

1994. A juvenile spotted owl has been detected in various locations in the general vicinity of the unit over the past year.

Boise Cascade proposes to: conduct harvest activities outside of the spotted owl nesting season (March 1–September 15); use existing roads that may need to be graded or otherwise refurbished for hauling use; use a tractor to remove logs in areas of flat terrain; use a cable/skyline to yard trees on the majority of the area which contains slopes of greater than 30 percent; and, replant harvested areas with Douglas-fir, sitka spruce, western red cedar, and/or western hemlock within 12 months of harvest. As required by the Oregon Forest Practices Act, Boise Cascade would leave, on average per acre harvested, at least:

- Two snags or two green trees at least 30 feet in height and 11 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) or larger, at least 50 percent of which are conifers; and
- Two downed logs or downed trees, at least 50 percent of which are conifers, that each comprise at least 10 cubic-foot gross volume and are no less than 6 feet long. One downed conifer or suitable hardwood log of at least 20 cubic feet gross volume and no less than 6 feet long may count as 2 logs.

In addition, Boise Cascade has stated in its written operations harvesting plan (97–11514) dated October 22, 1997, and submitted to the Oregon Department of Forestry that it would log the unit in accordance with the following conditions:

- No conifer would be harvested within 100 feet of Walker Creek (using the high water mark as a boundary). No hardwood would be harvested within 50 feet of Walker Creek. All “in-unit” leave trees would be placed in, or adjacent to, the riparian management area. Conifer leave trees would be placed further than 100-feet from Walker Creek and hardwood leave trees would be placed further than 50-feet from Walker Creek. The “in-unit” leave trees would be a minimum of 75 percent conifer. All other trees would be harvested;
- Any tree that cannot be felled and kept further than 50 feet from Walker Creek would be left standing. Any portion of a felled tree inadvertently falling within 50 feet of Walker Creek would be left;
- No downed wood or snags (except those required to be cut for safety) would be cut within the Walker Creek riparian management area. No downed wood or snags would be cut within 20 feet of a small tributary that enters Walker Creek in the northeast corner of the unit; and

- The unit would be cable/cat yarded. Logging skylines may hang across the riparian management area. All yarding road changes would be made either by clearing above the riparian management area or by pulling back and restringing each road. Only safety trees would be cut in this process.

This alternative would eliminate spotted owl habitat for an unknown and indefinite period of time. This alternative would likely result in incidental take in the form of harm by impairing essential breeding, feeding, and sheltering behaviors of spotted owls.

#### *Alternative 3. Large Tree, Snag, and Downed Wood Retention Alternative*

This alternative is similar to the Boise Cascade Plan, but would include the following prescriptions:

- Two of the largest diameter green trees per acre harvested would be retained, including the two known spotted owl nest trees. Half of these trees would be a minimum of 26 inches dbh, and the remaining half would be a minimum of 34 inches dbh. Snags could be substituted for green trees, so long as the total number would not exceed more than 20 percent of the leave trees, and the snags have a trunk at least 30 feet tall. Trees retained within the designated 100-foot riparian management area under the Oregon Forest Practices Act could not be double-counted for the leave trees;
- The retained trees would be clumped and randomly distributed throughout the harvested acreage, and not all clumped within or immediately adjacent to the riparian management area. The clumps would be positioned and composed of enough trees, including sub-dominant trees if necessary, to withstand windthrow in such a manner that the target of 100 leave trees would be maintained outside of the riparian management area;
- All existing downed logs would be retained; and
- The retained trees would not be harvested for a period of 80 years.

This alternative would result in a likelihood of incidental take of spotted owls associated with harm through habitat loss, but would provide dispersal quality habitat in about 40 years.

#### *Alternative 4. Dispersal Habitat Alternative*

This alternative would allow for timber harvest in accordance with the following prescriptions:

- No more than 40 percent of the standing tree basal area would be removed, and trees that would be at

least 11 inches dbh and have an average 40 percent canopy closure immediately after harvest would be retained;

- At least one of the two known spotted owl nest trees would be retained;
- No downed logs would be removed; and
- Further logging on the unit would be deferred for 40 years.

This alternative would result in a likelihood of incidental take of spotted owls by harm through habitat loss within the area harvested, but would maintain dispersal quality habitat and provide spotted owl foraging opportunities.

#### *Alternative 5. Dispersal and Remnant Nesting Habitat Alternative*

In addition to the prescriptions identified in alternative 4, this alternative would add a 500-foot, no-cut protection zone, within the bounds of the property, centered around one of the two known owl nest trees.

This alternative would result in a likelihood of incidental take of spotted owls by harm through habitat loss within the area harvested, but would maintain dispersal and foraging quality habitat, and provide a remnant piece of nesting quality habitat.

