

Closure Order is necessary to protect people, public and private property, and public land resources due to an increase in documented cases of stray bullets fired by indiscriminate shooters.

The following persons are exempt from this closure order:

(1) Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers, while acting within the scope of their official duties.

(2) BLM personnel or their representatives while acting within the scope of their official duties.

(3) Any member of an organized rescue, fire-fighting force, or emergency medical services organization while in the performance of their official duties.

(4) Any person in receipt of a written authorization of exemption obtained from the authorized officer.

(5) Any person with a current legal California hunting license in his/her possession and hunting in accordance with state law.

This Notice and maps of the restricted area will be clearly posted at main entry points to the Knoxville Recreation Area and at the area affected by this Order and will also be available at the BLM Ukiah Field Office.

This Closure Order is effective on the date published in the **Federal Register** and will remain in effect until revoked.

Failure to comply with this order is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months pursuant to 43 CFR 8360.0-7. A failure to comply may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

This Shooting closure is supported by NEPA document number CA-340-08-020. The NEPA document and its associated decision record are available upon request at the BLM Ukiah Field Office.

**Rich Burns,**

*Ukiah Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. E8-30960 Filed 12-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLWO300000.L91310000.PP000]

#### Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 202 of the National Environmental

Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and applicable agency guidance, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendments for geothermal leasing in the western United States (U.S.). The decision is hereby made to amend 114 BLM land use plans covering public lands managed by the BLM under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) in order to allocate about 111 million acres of BLM-administered lands as open to geothermal leasing and to adopt a reasonably foreseeable development scenario, stipulations, best management practices (BMPs), and leasing procedures for geothermal resources within the 11 western states and Alaska. The Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, in the Department of the Interior signed the ROD on December 17, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jack G. Peterson, BLM Project Manager at (208) 373-4048 ([Jack\\_G\\_Peterson@blm.gov](mailto:Jack_G_Peterson@blm.gov)), BLM, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83706 or visit the PEIS Web site at [http://www.blm.gov/Geothermal\\_EIS](http://www.blm.gov/Geothermal_EIS).

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the ROD and Approved RMP Amendments are available for review via the Internet from a link at [http://www.blm.gov/Geothermal\\_EIS](http://www.blm.gov/Geothermal_EIS), as well as at BLM State Offices and Field Offices. Copies may also be obtained by contacting Jack G. Peterson at the address and phone number listed above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The ROD and Approved RMP Amendments for geothermal leasing in the western U.S. was developed through preparation of the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States*.

The NOA of the Final PEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on October 24, 2008 (73 FR 63430). The elements of the ROD and Approved RMP Amendments were evaluated through this PEIS, which was prepared in accordance with NEPA and FLPMA. Alternative B was identified as the Proposed Action in the Draft PEIS. As a result of public comment, internal review, and agency coordination, Alternative B was clarified and slightly modified to become the preferred alternative and proposed to amend 122 plans in the Final PEIS. The Approved RMP Amendments are identical to the proposed plan amendments presented

in the Final PEIS except that the East San Diego County RMP has been removed from the list of plans for amendment because in October 2008 the BLM issued a ROD revising the RMP to include allocations and management for geothermal resources. In addition, the BLM is deferring the decision to amend the Box Elder RMP, House Range Resource Area RMP, Iso-tract Management Framework Plan (MFP), Park City RMP, Pony Express RMP, Randolph RMP, and Warm Springs Resource Area RMP in accordance with the provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA § 2815 [a and d], 113 Stat. 512, 852 [1999]). Based on these changes, the decision is to amend 114 BLM land use plans to adopt the allocations, reasonably foreseeable development scenario, stipulations, BMPs, and leasing procedures provided in Alternative B of the PEIS.

In accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the ROD/Approved RMP Amendments facilitates geothermal leasing of the Federal mineral estate that has geothermal potential in the 11 western states and Alaska. In the ROD and Approved RMP Amendments, the BLM: (1) Identifies public lands with geothermal potential as being legally and administratively open or closed to leasing, and under what conditions; (2) provides a reasonably foreseeable development scenario; (3) develops a comprehensive list of stipulations, BMPs, and procedures to serve as consistent guidance for future geothermal leasing; and (4) provides information that the Forest Service (FS) can use to facilitate making consent determinations for any lease decisions on National Forest System lands. The Final PEIS also provided analysis on 19 specific pending lease applications located in seven geographic areas. This ROD/Approved RMP Amendments does not issue a decision for these applications. Separate RODs will be issued for the applications as the environmental review process is complete.

