

Plan would not be adopted. Hence Federal and State incidental take permits would be issued incrementally for individual projects. Assemblage of an effective preserve system would be unlikely. Over time, additional species would likely become listed, further complicating continued urban development. The land development permit process would continue to be lengthy, costly, and uncertain.

Existing Conservation Lands

Alternative: Only existing reserves and other public and private conservation lands with habitat for target species would be included in this alternative. The type, amount and location of lands conserved under this alternative would be insufficient to obtain incidental take permit coverage for most, if not all, of the target species. This alternative would not streamline development permit processing.

Core Habitat, Ecological Processes and Linkages Alternative: Developed by the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Multispecies Plan, this alternative focuses on protecting core habitat areas of sufficient size and long-term viability for the protection of target species and natural communities. This alternative also includes protection of essential ecological processes and wildlife movement corridors.

Expanded Core Habitat, Ecological Processes and Linkages Alternative: Based upon the previous alternative, this enhanced conservation alternative would include additional habitat, ecological processes and wildlife corridors to further ensure functionality.

Avoid or Minimize Incidental Take Alternative: Under this alternative, most remaining viable habitat for target species, and associated ecological process and wildlife corridor lands in the planning area would be incorporated into the preserve system. Conservation would focus on all large habitat blocks within the composite range of target species and would allow development of all isolated habitat fragments. Little economic incentive for private land-owner participation would be available and immediate land acquisition would likely be required to address the resulting take of private lands.

Alternative Funding and Implementation Mechanisms

Estimates of the costs associated with the dedication, acquisition, and management of lands to be protected in perpetuity under the Multispecies Plan have not yet been completed. Substantial Federal and State assets are currently proposed for inclusion in the Plan, as are county, local, and private

lands. Several alternative approaches are under consideration.

Tool Box Approach: This implementation mechanism may take the form of zoning overlays, General Plan policies, ordinances, development fees, and mitigation ratios. Tools that may be used include: (a) Conservation easements, (b) density transfer and cluster development, (c) conservation banks, (d) donation of lands for tax benefits, and (e) inclusion of land in a habitat transaction system with pre-assigned habitat values or credits.

Immediate Purchase of All At-Risk Lands: This alternative represents the optimum implementation mechanism but would require the immediate or short-term availability of substantial funding for purchase of land and conservation easements. Potential funding sources may include biological resource impact-fees assessed to future development, State and Federal grants, government loan guarantees, landfill tipping fees, and local sales tax.

Combined Public Funds/Mitigation Fee for Land Acquisition and Management: This approach includes the combined use of State and Federal grants, as well as the payment of a standardized impact mitigation fees for development of lands outside conservation areas. Revenues from existing or new tax streams, bond issues, landfill tipping fees, and other sources are also being explored. Continued private contributions are expected to be available for habitat acquisition.

In addition, the Forest Service, pursuant to the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and the Bureau of Land Management, pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, have authority to acquire, excess, exchange and transfer Federal lands, and will be the agencies primarily responsible for furthering the Federal realty actions. The State of California also acquires lands for conservation purposes through the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.

Proposed Amendment of the California Desert Conservation Plan

The Bureau of Land Management is participating as a responsible agency in the planning process. To ensure that its land use decisions are in conformance with the Multispecies Plan, the Bureau proposes to amend the California Desert Conservation Area Plan in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, and the Code

of Federal Regulations (40 CFR part 1500 and 43 CFR part 1610).

The Bureau will use the Impact Statement/Report prepared for the Multispecies Plan as the Environmental Impact Statement for its proposed amendment to the Desert Conservation Plan. The Bureau will prepare a Record of Decision separate from that of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed plan amendment will address changes in Bureau land use classifications, identify public lands for exchange to augment the multi-species reserve system, and designate new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The proposed plan amendment will take into consideration biological, botanical, cultural, wilderness, mineral and other natural resources, as well as use of the public lands for recreation, mineral extraction, utility corridors and other uses. Nothing in this proposed plan amendment shall have the effect of terminating any validly issued rights-of-way or customary operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement activities in such rights-of-ways in accordance with Sections 509(a) and 701(a) of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.

Dated: June 21, 2000.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Region 1, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 00-16383 Filed 6-27-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-680-99-2822-00-D889]

Closure and Restriction Orders

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Amend emergency closure of certain public lands in the Juniper Flats area, San Bernardino County, California.

SUMMARY: In previous **Federal Register** Notice, Public lands in the Juniper Flats area were closed to human entry. Approximately 16,000 acres burned in the Willow fire were closed from October 17, 1999 to July 1, 2000. You are not to enter the closed area by any means of access. This amendment exempts human access on the trail leading from the southern most portion of the Bowen Ranch property (across BLM land referred to as the "upper parking lot" to the Forest Service "lower parking lot") and trail known as the "Goat Trail" leading to the Deep Creek Springs.

