

proper management of Federal lands and interests therein.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease or conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and leasing under the mineral leasing laws. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed lease or classification of the lands to the Field Manager, Yuma Field Office, 2555 E. Gila Ridge Road, Yuma, Arizona 85365.

#### Classification Comments

Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for a park and museum. Comments on the 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.

#### Application Comments

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the Bureau of Land Management followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for a park and museum.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the Arizona State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective December 16, 1997. The lands will not be offered for lease until the classification becomes effective.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Reality Specialist Lucas Lucero, Yuma Field Office, 2555 East Gila Ridge Road, Yuma AZ 85365, telephone (520) 317-3215.

Dated: October 8, 1997.

**Gail Acheson,**  
*Field Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-016-1220-00]

#### Supplementary Rules for Public Lands in the Carrizo Plain Natural Area, California

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

**ACTION:** Establishment of Supplementary Rules relating to shooting, access, vehicle use, camping, and resource protection within the Carrizo Plain Natural Area in San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties, California.

**SUMMARY:** The Caliente Resource Area hereby gives notice and establishes the following closures and Special and Supplementary Rules for the Carrizo Plain Natural Area (CPNA) effective as of the date of this publication, as provided for under Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, Subparts 8341.2, 8364.1, and 8365.1-6:

A. Public lands within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of any campground, Painted Rock, administrative facility (including the Washburn, Saucito, Goodwin, and MU ranch headquarters), and all developed overlooks, interpretive sites or pullouts, are closed to the discharge of firearms. Public lands within the Painted Rock "no shooting zone" are posted with signs at the most prominent points of public access. The boundaries of this closure are described in the CPNA Management Plan and are available from the Bakersfield District BLM Office. Those exempted from this closure order include law enforcement officers in the commission of their official duties. These closures are for the purpose of enhancing public safety and will also decrease potential conflicts with recreational users.

Recreational target shooting is prohibited within the entire CPNA. Hunting is allowed on public within the CPNA where public safety is not at risk or that have not been closed to shooting. No person shall violate any federal, state or local laws pertaining to use, possession or discharge of firearms while on any BLM administered public lands. This closure governing the discharge of firearms affects approximately 5,200 acres of public lands in San Luis Obispo County. The recreational target shooting closure affects approximately 200,000 acres of public lands in San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties.

B. Certain public lands in the CPNA are subject to closure to all public use, including but not limited to vehicle operation, camping, shooting, hiking,

and sightseeing. All public lands within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of Sulfur Springs are closed to public access, except under permit from the BLM, in order to protect sensitive resources. All public lands within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of Painted Rock are closed to public access from March 1 through July 15 each year, except for tours authorized by the Bureau of Land Management, in order to protect sensitive resources. The Washburn Administrative Site, the Goodwin Education Center, the MU, Goodwin, Saucito, and Painted Rock Ranch headquarters, and Painted Rock may be closed to public access as needed to protect these resources and facilities. This closure affects approximately 250 acres in San Luis Obispo County.

C. Operation of motor vehicles, aircraft, and boats and flotation devices of any kind, are prohibited on or within Soda Lake and any adjacent stream, channel, dry lake, and body of water. This closure affects approximately 4,300 acres in San Luis Obispo County. Exceptions may be allowed, but must be approved in advance in writing by the Authorized Officer. Law enforcement and fire protection personnel operating within the scope of their official duties are exempt from the provisions of this closure order.

D. Off-Highway vehicle use within the CPNA is limited to designated routes. Designated routes are defined as existing well traveled roads which have been identified and mapped. Maps of these routes will be made available to the public. The operation of any motorized vehicle off of designated routes of travel is prohibited within the CPNA. Open routes are available for use by all vehicle, bicycle, foot and equestrian travel. All vehicle use on routes posted or designated as closed is prohibited. Except on county roads, or unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on such open roads is 25 miles per hour. Vehicles parked adjacent to any open road must be parked as close to the road as possible without preventing passage of other vehicles. Open roads may be closed temporarily at the discretion of the BLM if necessary for safety or resource protection.

Roads or routes designated as being for administrative use only are closed to all motor vehicles except those used by employees of the BLM, the California Department of Fish and Game, or The Nature Conservancy when conducting official business. Other uses require the prior approval of the BLM. Roads designated as being for administrative use only are open to bicycles and other nonmotorized vehicles, pedestrians, and casual horse use unless otherwise posted.

This limited use designation does not apply to emergency vehicles, fire suppression and rescue vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, and other motorized vehicles specifically approved by an authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management. The closure affects approximately 200,000 acres. A map of the open route network is available from the Bureau of Land Management, 3801 Pegasus Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93308, (805) 391-6000.