All interested agencies, organizations, and individuals are urged to provide comments on the draft Environmental Assessment, permit application, Plan, and draft Implementation Agreement. All comments received by the closing date will be considered by the Service as it completes its National Environmental Policy Act compliance and makes its decision regarding permit issuance or denial.

Dated: February 26, 1999.

**Cynthia U. Barry,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 99–5456 Filed 3–4–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR–095–09–6332–00: GP9–0095]

### Temporary Closure of Public Lands; Lane County, Oregon

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

**ACTION:** Temporary closure of public lands in Lane County, Oregon.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that certain public lands in Lane County, Oregon are temporarily closed to all public use, including recreation,

parking, camping, shooting, hiking and sightseeing, from February 24, 1999 through May 31, 1999. The closure is made under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1.

The public lands affected by this temporary closure are specifically identified as follows:

**Willamette Meridian, Oregon**

T. 21 S., R. 3 W.

Sec. 1: Beginning at a point on the line between Sections 1 and 2, Township 21 South, Range 3 West, Willamette Meridian, in Lane County, Oregon, 250.8 feet South of the Northwest corner of said Section 1; thence South along said section line 670 feet to a point; thence South 40° 30' East a distance of 230 feet to a point; thence East 700 feet to a point; thence North 600 feet to the Southwest corner of the David Mosby Donation Land Claim No. 60; thence North 67° 45' West a distance of 672 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, in Lane County, Oregon;

EXCEPT that portion lying Southeasterly of the Northwestern line of Layng Road (County Road No. 373), in Lane County, Oregon. Containing approximately 5 acres.

The following persons, operating within the scope of their official duties, are exempt from the provisions of this closure order: Bureau employees; state, local and federal law enforcement and fire protection personnel; adjoining landowners; the contractor authorized to construct the Mosby Creek Trailhead facilities for the Row River Trail and its subcontractors. Access by additional parties may be allowed, but must be approved in advance in writing by the Authorized Officer.

Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this closure order may be subject to the penalties provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7, which include a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

The public lands temporarily closed to public use under this order will be posted with signs at points of public access.

The purpose of this temporary closure is to provide for public safety, facilitate construction of the Mosby Creek Trailhead facilities, and protection of property and equipment during the mobilization, construction and demobilization phases of the Mosby Creek Trailhead construction project.

**DATES:** This closure is effective from February 24, 1999 through May 31, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the closure order and maps showing the location of the closed lands are available from the Eugene District Office, P. O. Box 10226 (2890 Chad Drive), Eugene, Oregon 97440.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Calish, South Valley Area Manager, Eugene District Office, at (541) 683-6600.

Dated: February 23, 1999.

**Steven Calish,**

*South Valley Area Manager.*

[FR Doc. 99-5428 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[NM-930-1310-01; NMNM 89783]

**New Mexico: Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease**

Under the provision of Public Law 97-451; a petition for reinstatement of Oil and Gas Lease NMNM 89783, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from November 1, 1998, the date of termination.

No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$10.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, and 16  $\frac{2}{3}$  percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice.

The lessee has 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)), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective November 1, 1998, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

*For Further Information Contact:* Becky C. Olivas, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7609.

Dated: February 25, 1999.

**Becky C. Olivas,**

*Land Law Examiner, Fluids Adjudication Team.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[(CA-350-1220-00)(CACA 38217 01)]

**Realty Action, CA**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Amend the Honey Lake Land Use Plan; California.

**SUMMARY:** Plan Amendment: The proposed amendment will make lands available that are not of national significance and will serve important public objectives. i.e., expansion of the community and economic development, which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public land.

The following public lands in Lassen County, California are being examined for suitability for sale under section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (43 USC 1733), for exchange under section 206 of FLPMA (43 USC 1716) or section 216, the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, as amended, for lease/conveyance:

**Mount Diablo Meridian, Lassen County, California**

T.30 N., R.12 E.,

Section 21, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE; Section 22, NE, NW, SW, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE; Section 27, NW; and Section 28, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE.

Containing 880 acres more or less.

For a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** interested parties may submit comments involving suitability of the land for public purposes, i.e., schools, hospital, etc. Comments on the Recreation and Public Purposes Act classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs. Comments regarding the proposed amendment to the Honey Lake Land Use Plan should be sent to the Field Manager, Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, California 96130.

**Classification/Plan Amendment Comments**

The environmental analysis will determine whether these lands are not essential to any Bureau of Land Management program and no resource needed by the public will be lost through transfer to private ownership, and disposal will not be adverse to any known public or private interest.

**Linda D. Hansen,**

*Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 99-5429 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

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