

with the authority and requirements of Executive Order 11644 and 11989, and implements provisions of the White Mountains NRA Resource Management Plan signed on February 2, 1986 and the White Mountains NRA Gateway Project Record of Decision signed on March 9, 1990. It modifies previous orders on July 15, 1988 and May 1, 1992. This order will become effective December 1, 1998 and remain in effect until rescinded or modified by the Field Manager.

Definitions

The term "winter use" refers to the period of time between October 15 and April 30, inclusive. The term "summer use" refers to the remaining period of time between May 1 and October 14. The terms "gross vehicle weight" and "GVW" refer to the loaded weight of the vehicle, including gear, passengers, and fuel. The terms "gross vehicle weight rating" and "GVWR" mean the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.

A. Limited ORV Use Designations

1. The foothills area, as shown on the White Mountains National Recreation Area Off-Road Vehicle Designations Map, and subject to valid existing rights, is closed to use of ORVs that weigh more than 1,500 pounds GVW or have a GVWR greater than 1,500 pounds without written authorization from the Field Manager. Written authorization is not required by this notice for use of vehicles that weigh over 1,500 pounds GVW or have a GVWR greater than 1,500 pounds on the U.S. Creek Road, Nome Creek Road and the mining tailings along Nome Creek.

2. The highlands area, as shown on the White Mountains National Recreation Area Off-Road Vehicle Designations Map, is managed to protect the wild and natural character of the area. Subject to valid existing rights, this area is closed to all summer use of ORVs and to winter use by snowmachines that weigh more than 1,500 pounds GVW or have a GVWR greater than 1,500 pounds. All ORV use is prohibited in the Windy Creek and Fossil Creek drainages from April 15 to August 31, inclusive, in order to avoid disturbance to known peregrine falcon nesting areas. All other ORV use is prohibited without written authorization from the Field Manager.

3. Beaver Creek has been designated, and is managed as, a "wild" river pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA, PL 90-542). Except for the closures noted above for the Windy Creek and Fossil Creek drainages, and subject to valid existing rights, the

Beaver Creek National Wild River corridor is closed to all summer use of ORVs and to winter use of snowmachines that weigh more than 1,500 pounds GVW or have a GVWR greater than 1,500 pounds. Any other ORV use is prohibited without written authorization from the Field Manager.

4. The Ski Loop Trail (specifically, the land within 12.5 feet of the centerline of the trail) is managed as a non-motorized recreation trail and is closed to all motorized vehicle use.

5. The Summit Trail (specifically, the land within 12.5 feet of the centerline of the trail) is managed as a non-motorized recreation trail and is closed to all motorized vehicle use, except that the trail is open to winter use by snowmachines, weighing less than 1,500 pounds GVW or have a GVWR less than 1,500 pounds, to the extent necessary to allow these snowmachines to cross the trail at right angles, more or less, incidental to accessing State or Federal lands otherwise open to such use.

B. Closed to ORV Use Designation

1. There are three designated Research Natural Areas (RNAs) shown on the White Mountains National Recreation Area Off-Road Vehicle Designations Map (Serpentine Slide, Limestone Jags, and Mount Prindle), which are closed year-round to all ORV use. These have been identified as having representative examples of ecosystems or unusual natural features that are of scientific interest for the Ecological Reserve System.

The foregoing provisions are not applicable to any federal, state, or local law enforcement officer, or any member of any organized rescue or fire suppression force in the performance of an official duty.

Signs will be placed at major access points showing ORV use restrictions. Maps identifying these designated use areas are available at the office listed below. Operators of ORVs in violation of these designations are subject to the penalties prescribed in 43 CFR subpart 8340.0-7.

Direct questions and responses to: Bureau of Land Management, Northern Field Office, White Mountains Team, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3899, (907) 474-2200.

Dated: December 1, 1998.

Lon Kelly,

Associate Field Manager, Northern Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-910-0777-61-241A]

State of Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting, notice of meeting and tour.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting and tour of the Arizona Resource Advisory Council. The meeting and tour will be held January 28-29, 1999 in Yuma, Arizona. On January 28, the RAC will conduct a one-day meeting from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the BLM Yuma Field Office located at 2555 East Gila Ridge Road in Yuma, Arizona. The agenda items to be covered at the meeting include review of previous meeting minutes; BLM State Director's Update on legislation, regulations and statewide planning efforts; Road Maintenance on Grazing Allotments and Recreation Fee Demonstration Updates; Discussion of Noxious Weed Issue and Proposed Resolution; Discussion with Yuma County Sheriff's Department on Cooperative Relations; Prioritization of Grazing Allotments regarding implementation of Standards and Guidelines, Proposed Field Office Rangeland Resource Teams; and Reports by the Standards and Guidelines, Recreation and Public Relations, Wild Horse and Burro Working Groups; Reports from BLM Field Office Managers; Reports from RAC members; and Discussion on future meetings. A public comment period will be provided at 11:30 a.m. on January 28, 1999, for any interested publics who wish to address the Council. On January 29, the field tour will highlight dispersed and intensive recreation sites and discuss the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program in the Yuma and Quartzsite areas. The tour will depart from the Inn Suites, 1450 Castle Dome Avenue, Yuma, Ariz., at 8:00 a.m., and conclude approximately at 5:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Stevens, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2203, (602) 417-9215.

Kim Harb,

Acting Arizona Associate State Director.

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