E. Overnight camping is allowed within designated campgrounds and designated camping areas in the CPNA. All other public lands within the CPNA are closed to overnight parking or camping. Camping or overnight parking within all portions of the CPNA is prohibited within 200 yards of any natural or artificial water source. Overnight camping is limited to 14 days within any 30 day period, for a total of no more than 28 days within any one year period, except as specified in writing by the authorized officer.

The primary purpose of all corrals, loading chutes, and other appurtenant livestock facilities during the authorized grazing season will be for livestock management. Camping or parked vehicles may not interfere with their use. All litter, waste, and refuse at campsites must be kept within a container or receptacle while camping, and removed when leaving the CPNA.

F. Other supplemental rules prescribed by the CPNA Management Plan include:

- Property left unattended for more than three days without the prior approval of the Authorized Officer will be treated as abandoned and may be removed and stored by law enforcement personnel at the owner's expense.
- Pets and pack animals must be controlled by the owner at all times. Pack animals shall be within corrals, or adequately restrained. Pets must be prevented from chasing, harassing, or taking wildlife.
- Organized groups with 20 or more persons or 5 or more vehicles must secure a permit for any activities off county roads.
- The use of metal detectors is prohibited, except for approved administrative purposes.
- All research and study activities require a permit or written authorization from the BLM.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** These rules are effective October 17, 1997 and will remain in effect until revised, revoked or amended by the Authorized Officer.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The above supplementary rules are being

implemented for the following purposes:

The BLM administers approximately 200,000 acres in the Carrizo Plain Natural Area (CPNA). The CPNA is managed jointly with the California Department of Fish and Game and The Nature Conservancy for the benefit of indigenous species within a fully functional ecosystem. The natural area is important to fifteen species of plants and animals that are currently listed, proposed to be listed, or fully protected by either the federal or California Endangered Species Acts. In addition, the natural area encompasses world-class archaeological sites, and continues to be of great importance to native peoples. These values have contributed toward making the CPNA an increasingly popular destination for sightseeing and outdoor recreation. Use is concentrated at certain sites and along trails, but many activities are highly dispersed. The purpose of these actions is to protect and efficiently manage these special resources, and enhance visitors safety on public lands.

This order is in no way intended to affect the rights of private land owners, or their interests within the closure area, with respect to private lands. Further, this order does not infer any Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction over private or state lands within closure areas.

A copy of this **Federal Register** notice and maps showing the affected areas are available for review in the Bakersfield District Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

**PENALTIES:** The authorities for these closures and supplementary rules are 43 CFR 8341.2, 8364.1, and 8365.1-6. Violations of these rules are punishable by fines of up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months as well as the penalties provided under State law.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ronald D. Fellows, Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield District Manager, 3809 Pegasus Dr., Bakersfield CA 93308, Phone (805) 391-6000.

Dated: October 7, 1997.

**John Skibinski,**

*Acting District Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Public Notice

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

**ACTION:** Public notice.

**SUMMARY:** Public notice is hereby given that the National Park Service proposes to award 17 concession permits authorizing the operation of sport hunting guide-outfitter services for the public at Wrangell St. Elias National Preserve, Alaska for a period of five years from January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2002. Currently there are sixteen concessioners providing the services described in this prospectus. One permit is for a hunt area for which there is no current operator.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 16, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties should contact the Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve, P.O. Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska 99573 or by calling (907) 822-5234 for a copy of the prospectus.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** These permits have been determined to be categorically excluded for the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and no environmental document will be prepared.

The 16 existing concessioners have performed their obligations to the satisfaction of Secretary under existing permits which expire by limitation of time on December 31, 1997, and therefore pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of the Act of October 9, 1965 (16 U.S.C. 20), are entitled to be given preference in the renewal of the permit, providing that the existing concessioners submit a responsive offer (a timely offer which meets the terms and conditions of the Prospectus). This means that the permit will be awarded to the party submitting the best offer, provided that if the best offer was not submitted by an existing concessioner, then the existing concessioner will be afforded the opportunity to match the best offer. If the existing concession agrees to match the best offer, then the permit will be awarded to the existing concessioner. If the existing concessioner does not submit a responsive offer, the right of preference in renewal shall be considered to have been waived, and the permit will then be awarded to the party that has submitted the best responsive offer. The Secretary will consider and evaluate all offers received as a result of this notice.

There is no incumbent concessioner for the 17th permit, and accordingly, no preference will be awarded to an applicant for this guide area.

Any offer, including that of the existing concessioner, must be received by the Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, P.O.