

motorized vehicles. This action is taken to aid in the recovery of vegetation from the impacts of a recently completed 3-d Seismic Project which left many tracks of mashed vegetation in the grassland. There is concern that future traffic could follow these tracks, damaging the grassland and creating undesired new roads. The authority for this emergency closure is 43 CFR 8364.1: Closure and Restriction Orders. The following public land is affected by the closure:

- T. 25 S., R. 12 E.,
Secs. 33 through 36.
- T. 25 S., R. 13 E.,
Sec. 31.
- T. 26 S., R. 12 E.,
Secs. 1, 3, 4, 9 through 15, 21 through 28
and 33 through 35.
- T. 26 S., R. 13 E.,
Secs. 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 and 31.

DATES: This closure is effective April 9, 1999 and shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified by the authorized officer. This closure will be rescinded once the vegetation has substantially recovered from the impacts of the seismic project.

ADDRESSES: Copies of this closure order and maps showing the location of the area are available from the Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88005 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Russell Jentgen, Geologist, at the address above or call (505) 525-4351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Violations of this closure are punishable by fines not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 1 year.

The Bennett Ranch 3-d Seismic Project was conducted by Geco-Prakla between March 20 and April 8, 1999. The project included a limited amount of off-road travel by large vibrator buggies and support vehicles along designated lines of travel. This off-road travel was restricted to only that which was absolutely necessary to meet the objectives of normal 3-d seismic exploration for oil and gas. The off-road vehicles used on this project were all equipped with oversize low pressure tires to minimize impacts to soil and vegetation.

This off-road travel has left linear tracks of mashed vegetation which are expected to recover completely after seasonal summer rainfall. However, these tracks are attractive pathways for additional traffic in an area where few roads exist. To prevent the creation of new and undesired roads on these tracks and to prevent long-term damage to the vegetation, it is essential that no

additional off-road traffic follow these tracks giving the vegetation an opportunity to recover. Geco-Prakla will post signs along all roads entering the closure to inform drivers of this restriction. The tracks will be monitored by the BLM to determine when recovery is sufficient to rescind this closure.

Dated: April 28, 1999.

Linda S. C. Rundell,

Field Manager, Las Cruces.

[FR Doc. 99-11102 Filed 5-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-VC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[(CA-610-5101-01-B109) CACA-40467]

Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program Proposed Pipeline and California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment, San Bernardino County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, Needles Field Office.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting and extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in cooperation with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) will conduct a public meeting to discuss and solicit public input concerning a proposed Cadiz Water Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program (Project) and a plan amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan. The public meeting will be held on May 10, 1999, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Needles City Council Chambers, 1111 Bailey Avenue, Needles, California. A Notice of Intent to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the proposed project on Federal and private lands in the Mojave Desert Region of San Bernardino County, California, was published March 1, 1999, in the **Federal Register** Vol. 64, No. 39, Page 10011. The deadline to provide comments concerning the scope of analysis of the draft EIS/EIR is extended from March 31, 1999, to May 24, 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project proponents are MWD and Cadiz, Inc. (CI). The Project would consist of: (1) A proposed right-of-way for the construction and operation of a six-foot diameter pipeline from MWD's Iron Mountain Pumping Plant on the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) to CI's

property in the Cadiz/Fenner area, approximately 35 miles to the northeast; (2) pumping of CRA water supplies to the Cadiz/Fenner area including the possible need to modify a pump at the Iron Mountain Pumping Plant; (3) construction and operation of a series of spreading basins (approximately 200-300 acres) to recharge the groundwater aquifer via infiltration at the Cadiz/Fenner area, and (4) construction and operation of a well field for extraction of groundwater in the Cadiz/Fenner area. Three alternative Project configurations are currently being considered, along with the No Project alternative. An open aqueduct along a portion of the alignment in lieu of an underground pipeline may also be considered. The BLM will be asked to issue right-of-way permits for the construction of portions of the water conveyance facility and other facilities which are proposed to occupy Federal lands. All three alternative Project configurations involve lands currently managed by BLM.

The proposed action will also include a proposed plan amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. The proposed project pipeline alignment alternatives are outside of established Planning Corridors and contingent corridors identified in the CDCA Plan. The CDCA Plan allows the designation of corridors which address certain types of utility facilities, including all pipelines with diameters greater than 12 inches and major aqueducts or canals for interbasin transfers of water. The CDCA Plan allows utility needs which do not conform to established corridors to be processed by means of a Plan Amendment in conjunction with necessary permit hearings required by other agencies.

