

Lake for exchange to Jordanelle Reservoir. It would conserve water in a Mapleton-Springville Lateral Pipeline, conserve water in the Provo River basin and deliver it along with acquired water to assist June sucker spawning and rearing, convey water to support in-stream flows in Hobble Creek to assist recovery of the June sucker, and develop hydropower. It would involve construction of three new pipelines and two new hydropower plants with associated transmission lines. Under this alternative, Interior would acquire up to 15,000 acre-feet of the District's secondary water rights in Utah Lake to provide a firm annual yield of 15,800 acre-feet of M&I water.

**No Action Alternative**—No new water conveyance features would be constructed under the No Action Alternative. The delivery of 86,100 acre-feet of Bonneville Unit M&I exchange water would be made without any shortages. Some of the Bonneville Unit M&I exchange water would be routed through the Strawberry Tunnel to meet in-stream flow needs in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork creeks. The remaining Bonneville Unit M&I exchange water would be conveyed through the Diamond Fork System and discharged into Diamond Fork Creek at the outlet near Monks Hollow or discharged from the Diamond Fork Pipeline into the Spanish Fork River at the mouth of Diamond Fork Canyon. The irrigation diversions on lower Spanish Fork River would be modified to bypass and measure the 86,100 acre-feet into Utah Lake, and to allow fish passage as previously agreed by the Interior and District in the 1999 Diamond Fork FS-FEIS and ROD. The Interior would not purchase any of the District's secondary water rights in Utah Lake and no water would be conveyed to Hobble Creek. The No Action Alternative would be the same as the Interim Proposed Action in the Diamond Fork FS-FEIS.

Dated: March 25, 2004.

**Ronald Johnston,**

*Program Director, Department of the Interior.*

**Michael C. Weland,**

*Executive Director, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-RK-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Study Design for the Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), on behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI), as a natural resource trustee, announces the release for public review of the Draft Study Design for spring 2004 avian investigations. The Draft Study Design describes the activities that constitute the Trustees' currently proposed approach to conducting investigations of avian species, particularly belted kingfisher and spotted sandpiper, beginning in spring 2004, as part of the Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before April 29, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the Draft Study Design may be made to: Ms. Kathryn Jahn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Field Office, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, New York 13045. Written comments or materials regarding the Draft Study Design should be sent to the same address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kathryn Jahn, Environmental Contaminants Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Field Office, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, New York 13045. Interested parties may also call 607-753-9334 for further information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Draft Study Design is being released for public review and comment in accordance with the Trustees' NRDA Plan for the Hudson River issued in September 2002. That NRDA Plan was released in accordance with the NRDA Regulations found at title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations part 11.

Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the Draft Study Design. Copies of the Draft Study Design are available from the Service's New York Field Office at 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, New York 13045. All comments received on the Draft Study Design will be considered and a response provided either through revision of the Study Design and incorporation into the Final Study Design or by letter to the commentator.

*Comments*, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review during regular business hours. Individual

respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish us to withhold your name and or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**Author:** The primary author of this notice is Ms. Kathryn Jahn, New York Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, New York 13045.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C.

Dated: March 24, 2004.

**Thomas J. Healy,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 5, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-7031 Filed 3-29-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-660-04-2822]

#### Notice of Emergency Temporary Closure of Public Lands to Motorized Vehicles and Certain Other Uses in San Diego County, CA, Under Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Restoration

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

**ACTION:** Emergency temporary closure to motorized and mechanized vehicle use and certain other uses on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, California.

**SUMMARY:** The BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office is temporarily closing portions of public lands to motorized and mechanized vehicle use, and prohibiting or restricting certain other uses, in the South Coast Resource Area in San Diego County, California. This closure is needed to protect public health and safety, cultural and natural resources, and stabilization treatments as recommended in the Department of the Interior's Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (BAER)

Plan for the Otay fire in San Diego County.

**DATES:** This closure is in effect from March 30, 2004, until October 30, 2004. The closure may be lifted sooner if BLM determines that road repairs, revegetation, and stabilization efforts have reduced safety hazards and if treatments result in successful regrowth of desired vegetation.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the closure and a map of the closed areas can be obtained at the BLM, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 690 West Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs, CA 92258, telephone (760) 251-4800; BLM, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825, telephone (916) 978-4600. BLM will also announce the closure through local media outlets, by posting this notice with a map of the closed areas at key locations that provide access to the closure areas.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Greg Hill, Bureau of Land Management, phone (760) 251-4800 or by e-mail at [Greg\\_Hill@blm.gov](mailto:Greg_Hill@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The public lands affected by the Otay Fire and addressed in the BAER Plan are closed to all motorized and mechanized vehicle use (*i.e.* including trucks, sport utility vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, cars, motorcycles, mountain bikes, etc.), except for authorized access to private lands, or other authorized use, fire, law enforcement, and emergency activities. The authorities for this closure and restriction order are 43 CFR 8364.1 and 9268.3(d).

