

process that addresses parcels within the proposed plan amendment.

4. A statement of reasons why the BLM State Director's proposed decision to place the lands in the disposal category is believed to be incorrect. All relevant facts need to be included in the statement of reasons. These facts, reasons and documentation are very important to understand the protest rather than merely expressing disagreement with the proposed decision.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the document are available at the following locations: Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office, 2475 Beverly Ave., Kingman, Arizona, 86401-3629 and Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: Don McClure, phone: (520) 692-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The land exchange includes both public and non-public land in Mohave County in northwestern Arizona, encompassing approximately 35,500 acres. Issues that have been addressed are ranching, biological resources, recreation/access, soil erosion, cultural resources, realty, riparian areas, mineral resources, and Proposed modifications to the Kingman Resource Management Plan have been integrated with the proposed Land Exchange, and the impacts presented in a single EA-level analysis.

John R. Christensen,
Field Manager, Kingman Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-320-1820-XQ]

Resource Advisory Council Meeting: Northwest California Resource Advisory Council, Redding, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Pub. L. 94-579), the U. S. Bureau of Land Management's Northwest California Resource Advisory Council will meet Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2000, for a regular business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting begins at 10 a.m. in the

Conference Room of the BLM's Redding Field Office, 355 Hemsted Drive, Redding, CA. Items on the agenda include discussion of a feasibility study for Lake Berryessa management, an update on Headwaters Forest Reserve management, management issues in the Knoxville Off Highway Vehicle Area, and standards and guidelines for rangeland health. Time will be set aside at 1 p.m. for public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, a time limit may be established.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Lynda J. Roush, BLM Arcata Field Manager, at (707) 825-2300.

Joseph J. Fontana,
Public Affairs Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-660-00-1220-HA]

Restrictions on Use of Public Lands and Facilities

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, Desert District, California.

ACTION: Notice—Temporary closure of routes to use by motorized vehicles except as specifically exempted; temporary closure of certain public lands to motorized-vehicle use except on approved routes.

SUMMARY: In compliance with Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subpart 8364.1(c), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is temporarily closing public land portions of Palm Hills Drive, also known as Dunn Road, to motorized vehicles. The public land portions of Palm Hills Drive subject to the temporary closure occur within E $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 5, W $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 8, Sections 16, 29, 32, and 33, Township 5 South, Range 5 East, San Bernardino Meridian (SBM); and Sections 4, 8, 9, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 16, Township 6 South, Range 5 East, SBM. The BLM is also temporarily closing all other motorized-vehicle routes of travel on these public lands and Section 30, Township 5 South, Range 5 East, SBM. The following motorized vehicles are exempt from this order: (1) Fire, military, emergency or law enforcement vehicles when used for emergency or patrol purposes; (2) vehicles whose use is expressly authorized by the Authorized Officer;

and (3) vehicles used for official purposes by employees, agents, or designated representatives of the Federal Government or one of its contractors. These restrictions shall be in effect year-round from October 1, 2000, until completion of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat and Natural Communities Conservation Plan which addresses motorized-vehicle use on the subject public lands. The designation criteria at 43 CFR 8342.1 were applied in establishing this temporary closure order. The order to temporarily close Palm Hills Drive and other routes to motorized vehicles is based on protection of the resources of the public lands, promotion of the safety of all users of the public lands, and minimization of conflicts among various uses of the public lands. Non-motorized uses of Palm Hills Drive (*e.g.*, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding) and other routes on public lands are not affected by this order. Trails developed primarily for non-motorized use are also not affected by the temporary closure.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Palm Hills Drive traverses the northern Santa Rosa Mountains from Cathedral City Cove on the north to State Highway 74 on the south, within and beyond an area annexed by the City of Palm Springs. The road was constructed by Mr. Michael Dunn and his partners beginning in 1966, and use of Palm Hills Drive was controlled by Mr. Dunn by maintaining two locked gates situated on private land. Those portions of Palm Hills Drive that cross public lands were constructed absent proper authorization from the BLM. The BLM filed a civil suit in Federal District Court in 1968 after negotiations to settle the unauthorized use failed. In 1975, a Final Judgement was entered between the BLM and Mr. Dunn resolving the dispute. The Court found that Mr. Dunn did not hold an easement by way of necessity across public lands at any time, and Mr. Dunn renounced any claim to any such easement. In 1997, the BLM acquired the private land upon which the two locked gates are located. The only other gate controlling access at this time is located on U.S. Forest Service lands near the opposite end of the road.

On March 18, 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) declared through publication of a final rule that the distinct vertebrate population segment of bighorn sheep occupying the Peninsular Ranges of southern California is endangered pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The current population of bighorn sheep in the United States,

Peninsular Ranges approximates 335 animals distributed in eight known ewe groups (subpopulations) from the San Jacinto Mountains south to the Mexican border.

In *Draft Recovery Plan for the Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges* (USFWS 1999), several studies are identified that link vehicle use with modification of bighorn sheep behavior (Jorgensen 1974, Leslie and Douglas 1980, Campbell and Remington 1981, Miller and Smith 1985). Miller and Smith (1985) documented that 25% of bighorn sheep (45 out of 180 observations) immediately reacted to a parked jeep or truck either by walking away or trotting away and returning to their original activity within 10 minutes, or by running away from the area and not returning to their original activity. Jorgensen (1974), Leslie and Douglas (1980), and Campbell and Remington (1981) demonstrated behavioral reactions or change in use patterns due to vehicle use and other human activity at water sources. Similarly, the mere presence of roads, both paved thoroughfares with heavy traffic and off road vehicle dirt roads, may be associated with altering bighorn sheep use patterns (Hicks 1978; Cunningham 1982; Rubin *et al.* 1998). Human activities on roads, such as hiking with or without dogs, biking, hunting, and traffic volume and speed, are likely factors that influence bighorn sheep use patterns near roads (MacArthur 1979, Miller and Smith 1985, Krausman and Leopold 1986, King and Workman 1986).

