

The 2011 Burning Man Event Population Cap

The Bureau of Land Management Winnemucca District and Black Rock City have received multiple inquiries regarding the 50,000 population cap on the 2011 Burning Man event. The cap reflects the number addressed in the 2006 Environmental Assessment and Decision for Burning Man events. The following wording is one of the Burning Man special recreation permit stipulations:

1. Black Rock City, LLC (BRC) is required to manage its advance ticket sales and on-site ticket sales in such a manner that the safety infrastructural resources of the event, which are designed to handle an average of 50,000 participants per day for the eight-day event, are not overtaxed, and that NEPA concerns from the 2006 Environmental Assessment are not compromised. If during the event it appears that the peak population is likely to exceed BRC's ability to provide adequate infrastructural resources, then BRC will promptly notify BLM of the projected event population and provide detailed contingency plans for how to handle the additional participants. BRC shall provide the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with the number of participants within the event site at noon each day according to an agreed upon reporting standard with BLM during the period of site occupancy (August 8th through September 19th). For historical purposes and press inquiries, BRC shall also provide BLM with the recorded peak population for the entire event. BLM can request population data any time during the event. BRC shall also provide BLM with detailed information of the number of staff and participants on the event site for the August 8th through September 19th period within 60 days after the event. This information shall include daily counts for the non-event period.

"Public safety is our number one priority", said Black Rock Field Manager Rolando Mendez. "Through the special recreation permit process, we strive to provide high quality recreation experiences which neither compromises your well-being nor that of the land." "In regard to future Burning Man events, BLM is evaluating Black Rock City's proposal which includes a 6% increase in population per year, 2012–2016, culminating at a total of 70,000 participants."

Come to Burning Man, but only with a valid ticket. Please be advised there are public land closures around the event and the area is closely monitored. The event is situated in a very remote area with no camping facilities nearby and very little cell phone coverage.