The proposed project begins near the MWD Iron Mountain Pumping Plant in southeast San Bernardino County. The proposed 35-mile pipeline alignment would be north to the Cadiz area. The aquifer system which underlies a portion of the Project area, located in the Cadiz and Fenner valleys ("Cadiz/Fenner area") has been identified as a potential site for underground storage of Colorado River water. This water would be delivered to the Cadiz/Fenner area west of the Ship Mountains from the CRA by way of an underground pipeline or aqueduct. The stored Colorado River water would be subsequently withdrawn when needed and returned to the CRA via the pipeline or aqueduct to meet MWD's water supply needs. In addition, indigenous groundwater in the area of the stored water would also be pumped and transferred utilizing the

same facilities. The Project would have a term of 50 years and would then be reclaimed. MWD supplies supplemental imported water from the State Water Project and the Colorado River to its member agencies in Riverside, San Diego, San Bernardino, Orange, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

DATES: Written comments are requested concerning the scope of the proposed project. Comments must be received on or before May 24, 1999. It is important that those interested in the management of the BLM properties within the Project area provide input at this time. A Notice of Availability will be published when the joint Draft EIS/EIR is available for public review.

ADDRESSES: Please submit comments in writing to James Williams, Supervisory Realty Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, 6221 Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, California, 92507, (909) 697-5390.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Williams at the above address.

Dated: April 27, 1999.

George Meckfessel,
Acting Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-11104 Filed 5-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

(UT-942-1430-01; UTU 76746)

Public Land Order No. 7388; Partial Revocation of Executive Order Dated July 2, 1910; Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public land order.

SUMMARY: This order partially revokes an Executive order insofar as it affects 80 acres of public land withdrawn for the Bureau of Land Management's Power Site Classification No. 34. The withdrawal is no longer needed, and the revocation is necessary to facilitate a pending statewide assembled land exchange. This action will open the land to surface entry subject to valid existing rights. Except for 24.27 acres that are temporarily closed to mining due to the pending land exchange, the land has been and will remain open to mineral leasing, and to mining under the provisions of the Mining Claims Rights Restoration Act of 1955. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has concurred with this action.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 3, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary von Koch, BLM Moab Field Office,

82 East Dogwood Avenue, Moab, Utah 84532, 435-259-2128.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. The Executive Order dated July 2, 1910, which established Power Site Classification No. 34, is hereby revoked insofar as it affects the following described land:

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 23 S., R. 24 E.,
Sec. 8, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described contains 80 acres in Grand County.

2. At 10 a.m. on June 3, 1999, the land will be opened to the operation of the public land laws generally, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. All valid applications received at or prior to 10 a.m., June 3, 1999, shall be considered as simultaneously filed at that time. Those received thereafter shall be considered in the order of filing.

3. The land has been open to mining under the provisions of the Mining Claims Rights Restoration Act of 1955, 30 U.S.C. 621 (1994). However, since this act applies only to land withdrawn for power purposes, the provisions of the act are no longer applicable.

Dated: April 29, 1999.

John Berry,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 99-11185 Filed 5-3-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-034-99-1220-00]

Designation Order; Notice of Overnight Camping Closure Within the BLM Gunnison Forks Wildlife Area and Implementation of Motorized Vehicle Use Restrictions at the Gunnison Forks and on Newly Acquired Public Lands in Delta County, Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District, Uncompahgre Field Office, Montrose Colorado.

ACTION: Notice; camping closure on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Gunnison Forks Wildlife Management Area and the implementation of motorized vehicle use restrictions in the Gunnison Forks area and on the newly

acquired public lands resulting from the Tri-State acquisition of February 1999.

SUMMARY: Notice is given that overnight camping is prohibited on all BLM Public Lands within the Gunnison Forks Wildlife Management Area located at the confluence of the Gunnison River and North Fork of the Gunnison River and all public lands north of the Gunnison River between the Towns of Austin and Lazear. In addition, no overnight parking is permitted on the gravel bar adjacent to the Gunnison River and North Fork River at the Forks. Vehicles which park on the site for day use may not block the access to the river. All motorized use in the Forks areas is restricted to designated routes as indicated by signs. Notice is also given that motorized vehicle use on all newly acquired public lands resulting from the Tri-State land acquisition (February, 1999) is hereby restricted to existing roads and trails; no off-road travel is allowed.

DATES: The camping closure and motorized vehicle restriction are effective immediately and will remain in effect until such time that the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan and/or the Gunnison Gorge Recreation Management Area Plan is amended or revised.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This closure is established to assist the Bureau of Land Management in reducing problems associated with vehicle and camping use in the Gunnison Forks Wildlife Management area and in those areas adjacent to the area. The camping closure is necessary to prevent excessive impacts to soil, vegetation and other resources caused by long-term camping and inappropriate vehicle use.

The restriction of motorized vehicle use to existing roads and trails in the newly acquired public lands is needed to prevent any resource impacts or damage which might be caused by off-road vehicle use. These lands contain significant scenic, recreational, watershed, geologic, wildlife, cultural, and other resources, including potential habitat for critical and/or threatened and endangered species which require protection from unrestricted motorized use.

The camping closure and vehicle restrictions on the newly acquired public lands are consistent with the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan (1998), the Gunnison Gorge Recreation Area Management Plan (1985), and the Gunnison Forks Habitat Management Plan (1981).

CFR Title 43, Chapter II, Part 8360, Subpart 8364.1 and Part 8340, Subpart