The following paragraphs explain the background for BLM's management of the closed lands, and the reasons for the closures and restriction.

These closures and restrictions apply to BLM-managed public lands within the boundary of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (Jamul Mountains), and the public lands south of State Highway 94 to the US-Mexico border, east of Otay Lakes Road, and west of Marron Valley Road. These lands are part of the Otay/Kuchamaa Cooperative Management Area, as described under the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). The lands are managed to protect the wilderness values of the Otay Mountain Wilderness, habitat for several threatened and endangered plant and animal species, cultural resources, and public open space. These public lands are managed under the 1994 South Coast Resource Management Plan (RMP). Under the San Diego County Management Area of the South Coast RMP, motorized vehicle use is limited

to existing routes of travel. The Otay Mountain Wilderness and the Cedar Canyon ACEC are closed to motorized vehicle use under existing legislation and the South Coast RMP. This closure and restriction order applies to approximately 21,924 acres of public lands affected by the Otay Fire of October 2003.

The Otay Mountain Truck Trail, Minnewawa Truck Trail, and portions of Marron Valley Road provide access to public lands on and around Otay Mountain and Marron Valley. Most of Marron Valley is owned by the San Diego Water Department and is not open to the public. Motorized and mechanized vehicle use is not permitted in the Otay Mountain Wilderness. This temporary closure affects all sections of the Otay Mountain Truck Trail and Minnewawa Truck Trail on public lands, and the section of Marron Valley Road on public lands south of the intersection with the Otay Mountain Truck Trail. All routes, spurs, trails or ways on public lands connecting to these roads, within the area described above, are also closed.

These lands and roads are temporarily closed to vehicles under the BAER Plan/Environmental Assessment and Decision Record dated November 15, 2003, to protect public health and safety from rockslides and slope failures due to loss of vegetation and falling trees in the areas affected by fire, and to allow for post-fire road reconstruction and maintenance. Vehicle use in the Otay Mountain Wilderness is prohibited, but the threat from illegal vehicle use may increase due to lack of vegetation and other physical barriers that previously blocked access. There is also the increased potential for the introduction of invasive/non-native plants in burned areas from motorized and mechanized vehicles, and the potential for collection or looting of cultural and historical artifacts now revealed due to loss of vegetation. The "White Cross" road is also closed to prevent access to sensitive Border Patrol operational areas along the US-Mexico border.

Sycamore Canyon and surrounding lands, including the Clark Ranch, were purchased between 1999 and 2001 as BLM additions to the San Diego MSCP preserve system. Sycamore Canyon contains riparian vegetation, including oaks and Tecate cypress. The mouth of Sycamore Canyon is relatively flat and exposed due to loss of vegetation from the Otay Fire. This area contains several recorded cultural sites and is planned for emergency reseeded to control invasive species and re-establish native plant species. These lands are closed to all motorized and mechanized vehicle

use, except as authorized, to prevent driving off road and affecting exposed cultural resources, vegetation treatments and seedings, and to control erosion and distribution of non-native plant seeds on vehicle tires. The vehicle closure is also intended to limit impacts to surviving and recovering Quino checkerspot butterfly larvae, host plants, and nectar sources. These public lands are within designated Critical Habitat for the federally listed Quino checkerspot butterfly (QCB). Sycamore Canyon is within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS) designated Dulzura Occurrence Complex for QCB. Direct impacts to QCB habitat, specifically impacts to regrowth of host plants and nectar sources, could occur from uncontrolled use of off-road vehicles.

## Closure Order

### Section 1. Closed Lands

Public lands in the following described tracts are closed to motorized and mechanized vehicles:

Township 17 South, Range 1 East, SBBM;  
Township 17 South, Range 2 East, SBBM;  
Township 18 South, Range 1 East, SBBM;  
Township 18 South, Range 2 East, SBBM.

### Section 2. Prohibited Acts and Restrictions

The following prohibitions and restrictions apply on the lands described for the duration of the emergency closure:

- You must not travel on foot or horseback except on existing roads.
- You must not camp, build campfires, or set ground fires.
- You must not engage in target shooting.
- You may hunt consistent with California Department of Fish and Game regulations.

