

these actions. Copies of the draft EA and this notice will be distributed to persons who have expressed a prior interest in this or related polar bear conservation issues. Copies are available upon request at the location under the **ADDRESSES** section. As identified above in the DATES Section, the Service will also conduct two public meetings to promote discussion of the draft EA. Comments and materials received in response to this action will be available for public inspection at this address during normal working hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Discussions regarding development of a unified management approach between Russia and the United States were initiated in Sochi, Russia in October 1988, at the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Polar Bear Specialists Group Meeting. Further talks occurred in May 1990, and correspondence supporting the development of a bilateral agreement followed. Between 1992 and 1995, protocols of agreement were developed between the natural resources agencies of the respective countries and the Native users of Alaska and Chukotka. During this period numerous discussions between the Service and Native representatives occurred on the possible development of a government-to-government conservation agreement and a companion Native-to-Native agreement. These agreements would be consistent with the terms of the 1973 Agreement and include the principles of sustainable yield, support for research and the collection of biological information and local knowledge, and habitat protection. In April 1994, a "Protocol of Intentions Between the Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka and Alaska on the Conservation, Protection, Management, and Study of the Bering and Chukchi Seas Shared Polar Bear Population" was signed. In the United States representatives of the Service, the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the North Slope Borough, the Alaska Nanuuq Commission, and the Audubon Society have met several times to discuss principles for a draft conservation agreement. The need for public input and review led to the development of the draft EA in June 1996. The Service plans to submit a request to the Department of State for authority to enter into formal negotiations with Russia, pending the consideration of

public comments and development of a final EA.

Dated: July 16, 1996.

Gary Edwards,

Assistant Director—Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 96-18367 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-070-4320-03]

Temporary Closure of Public Land to Public Use

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of closure of public lands known as the Rancho Largo Allotment #5119 to public use.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with 43 CFR 8364.1, that the Farmington District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is closing the public land known as the Rancho Largo Allotment, No. 5119, to public use (see legal description below) to provide for public safety during livestock impoundment proceedings. Only the area involved in the impoundment will be closed to all public uses. The closure will be effective throughout the execution of the impoundment proceedings, with the time and date retained for safety reasons.

Legal Description of the Rancho Largo Allotment

NMPM

T. 25 N., R. 6 W.,

Sec. 1, all public land within section;
Sec. 11 all public land within section;
Sec. 12 all;
Sec. 13 all;
Sec. 14 all public land within section;
Sec. 19 all public land within section;
Sec. 20 all public land within section;
Sec. 21 all public land within section;
Sec. 22 all public land within section;
Sec. 23 all public land within section;
Sec. 24 all public land within section;
Sec. 25 all;
Sec. 26 all;
Sec. 27 all public land within section;
Sec. 28 all public land within section;
Sec. 29 all;
Sec. 30 all public land within section;
Sec. 31 all;
Sec. 32 all public land within section;
Sec. 33 all public land within section;
Sec. 34 all public land within section;
Sec. 35 all public land within section;

T. 24 N., R. 6 W.,

Sec. 1 all public land within section;
Sec. 3 all public land within section;
Sec. 4 all public land within section;
Sec. 5 all public land within section;
Sec. 6 all public land within section;
Sec. 7 all public land within section;

Sec. 8 all public land within section;
Sec. 9 all public land within section;
Sec. 10 all public land within section;
Sec. 11 all;
Sec. 12 all public land within section;
Sec. 13 all public land within section;
Sec. 14 all public land within section;
Sec. 15 all public land within section;
Sec. 17 all public land within section;
Sec. 18 all public land within section;
Sec. 19 all public land within section;
Sec. 20 all public land within section;
Sec. 21 all;
Sec. 22 all public land within section;
Sec. 23 all;
Sec. 24 all;
Sec. 25 all;
Sec. 26 all;
Sec. 27 all;
Sec. 28 all;
Sec. 29 all public land within section;
Sec. 30 all public land within section;
Sec. 31 all;
Sec. 33 all;
Sec. 34 all;
Sec. 35 all public land within section;

T. 23 N., R. 6 W.,

Sec. 1 all;
Sec. 3 all public land within section;
Sec. 4 all;
Sec. 5 all public land within section;
Sec. 6 all public land within section;
Sec. 7 all public land within section;
Sec. 8 all public land within section;
Sec. 9 all public land within section;
Sec. 10 all;
Sec. 11 all;
Sec. 12 all;
Sec. 13 all;
Sec. 14 all;
Sec. 15 all public land within section;
Sec. 17 all public land within section;
Sec. 21 all public land within section;
Sec. 22 all public land within section;
Sec. 23 all;
Sec. 24 all public land within section;
Sec. 25 all public land within section.

T. 25 N., R. 7 W.,

Sec. 17 all public land within section;
Sec. 18 all public land within section;
Sec. 19 all;
Sec. 20 all public land within section;
Sec. 21 all public land within section;
Sec. 22 all public land within section;
Sec. 25 all public land within section;
Sec. 26 all public land within section;
Sec. 27 all public land within section;
Sec. 28 all;
Sec. 29 all;
Sec. 30 all;
Sec. 31 all;
Sec. 33 all;
Sec. 34 all;
Sec. 35 all.