Over 530 million acres of the western U.S. and Alaska have been identified as potentially containing geothermal resources suitable for commercial electrical generation and other direct uses, such as heating. Much of the resource base is held in the Federal mineral estate, for which the BLM has the delegated authority for processing and issuing geothermal leases. The BLM is prohibited from issuing leases on statutorily closed lands (*see* 43 CFR 3201.11), including Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, lands contained in a unit of the National Park System, National Recreation Areas,

Indian trust or restricted lands, and the Island Park Geothermal Areas (around the border of Yellowstone National Park). Other areas closed to leasing by existing laws, regulations, and Executive Orders include National Monuments and designated wild rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Under the ROD/Approved RMP Amendments, the BLM also applies discretionary closures to: (1) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern where the BLM determines that geothermal leasing and development would be incompatible with the purposes for which the ACEC was designated, or that have management plans that expressly preclude new leasing; (2) National Conservation Areas, except the California Desert Conservation Area; and (3) other lands in the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System, such as historic and scenic trails.

Approximately 143 million acres of public (BLM) lands and 104 million acres of National Forest System lands have geothermal potential. The ROD/Approved RMP Amendments identifies approximately 111 million acres of public lands as available to potential geothermal leasing subject to existing laws, regulations, formal orders, stipulations attached to the lease form, and terms and conditions of the standard lease form. To protect special resource values, the BLM has developed a comprehensive list of stipulations, conditions of approval, and BMPs.

As noted above, the BLM manages the public lands pursuant to FLPMA. Under FLPMA, in order for geothermal resource leasing and development to take place on the public lands that BLM manages, such activities must be provided for in the land use plan (also termed RMP) for the affected administrative unit. Under the ROD/Approved RMP Amendments, the BLM amends 114 RMPs to adopt the allocations, reasonably foreseeable development scenario, stipulations, BMPs, and procedures analyzed in the PEIS. In most cases, the BLM will be able to issue geothermal leases on the basis of the analysis contained in this document. The FS will use the PEIS to facilitate subsequent consent decisions for leasing on National Forest System lands. The following BLM RMPs and MFPs are amended with this ROD:

TABLE 1—BLM LAND USE PLANS PROPOSED FOR AMENDMENT UNDER THE PEIS

State	Land use plan(s)
Alaska .....	Central Yukon RMP

TABLE 1—BLM LAND USE PLANS PROPOSED FOR AMENDMENT UNDER THE PEIS—Continued

State	Land use plan(s)
Arizona .....	Kobuk-Seward RMP Ring of Fire RMP Arizona Strip RMP Kingman RMP Lake Havasu RMP Lower Gila North MFP Lower Gila South RMP Phoenix RMP Safford RMP Yuma RMP
California .....	Alturas RMP Arcata RMP Bishop RMP Caliente RMP Cedar Creek/Tule Mountain Integrated RMP Eagle Lake RMP Headwaters RMP Hollister RMP Redding RMP S. Diablo Mountain Range and Central Coast RMP South Coast RMP Surprise RMP West Mojave RMP
Colorado .....	Glenwood Springs RMP Grand Junction RMP Gunnison RMP Kremmling RMP Little Snake RMP Northeast RMP Royal Gorge RMP San Juan/San Miguel RMP Uncompahgre Basin RMP White River RMP
Idaho .....	Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP Big Desert MFP Big Lost MFP Bruneau MFP Cascade RMP Cassia RMP Challis RMP Chief Joseph MFP Jarbidge RMP Kuna MFP Lemhi RMP Little Lost-Birch MFP Magic MFP Malad MFP Medicine Lodge RMP Monument RMP Owyhee RMP Pocatello RMP Sun Valley MFP Twin Falls MFP
Montana .....	Big Dry RMP Billings Resource Area RMP Dillon RMP Garnet Resource Area RMP Judith Valley Phillips RMP North Headwaters RMP Powder River Resource Area RMP West HiLine RMP

TABLE 1—BLM LAND USE PLANS PROPOSED FOR AMENDMENT UNDER THE PEIS—Continued

State	Land use plan(s)
Nevada .....	Carson City Consolidated RMP Elko RMP Las Vegas RMP Paradise-Denio MFP Shoshone-Eureka RMP Sonoma-Gerlach MFP Tonopah RMP Wells RMP
New Mexico .....	Carlsbad RMP Farmington RMP MacGregor Range RMP Mimbres RMP Rio Puerco RMP Roswell RMP Socorro RMP Taos RMP White Sands RMP
Oregon .....	Brothers/LaPine RMP Eugene District RMP John Day River RMP John Day RMP Lower Deschutes RMP Medford RMP Roseburg RMP Salem RMP Three Rivers RMP Two Rivers RMP
Utah .....	Book Cliffs MFP Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony RMP Diamond Mountain RMP Henry Mountain MFP Mountain Valley MFP Paria MFP Parker Mountain MFP Pinyon MFP St. George (formerly Dixie) RMP Vermilion MFP Zion MFP
Washington .....	Spokane RMP
Wyoming .....	Big Horn Basin RMP Buffalo RMP Cody RMP Grass Creek RMP Great Divide RMP Green River RMP Kemmerer RMP Lander RMP Newcastle RMP Pinedale RMP Platte River RMP Snake River RMP Waskakie RMP

Public involvement in preparation of the Geothermal Leasing PEIS was extensive, as documented in the PEIS and the ROD. Results of the 60-day Governors' Consistency Review of the PEIS, as required by BLM planning regulations, were favorable in that none

of the Governors objected to the proposed plan amendments.

