

National Monument update, and the County Partnership Restoration project. The Southwest RAC will also meet on Friday, August 16, 2002, at the Anasazi Heritage Center, 27501 Highway 184, in Dolores, Colorado. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m. Purpose of the meeting is to consider several resource management topics including Canyon of the Ancients National Monument update, Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area update, and the County Partnership Restoration project.

The Northwest RAC will meet on Thursday, June 13, 2002, at the Holiday Inn, 755 Horizon Drive, in Grand Junction, Colorado. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m. Purpose of the meeting is to consider several resource management topics including wildlife issues, oil and natural gas program review, Grand Mesa Slopes update, Weeds Committee report, National Forest Study Committee report, Cultural Resources report, status of travel management planning, and the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area planning update. The Northwest RAC will also meet on August 8, 2002, at the Forest Service Office located at 925 Weiss Dr. in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m. Purpose of the meeting is to consider several resource management topics including Grand Mesa Slopes update, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area planning update, and RAC Committee reports.

These meetings are open to the public. Interested members of the public may present written or oral comments to either of the RACs in the morning from 9:30 to 9:50 a.m. and in the afternoon sessions, at a time to begin no later than 3 p.m., on the respective meeting dates. Personal time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested individuals an opportunity to speak. Subject to time available, individuals may also be allowed to provide input to the councils during the discussion of agenda topics.

Summary minutes of RAC meetings are maintained in the BLM Western Slope Center Office located at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506, phone (970) 244-3000. Minutes are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting.

Dated: April 10, 2002.

**Dave Atkins,**

*Acting Northwest Center Manager.*

[FR Doc. 02-11090 Filed 5-3-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**[(NM-930-1310-02); (OKNM 98652)]**

#### New Mexico: Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease OKNM 98652

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease OKNM 98652 for lands in Dewey County, Oklahoma, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from June 1, 2001, the date of termination.

No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessees have agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$10.00 per acre or fraction thereof and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$  percent, respectively. The lessees have paid the required \$500.00 administrative fee and have reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice.

The Lessees have met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Sections 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 USC 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective June 1, 2001, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bernadine T. Martinez, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7530.

Dated: March 19, 2002.

**Bernadine T. Martinez,**

*Land Law Examiner, Fluids Adjudication Team.*

[FR Doc. 02-11084 Filed 5-3-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-FB-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**[NM-930-1310-02; OKNM 98653]**

#### New Mexico: Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease OKNM 98653

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease OKNM 98653 for lands in Dewey County, Oklahoma, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from June 1, 2001, the date of termination.

No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessees have agreed to new lease terms for rentals

and royalties at rates of \$10.00 per acre or fraction thereof and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$  percent, respectively. The lessees have paid the required \$500.00 administrative fee and have reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice.

The Lessees have met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Sections 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 USC 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective June 1, 2001, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bernadine T. Martinez, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7530.

Dated: March 19, 2002.

**Bernadine T. Martinez,**

*Land Law Examiner, Fluids Adjudication Team.*

[FR Doc. 02-11085 Filed 5-3-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-FB-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**[(NM-930-1310-02); (OKNM 96107)]**

#### New Mexico: Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease OKNM 96107 for lands in Woodward County, Oklahoma, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from December 1, 2001, the date of termination.

No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$10.00 per acre or fraction thereof and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$  percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice.

The Lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Sections 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 USC 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective December 1, 2001, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lourdes B. Ortiz, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7586.

Dated: March 20, 2002.

**Lourdes B. Ortiz,**

*Land Law Examiner.*

[FR Doc. 02-11086 Filed 5-3-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-FB-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-650-01-1220-JG-064B]