DATES: This amendment goes into effect at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2000 and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Read, Barstow Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311; or call (760) 252-6000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Saturday August 28th, the Willow Fire started on U.S. Forest Service lands adjacent to BLM lands in the Juniper Flats area. The fire burned 63,486 acres, including approximately 16,000 acres of BLM land.

Natural resources comprising the local ecosystems were extensively damaged by the fire. The affected public land has been closed to human entry since the fire. Over the winter the vegetation began growing back. This indicates the natural systems are beginning to recover. The closure is now amended to exempt human access on the trail leading to the Deep Creek Hot Springs. The trail is well marked and is located in T.3N. R. 3W. Section 11.

In general, the closed public lands are east of Deep Creek Road, south of the Atchison Topeka and Sante Fe rail lines, west of Highway 18, and north of Deep Creek. The authority for this closure is 43 CFR 8364.1, 18 U.S.C. 3571. This closure only applies to those portions of the following sections burned during the Willow Fire: San Bernardino Base and Meridian, T.3N. R.1W. sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; T.3N. R.2W. sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; T.3N. R.3W. sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12; T.4N. R.1W. sections 31 and 32; T.4N. R.2W. sections 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35; T.4N. R.3W. sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35. If you fail to comply with this closure order you may be fined up to \$100,000.00 or be imprisoned for up to 12 months, or both.

You are exempt from this closure if you are engaged in one of these activities: law enforcement, emergency services, government business, or work to maintain utilities and infrastructure. You may be exempt if permitted by a BLM Authorizing Officer. You and your guests are exempt to access your residence or property if it is within the closed area. This closure only affects public lands. County roads and segments of roads through private lands are unaffected. You are exempt to use the portion of Bowen Ranch Road that is a County road. The exempt portion crosses public lands in section 31 of T.4N. R.2W., and sections 1, 11 and 12

of T.3N. R.3W., ending at the boundary of the Bowen Ranch.

Tim Read,
BLM, Barstow Field Office Manager.
[FR Doc. 00-16267 Filed 6-27-00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-40-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY070-00-EJ]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; Correction

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Correction of dates in Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Development in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming, published on June 21, 2000.

SUMMARY: This notice provides a correction of the dates included in the "Dates" Section of the above referenced NOI. The revised section is included below.

DATES: Comments to be considered in the draft EIS from the scoping period should be submitted by July 31, 2000. The draft EIS should be available for public review by April 15, of 2001.

ADDRESSES: Questions or concerns should be addressed to Paul Beels in the BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Beels, phone 307-684-1100.

Dated: June 22, 2000.

Alan L. Kesterke,
Associate State Director.
[FR Doc. 00-16284 Filed 6-27-00; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-910-0777-26-241A]

State of Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Arizona Resource Advisory Council meeting notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting will be held on August 4, 2000, in Phoenix, Arizona. The RAC meeting

will begin at 9 a.m and will conclude at approximately 4 p.m. The agenda items to be covered include the review of the March 31 and May 11, 2000, meeting minutes; BLM State Director's Update on legislation, regulations and statewide planning efforts; National Off-Highway Vehicle Use Strategy Presentation/RAC Discussion; Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan Presentation; Arizona Trails System; Update Proposed Field Office Rangeland Resource Teams; Reports from BLM Field Office Managers; Reports by the Standards and Guidelines, Recreation and Public Relations, Wild Horse and Burro Working Groups; Reports from RAC members; and Discussion of future meetings. A public comment period will be provided at 11 a.m. on August 4, 2000, for any interested publics who wish to address the Council.

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

Denise P. Meridith,
Arizona State Director.
[FR Doc. 00-16283 Filed 6-27-00; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-680-00-1220-HQ]

Supplemental Rule Restricting Recreational Shooting to Protect Human Health and Safety in a Portion of Wonder Valley, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Barstow Field Office, Desert District, California.

ACTION: On those public lands administered by the BLM and located within T.1 N., R.10 E., Sec 5 S½ and Sec 8 N½, San Bernardino Meridian, it is prohibited to fire any firearm. This supplemental rule does not affect the legitimate and legal pursuit of game or the discharge of a firearm for purposes of personal protection.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Section 8365.1-6 the State Director may establish supplementary rules in order to provide for the protection of persons, property and public lands and resources. This authority was delegated to the District Managers and Field Managers pursuant to BLM Manual 1203, California Supplement.

Penalties: Failure to comply with this supplemental rule is punishable by a