The temporary closure of Palm Hills Drive and other routes on the subject public lands is intended to minimize the potential for adverse changes in bighorn sheep behavior due to motorized-vehicle use. Any person who fails to comply with this order may be subject to the penalties provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Foote, BLM, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, P.O. Box 1260, North Palm Springs, CA 92258, telephone 760-251-4836.

Dated: August 21, 2000.

James G. Kenna,

Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-010-1220-DA]

Montana Off-Road Vehicle Designation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice to limit off-road vehicle use on public lands.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads on public lands within the following block management areas. This will be in effect during the hunting season as established by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Designation and Location

All motorized vehicles will be limited to designated open roads on public lands during hunting season.

Derks Ranch

T. 4 N. R. 32 E.,
Sec 12, E2
T.4 N. R.33 E.,
Sec 7. All public land north of the
Yellowstone River.
All established roads are open.

Downs

T. 10 N., R. 25 E.,
Sec 22 NESE, NE, NENW;
Sec 25 E2;
Sec 26 NESE, N2.

Gage Dome

T. 9 N., R. 25 E.,
Sec 4, W2;
Sec 10, ALL; and
Sec 12, S2.
T. 10 N., R. 25 E.,
Sec 34, S2.
T. 9 N., R. 26 E.,
Sec 1 ALL;
Sec 2 SENE, N2NE, NENW;
Sec 3 ALL;
Sec 8, SE4;
Sec 11 ALL;
Sec 12, S2SE, N2, S2SW;
Sec 13, 14, 15, 17, ALL;
Sec 18, NW4;
Sec 20, SE4;
Sec 21 ALL;
Sec 22 SW4;
Sec 28 SE4NE4, E2SW; and
Sec 30 E2.
T. 10 N. R. 26 E.,
Sec 4 NW;
Sec 6 NENE; and
Sec 32 SE4, NE4, N2NW, SENW, SW4 T.11
N. R.26 E.,
Sec 14 ALL;
Sec 15 E2;
Sec 17 ALL;
Sec 18 S2;
Sec 19 ALL
Sec 20 ALL;
Sec 22 S2;
Sec 24 SWNW;
Sec 26 SE4;

Sec 27,28,29 ALL;
Sec 30 NW4, S2S2;
Sec 31,32,33 ALL;
Sec 34 S2
T. 9 N., R. 27 E.,
Sec 6 NE4, E2NW, E2SW;
Sec 7 NW4
T. 10 N., R. 27 E.,
Sec 4 ALL;
Sec 6 E2NE, W2NW.

Roads designated open are as follows :
County roads—Alec Roy, Gage Dome,
Griffith, Colony, and Big Wall.

Seven other roads designated open are:
Colony road in section17 heading southward
and terminating at a fence line. A second
road coming off Colony road in Sec 14
proceeding southward approximately one
mile to a road closed sign. The Crook Creek
Spur road originating at the Alec Roy road in
Sec 31 and proceeding eastward
approximately 2.5 miles ending at a fence
line.

The North Spur road originating at the
Crooked Creek Spur road in Sec 32 and
proceeding northward approximately 1.5
miles to a road closed sign. The Gage Dome
road in Sec 21 proceeding southward
approximately one mile to a road closed sign.
The Gage Dome road in Sec 15 running
approximately .5 mile northward to a road
closed sign. The last road originating at the
Gage Dome road in Sec 13 and running
approximately one mile northward to a road
closed sign.

Graves Ranch

T. 10 N., R. 25 E.,
Sec 5—Public land west of Highway 87;
Sec 6, S2; and
Sec 7 ALL;
T. 10 N., R. 24 E.,
Sec 2 W2; and
Sec 12 E2NE, SWNE;
T. 11 N., R. 24 E.,
Sec 4 E2SE, SWNW, SW;
Sec 5 SESE, E2NE, SWNE, S2NW, NWNW,
SWSW;
Sec 6 ALL;
Sec 7 NWSE, NENE, E2NENW, N2SW;
Sec 8 SE, NW, E2SW;
Sec 20, N2;
Sec 25 W2SE, NENE, W2NE, E2NW,
SWNW, SW4;
Sec 35 E2SE, NWSE, SENE, W2NE, E2NW,
NWNW, SW4
T. 11 N., R. 25 E.,
Sec 32 Public land west of Hwy 87.

Roads designated open are as follows:
County roads—The Snowy Mountain and
Graves roads.

Other roads designated open that are not
county roads are as follows: That portion of
the road through public land starting in T.11
N., R.24 E. Sec 5 and proceeding westward
approximately 2 miles. The cut-off road
starting in T.11 N., R.24 E. Sec 7 proceeding
northward approximately 1 mile. That
portion of the road through public land
starting in T.11 N., R.24 E., Sec 8 proceeding
westward two miles. That portion of the
Graves cut-off road that runs across public
land. That portion of the road across public
land starting at Hwy 87 going southward to
the Graves cut-off road.