

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management****[CA-610-01-1610-DL]****Notice of Extension of the Public Comment Period for the Draft Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** California Desert District Office, Riverside, CA., Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management has extended the public comment period an additional 30 days for the Draft Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan and Environmental Impact. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by July 9, 2001. The ninety-day notice of availability of draft Northern & Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement was published in the **Federal Register** on March 12, 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dick Crowe, California Desert District, 6221 Box Springs Blvd., Riverside, California 92507; phone (909) 697-5216.

Dated: May 29, 2001.

**Alan Stein,**

*Assistant District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 01-15135 Filed 6-13-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-40-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management****[CA-670-01-1610-DL]****Motor Vehicle Use Restrictions: Coyote Mountains, CA**

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

**ACTION:** Pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 8364.1 the Bureau of Land Management will seasonally close routes of travel on Public Lands in the Coyote Mountains of western Imperial County to motorized vehicle use.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that from January 1 to June 30 each year the BLM will close sections of BLM routes T670130 and T670214 located in the Coyote Mountains of Imperial County to access by motorized vehicles. The proposed closure is to provide interim protection for the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (PBS), PBS habitat, and other resource values by reducing

disturbances caused by motorized vehicle use authorized under the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, as amended. By taking interim actions as allowed under 43 CFR part 8364.1, the BLM contributes to the conservation of endangered and threatened species in accordance with 7(a)(1) of the ESA. BLM also avoids making any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources which would foreclose any reasonable and prudent alternative measures which might be required as a result of the consultation on the CDCA plan in accordance with 7(d) of the ESA.

The closure will remain in effect until BLM receives a biological opinion from the Fish and Wildlife Service on the effects of the CDCA Plan on PBS and implements any applicable terms and conditions, reasonable and prudent alternatives, and/or reasonable and prudent measures of the opinion that require implementation.

The sections of the routes subject to this seasonal closure, and the other routes that will consequently be closed, exist in portions of sections 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 35 and 36, Township 15 South, Range 9 East; of sections 1 and 2, Township 16 South, Range 9 East; and of section 6, Township 16 South, Range 10 East, SBM. The following motorized vehicles are exempt from this order: (1) Fire, military, emergency or law enforcement vehicles when used for emergency or patrol purposes; (2) vehicles whose use is expressly approved by the Authorized Officer; (3) vehicles used for official purposes by employees, agents, or designated representatives of the Federal Government or one of its contractors. These closures shall be in effect year-round beginning no sooner than thirty (30) days from the date of this notice, until completion of programmatic consultation between the BLM under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and implementation of any applicable terms and conditions, reasonable prudent alternatives and/or reasonable prudent measures. Closure of these routes also will prevent motorized vehicle use of other BLM routes labeled T670121, T670128 and T670129 that are only accessible via the closed portions of BLM routes T670130 and T670214. Non-motorized uses (e.g., hiking, bicycling, horseback riding) of closed sections on any of the roads described above are not affected by this order. Trails developed primarily for non-motorized use are also not affected by the seasonal closure.

BLM routes T670130 and T670214 are accessible from Painted Gorge Road.

Painted Gorge Road is a county-maintained road extending from Evan Hewes Highway to the foothills of the Coyote Mountains (approximately 4-5 miles in length). BLM routes T670130 and T670214 fork off the termination of Painted Gorge Road and continue into the Coyote Mountains, both routes leading to Carrizo Peak. The closure of these two routes will prevent access to Carrizo Peak from Painted Gorge Road.

Two gates will be installed by BLM to prevent access by motorized vehicles, located as follows:

1. Along route T670130 at UTM coordinates 595590.03 E; 3631014.84 N. These UTM coordinates correspond to a point within the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 6, T. 16 S., R. 10 E., SBM.

2. Along route T670214 at UTM coordinates 594895.87 E; 3632292.29 N. These UTM coordinates correspond to a point within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 36, T. 15 S., R. 9 E., SBM. Any person who fails to comply with this order may be subject to the penalties provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 18, 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) declared through publication of a final rule that the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep occupying the Peninsular Ranges of southern California are endangered pursuant to the ESA of 1973, as amended. The current population of bighorn sheep in the United States' Peninsular Ranges approximates 335 animals distributed in eight known ewe groups (subpopulations) from the San Jacinto Mountains south to the Mexican border.

On March 16, 2000, the Center for Biological Diversity, and others (Center) filed for injunctive relief in U.S. District Court, Northern District of California (court) against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) alleging that the BLM was in violation of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by failing to enter into formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the effects of adoption of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA Plan), as amended, upon threatened and endangered species. On August 25, 2000, the BLM acknowledged through a court stipulation that activities authorized, permitted, or allowed under the CDCA Plan may adversely affect threatened and endangered species, and that the BLM is required to consult with the FWS to insure that adoption and implementation of the CDCA Plan is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened and endangered species or to result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat

of listed species. On March 1, 2001, the revised stipulation respecting PBS became effective.

