

that our limited resources are directed toward species at the greatest conservation risk and that can benefit from our enhanced attention.

(3) *Reduce paperwork, streamline the permit process, and provide user-friendly service.*

- Explore the feasibility of providing a single point of contact in each regional office for the processing of permit applications and administration of the general conservation permit.

- Develop and use harmonized permit application forms to consolidate the information needed to apply for a permit under multiple wildlife and plant laws and actively seek comments from the public during the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-approval process for forms under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

- Develop and use general findings (e.g., no-detriment advices under CITES, programmatic biological opinions under the ESA) to decide when an application meets the permits issuance criteria.

- Issue and track the processing of permits through SPITS.

- Issue general conservation permits for up to 5 years for ongoing activities, depending on the results of the risk assessment.

- Consolidate annual reporting requirements and, when possible, tailor the report due date to the activities conducted. This would allow the permittee to submit a single report and meet the requirements of more than one law or treaty.

(4) *Implement the permit process fairly and consistently.*

- Develop standardized permit conditions for activities with the same species or related groups of species.

- Use the computer system SPITS to share data and ensure use of consistent permit terms and conditions.

F. What if I don't qualify for a general conservation permit?

Individuals or organizations that do not qualify for permits under this policy may apply for individual permits under existing regulations, just as they do now.

G. What is the scope of this policy?

This policy applies Service-wide to programs that process permit applications for all species of wildlife and plants under the law and treaties listed in section H of this policy.

H. Authority

The authorities for this action are the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668a); Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (27 U.S.T. 1087); Endangered Species Act of

1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*); Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42); Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*); Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712); and Wild Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4901-4916).

Dated: August 30, 1999.

John G. Rogers,
Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 99-28232 Filed 10-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Emergency Closure and Restriction of Certain Uses of Public Lands Within the Dillon Field Office, Montana

AGENCY: Dillon Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of Emergency Closure and Restriction Order.

SUMMARY: Effective immediately, all newly acquired public lands that lie within sections 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13 of Township 9 South, Range 10 West, PMM; and the South East corner of section 35 in Township 8 South, Range 10 West, PMM; will be restricted to certain uses. The closure and restriction order is being implemented to prevent conflicts with waterfowl management, which is one of the primary reasons for the acquisition. Travel restrictions are necessary to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and to prevent resource damage to the area. In addition restriction of certain uses are necessary for public safety.

Vehicle Travel

All public land in sections 1, 2, and 11 (Township 9 South, range 10 West, PMM) that lie East of the I-15 frontage road and West of the Union Pacific Rail Road right of way will be closed to all motorized vehicle travel. Motorized vehicle travel will be allowed from the point where the road crosses the Union Pacific Railroad tracks at the SW¹/₄ of the NW¹/₄ of section 11 (Township 9 South, Range 10 West, PMM) and continues parallel to the north east of the tracks, until the point where Gallagher Creek meets it. At this point the road will be closed to further motorized vehicle travel through the creek bed. This closure is necessary to prevent further damage to the Gallagher Creek stream bed, to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, and to reduce erosion. Motorized vehicle travel in the remaining area will be limited to existing roads and trails unless otherwise designated.

Hunting

Hunting on those public lands in sections 1, 2, and 11 (Township 9 South, Range 10 West, PMM) that lie East of the I-15 frontage road and West of the Union Pacific Rail Road right of way will be restricted to archery, shotgun, traditional handgun, and muzzleloader only. Definitions of legal archery, shotgun, traditional handgun, and muzzleloader are contained within the State of Montana regulations for hunting.

The authority for this closure and restriction order is 43 CFR 8364.1. The order will remain in effect until a Management Plan for the area is completed.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the closure and restriction order, and maps showing the location of the affected lands are available from the Dillon Field Office, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, Montana, 59725.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Powers, Field Manager, Dillon Field Office, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, Montana 59725.

Scott Powers,

Field Manager, Dillon Field Office, Dillon, Montana 59725.

