

educational efforts about wolf recovery and management in northwestern Montana.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: October 28, 1999.

Terry Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 99-29001 Filed 11-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Three Public Open Houses Prior to Proposing a Revision to the Special Rule for a Nonessential Experimental Population of Red Wolves in North Carolina

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public open houses.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce three public open houses in eastern North Carolina to present information to, and answer questions from the public prior to proposing a change to the special rule for the nonessential experimental population (NEP) of red wolves in eastern North Carolina under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

DATES AND ADDRESSES: We will hold the first open house on Tuesday, November 16, 1999, at the Mattamuskeet Lodge, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, 1 Mattamuskeet Refuge Road, Swan Quarter, North Carolina 27885, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The second open house will be on Wednesday, November 17, 1999, at the Vernon James Research & Extension Conference Center, 207 Research Station Road, Plymouth, North Carolina 27962, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The third open house will be on Thursday, November 18, 1999, at Tyrrell Hall, 108 South Water Street, Columbia, North Carolina 27925, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Brian T. Kelly, Wildlife Biologist/Field Projects Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1969, 708 North Highway 64/264, Manteo, North Carolina 27954 (telephone 252/473-1131, extension 27).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The red wolf is an endangered species that is currently found in the wild only

as a NEP in northeastern North Carolina on the Alligator River, Pocosin Lakes, and Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuges; the U.S. Air Force's Dare County Bombing Range; and adjacent private land in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties, North Carolina; and as an endangered species in three small island propagation projects located on Bulls Island in South Carolina and Cape St. George and St. Vincent Islands in Florida. These four carefully managed wild populations contained a minimum of 48 animals as of September 30, 1999. The remaining red wolves are located in 33 captive-breeding facilities in the United States. The captive population numbered 161 animals as of September 30, 1999.

We published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** of July 24, 1986 (51 FR 26564), to introduce red wolves into Alligator River, Dare County, North Carolina. We published a final rule on November 19, 1986 (51 FR 41790), making a determination to implement the proposed action with some modifications. We determined that the red wolf population in Dare County and adjacent Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties would be a NEP, according to Section 10(j) of the Act. We revised the rule in the **Federal Register** of November 4, 1991 (56 FR 56325), to add Beaufort County to the list of counties where the NEP designation would apply. We reevaluated the status of the population after 5 years and included input from public meetings in this reevaluation.

We published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** of November 24, 1993 (58 FR 62086), to revise the special rule for NEPs of red wolves in North Carolina and Tennessee. We published a final rule in the **Federal Register** of April 13, 1995 (60 FR 18940), making a determination to implement the proposed action with some modifications.

We will hold three public open houses in eastern North Carolina. Through these open houses, we will provide the public with a forum to obtain information and ask questions of us before we request their formal comment through the rulemaking process.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Brian T. Kelly (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: October 29, 1999.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-29000 Filed 11-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-090-00-2822-JL-N843; GP0-0024]

Closure of Public Lands in Lane County, OR

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Closure of public lands and access road in Lane County, Oregon.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain public lands and access road in Lane County, Oregon are indefinitely closed to all public use, including vehicle operation, recreation, hunting, parking, camping, shooting, hiking and sightseeing. The closure is made under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1.

The public lands affected by this closure are located within the Austa Fire Unit and are specifically identified as follows:

Willamette Meridian, Oregon

T. 18 S., R. 8 W.

Sec. 9: All lands south of the north right-of-way line of the Bonneville Power Administration Transmission line

Sec. 10: BLM Road No. 18-8-10 in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$

Sec. 15: N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Containing approximately 450 acres.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following persons, operating within the scope of their official duties, are exempt from the provisions of this closure order: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) employees; BLM and BPA contractors and their subcontractors; State of Oregon, local and other federal government employees; State of Oregon, local and other federal contractors and their subcontractors; the holders of BLM road use permits that include roads within the closure area; purchasers of BLM resources within the closure area and their employees and subcontractors. Access by additional parties may be allowed, but must be approved in advance in writing by the Authorized Officer.

Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this closure order may be subject to, but not limited to, the penalties provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7, which include a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to