#### Notice of a Firearm Shooting Restriction on Public Lands Within the Red Mountain Polygon, San Bernardino County, CA

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

**ACTION:** Firearm shooting restriction on public lands within the Red Mountain Polygon, San Bernardino County, California.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a firearm shooting restriction in the Red Mountain Polygon, located in the northwestern portion of San Bernardino County, California, is in effect as of January 16, 2002. The Red Mountain Polygon is comprised of approximately 98,043 acres of public lands in the California Desert Conservation Area, and is located within the western Mojave Desert area of northwestern San Bernardino County, California. Specifically, the firearm shooting restriction requires that all target shooting conducted on public lands within the Red Mountain Polygon be directed at paper targets created specifically for such purpose. The use of firearms for hunting administered by the California Fish and Game Commission is not affected by this firearm shooting restriction. This restriction will remain in effect until amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan are finalized which is expected to occur in 2003.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 16, 2002.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest CA 93555, (760) 384-5405.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office, has analyzed the effects of the firearm shooting restriction in an environmental assessment entitled "Environmental Assessment for Interim Closure of Selected Vehicle Routes and a Firearm Shooting restriction in the Red Mountain Polygon, California Desert Conservation Area, dated October 18, 2001, and a supplement to this assessment dated January 14, 2002.

On March 16, 2000, the Center for Biological Diversity, *et al* (Center) filed for injunctive relief in U.S. District Court, Northern District of California (Court) against the Bureau of Land Management. The Center alleged the Bureau of Land Management was in violation of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act by failing to enter into formal consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service on the effects of adoption of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, as amended, upon threatened and endangered species. Instead of litigating the case, and facing a possible injunction of all authorized desert activities, the Bureau of Land Management entered into five stipulated agreements, including the stipulation which includes the firearm shooting restriction.

The authority for proposing a firearm shooting restriction is derived from 43 CFR 8364 (Closures and Restrictions). This regulation allows the authorized officer to issue an order to close or restrict use of designated public lands in order to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. In this case, the shooting restriction will aid in protecting the desert tortoise from indiscriminate firearm use, and stop the practice of shooting at objects that result in the accumulation of trash, broken glass, cans, electronic parts, propane gas cylinders, metal, etc. in critical habitat for the desert tortoise. Furthermore, the restriction will aid in reducing the incidence of wildfire that could result from bullets striking rocks and generating sparks in combustible materials.

Although the desert tortoise has been fully protected in California since 1961 through regulation of the California Fish and Game Commission, remains of tortoises containing gunshot holes have been observed in numerous areas of the California Desert. From 1972 to 1982, a study of tortoise gunshot mortality was conducted on 11 sites in the California Desert. The highest incidence of gunshot holes in carcasses of desert tortoises occurred in the western Mojave Desert at the Fremont Valley site, the Desert Tortoise Natural Area, and the Fremont Peak site (located at the southern boundary of the Red Mountain Polygon). The percent of tortoises dying on the study sites due to gunshots were 28.9 % at Fremont Valley, 19.6% at the Desert Tortoise Natural Area, and 16.7% at the Fremont Peak. In contrast, the incidence of such deaths in the eastern Mojave Desert sites ranged from 1.8 to 3.1 %. California Department of Fish and Game wardens reported that they occasionally found tortoises dead from gunshots near roads in eastern Kern and

northwestern San Bernardino Counties during the 1960s and 1970s. Between 1981 and 1984, Bureau of Land Management and other observers found the remains of 10 tortoises shot and killed in the western Mojave Desert in the vicinity of the Desert Tortoise Natural Area, El Paso Mountains, Fremont Peak and Stoddard Valley. Higher incidence of gunshot deaths of tortoises in the western Mojave was attributed to the higher numbers of human visitors, greater vehicular access and closer proximity to urban centers. Target practice in the California Desert, especially in portions of the western Mojave Desert, is associated with human-caused wildfire from bullets striking rocks, and people shooting at tortoises for target practice. In the Recovery Plan for the Mojave Population of the Desert Tortoise, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that shooting and vandalism play a major role in losses of desert tortoises in many areas, particularly where human visitation is high. They also reported that approximately 15 to 29 percent of carcasses of desert tortoises studied on Bureau of Land Management study plots in the western Mojave Desert had evidence of gunshot.

This firearm shooting restriction will enable the Bureau of Land Management to comply with Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act using its full authorities to conserve endangered species and threatened species.

This interim firearm shooting restriction will allow BLM to properly evaluate and arrive at a final decision on environmentally acceptable firearm use throughout the West Mojave Planning Area, which will result in amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, expected to be completed in 2003. This planning process now underway is a formal plan amendment process that involves the public and will conform to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. Maps showing the affected area are available by contacting the Ridgecrest Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management at the address shown above.

#### Appeal Rights

The decision that instituted this firearm shooting restriction may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden