

Council be established to provide advice in the preparation and implementation of the CCNCA resource management plan and environmental impact statement.

DATES: January 9, 2002.

ADDRESSES: For further information or to provide written comments, please contact Greg Gnesios, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; Telephone (970) 244-3049; e-mail Gregory_Gnesios@co.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CCNCA Advisory Council will meet on Thursday, January 9, 2003, at the Mesa County Administration Building; 544 Rood Avenue, Grand Junction, CO; in the main floor Multipurpose Room, Grand Junction, Colorado, beginning at 3 p.m. The agenda topics for this meeting are:

- (1) The re-election of council officials.
- (2) Recommendations from working groups.
- (3) Land health recommendations.
- (4) Public comment period.
- (5) Agenda for next meeting.

Beginning February 2003 the CCNCA Advisory Council meetings will be held monthly on the first Thursday of each month at the same time and location. The dates for these meetings are February 6, 2003; March 6, 2003; April 3, 2003; May 1, 2003; June 5, 2003; July 3, 2003; August 7, 2003; September 4, 2003; October 2, 2003; November 6, 2003; and December 4, 2003.

Topics of discussion for future meetings will include recommendations on management alternatives, including the preferred management alternative, potential environmental consequences of all identified alternatives, completion of the draft resource management plan, partnerships, interpretation, adaptive management, socioeconomic, and other issues as appropriate.

All meetings will be open to the public and will include a time set aside for public comment. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements at any meeting. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak.

Summary minutes of all Council meetings will be maintained at the Bureau of Land Management Office in Grand Junction, Colorado. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within 30 days of the meeting. In addition, minutes and other information concerning the CCNCA Advisory Council can be obtained from the CCNCA website at: <http://>

www.co.blm.gov/cocanplan which will be updated following each Advisory Council meeting.

Dated: December 6, 2002.

Greg Gnesios,

Manager, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area.

[FR Doc. 02-31415 Filed 12-12-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-AG-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-670-03-1220-DU-064B]

Notice of Proposed Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan and Effective Date for Off-Road Vehicle Trail (Route of Travel) Designations in the Western Colorado Desert (WECO) Portion of Imperial County, CA

AGENCY: Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District.

ACTION: Notice of amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan and effective date for off-road vehicle trail (route of travel) designations in the Western Colorado Desert (WECO) portion of Imperial County, California.

DATES: Written protests on the Proposed Plan Amendment will be accepted if received by January 13, 2003.

Instructions for filing protests are contained below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

SUMMARY: The Proposed Plan Amendment establishes or revises off-road vehicle designations of areas and trails (routes of travel) in accordance with part 43 Code of Federal Regulations subpart 8342. Trails (routes of travel) for inclusion in the State of California's Discovery Trail System and a segment of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail are identified and authorized. The proposed designations pertain to public lands addressed by the California Desert Conservation Area Plan in the Western Colorado Desert (WECO) portion of Imperial County that lie west of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Management Area.

ADDRESSES: The proposed amendment and environmental assessment are available for review on line at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro> and at the following address and telephone number: Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243, (760) 337-4400.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Arnold Schoeck, Bureau of Land Management, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243; (760) 337-4441.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau of Land Management published in the **Federal Register** on March 25, 2002, the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment and Plan Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan by making off-road vehicle trail (route of travel) designations in the Western Colorado Desert portion of Imperial County. The public scoping period for the project began March 25, 2002 and the **Federal Register** on May 23, 2002 extended the comment period until May 31, 2002. On October 18, 2002, in the **Federal Register**, the Notice of Availability for the Environmental Assessment and the plan amendment was published in the **Federal Register** on October 18, 2002. The **Federal Register** Notice started a 30-day public comment period that ended on November 18, 2002.

Any person who has participated in the plan amendment process and has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the proposed amendment may protest such approval or amendment. A protest may raise only those issues that were submitted for the record during the planning process. Protests must be filed in writing with the BLM Director in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-2:

(i) The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest;

(ii) A statement of the issue or issues being protested;

(iii) A statement of the part or parts of the plan or amendment being protested;

(iv) A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record; and

(v) A concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong. The decision of the Director on any protest shall be the final decision for the Department of the Interior.

Mailing address for filing a protest:
Regular mail: Director (210), Attn: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035.

Overnight mail: U.S. Department of the Interior, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Protest Coordinator (WO-

210), 1620 "L" Street, NW., Rm 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

Greg Thomsen,

Field Manager, El Centro Field Office.

[FR Doc. 02-31517 Filed 12-12-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Closure Order Establishing Prohibitions On Shell Road Through Peoria Wildlife Area, New Melones Lake Project, Tuolumne County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of temporary closure to motorized vehicles.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) New Melones Resource Office will temporarily close a portion of Shell Road to public vehicle traffic beginning December 15, 2002, and continuing through approximately April 15, 2003. The exact re-opening date will depend upon weather and resource conditions. The portion of Shell Road to be closed passes through Section 20, R14E, T1N, and continues through Section 19, R14E, T1N, MD Meridian, on property owned and managed by Reclamation. This section of the road passes through the Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area, as defined in the Final Report, New Melones Lake Fish and Wildlife Resources Report, October 1991, page 16. The entire 2,500-acre Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area will now be off-limits to public vehicular access—with the exception of authorized parking areas and turnarounds located outside new gates to be established at the closure points on both ends of Shell Road on Reclamation property.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The closure will be effective December 15, 2002, through approximately April 15, 2003. Exact re-opening date will be dependant upon weather and resource conditions.

ADDRESSES: A map is available for inspection at Reclamation's New Melones Lake Visitor Center, located at 6850 Studhorse Flat Road, Sonora, California 95370. The map may be viewed between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily. To have a map mailed to your address, send your request to the above address, Attention: Shell Road Temporary Closure Map Request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region Public Affairs Office, at 916-978-5100 or Reclamation, New Melones Resource

Office, 209-536-9094. Written comments will be accepted regarding this temporary closure now through December 15, 2002. Please send written comments to: Bureau of Reclamation, Attn: Jeff Laird, 6850 Studhorse Flat Road, Sonora, California 95370; Fax: 209-536-9652; E-mail: jlaird@mp.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is being taken under 43 CFR Part 423 to protect public safety and prevent additional resource degradation. Reclamation will prohibit public vehicle traffic on Shell Road and off-road throughout the Peoria Wildlife Area during the winter months in an effort to protect sensitive resources and preserve the existing roadway, which has become severely eroded and unsafe. Significant maintenance will be required to return the road to a safe condition for public vehicles. Vegetation damage, habitat destruction, erosion and sedimentation, and related resource impacts are increasing in this area. Natural resources continue to be damaged and public safety compromised by illegal actions including target shooting, poaching, off-road driving, fires, littering, dumping of large debris and hazardous materials, poaching, vandalism, and illegal camping.

Planning for a draft Shell Road Corridor Management Plan to address these and other issues is currently in progress. By closing Shell Road temporarily this winter, further damage can be avoided while plans for improvements are devised and needed maintenance is performed.

Public access by foot, horseback, and bicycle will not be impeded. The area will remain open to authorized public recreational activities including but not limited to legal hunting, hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, bicycling, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing. Parking and turnaround areas will be located outside new gates to be established at the closure points on both ends of Shell Road on Reclamation property. Signage will be installed to notify the public of the closure.

Exceptions to the vehicle closure will include Reclamation Operations and Maintenance personnel, law enforcement and fire department officers, and other agencies, entities, and individuals who have received express written authorization from Reclamation to enter the closure areas.

This order is posted in accordance with 43 CFR part 423.3(b). Violation of this prohibition or any prohibition listed in 43 CFR part 423 is punishable by fine or imprisonment for not more than six months or both.

Dated: November 14, 2002.

Thomas J. Aiken,

Area Manager, Central California Area Office.

[FR Doc. 02-31416 Filed 12-12-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Change in Discount Rate for Water Resources Planning

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of change.

SUMMARY: The Water Resources Planning Act of 1965 and the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 require an annual determination of a discount rate for Federal water resources planning. The discount rate for Federal water resources planning for fiscal year 2003 is 5.875 percent. Discounting is to be used to convert future monetary values to present values.

DATES: This discount rate is to be used for the period October 1, 2002, through and including September 30, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James R. Handlon, Economist, Office of Policy, Washington DC 20240; telephone: (202) 513-0603.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the interest rate to be used by Federal agencies in the formulation and evaluation of plans for water and related land resources is 5.875 percent for fiscal year 2003.

This rate has been computed in accordance with Section 80(a), Pub. L. 93-251 (88 Stat. 34) and 18 CFR 704.39, which: (1) Specify that the rate shall be based upon the average yield during the preceding fiscal year on interest-bearing marketable securities of the United States which, at the time the computation is made, have terms of 15 years or more remaining to maturity (average yield is rounded to nearest one-eighth percent); and (2) provide that the rate shall not be raised or lowered more than one-quarter of 1 percent for any year. The Treasury Department calculated the specified average to be 5.477 percent. Rounding this average yield to the nearest one-eighth percent is 5.500 percent, which exceeds the permissible one-quarter of 1 percent change from fiscal year 2002 to 2003. Therefore, the change is limited to one-quarter of 1 percent.

The rate of 5.875 percent shall be used by all Federal agencies in the formulation and evaluation of water and related land resources plans for the