to both pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

## **IX. Plan Alterations**

This plan may be altered or revised if mutually agreed to by the CHCA and the US Forest Service.

Reference may be made to previously submitted Lands End Hill Climb Operating Plans and Special Use Permits on file.

## Attachment A – Fire Evacuation Plan

In the event of a wild fire, spectators, racers, personnel should leave all personal belongings, get in their vehicle and exit in an orderly fashion single file lane DOWN Lands End road if you are located physically between Wild Rose Picnic Area (point B) and the start line (point A). This is the shortest distance out of forested area. Depending on fire conditions, Safety Crew, EMS/FIRE may direct you to take other actions. Follow instructions of Safety Crew, EMS/FIRE when the fire evacuation plan takes affect due to fire.

Do NOT form two lanes down Lands End Road unless instructed by Safety Crew or EMS/FIRE as fire trucks may be coming up the road to fight the fire.

