

of that person's life or the lives of others. On private lands, the following regulations apply:

(1) Any person may take red wolves on private land provided that such taking is not intentional or willful, or is in defense of that person's life or the lives of others.

(2) Any private landowner, or any other individual having his or her permission, may take red wolves found on his or her property when the wolves are in the act of killing livestock or pets, provided that freshly wounded or killed livestock or pets are evident.

(3) Any private landowner may take red wolves found on his or her property after efforts by project personnel to capture such animals have been abandoned, provided that the Service project leader or biologist has approved such actions in writing.

All takings must be reported within 24 hours to the Park superintendent or State wildlife enforcement officer. The provisions also apply to red wolves found in areas outside the experimental population boundaries, with the exception that reporting of taking or harassment to the Park superintendent, while encouraged, is not required.

These regulations will be retained in case some of the animals that we have lost contact with are still alive and are taken. You should report any wolf-like animal observed with a radio collar around the neck to the Park superintendent. We will examine longevity records for red wolves in the wild and will amend the nonessential experimental population regulation to remove the Park when animals with which we have lost contact would be expected to have lived out their life span.

#### Are Additional Restoration Efforts Planned for the Future?

We are analyzing information gathered on the restoration of the red wolf over the last 11 years to aid in the selection of future release sites. With the limited resources available to all endangered species programs, it is our responsibility to use the most accurate and current information to make the best choices for recovering the red wolf. This responsibility includes selecting release sites that allow us to establish a population as efficiently as possible for the sake of the species and the interests of the American public.

All large federally owned lands (170,000 acres or more) within the red wolf's historic range are being included in the assessment of potential release sites. However, no site has been selected at this time. We hope to develop a "short list" of potential areas that offer

the greatest biological potential and then further refine the selection process based on the interests, land use, and attitudes of the public surrounding a particular site. The selection of the next release site will be a very complex process. This process must balance biological, logistical, and socio-political factors. All of these factors can contribute to the success or failure of individual red wolves and, ultimately, to the overall recovery of the species.

Once a potential site is selected, we will follow the regulatory process for establishing a nonessential experimental population by publishing a proposed rule in the **Federal Register**. Comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the proposed rule will be solicited from the public, concerned government agencies, the scientific community, industry, and other interested parties. In making the final decision, we will take into consideration any comments or additional information received. The final determination will also be published in the **Federal Register**.

Author. The primary author of this notice is V. Gary Henry (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section).

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: September 30, 1998.

**H. Dale Hall,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-26841 Filed 10-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-056-1110-00]

#### Notice of Vehicle Access Closure

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

**ACTION:** Notice of seasonal closure of the Bronson Peak Road (BLM Road 5100) and area closure in the Rio Grande County, Colorado to motorized vehicle use during Colorado's combined deer & elk hunting seasons for 1998 and 1999. Closure dates will be October 8, 1998 thru November 8, 1998 and October 7, 1999 thru November 7, 1999.

**SUMMARY:** Under the authority and requirement of 43 CFR 8364.1 and 43 CFR 8341.1 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, notice is hereby given that effective October 8, 1998, public lands described below are seasonally closed to all motorized vehicle use during Colorado's 1998 and

1999 combined deer & elk hunting seasons. This seasonal closure is in addition to the existing closure (FR Doc. 94-26114, filed 10-20-94), which permanently affects 3600 acres of Public lands east of BLM Road 5100 in T.38N., R7E., Sections 34 & 35 and T.37N., R7E., Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, & 15. This seasonal closure will affect approximately an additional 1730 acres of public lands west of BLM Road 5100, and east of Greenie Mountain and will impose a temporary closure of approximately 2½ miles of BLM Road 5100 in the Rio Grande County, south of Monte Vista, Colorado, in T.38N., R.7E., Section 9, and that area SE of an existing OHV trail, extending diagonally from the NE corner to the SW corner of Section 4. Through a cooperative effort with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and BLM, this seasonal closure is intended to help affect movement of elk off the Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge and to minimize animal damage caused by elk to the refuge and adjacent private lands. Elk are often observed attempting to leave the refuge, heading towards the slopes of Greenie Mountain, and being turned back to the safe confines of the refuge by vehicular traffic and by hunters attempting to get near enough for a shot and harvest of animals. This area/road closure will eliminate this extremely dangerous situation where a considerable number of hunters shoot at elk as they leave the wildlife refuge in the early mornings, and will protect fragile vegetation and highly erodible soils from adverse affects of vehicle travel during the wet months of the year. This action does not does not affect hunting use in the area, but is intended to make the area safer for hunters and the general public and to protect the vegetation and soils from damage during the fall/winter months when soils are often wet. These restrictions do not apply to emergency, law enforcement, and Federal, State or other government personnel who are in the area for official or emergency purposes and who are expressly authorized or otherwise officially approved by BLM. Any person who fails to comply with this closure order may be subject to the penalties provided by 43 CFR 8340.0-7 and/or 43 CFR 8360.0-7 which includes fines not to exceed \$1000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months. Notice of this closure will be posted near or within the area, the San Luis Resource Area Office and the Canon City District Office.

