

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The legal description for the Federally-managed lands permanently closed to recreational shooting (herein known as the La Posta parcel) is as follows: Township 17 South, Range 5 East, Section 25, East ½ SBM. The parcel is east of La Posta Road, approximately 4.5 miles south of Old Highway 30. The 320 acres parcel is a flat open field with a hill lying to the east.

On May 6, 1994, BLM held a public meeting on-site at the La Posta shooting area. Various safety concerns were expressed by local residents, causing BLM to consider better ways to manage the La Posta site or close it. Since that time, BLM has held more meetings and received numerous comments from the public, both opposing the shooting area and supporting it. Due to the growing list of problems associated with the shooting area, a temporary emergency closure was executed on June 26, 1996. Permanent closure of this area is necessary for the following reasons:

1. Safety Hazards

The eastern hill should serve as an adequate backstop for shooters placing their targets near its base. But many shooters place their targets high on the hill, trying to get a longer range. When doing this, bullets ricochet or carry directly east over the hill. Three quarters of a mile of down range on the other side of the hill lies a ranch. Investigations by BLM law enforcement indicate that horses, cattle and buildings have been hit by bullets and there have been near misses with people. There is also concern about the Campo historic train that runs through the ranch on Sundays. Immediately south and even closer to the shooting area lies another ranch that is frequently used by recreational groups and campers. Although shooters are supposed to shoot east into the hill, shots have been directed south towards this ranch, striking the house and resulting in near misses with people.

2. Fire Danger

From 1986 to 1992, the U.S. Forest Service had 25 fires near the La Posta site that were caused by target shooters. In 1994, the BLM La Posta site itself half burned by a fire started on the adjacent U.S. Navy shooting range. BLM has fire orders prohibiting the use of tracer rounds, steel core and incendiary types of ammunition, but evidence shows that target shooters are still causing many of the fires in the local area. Without the La Posta site being significantly graded, fire is a serious threat to the nearby residents.

3. Noise Nuisance

Prior to the emergency closure, on a busy day as many as 15 groups of shooters used the La Posta site at one time. The shooting started at dawn and continued nonstop until dark. One could hear the shooting from as far as five miles away. For the ranch only 500 feet to the south and other nearby residents on La Posta Road, it was a major nuisance.

4. Litter and Resource Degradation

The La Posta site used to be a natural area that attracted local hikers, hunters and dog trainers. Now targets, trash, broken glass and shells litter the area. Two major cleanups organized by local gun stores helped, but only temporarily. Despite frequent patrols by BLM law enforcement, and many concerned shooters and others picking up after themselves, the site deteriorated more each year.

5. Land Use Conflicts

The La Posta site was leased for cattle grazing long before it became a popular shooting area. The grazing lease is still valid yet the rancher is unable to use the area. BLM has also previously issued an apiary permit for the area. The placement of 100 beehives near numerous groups of shooters would likely result in injuries. There are also two mining claims on the east hill, down range. The grazing lease, apiary permit and mining claims are all incompatible land uses with target shooting.

BLM recognizes target shooting as a legitimate recreational use on the public lands. Before closing the La Posta site, several alternative sites were considered. Thus far, safety, fire, noise, environmental, land use, and legal access concerns have prevented the designation of any specific alternative shooting area. This closure is not intended to prohibit recreational target shooting on other BLM public lands; Nor does it affect licensed hunters in the pursuit of lawful game, or law enforcement officers while in the performance of their official duties. Individuals looking for alternative shooting areas are encouraged to obtain a BLM map from the Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office. Authority for this supplementary rule is established by 43 CFR 8364.1. Violation of the rule is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Dated: October 23, 1998.

Chris Roholt,

Acting Field Manager, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office.

[FR Doc. 98-29524 Filed 11-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-024-1020-01]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment

SUMMARY: The Snake River Resource Area, Upper Snake River District, is proposing to amend the Cassia Resource Management Plan to allow for the reallocation of 300 AUMs from livestock usage to bighorn sheep usage via a bighorn sheep reintroduction on Jim Sage Mountain in Cassia County, Idaho.