### Section 3. Exceptions to Closure and Restriction Order

These closures and restrictions do not apply to authorized law enforcement, fire suppression, and/or resource management and recovery activities, or to access to private property by the property owners or persons with appropriate authorization. Nothing in this closure is intended to affect legal hunting as consistent with California Department of Fish and Game regulations.

### Section 4. Penalties

Under section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)) and 43 CFR 8360.0-7, if you violate these closures or restrictions on public lands within the boundaries established, you may be tried before a United States Magistrate

and fined no more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

#### *Section 5. Conditions for Ending Closures and Restrictions*

Soil stabilization, revegetation, road repairs, and treatments to control invasive species will be considered successful, and the area may be returned to pre-closure travel designations and opened sooner than October 30, 2004, if and when the following occur:

a. All culverts, road safety signs, and safety mirrors are repaired or replaced on the Otay Mountain and Minnewawa Truck Trails on Otay Mountain.

b. All fencing and gates have been replaced.

c. Slopes and soils above the Otay Mountain and Minnewawa Truck Trails show signs of stabilization and have not experienced slope failure through at least one winter season and at least two major rain events.

d. Regrowth of vegetation has sufficiently obscured cultural sites previously exposed by fires.

e. Seeding treatments on 250 acres in Sycamore Canyon have resulted in at least 30% regeneration of native species, or have been deemed unsuccessful after at least one full growing season.

**Bruce Shaffer,**

*Acting Palm Springs-South Coast Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 04-6998 Filed 3-29-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-40-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

[WO-260-09-1060-00-24 1A]

#### **Call for Nominations for the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board call for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to solicit public nominations for three members to the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. The Board provides advice concerning management, protection and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros on the public lands administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior's, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Department of Agriculture's, Forest Service.

**DATES:** Nominations should be submitted to the address listed below

under **ADDRESSES** no later than April 15, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** National Wild Horse and Burro Program, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520-0006, Attn: Janet Neal; fax 775-861-6711.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Rawson, Group Manager, Wild Horse and Burro Group, (202) 452-0379. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may contact Mr. Rawson at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Any individual or organization may nominate one or more persons to serve on the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. Individuals may also nominate themselves for Board membership. All nomination letters should include the name, address, profession, relevant biographic data, and reference sources for each nominee. Each nominee should state in which category he or she wishes to be included. Send nominations to the address listed under **ADDRESSES**, above. Nominations for the following categories of interest are needed for: Wild Horse and Burro Advocacy; Veterinarian Medicine; Public-at-Large.

The specific category that the nominee will represent should be identified in the letter of nomination. Board membership must be balanced in terms of categories of interest represented. Each member must be a person who, as a result of training and experience, has knowledge or special expertise that qualifies him or her to provide advice from among the categories of interest listed above. Members will be appointed to a 3-year term.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, Members of the Board cannot be employed by either Federal or State government.

Members will serve without salary, but will be reimbursed for travel and *per diem* expenses at current rates for government employees.

The Board will meet no less than two times annually. The Director, Bureau of Land Management may call additional meetings in connection with special needs for advice.

Dated: February 24, 2004.

**Ed Shepard,**

*Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.*

[FR Doc. 04-6995 Filed 3-29-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-84-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

[CO-501-1610-DU]

#### **Notice of Intent To Prepare the San Luis Valley Travel Management Plan and Amend San Luis Valley Resource Management Plan and Start the Scoping Period**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will initiate a comprehensive planning effort to address Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) travel and other related road and trail issues for the San Luis Valley Public Land Center. The plan, entitled the San Luis Valley Travel Management Plan (TMP), will focus specifically on 520,000 acres of BLM-administered lands in the San Luis Valley that lie in Alamosa County, Conejos County, Costillo County, Saguache County, and Rio Grande County, CO.

The TMP would potentially amend the San Luis Valley RMP. The amendment process will be used to establish a travel management system of roads and trails that meets the needs of the public and protects the cultural and natural resources of the BLM-administered lands. The environmental assessment (EA) will analyze and compare the impacts of any changes in OHV area and route designations and management with the continuation of current management, and other alternatives that may be identified.

The BLM will prepare the amendment and associated EA pursuant to the BLM planning regulations in 43 CFR 1600. The plan will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and BLM management policies.

The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The public scoping process will identify planning issues and develop planning criteria. The BLM will prepare the TMP through coordination with other federal, state and local agencies, and affected users of BLM-administered lands.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on issues and concerns can be submitted in writing to the address listed below and will be accepted throughout the creation