

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[LLNML0000 L12200000.BY0000]

Emergency Closure to Recreational and Target Practice Shooting on Public Lands Along Dog Canyon Road in Central Otero County, Las Cruces District Office, NM**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of emergency closure.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that effective immediately, the Las Cruces District Office is implementing the following closure to recreational and target practice shooting to provide for public safety near residential areas and the Oliver Lee Memorial State Park. The closure is needed in order to prevent damage to property or life in the vicinity of the gravel pit and Dog Canyon Road in central Otero County, New Mexico.

DATES: This closure is effective on May 4, 2009 and shall remain in effect for no more than 2 years, until which time the BLM will, through public involvement, develop long-term management resolution of the safety issue in this area.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Phillips, Supervisory Recreation/Cultural Resources Specialist, 1800 Marquess Street, Las Cruces, NM 88005; or call (575) 525-4300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Public Land in T. 18 S., R. 10 E., section 17, Dog Canyon Road, Otero County NM, totaling 200 acres. Discharging of firearms for recreational or target practice shooting is prohibited in this 200 acre parcel.
2. This closure does not affect the ability of local, State, or Federal officials in the performance of their duties in the area, including the discharge of firearms in the performance of their official duties.
3. This notice will be posted along the public roads where this closure is in effect.
4. The following persons are exempt from this closure order:
 - a. Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers, while acting within the scope of their official duties.
 - b. Any person with a current legal New Mexico hunting license in his/her possession and hunting in accordance with State law.

Violations of these closures and restrictions are punishable by fines not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed one year. These actions are taken to prevent impacts to soils,

native vegetative resources, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and scenic values, and to protect public health and safety.

Copies of this closure order and maps showing the location of the routes are available from the Las Cruces District Office, 1800 Marquess Street, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

Authority: 43 CFR 8364.1 and 18 U.S.C. 3551 (Sentencing Reform Act of 1984).

Bill Childress,*Las Cruces District Manager.*

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[LLNVSO0520.L10100000.MU0000; 9-08807; TAS: 14X1109]

Temporary Closure at Stuart Ranch, Clark County, NV**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of closure.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is establishing a temporary closure for overnight camping, target shooting, and vehicular traffic on public land in the Stuart Ranch area northeast of Moapa, Nevada. The area will be open for day use only. This closure does not apply to hunting under the laws and regulations of the State of Nevada. This closure is being implemented to ensure public safety and health and to prevent further environmental degradation. This closure is authorized under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1701 and 43 CFR 8364.1.

DATES: This closure will be in effect beginning May 4, 2009 and will remain in effect until a management plan for Stuart Ranch is completed or up to a period of two years, whichever is sooner.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chief Ranger Erika Schumacher, (702) 515-5030 or Erika_Schumacher@blm.gov. People seeking information about BLM's management planning for this area may contact Sarah Peterson, (702) 515-5154 or Sarah_Peterson@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following activities are restricted under this temporary closure: target shooting; overnight camping; and vehicular traffic. The public lands affected by the closure include:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 13 S., R. 65 E. (Parcel 1)

Sec. 1, Lot 1, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; Lot 1

Excepting there from the 100 foot wide strip of land conveyed to the San Pedro Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad Company in document number U-536 recorded December 3, 1903 in the Official Records of Lincoln County, Nevada. Excepting there from the 100 foot wide strip of land conveyed to the San Pedro Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad Company in document number 2048 recorded November 22, 1910 in the Official Records of Clark County, Nevada. Excepting there from a strip of land encompassing 3.65 acres conveyed to the Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad in Book 3 Misc., Pages 107 and 106, recorded March 11, 1922 in the Official Records of Clark County, Nevada.

T. 13 S., R. 66 E.,

Sec. 6, Lot 5

T.13 S., R. 65 E., (Parcel 2)

Sec. 1, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 13 S., R. 66 E.,

Sec. 6, Lots 6 and 7 excepting the road leading to Davies Springs in the Mormon Mountain Wilderness in Lot 7 will be open to vehicle traffic.

The aggregate area described contains 278 acres, more or less.

The BLM acquired the Stuart Ranch property in October 2007 to protect environmentally sensitive resources, including an extensive riparian corridor along a perennial reach of Meadow Valley Wash. The corridor is habitat for the Federally-listed endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and two state listed sensitive fish species, the Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker and Meadow Valley Wash speckled dace. The wash flows perennially and supports a healthy and vigorous riparian area full of cottonwoods and willows. Past land uses degraded the landscape, including mining, agriculture and effects from flooding in 2005. Target shooting increased when the property came into public ownership, resulting in damage to sensitive cultural resources on the property. The BLM will restore the site to a natural condition, including enhancement and restoration of the riparian corridor, ephemeral washes and uplands. The closure is needed to protect environmentally sensitive resources from ongoing impacts until a plan is developed to determine how the area will be restored and managed.

The BLM prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed closure. Identified concerns included off-highway vehicle use in sensitive areas, lack of law enforcement, reduction of access for the public and disabled persons, and closing a route to Davies Springs in the Mormon Mountain Wilderness. These concerns were addressed in the EA and changes