**DATES:** Closure dates will be October 8, 1998 thru November 8, 1998 and October 7, 1999 thru November 7, 1999,

and shall remain in effect unless revised, revoked, or amended.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments can be directed to the Area Manager, San Luis Resource Area, 1921 State Street., Alamosa, CO 81101 or District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Canon City, CO 81212.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carlos Pinto, Area Manager at (719) 589-4975 or Jerry Apker, Colorado Division of Wildlife at 719-852-4783.

**Stuart L. Freer,**

*Associate District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 98-26981 Filed 10-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-020-1220-00]

#### **Sonoma-Gerlach and Paradise Denio Management Framework Plan Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is given that the Winnemucca Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the management of the West Arm of the Black Rock Desert, located in Humboldt, Pershing and Washoe Counties, Nevada. This document is available for public review for a 105-day period.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be postmarked by January 15, 1999.

Public meetings to receive oral and written comments have been scheduled for the dates and places listed below. All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

November 2, 1998

Red Lion Inn, 1401 Arden Way,  
Sacramento, California

November 3, 1998

Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial  
Blvd., Reno, Nevada

November 4, 1998

Lovelock Community Center, 820 6th  
Street, Lovelock, Nevada

November 5, 1998

Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E.  
Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca,  
Nevada

November 9, 1998

Cedarville Field Office, 602 Cressler  
Street, Cedarville, California

November 10, 1998

Gerlach Community Center, 410  
Cottonwood, Gerlach, Nevada

A copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement can be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office, ATTN: Gerald Moritz, Project Manager, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for inspection at the following additional locations: Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada: Humboldt County Library, Winnemucca, Nevada: Pershing County Public Library, Lovelock, Nevada: Washoe County Public Library, Reno, Nevada: Washoe County Branch Library, Gerlach, Nevada: Susanville Library District, Susanville, California: University of Nevada Library in Reno, Nevada: and the Sacramento City College Library, Sacramento. In addition, the entire document is available on the World Wide Web at the following addresses: [www.nv.blm.gov/Winnemucca/BlackrockEIS.htm](http://www.nv.blm.gov/Winnemucca/BlackrockEIS.htm)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gerald Moritz, Project Manager at the above Winnemucca Field Office Address or telephone (702) 623-1500.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) sets forth the management prescription the Bureau of Land Management is proposing for the management of the Black Rock Desert. The proposed planning area encompasses portions of the West Arm of the Black Rock Desert in northwest Nevada and comprises approximately 452,086 acres of public lands administered by the Winnemucca Field Office within Humboldt, Pershing and Washoe Counties, Nevada.

Besides the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives, the EIS also analyzes a Maximum Resource Protection Alternative and a Maximum Resource Use Alternative.

Dated: September 29, 1998.

**Michael R. Holbert,**

*Acting Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 98-27010 Filed 10-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-050-1020-00; GP9-0001]

#### **Notice of Meeting of John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office.

**ACTION:** Meeting of John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council: Pendleton, Oregon; November 18 and 19, 1998.

**SUMMARY:** A meeting of the John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council will be held on November 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on November 19 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Inn, 304 SE Nye Avenue, Pendleton, Oregon. The meeting is open to the public. Public comments will be received at 1:00 p.m. on November 18. Topics to be discussed by the Council will include: John Day River Plan and Hells Canyon NRA subgroup updates; threatened and endangered species effects on public land grazing; fire rehabilitation on the Umatilla and Malheur National Forest; RAC involvement in forest plan and BLM RMP updates; ICBEMP update; fee demonstration discussion; RAC boundary adjustment and future program of work.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James L. Hancock, Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office, 3050 NE Third Street, P.O. Box 550, Prineville, Oregon 97754, or call 541-416-6700.

Dated: October 2, 1998.

**James L. Hancock,**

*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 98-27007 Filed 10-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[MT-923-1990-00]

#### **Notice of Intent To Prepare Fire Management Plan and Amend Resource Management Plans and Management Framework Plans Where Appropriate in Montana and the Dakotas**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will update and amend its Fire Management Plans for Montana and the Dakotas. This may also result in Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Management Framework Plan (MFP) amendments. An environmental analysis of the Fire Management Plan updates will involve an RMP/MFP consistency review. If the fire plan updates are inconsistent with the existing RMPs and MFP, then RMP/MFP amendments may be appropriate for the Garnet, Headwaters, West Hi-Line, Judith, Valley, Phillips, Billings,