DATES: The public, state and local governments, and other Federal Agencies are invited to participate in the amendment process. Identification of issues, concerns, or other written comments pertaining to this notice will be accepted until November 30, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed plan amendment would allow the reallocation of 300 AUMs of forage from livestock to bighorn sheep on Jim Sage Mountain in Cassia County, Idaho via a bighorn sheep reintroduction on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The actual reintroduction of bighorn sheep would be conducted by the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game with assistance from BLM and other agencies and individuals.

The public land where the reintroduction is proposed is currently managed for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat and recreation as part of the Jim Sage Allotment, #5003. All the aforementioned uses would continue.

Public participation in the amendment process will include publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and local newspapers and the mailing of this notice to state and local governments, private individuals, and other interested parties. Depending on the amount of public interest, public meetings may be held in the Snake River Resource Area Office, Burley, Idaho.

ADDRESSES: Any comments on this notice should be mailed by close of business on November 30, 1998 to the Bureau of Land Management, Snake River Resource Area, Attention: Kurt Pavlat, 15 East, 200 South, Burley, ID 83318.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kurt Pavlat, Range Conservationist, (208) 678-5514.

Dated: October 26, 1998.

Kurt Pavlat,

Range Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 98-29527 Filed 11-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-950-5700-77; AZA 30749]

Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, has filed an application to withdraw 74,380.50 acres of National Forest System lands and 320 acres of non-Federal lands, if acquired, for protection of the San Francisco Peaks/Mount Elden Recreation Area. This notice closes the lands for up to 2 years from location and entry under the United States mining laws. The lands will remain open to all other uses which may be made of National Forest System lands. The non-Federal lands would also be closed to mining by this notice if acquired by the United States during the 2-year period.

DATES: Comments should be received on or before February 2, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Forest Supervisor, Coconino National Forest, 2323 E. Greenlaw Lane, Flagstaff, Arizona 85006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pete Mourtzen, Coconino National Forest, 520-527-3600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service has filed an application to withdraw the following described National Forest System lands and non-Federal lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights:

Gila and Salt River Meridian

Coconino National Forest

National Forest System Lands

T. 21 N., R. 7 E.

Sec. 1, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S¹/₂N¹/₂, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 2, lots 1 to 8, inclusive, S¹/₂NW¹/₄, S¹/₂SE¹/₄, and SW¹/₄, excluding HES 86.

T. 21 N., R. 8 E.

Sec. 6, lots 1 to 7, inclusive, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂E¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NE¹/₄SW¹/₄,

NW¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, N¹/₂SW¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, N¹/₂NE¹/₄SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄, N¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄, NW¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄, and W¹/₂SW¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄.

T. 22 N., R. 6 E.

Sec. 1, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S¹/₂N¹/₂, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 2, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S¹/₂N¹/₂, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 3, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S¹/₂N¹/₂, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 4, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S¹/₂NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄NW¹/₄, and S¹/₂;

Secs. 9 to 11, inclusive;

Sec. 12, E¹/₂, and SW¹/₄;

Sec. 13, N¹/₂;

Secs. 14 and 15;

Sec. 16, E¹/₂.

T. 22 N., R. 7 E.

Sec. 1, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S¹/₂N¹/₂, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 2, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S¹/₂N¹/₂, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 3, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S¹/₂N¹/₂, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 4;

Sec. 5, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S¹/₂N¹/₂, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 6, lots 1 to 7, inclusive, S¹/₂NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, E¹/₂SW¹/₄, and SE¹/₄;

Sec. 7, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E¹/₂, and E¹/₂W¹/₂;

Secs. 8 to 17, inclusive;

Sec. 18, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E¹/₂, and E¹/₂W¹/₂;

Secs. 20 to 23, inclusive;

Sec. 24, lots 1 to 16, inclusive;

Sec. 25, lots 1 to 16, inclusive;

Sec. 26, lots 1 to 16, inclusive;

Sec. 27, NW¹/₄, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 28 and 29;

Sec. 32, N¹/₂;

Sec. 33, N¹/₂, N¹/₂S¹/₂, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, and W¹/₂W¹/₂SE¹/₄SE¹/₄;

Sec. 34, N¹/₂, N¹/₂SW¹/₄, E¹/₂SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, and NW¹/₄SE¹/₄;

Sec. 35, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, W¹/₂E¹/₂, and W¹/₂;

Sec. 36.

T. 22 N., R. 8 E.

Sec. 5, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S¹/₂N¹/₂, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 6, lots 1 to 7, inclusive, S¹/₂NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, W¹/₂SW¹/₄, and SE¹/₄;

Sec. 7, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E¹/₂, and E¹/₂W¹/₂;

Sec. 8, N¹/₂, SW¹/₄, and W¹/₂SE¹/₄;

Sec. 17, S¹/₂N¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, S¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂, and SE¹/₄;

Sec. 18, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E¹/₂, and E¹/₂W¹/₂;

Sec. 19, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E¹/₂, and E¹/₂W¹/₂;

Sec. 20, N¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, N¹/₂S¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄SW¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂NE¹/₄, S¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, NW¹/₄, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 29, N¹/₂, SW¹/₄, N¹/₂SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, N¹/₂SE¹/₄SE¹/₄, and W¹/₂SW¹/₄SE¹/₄SE¹/₄;

Sec. 30, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E¹/₂, and E¹/₂W¹/₂;

Sec. 31, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E¹/₂, and E¹/₂W¹/₂;

Sec. 32, N¹/₂, N¹/₂S¹/₂, SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, W¹/₂SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, N¹/₂N¹/₂NE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄,

N¹/₂N¹/₂NW¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, E¹/₂SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, and SE¹/₄SE¹/₄.

T. 23 N., R. 6 E.

Sec. 8, lots 1, 2, 7, and 8;

Sec. 9, lots 1 to 8, inclusive, and N¹/₂;

Sec. 10, NE¹/₄, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NE¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, S¹/₂NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NW¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄,

S¹/₂NW¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄,

SW¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, S¹/₂NW¹/₄, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 11, E¹/₂, NW¹/₄, W¹/₂SW¹/₄,

N¹/₂NE¹/₄SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄SW¹/₄, N¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄SW¹/₄,

SW¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄SW¹/₄,

E¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄SW¹/₄,

W¹/₂NE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, W¹/₂SE¹/₄SW¹/₄,

E¹/₂E¹/₂NE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, and

E¹/₂E¹/₂SE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄;

Sec. 12;

Sec. 13, lots 1 to 4, inclusive,

N¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄,

N¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄,

S¹/₂NE¹/₄SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, NW¹/₄SW¹/₄NE¹/₄,

S¹/₂S¹/₂NE¹/₄, NE¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄,

S¹/₂NW¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, and W¹/₂;

Sec. 14, S¹/₂N¹/₂S¹/₂N¹/₂N¹/₂,

S¹/₂S¹/₂N¹/₂N¹/₂, S¹/₂N¹/₂, E¹/₂SW¹/₄,

NW¹/₄SW¹/₄, and SE¹/₄;

Sec. 15, N¹/₂, SW¹/₄, N¹/₂SE¹/₄, and

SW¹/₄SE¹/₄;

Sec. 16;

Sec. 17, lots 1 to 8, inclusive, and S¹/₂;

Sec. 20 and 21;

Sec. 22, W¹/₂NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, N¹/₂SW¹/₄, N¹/₂SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, N¹/₂N¹/₂SE¹/₄SW¹/₄,

SE¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄,

E¹/₂SE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, and SE¹/₄;

Sec. 23, NE¹/₄, E¹/₂NW¹/₄, SW¹/₄NW¹/₄,

N¹/₂SW¹/₄, N¹/₂NE¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄,

SE¹/₄NE¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄,

N¹/₂SW¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, N¹/₂SE¹/₄SW¹/₄,

N¹/₂SE¹/₄, N¹/₂SW¹/₄SE¹/₄,

SE¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, and SE¹/₄SE¹/₄;

Sec. 24, lots 1 to 8, inclusive, and W¹/₂;

Sec. 25, lots 1 to 8, inclusive, and W¹/₂;

Sec. 26, E¹/₂E¹/₂NE¹/₄, NW¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄,

N¹/₂SW¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄,

SW¹/₄SW¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄,

S¹/₂N¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, S¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄,

SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, NW¹/₄NW¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄,

S¹/₂NW¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄,

S¹/₂SW¹/₄, and SE¹/₄;

Sec. 27, N¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄,

W¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄,

N¹/₂NE¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, NW¹/₄NE¹/₄,

E¹/₂W¹/₂SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, E¹/₂SW¹/₄NE¹/₄,

W¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂NE¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄,

S¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄,