

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Bureau of Land Management Montana State Director Mat Millenbach has initiated Level 4 fire restrictions, effective starting at 12:01AM August 31, 2000, on the BLM lands in the Montana counties listed below. These restrictions are in response to the region's increasing fire potentials, the current level of fire activity, and the current scarcity of fire suppression resources.

The Level 4 fire restrictions apply to BLM lands in: Liberty, Hill, Blain, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Chouteau, Judith Basin, Fergus, Petroleum, Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Powder River, Fallon, and Carter counties.

With Level 4 fire restrictions, the following activities are prohibited on BLM managed lands. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a campfire or any open fire is prohibited (43 CFR 9212.1(h)). Gas and liquid-fueled stoves and lanterns are still permitted at a signed developed, designated recreation site or campground.

Camping in contained units is confined to areas immediately adjacent to open roads. Contained units, campers, trailers, etc. are not restricted to designated areas if cooking within the contained unit. This includes pickups with toppers, but not an open pickup bed. Boats on water are considered a contained unit.

Possessing or using motorized vehicles such as, but not limited to cars, trucks, trail bikes, motorcycles and all terrain vehicles off of cleared roads is prohibited except for persons with a grazing, oil and gas or mining permit performing activities in accordance with their permit. Cleared roads are defined as roads cleared of vegetation shoulder to shoulder (43 CFR 9212.1(h)).

Travel via foot or bicycle will be allowed on roads that have been closed due to the extreme fire danger.

Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building; at an improved place of habitation; at a developed, designated recreation site or campground; or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is cleared of all flammable material, is prohibited (43 CFR 9212.1(h)).

Use of chainsaws or other equipment with internal combustion engines for felling, bucking, skidding/wood cutting, road-building, and other high fire risk operations is prohibited. Exceptions are helicopter yarding and earth moving on areas of cleared and bare soil. Sawing

incidental to loading operations on cleared landings is not necessarily restricted (43 CFR 9212.1(h)).

Welding, blasting (except seismic operations confined by ten or more feet of soil, sand or cuttings), and other activities with a high potential for causing wildland fires are prohibited (43 CFR 9212.1(h)).

A patrol is required for a period of two hour following the cessation of all work activity. The patrolperson's responsibilities include checking for compliance with required fire precautions.

Exemptions: Exemptions to the above prohibitions are allowed only for any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue, firefighting force or law enforcement in the performance of an official duty, or persons with a permit or written authorization allowing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

Authority for these prohibitions is pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701, *et seq.*), Sections 302(b) and 301(a); and Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9210 (Fire Management), Subpart 9212 (Wildfire Prevention). These restrictions will become effective at 1:00 a.m., Mountain Daylight Time, Friday, August 11, 2000, and will remain in effect until rescinded or revoked.

Violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or both.

DATES: Restrictions go into effect at 12:01 am on Thursday, August 31, 2000, and will remain in effect until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to BLM Montana State Director, Attention: Pat Mullaney, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pat Mullaney, Fire Management Specialist, 406-896-2915.

Dated: August 29, 2000.

Roberta A. Moltzen,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 00-22609 Filed 8-30-00; 12:37 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[NV-010-1990-EX]

Notice of Availability for the South Operations Area Project Amendment Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Comment Period and Public Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 CFR 1500-1508 and 43 CFR 3809, notice is given that the Bureau of Land Management has prepared, with the assistance of a third-party consultant, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Newmont's proposed South Operations Area Project Amendment in northeastern Nevada, and has made copies of the document available for public review. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the potential environmental impacts that could result from the expansion and deepening of the Gold Quarry open-pit mine and expansion of mine facilities and extension of mine dewatering for ten years beyond the current permit.

DATES: Written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be accepted until close of business on October 31, 2000. A public meeting for oral and written comments is scheduled to be held: September 26, 2000 in Elko, Nevada, at the Bureau of Land Management Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street at 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be addressed to: Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, Attn: Roger Congdon, Environmental Impact Statement Coordinator, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for inspection at the following locations: Bureau of Land Management Nevada State Office (Reno), Bureau of Land Management Elko Field Office, Carson City and Elko County libraries, the University of Nevada libraries in Reno and Las Vegas, and the Great Basin College library in Elko. It is also available from the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office internet site at www.nv.blm.gov/elko.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information, write to the above address or call Roger Congdon at (775) 753-0200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Newmont proposes to continue operations at the

South Operations Area Project for an additional ten years. The mine expansion would involve an additional disturbance of 839 acres of public land and 553 acres of private land. The agency preferred alternative consists of the proposed action plus backfilling of the Mac pit, one of two small, inactive open pit mines within the project boundary.

A copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been sent to all individuals, agencies, and groups who have expressed interest in the project or as mandated by regulation or policy. A limited number of copies are available upon request from the Bureau of Land Management at the address listed above. The Environmental Impact Statement is also available at the Elko Bureau of Land Management website: www.nv.blm.gov/elko. Public participation has occurred during the Environmental Impact Statement process. A Notice of Intent was filed in the **Federal Register** in June 1997 and an open scoping period was held for 30 days. A public scoping meeting to solicit comments and ideas was held in July 1997. All comments presented to the Bureau of Land Management throughout the Environmental Impact Statement process have been considered.

Dated: August 24, 2000.

Helen Hankins,
Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-22285 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-930-00-1040-DF]

Availability of Four Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEISs) and Proposed Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management Plans (HMPs)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

The Four documents are for:

- (1) The Taos Field Office,
- (2) The Farmington Field Office,
- (3) The Rio Puerco Area of the Albuquerque Field Office, and
- (4) The Mimbres Area of the Las Cruces Field Office.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of four Final Environmental Impact Statements and Proposed Riparian and Aquatic Habitat

Management Plans. The four documents are for Taos Field Office, Farmington Field Office, the Rio Puerco Area of the Albuquerque Field Office and the Mimbres Area of the Las Cruces Field Office. The agency's preferred alternative is shown in each of the above listed documents. The documents also contain the public comments received and the responses to substantive comments. Following the 30-day availability for the FEISs and the HMPs a Record of Decision (ROD) will be prepared for each project. Copies of the ROD will be mailed to those on the mailing list. Individuals wanting to comment on the changes made in preparing the FEIS or the HMP should send the comments as shown below:

ADDRESSES: Comment on the Taos Field Office Proposed Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan and FEIS should be sent to: Taos Field Office, Taos HMP/EIS/RMPA Team Leader, 226 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM 87571-5983.

Comment on the Farmington Field Office Proposed Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan and FEIS should be sent to: Farmington Field Office, Farmington HMP/EIS/RMPA Team Leader, 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington, NM 87401-1808.

Comment on the Albuquerque Field Office Proposed Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan and FEIS should be sent to: Albuquerque Field Office, Rio Puerco HMP/EIS/RMPA Team Leader, 435 Montano Road, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107-4935.

Comment on the Las Cruces Field Office Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan and FEIS should be sent to: Las Cruces Field Office, Mimbres HMP/EIS/RMPA Team Leader, 1800 Marquess Street, Las Cruces, NM 88005-3371.

All comments received will be considered in preparing the RODs. Comments must be mailed to the BLM at the address provided above during the 30-day period which ends October 10, 2000.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (8 am to 4:30 pm) Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such request will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals

identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- (1) Taos Field Office—Pam Herrera—505-751-4705
- (2) Farmington Field Office—Bob Moore—505-599-6311
- (3) Albuquerque Field Office—Jim Silva—505-761-8901
- (4) Las Cruces Field Office—Bill Merhege—505-525-4369

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The four Proposed Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management Plans and Final Environmental Impact Statements are being prepared to provide comprehensive riparian and aquatic management guidance for restoring and protecting riparian habitat under BLM jurisdiction.

Dated: August 25, 2000.

Richard A. Whitley,

Associate State Director, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 00-22424 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-110-0777-30-24-1A; HAGO-0346]

Notice of Temporary Travel Restrictions for Motorized and Non-Motorized Mechanized Vehicles in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Oregon.

SUMMARY: All motorized and non-motorized mechanized travel is temporarily prohibited on specific roads in the recently established Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The affected land is located southeast of Ashland, Oregon in Jackson County.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The restrictions will become effective September 1, 2000 and will remain in effect until completion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument management plan. The planning process may result in a decision to maintain or modify this prohibition.

Discussion of the Restrictions: The roads affected by these restrictions are as follows: The Schoheim Road (#41-2E-10.1). The Randcore Pass Road (#40-4E-19.2) past the junction with road #40-4E,31.0. The Skookum Creek Road (#s 40-3E-28 and 40-3E-27.2) past the junction with road #40-3E-27.1 Road #41-2E-3.0 past the point where it crosses the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Road #41-2E-9.0 past the barricade in T. 41 S., R. 2 E., Section 9,