Although BLM has received biological opinions on selected activities, consultation on the overall CDCA Plan is necessary to address the cumulative effects of *all* the activities authorized by the CDCA Plan. Consultation on the overall Plan is complex and the completion date is uncertain. Absent consultation on the entire Plan, the impacts of individual activities, when added together with the impacts of other activities in the desert are not known. The BLM entered into negotiations with plaintiffs regarding interim actions to be taken to provide protection for endangered and threatened species pending completion of the consultation on the CDCA Plan. Agreement on these interim actions avoided litigation of plaintiffs' request for injunctive relief and the threat of an injunction prohibiting all activities authorized under the Plan. These interim agreements have allowed the BLM to continue to authorize appropriate levels of activities throughout the planning area during the lengthy consultation process while providing appropriate protection to the desert tortoise and other listed species in the short term. By taking interim actions as allowed under 43 CFR part 8364.1, the BLM contributes to the conservation of endangered and threatened species in accordance with 7(a)(1) of the ESA. BLM also avoids making any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources which would foreclose any reasonable and prudent alternative measures which might be required as a result of the consultation on the CDCA plan in accordance with 7(d) of the ESA.

The EA indicates the following reasons for the closure: In the Draft Recovery Plan for the Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges (USFWS 1999), several studies are identified that link vehicle use with modification of bighorn sheep behavior (Jorgensen, 1974; Leslie and Douglas, 1980; Campbell and Remington, 1981; Miller and Smith, 1985). The Coyote Mountains are within designated critical habitat for the PBS. The proposed route closure and gate construction would be a benefit to PBS and other wildlife resources. Disturbances from vehicles would be reduced during the critical lambing season which would increase the probability of lamb survival.

Motorized vehicle use in Painted Gorge potentially conflicts with lambing season, January through June, because most visitors use the area between October and May. The existing roads and trails in the Coyote Mountains

provide a wide array of recreational opportunities for people who use motorcycles, ATV's, and 4-Wheel vehicles, including trail riding, touring and play riding.

**DATES:** The seasonal closure will be effective no sooner than July 16, 2001. The EA concerning this closure is available for a 15-day review period. Interested parties should contact the Field Office Manager for a copy and review schedule. Written comments may be sent to the address listed below in this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** El Centro BLM Field Manager, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be sent to Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243, Tel: 760-337-4400.

Dated: June 4, 2001.

**Gail Acheson,**

*Acting Deputy Director for Natural Resources.*

[FR Doc. 01-15134 Filed 6-13-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-40-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Intent to Repatriate a Cultural Item in the Possession of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 43 CFR 10.10 (a)(3), of the intent to repatriate a cultural item in the possession of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, that meets the definition of "object of cultural patrimony" under Section 2 of the Act.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 43 CFR 10.2 (c). The determinations within this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of these cultural items. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

The item is a carved wooden totem pole. The pole includes eagle, beaver, and halibut crest designs.

Museum records indicate that Cornell University obtained the totem pole in 1899 as a gift from Bernhard Fernow, former dean of the New York State College of Forestry at Cornell University. Professor Fernow served as a member of the Harriman Expedition,

which removed totem poles and other objects from Cape Fox Village, AK, in 1899.

Evidence for cultural affiliation is provided by historical literature, crests on the pole, and written materials submitted by the Cape Fox Corporation.

Based on the above information, officials of Cornell University have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(4), this cultural item has ongoing historical, traditional, and cultural importance central to the Tlingit people, and to the Neix.adi clan in particular, and that under the Tlingit system of communal property ownership could not have been alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual. Officials of Cornell University also have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (e), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between this object of cultural patrimony and the Neix.adi clan of the Tlingit Tribe, whose interests are represented here by the Cape Fox Corporation.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Cape Fox Corporation. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with this object of cultural patrimony should contact Patricia A. McClary, Associate University Counsel, Cornell University, 300 CCC Building, Garden Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14853-2601, telephone (607) 255-5124, before July 16, 2001. Repatriation of this object of cultural patrimony to the Cape Fox Corporation may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: May 18, 2001

**John Robbins,**

*Assistant Director, Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnerships.*

[FR Doc. 01-14991 Filed 6-13-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Intent To Repatriate Cultural Items in the Possession of the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 43 CFR 10.10 (a)(3), of the intent to repatriate cultural items in the possession of the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, that meet the definition of "object of cultural patrimony" and "sacred object" under Section 2 of the Act.