

[CO-930-1020-04-WEED]

Notice of proposed supplementary rules to require the use of certified noxious weed-free forage on Bureau of Land Management-administered lands in Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

SUMMARY: The State Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Colorado is proposing a requirement that all BLM visitors and permittees in Colorado use certified noxious weed-free hay, straw, or mulch when visiting BLM administered lands in Colorado. This requirement will affect visitors who use hay or straw on the BLM administered lands in Colorado such as: recreationists using pack and saddle stock, ranchers with grazing permits, outfitters, and contractors who use straw or other mulch for reseeding purposes. These individuals or groups would be required to purchase certified noxious weed-free forage products, or use other approved products such as processed grains and pellets while on BLM administered lands in Colorado.

DATES: Comments concerning the proposal should be received on or before March 4, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments concerning the Colorado requirement to: State Director (930), USDI, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, Carol Spurrier, Resource Services, Plant and Animal Sciences Team, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215, or telephone (303) 239-3725.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Noxious weeds are a serious problem in the western United States. Estimates of the rapid spread of weeds in the west include 2,300 acres per day on BLM administered lands and 4,600 acres per day on all western public lands. Species like Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed, Russian Knapweed, Musk Thistle, Dalmatian Toadflax, Purple Loosestrife, and many others are alien to the United States and have no natural enemies to keep their populations in balance. Consequently, these undesirable weeds invade healthy ecosystems, displace native vegetation, reduce species diversity, and destroy wildlife habitat. Widespread infestations lead to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Furthermore, noxious weed invasions weaken reforestation efforts, reduce domestic and wild ungulates' grazing capacity, occasionally irritate public

land users by aggravating allergies and other ailments, and threaten federally protected plants and animals.

To curb the spread of noxious weeds, a growing number of Western States have jointly developed noxious weed-free forage certification standards, and, in cooperation with various federal, state, and county agencies, passed weed management laws. Because hay and other forage products containing noxious weed seed are part of the infestation problem, Colorado has developed a state hay inspection-certification-identification process, participates in a regional inspection-certification-identification process, and encourages forage producers in Colorado to grow noxious weed-free products. The Colorado Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Industry has documented that in the first two years of the program, 101 growers in Colorado produced 5,547.49 acres of certified forage including grass hay, alfalfa hay, a mixture of grass and alfalfa hay, as well as barley and wheat straw as of October 30, 1995.

Region Two of the United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, implemented a similar policy for National Forest lands in Colorado and surrounding states in 1994. The BLM in Colorado implemented a standard stipulation on all Special Recreation Permits in 1994 requiring holders of those permits to use certified weed-free products. This proposal will provide a standard regulation for all users of BLM lands in Colorado and will provide for coordinated management with National Forest lands across jurisdictional lines.

In cooperation with the state of Colorado and the U.S. Forest Service, the BLM is proposing—for all BLM administered lands within Colorado—a ban on hay, straw or mulch that has not been certified. This proposal includes a public information plan to ensure that: (1) this ban is well publicized and understood; and (2) BLM visitors and land users will know where they can purchase state-certified hay or other products.

These supplementary rules will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

The principal author of these proposed supplementary rules is Carol Spurrier, Botanist, of the Colorado State Office, BLM.

For the reasons stated above, under the authority of 43 CFR 8365.1-6, the Colorado State Office, BLM, proposes supplementary rules to read as follow: Supplementary Rules to Require the Use of Certified Noxious Weed-Free Forage

on Bureau of Land Management-Administered Lands in Colorado

(a)(1) To prevent the spread of weeds on BLM-administered lands in Colorado, effective August 1, 1996, all BLM lands within the state of Colorado, at all times of the year, shall be closed to possessing or storing hay, straw, or mulch that has not been certified as free of prohibited noxious weed seed.

(2) Certification will comply with "Regional Standards" jointly developed by the states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and Nebraska for noxious weed seed free and noxious weed free forage.

(3) The following persons are exempt from this order: anyone with a permit signed by BLM's authorized officer at the Resource Area Office specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission within that Resource Area.

(b) Any person who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions of these supplemental rules regarding the use of noncertified noxious weed-free hay, straw, or mulch when visiting Bureau of Land Management administered lands in Colorado, without authorization required, may be commanded to appear before a designated United States Magistrate and may be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both, as defined in 43 United States Code § 1733(a).

Donald R. Glaser,

State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 96-2133 Filed 1-31-96; 8:45 am]

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[NM-932-1310-01; TXNM 26411]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease; New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of Oil and Gas Lease TXNM 26411, Shelby County, Texas, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from October 1, 1995, the date of the termination. No valid lease has been issued affecting the land. The lessee(s) have agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent, respectively. Payment of a \$500.00 administrative fees has been made. Having met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set in

Section 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 188 (d) and (e)), the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective October 1, 1995, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above, and the reimbursement for cost of publication of this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lourdes B. Ortiz, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7586.

Dated: January 25, 1996.

Lourdes B. Ortiz,

Land Law Examiner, Fluids Adjudication Team.

[FR Doc. 96-2130 Filed 1-31-96; 8:45 am]

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[NM-932-1310-01; TXNM 26414]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease; New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of Oil and Gas Lease TXNM 26414, Shelby County, Texas, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from October 1, 1995, the date of the termination. No valid lease has been issued affecting the land. The lessee(s) have agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, and 16²/₃ percent, respectively. Payment of a \$500.00 administrative fee has been made. Having met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set in Section 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 188 (d) and (e)), the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective October 1, 1995, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above, and the reimbursement for cost of publication of this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lourdes B. Ortiz, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7586.

Dated: January 5, 1996.

Lourdes B. Ortiz,

Land Law Examiner, Fluids Adjudication Team.

[FR Doc. 96-2132 Filed 1-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-FB-M

[NM-932-1310-01; TXNM 26413]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease; New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of Oil and Gas Lease TXNM 26413, Shelby County, Texas, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from October 1, 1995, the date of the termination. No valid lease has been issued affecting the land. The lessee(s) have agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, and 16²/₃ percent, respectively. Payment of a \$500.00 administrative fee has been made. Having met all the requirement for reinstatement of the lease as set in Section 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 188 (d) and (e)), the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective October 1, 1995, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above, and the reimbursement for cost of publication of this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lourdes B. Ortiz, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7586.

Dated: January 25, 1996.

Lourdes B. Ortiz,

Land Law Examiner, Fluids Adjudication Team.

[FR Doc. 96-2131 Filed 1-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-FB-M

[AZ-930-06-1020-00]

Intent To Prepare an Arizona Statewide Plan Amendment, To Develop State Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent and Notice of Scoping Period.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 202(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Arizona Bureau of Land Management will be preparing a Statewide plan amendment to develop State Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management as provided in the BLM's new grazing regulations (43 CFR

Part 4100). All existing land use plans (LUP) in the State of Arizona, whether resource management plan (RMP) or management framework plan (MFP), will be amended. The appropriate level of NEPA analysis used, either an environmental assessment (EA) level or environmental impact statement (EIS) level, will be determined based on comments received during the scoping period. This notice invites public input on the development of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for Arizona, on issues to be addressed, alternatives to be considered, and the appropriate level of NEPA analysis needed.

DATES: Comments will be accepted throughout the Statewide plan amendment and NEPA analysis process. However, comments received after March 4, 1996, may not be reflected in the alternatives considered or issues analyzed in the plan amendment and associated NEPA document released for public review and comment (anticipated release is mid-May 1996).

ADDRESSES: Any comments or requests to be placed on the mailing list should be sent to: Standards and Guidelines (AZ-930); Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 16563, Phoenix, AZ, 85011-6563.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Clint Oke or Ken Mahoney; Co-Team Leaders; Bureau of Land Management (AZ-930); P.O. Box 16563; Phoenix, AZ, 85011-6563; phone (602) 650-0513.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM's new grazing administration regulations (43 CFR Part 4100), which became effective August 21, 1995, provide for the development of State Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management. These Standards and Guidelines are to be approved and implemented through an integrated planning and NEPA process using an interdisciplinary team of specialists pursuant to BLM's Planning Regulations (43 CFR part 1600). All existing LUPs for public lands in the State of Arizona will be amended. At this point in time, it is undecided what level of NEPA analysis (EA-level or EIS-level) will be needed.

Description of Possible Alternatives

At this time three preliminary reasonable alternatives have been identified: the continuation of current management as provided for in existing land use plans (no action alternative), the adoption of the fallback Standards and Guidelines contained in the Grazing Regulations (43 CFR Part 4100), and the adoption of Standards and Guidelines developed locally and in consultation