

27E; T13N, R26-27E; T14N R27E. This closure will be in effect from 6:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 21, 1997.

EXCLUSIONS: The above restrictions do not apply to agency, race officials, law enforcement, or emergency response personnel during the conduct of their official duties in relation to the race event.

Authority: 43 CFR 8364 and 43 CFR 8372.

PENALTY: Any person failing to comply with the closure order may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571, or both.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fran Hull, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Carson City District, Bureau of Land Management, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Carson City, Nevada 89706. Telephone: (702) 885-6000.

Dated: August 4, 1997.

Clifford D. Ligons,

Assistant District Manager, Non-Renewable Resources.

[FR Doc. 97-21641 Filed 8-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-985-0777-66]

Supplementary Rule Requiring the Use of Certified Noxious Weed-Free Forage on Public Lands in the Bighorn Basin, Wyoming and the Availability of the Environmental Assessment, Decision Record, and Finding of No Significant Impact for Implementation of Requirements for Weed-Free Forage on Public Lands in the Bureau of Land Management's Worland District, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notices.

SUMMARY: The Worland District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently prepared an environmental assessment (EA) documenting the analysis of two alternatives for managing noxious weeds on public lands in the Bighorn Basin of Wyoming. The EA's proposed action consisted of a supplementary rule under 43 CFR 8365.1-6 to require the use of certified noxious weed-free forage on those public lands. Forage subject to this rule would include hay, cubes, straw, and mulch. The District Manager of the BLM's Worland District has issued a

decision record that the EA's proposed action and supplemental rule will not have any significant impact on the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required. Therefore, the District Manager is requiring that public land users, including permittees and local, state, or federal government agents conducting administrative activities, use certified noxious weed-free forage on BLM-administered public lands in the Worland District, Wyoming. In addition to certified weed-free forage, the use of pelletized feeds and grain products is authorized.

The Worland District encompasses approximately 3,089,600 acres of public land in Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie counties in Northwestern Wyoming. This rule will affect public land users who use hay or other forage products on the BLM-administered public lands in the Worland District such as recreationists using pack and saddle stock, ranchers with grazing permits, outfitters, and contractors who use straw or other mulch for reclamation purposes. These individuals or groups would be required to use only certified noxious weed-free forage products, while on BLM-administered public lands in the Worland District, Wyoming.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The rule will become effective September 1, 1997 and will remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Authorized Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bureau of Land Management, Worland District Office, Roger Inman, Resource Advisor, P. O. Box 119, 101 South 23rd Street, Worland, Wyoming 82401-0119, or telephone (307) 347-5292.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment (EA) is consistent with the land-use plans for the Worland District.

Noxious and undesirable weeds are a serious problem in the western United States. Estimates of the rapid spread of weeds in the west include 2,300 acres per day on BLM-administered public lands and 4,600 acres per day on all federally-administered land in the west. Species such as leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, Russian knapweed, musk thistle, dalmatian toadflax, purple loosestrife, houndstongue, and other non-native noxious and undesirable weeds have no natural controls to keep their populations in balance. Consequently, these weeds invade healthy ecosystems, displace native vegetation, reduce species diversity, and damage wildlife habitat. Widespread infestations lead to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Furthermore,

noxious weed invasions weaken revegetation efforts, reduce livestock and wildlife grazing capacity, occasionally affect the health of public land users by aggravating allergies and other ailments, and threaten federally-protected or native plants and animals.

To help reduce the spread of noxious weeds, a number of Western States have jointly developed noxious weed-free forage certification standards, and, in cooperation with various federal, state, and county agencies, passed weed management laws. Because hay and other forage products containing noxious weed seed are part of the infestation problem, Wyoming has developed a state crop inspection; a certification-identification process; participates in a regional inspection certification-identification process; and encourages forage producers in Wyoming to grow noxious weed-free products and have them certified.

Region II of the United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, implemented a similar policy for all National Forest lands in Wyoming in 1996. The Wyoming BLM implemented a standard stipulation on all Special Recreation Permits in 1994, requiring permit holders who use livestock to use certified noxious weed-free products. This proposal will provide a standard regulation for all users of BLM-administered public lands in the Worland District and will provide for coordinated and consistent management with the U.S. Forest Service.

In cooperation with the State of Wyoming and the U.S. Forest Service, the Worland District is implementing a ban of the use of forage that has not been certified, on all BLM-administered lands within the Worland District. This proposal includes public information to insure that: (1) This ban is well publicized and understood, and (2) visitors to and land users of public lands administered by the Worland District BLM will know where they can purchase state-certified hay and other forage products.

These supplementary rules will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations. The principal author of these supplementary rules is Roger Inman, Resource Advisor, of the Worland District, Wyoming BLM.