T. 24 N., R. 7 W.,

Sec. 1 all public land within section;
Sec. 3 all;
Sec. 4 all;
Sec. 5 all;
Sec. 6 all;
Sec. 7 all public land within section;
Sec. 8 all;
Sec. 9 all;
Sec. 10 all;
Sec. 11 all;
Sec. 12 all public land within section;

Sec. 13 all public land within section;
 Sec. 14 all;
 Sec. 15 all;
 Sec. 17 all;
 Sec. 18 all public land within section;
 Sec. 19 all public land within section;
 Sec. 20 all;
 Sec. 21 all;
 Sec. 22 all;
 Sec. 23 all public land within section;
 Sec. 24 all public land within section;
 Sec. 25 all;
 Sec. 26 all public land within section;
 Sec. 27 all;
 Sec. 28;
 Sec. 29;
 Sec. 30 all public land within section;
 Sec. 31 all public land within section;
 Sec. 33 all public land within section;
 Sec. 34 all public land within section;
 Sec. 35 all public land within section.

T. 23 N., R. 7 W.,

Sec. 1 all;
 Sec. 3 all public land within section;
 Sec. 4 all public land within section;
 Sec. 5 all public land within section;
 Sec. 9 all public land within section;
 Sec. 10 all public land within section;
 Sec. 11 all public land within section;
 Sec. 12 all public land within section;
 Sec. 13 all public land within section;
 Sec. 14 all public land within section.

T. 25 N., R. 8 W.,

Sec. 12 all public land within section;
 Sec. 13 all public land within section;
 Sec. 23 all public land within section;
 Sec. 24 all public land within section;
 Sec. 26 all public land within section;
 Sec. 27 all public land within section;
 Sec. 34 all public land within section;
 Sec. 35 all.

T. 24 N., R. 8 W.,

Sec. 1 all;
 Sec. 3 all public land within section;
 Sec. 10 all public land within section;
 Sec. 11 all public land within section;
 Sec. 12 all public land within section;
 Sec. 13 all public land within section;
 Sec. 14 all public land within section;
 Sec. 15 all;
 Sec. 22 all public land within section;
 Sec. 23 all public land within section;
 Sec. 24 all public land within section;
 Sec. 25 all public land within section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ray Sanchez, Technical Advisor, BLM, Farmington District, 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington, NM 87401 Telephone (505) 599-8900.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To prevent disruption of the impoundment proceedings and to provide for the safety of the public, all of the Rancho Largo Allotment (refer to legal description) is closed to all public use during the execution of the impoundment. The closure will be effective throughout the execution of the impoundment proceedings, with the time and date retained for safety reasons.

This closure will not apply to BLM personnel involved in administration

find management of the land, nor will the closure apply to those persons or groups BLM has specifically authorized to go onto the land to assist him with the impoundment. Any person who fails to comply with the closure may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Dated: July 15, 1996.

Mike Pool,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-18398 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-FB-M

[NV-060-1430-01; N-56217]

Notice of Realty Action; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Direct Sale of Public Lands in Esmeralda County, Nevada.

SUMMARY: The following described land in Fish Lake Valley, Esmeralda County, Nevada, has been examined and identified as suitable for disposal by direct sale, at the appraised fair market value, to the adjacent landowners, James Leland and Marlene Wallace, residents of Fish Lake Valley. The sale is authorized under Section 203 and Section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713 and 1719):

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 4 S., R. 36 E.,

Sec. 9, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Comprising 120 acres, more or less.

The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nicholas Williams, Realty Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Station, P.O. Box 911, Building 102 Military Circle, Tonopah, NV, 89049.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The land has been identified as suitable for disposal by the Esmeralda/Southern Nye Resource Management Plan. The land is not needed for any resource program and is not suitable for management by the Bureau or another Federal department or agency. The Esmeralda Board of County Commissioners have been notified of the proposal.

The locatable and salable mineral estates have been determined to have no known value. Therefore, the mineral estate, excluding oil and gas, will be conveyed simultaneously with the

surface estate in accordance with Section 209(b)(1) of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Acceptance of the sale offer will constitute application for conveyance of the available mineral interests. The sale proponent will be required to submit a \$50.00 nonrefundable filing fee for conveyance of the mineral interests specified above with the purchase price for the land. Failure to submit the nonrefundable fee for the mineral estate within the time frame specified by the authorized officer will result in cancellation of the sale. Upon publication of this Notice of Realty Action in the Federal Register, the lands will be segregated from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws or disposals pursuant to Sections 203 and 209 of FLPMA. The segregation shall terminate upon issuance of a patent or other document of conveyance, upon publication in the Federal Register of a termination of segregation, or 270 days from date of this publication, which ever occurs first.

If allowed, the entry will be subject to the following third party rights: Excepting and Reserving to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States. Act of August 30, 1980 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. Leasable Minerals. (43 CFR 2430.5(a)).

Subject to:

1. Those rights for powerline purposes granted to Valley Electric Association, its successors or assigns, by right-of-way No. NEV-051579, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (43 U.S.C. 1701).

2. Those rights for telephone line purposes granted to Nevada Bell, its successors or assigns, by right-of-way No. N-35352, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (43 U.S.C. 1701).

3. All other valid existing rights.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register, interested parties may submit comments to the District Manager, Battle Mountain District, 50 Bastian Way, Box 1420, Battle Mountain, NV 89820. Any adverse comments will be evaluated by the State Director, who may sustain, vacate or modify this realty action and issue a final determination. In the absence of timely filed objections, this realty action will become a final determination of the Department of the Interior.