**Michael D. Nedd,**

*Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management, Bureau of Land Management.*  
[FR Doc. E8-30883 Filed 12-29-08; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 4310-84-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-100-2008-1110-PI]

#### Notice of Seasonal Closures of Public Lands to Human Presence and/or Motorized Vehicle Use

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Seasonal Closures of Public Lands to Human Presence and/or Motorized Vehicle Use.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) subpart(s) 8341, 8364, and 9268, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the seasonal closure of certain BLM-administered public lands under the jurisdiction of the Pinedale, Wyoming Field Office to all types of motor vehicle use (*i.e.*, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and any other motorized vehicles including trucks, sport-utility vehicles, cars, motorcycles, etc.) each year during the period of January 1 through April 30. Elk feedground areas will be closed each year to any human presence from November 15 through April 30. This seasonal closure is needed to protect public lands and resources and to minimize stress to wintering elk, moose, pronghorn antelope, and mule deer. This seasonal closure affects public lands located within the Mesa, Ryegrass, Bench Corral, Deer Hills, Calpet, and Miller Mountain winter ranges as well as the Franz, Finnegan, Bench Corral, Scab Creek, Fall Creek, Black Butte, and North Piney elk feedgrounds as more particularly described in the

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. Except for travel on highways or county roads, motorized vehicle travel within these areas will only be allowed with written authorization from the Pinedale Field Manager. Personnel of the BLM, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture-APHIS and Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and law enforcement personnel are exempt from this closure only when performing official duties. Operators of existing oil and gas facilities may perform maintenance and pumping, as

approved, and livestock operators may perform permitted activities.

**DATES:** The seasonal motorized vehicle closure will be effective annually from January 1 through April 30. The no human presence closure will be effective annually from November 15 through April 30.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chuck Otto, Field Manager or Rusty Kaiser, Wildlife Biologist, telephone: (307) 367-5300, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** These crucial winter range habitat areas and the management thereof are addressed in the Pinedale Resource Management Plan (RMP) Record of Decision which was approved on December 12, 1988. The RMP identifies areas of crucial winter range and states that seasonal closures for motorized vehicles may be used to protect big game winter range. Losses of wintering habitat from development activity can reduce the area available to the wintering animals. These impacts to wintering wildlife are compounded by significant human activity, such as day and night wildlife observation, still and video photography, snowmobiling, and antler gathering.

The following BLM administered lands are closed to motorized vehicles each year from January 1 through April 30: the Ryegrass, Bench Corral, Deer Hills, Calpet, and Miller Mountain winter ranges including all BLM administered lands north of Fontenelle Creek, east of the U.S. Forest Service Boundary, west of Highway 189, and south of Horse Creek, which contains approximately 444,000 acres; and the Mesa winter range including all BLM administered lands east of County Road 110 (East Green River Road), north of County Road 136 (Paradise Valley Road), west of the New Fork River, and south of State Highway 191, which contains approximately 76,000 acres; the Franz elk winter feedground (T36N, R112W) containing 680 acres. The following feedgrounds are closed to human presence each year from November 15 through April 30: the Finnegan elk winter feedground (T30N, R114W) containing approximately 1920 acres; the Bench Corral elk winter feedground (T31-32N, R112W) containing approximately 2560 acres; the Fall Creek elk winter feedground (T33N, R108W) containing approximately 160 acres; the Scab Creek elk winter feedground (T33N, R106-107W) containing approximately 2,240 acres; the North Piney elk winter feedground (T31N, R114W) containing

approximately 1,080 acres; and the Black Butte elk winter feedground (T36-37N, R114W) containing approximately 320 acres.

Signs will be posted at key locations that provide access into the closure areas. Additional information and maps will be available at the Pinedale Field Office, 1625 West Pine, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

Seasonal closure orders may be implemented as provided in 43 CFR, subparts 8341.2 and 8364.1. Violations of this closure are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000.00, and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

**Chuck Otto,**

*Pinedale Field Office Manager.*  
[FR Doc. E8-30952 Filed 12-29-08; 8:45 am]  
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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

Notice is here given in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items in the possession of the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, that meet the definition of "sacred objects" under 25 U.S.C. 3001.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 25 U.S.C. 3003 (d)(3). The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of the cultural items. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

In April 1952, seven cultural items were removed by Gordon L. Grosscup from a cave described in museum documents as "Prayer Cave, NV-Ly-3." Mr. Grosscup donated the cultural items to the museum later that same year. The seven cultural items are four "Prayer Sticks" (catalog number 2-28953); one "For-shaft of dart" (catalog number 2-28954); one lot of fragments described as "White paint?" (catalog number 2-28955); and one item described as a "Stick, charred at one end" (catalog number 2-28956).