[FR Doc. 99-28225 Filed 10-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MT-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-020-00-1020-00]

Salt Lake Field Office Proposed Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Notice of availability

SUMMARY: The Utah Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office, has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a Proposed Plan Amendment to the Box Elder Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1986). The proposed plan amends the RMP by eliminating domestic livestock grazing from the Newfoundland Mountains upon relinquishment of the current sheep permit. This action is needed to eliminate future conflicts between domestic livestock and bighorn sheep.

DATES: The proposed plan amendment may be protested. The protest period will commence with the date of publication of this notice. Protests must be submitted on or before November 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Protests must be addressed to the Director (WO-210), Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Brenda Williams, Resource Planning Team, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice for the proposed planning amendment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alice Stephenson, Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah, telephone (801) 977-4317. Copies of the Proposed Plan Amendment are available for review at the Salt Lake Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the Proposed Plan Amendment may protest to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. The protest must be in writing and filed within 30 days of the date of publication of this Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The protest must be specific and contain the following information:

- The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest;
- A statement of the issue(s) being protested;
- A statement of the part(s) of the proposed amendment being protested;
- A copy of all documents addressing the issue(s) that were submitted by the protestor during the planning process; and
- A concise statement explaining why the BLM State Director's proposed decision is believed to be in error.

In the absence of timely objections, this proposal shall become the final determination of the Department of the Interior.

Linda S. Colville,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 99-28138 Filed 10-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-050-1020-XU;GPO-0011]

Notice of Meeting of John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office.

ACTION: Meeting of John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council: Pendleton, Oregon; December 9 and 10, 1999.

SUMMARY: A meeting of the John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council will

be held on December 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on December 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Red Lion (formerly Doubletree) Inn, 304 SE Nye Avenue, Pendleton, Oregon. The meeting is open to the public. Public comments will be received at 10:00 a.m. on December 10. Topics to be discussed by the Council will include: social and economic training; John Day River Plan update and Hells Canyon NRA Comprehensive Plan review; reports from the Forest Health Subgroup; ICBEMP update; and a 15 minute round table for general issues.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James L. Hancock, Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office, 3050 NE Third Street, P.O. Box 550, Prineville, Oregon 97754, or call 541-416-6700.

Dated: October 19, 1999.

James L. Hancock,

District Manager and Designated Federal Official; John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council.

[FR Doc. 99-28226 Filed 10-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-240-1050-00-24-1A]

Collection, Storage, Preservation and Scientific Study of Fossils From Federal and Indian Lands

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a review period on the Draft Report of the Assessment of Fossil Management on Federal and Indian Lands is open for 30 days.

DATES: Submit comments by November 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent to Sara Pena, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St., NW, LS-204, Washington, DC, 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Pena, Bureau of Land Management at (202) 452-5040.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Senate (Senate Report 105-227) requested that the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with appropriate scientific, educational, and commercial entities, prepare a report assessing the need for a unified federal policy on the collection, storage, and preservation of fossils. The draft report, "Assessment of Fossil Management on

Federal and Indian Lands," provides some information on current federal policies on paleontology. A copy of the Draft Report is available on the Interior Department web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/geology> or by contacting Sara Pena, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St., NW, LS-204, Washington, DC, 20240, telephone: (202) 452-5040.

Dated: October 22, 1999.

John Douglas,

Acting Group Manager, Cultural Heritage, Wilderness, Special Areas and Paleontology, Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 99-28106 Filed 10-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1430-06; WYW 132601]

Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to withdraw 4943.13 acres of public land in Fremont County, to protect and preserve significant recreation, scenic, riparian, historic, and wildlife resources along segments of the Sweetwater River. This notice closes the land for up to 2 years from surface entry and mining. The lands are not available for mineral leasing in accordance with the Bureau of Land Management's Green River Resource Management Plan.

DATE: Comments and requests for a public meeting must be received by January 26, 2000.

ADDRESS: Comments and requests should be sent to the BLM Wyoming State Director, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Booth, BLM Wyoming State Office, 307-775-6124, or Stan McKee, BLM Rock Springs Field Office Manager, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901, 307-352-0256.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 5, 1999, a petition/application was approved allowing the Bureau of Land Management to file an application to withdraw the following described public land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws, subject to valid existing rights:

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 28 N., R. 102 W.,