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Kevin Gover,
Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-020-1220-00-0208]

Seasonal Closure of Public Land in the Bald Ridge Area, Park, County, Wyoming, Cody Field Office, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of seasonal closure.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given to extend the emergency seasonal closure of the Bald Ridge area that was published in the **Federal Register** Vol. 61 No. 62 on Friday, March 29, 1996. The Bald Ridge area located south of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River and west and north of Hogan Reservoir of Park County, Wyoming on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cody Field Office, is closed from December 15 through April 30 of each winter and spring season to all use (such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain bike riding, crosscountry skiing, and all motorized use) except specifically authorized activities. This action is being taken for resource protection of essential wintering habitat for elk and mule deer. No access into this area will be allowed unless permitted by the Authorized Officer (BLM Cody Field Manager).

EFFECTIVE DATES: This emergency seasonal closure was effective March 18, 1996 and will remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Authorized Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis Saville, Wildlife Biologist or Michael Blymyer, Field Manager, Cody Field Officer, P.O. Box 518, 1002 Blackburn Avenue, Cody, Wyoming 82414-0518. Telephone (307)-587-2216.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Cody Field Office is responsible for the management of essential wildlife habitat in the Bald Ridge area of the Absaroka Front and other crucial habitat areas located throughout the Bighorn Basin. These essential habitat areas and

management thereof are covered under the Cody Resource Management Plan (RMP), which was signed on November 8, 1990. "Seasonal restrictions will be applied as appropriate to surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and land uses on big game crucial habitat, including winter ranges and elk calving areas." (Cody RMP, p. 40).

The Bald Ridge area is crucial wintering habitat for big game. Increasing visitor activity, such as horseback riding, hiking and antler hunting has caused unacceptable impacts to the wintering elk and deer herds. These activities are stressing game animals during a period when the animals are most susceptible to stress-related health affects that could cause death. These activities also force the herds to be displaced from their crucial winter habitat. The Cody Field Office has completed the Travel Management Environmental Assessment for the Bald Ridge area and has determined that this closure is necessary to address these concerns.

The following described BLM-administered lands south of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River and west of Hogan Reservoir are included in this seasonal closure: T. 56 N., R. 103 W., sections 7, 8, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 from the west end of Hogan Reservoir. Hogan Reservoir remains open for fishing and nonmotorized travel within 100 yards of the reservoir's high-water line. Authority for closure and restriction orders is provided under 43 CFR subpart 8341.2 (a and b), 8364.1, 8372.0-7, 8372.1-2. Violations of this closure are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and (or) imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Dated: July 21, 1999.

Michael Blymyer,
Cody Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-20164 Filed 8-4-99; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-020-1220-00-0208]

Closure of Certain Roads and Trails on Public Land in the Rattlesnake Mountain Area, Park County, Wyoming, Cody Field Office, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of closure.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that effective July 20, 1999, some roads and

trails on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cody Field Office, will be closed to all motorized travel. These roads and trails are located in the Rattlesnake Mountain area south and west of Trail Creek. As of the effective date, only designated roads are available for use. All roads and trails not designated are closed to motorized use. Designated access roads include the main trunk road on top of Rattlesnake Mountain (BLM #1207) and the BLM portion of the existing trail on the southeast face of Rattlesnake Mountain. Access to the Rattlesnake main trunk road from Monument Hill road (County 7UH) is subject to an easement through private lands which provides public access for timber related purposes only (such as firewood removal or timber harvest). A BLM firewood cutting permit allows motorized vehicle access to this area for firewood removal only. Motorized travel on the southeast face trail is restricted to All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) with wheelbase lengths less than 60 inches, 6 inches or more tread width on each tire, and 5 pounds or less air pressure in each tire. All other roads and trails are open to foot and horseback travel and other forms of nonmotorized travel (such as mountain bike riding). Additional roads and trails may be temporarily opened to motorized travel for timber and firewood sales. This motorized vehicle use will be managed as stated in 43 CFR 8341.1(a-h). Limited motorized use of nondesignated roads may be allowed for certain permitted uses (such as Right-of-Way [ROW] holders and grazing permittees). Travel by snow machines will be allowed whenever there is adequate snow cover. This applies to all public land administered by the BLM on Rattlesnake Mountain, unless administratively restricted for the protection of wintering big game herds. As stated in the decision record of the Rattlesnake Mountain Travel Management Environmental Assessment (WY-017-EA6-038). "This decision can be modified within the original scope of this analysis, without further notice if determined by the authorized officer that changes in adjacent land ownership, new data acquisition, or public access needs dictate a revision of this decision."

EFFECTIVE DATES: This closure will be effective July 20, 1999 and will remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Authorized Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Hare, Cody Assistant Field Manager or Michael Blymyer, Cody Field Manager, P.O. Box 518, 1002 Blackburn Avenue,