For the reasons stated above, under the authority of 43 Code of Federal Regulations 8365.1-6, the Worland District Manager issues supplementary rules to read:

Supplementary Rules to Require the Use of Certified Noxious Weed-Free Forage on Bureau of Land Management-

Administered Public Lands in the Worland District, Wyoming.

1. To help prevent the spread of weeds on BLM-administered lands in Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie counties of Wyoming, effective September 1, 1997, all BLM-administered public lands within the BLM's Worland District of Wyoming, shall be closed to possessing, transporting or storing hay, cubes, straw, and mulch that has not been certified as free of noxious weed seed.

2. Certification will comply with "Regional Weed Free Forage Certification Standards," jointly developed by the states of Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska, for noxious weed-free forage.

3. The following persons are exempt from this order: (1) Any person with a permit signed by an authorized officer of the BLM's Bighorn Basin Resource Area office or the Cody Resource Area office, specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission within that resource area; (2) Persons possessing or using pelletized feed or grain products; and (3) Persons transporting forage products on Federal and State Highways and County roads.

4. Any person who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions of these supplemental rules may be commanded to appear before a designated United States Magistrate and may be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both, as defined in 43 United States Code 1733(a).

Dated: July 29, 1997.

Darrell Barnes,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-21628 Filed 8-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-030-1920-00-4305]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Improvement of Diamond Bar Road From the Pearce Ferry Road Near Meadview, Arizona, to the Western Boundary of the Hualapai Indian Reservation in Mohave County, AZ

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent, notice of scoping period, and notice of scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy

Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kingman Field Office, will be directing the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the impacts of a proposal to improve Diamond Bar Road, an existing unimproved road that crosses BLM and private lands in northwestern Arizona. The project proponent is the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Truxton Canyon Agency. The Bureau of Indian Affairs proposes to widen the existing road to a two-lane highway, pave it, construct dirt shoulders on each side, and install culverts as needed. Approximately 70 percent of the proposed roadway would follow the alignment of the existing road. This proposal conforms with BLM's Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan, approved in 1995. The BLM will act as Lead Agency and the BIA as Cooperating Agency for preparation of the EIS.

This notice is intended to invite the public to participate in identifying issues and developing alternatives for the proposal.

DATES: Three meetings to identify public concerns will be held on the following dates at the locations indicated. Each meeting is scheduled to start at 6-8 p.m. September 3, 1997, Holiday Inn, 3100 East Andy Devine, Kingman, Arizona 86401

September 4, 1997, VFW Hall, 15943 Pearce Ferry Road, Dolan Springs, Arizona 86441

September 5, 1997, Hualapai Multipurpose Building, 921 Hualapai Way, Peach Springs, Arizona 86434

Comments relating to the identification of issues and alternatives will be accepted for up to 30 days following the publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office, 2475 Beverly Avenue, Kingman, Arizona 86401.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Don McClure, Project Manager, (520) 757-3161.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of and need for this project are to enhance the safety and efficiency of motorized travel on Diamond Bar Road and to accommodate projected future traffic demand resulting from further development of Grand Canyon West on the Hualapai Indian Reservation. Diamond Bar Road provides access to Grand Canyon West, primarily for commercial and private vehicles originating from Las Vegas. Grand Canyon West is a development near the rim of the Grand Canyon that currently consists of an airport and associated

terminal building, a food service facility, restrooms, and a permits office. Implementation of a master plan for Grand Canyon West completed in 1994, is expected to cause up to a sixfold increase in the total number of visitors over a ten-year period. This increase would result in a substantial increase in the number of vehicles on Diamond Bar Road. The proposed improvement of Diamond Bar Road would accommodate this increased volume by providing a roadway designed for up to 2,400 vehicles per day.

Anticipated Issues

Management concerns that will be addressed include, but are not limited to, impacts on vegetation, visual quality, recreation, cultural resources, socioeconomic, public safety, and the Joshua Tree Forest Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Studies to be conducted include a native plant inventory, biological evaluation, cultural resource survey, traffic study, and visual impact analysis. Tribal consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is ongoing.

Other Relevant Information

The EIS will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists in the fields of vegetation (including salvage), wildlife, visual quality, archaeological and traditional cultural resources, soils, range management, realty, and roadway design. Complete records of all phases of the EIS process will be available for public review at the Kingman Field Office, 2475 Beverly Avenue, Kingman, 86401.

Dated: August 11, 1997.

Michael A. Ferguson,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 97-21638 Filed 8-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-1220-00; Federal Register Notice No. NV-030-97-006]

Limited Use Designation of Federal Lands

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the boundary of the Jumbo-Bailey Watershed Limited Use Area. Washoe County, Nevada, has been expanded. Furthermore, motorized vehicle traffic is restricted to designated routes. The term "designated routes" replaces the