

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[MT-925-2810-XU-241E]****Notice of Special Fire Restrictions—Restrictions and Conditions of Use in the Miles City, Malta, Billings and Lewistown Field Offices, Montana****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 9212.2, the following acts are prohibited on all Bureau of Land Management lands in Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Choteau, 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. These restrictions will become effective at 12:01 MDT September 12, 2000. They will remain in effect until rescinded or revoked. They replace the restrictions enacted on August 31, 2000, which are hereby terminated.

Building, maintaining, attending, or using a campfire except at a developed, designated recreation site or campground (43 CFR 9212.1(h)). Gas and liquid-fueled stoves and lanterns are permitted.

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 (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 between 1 p.m. and 1 a.m. local time. 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)).

Using chainsaws or other equipment with internal combustion engines for felling, bucking, skidding, wood cutting or any other operation within areas having a significant accumulation of dead or down slash or timber (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 forest fires (43 CFR 9212.1(h)).

A patrol is required for a period of two hours after any woods operations including felling, bucking, skidding, woodcutting, or road building cease. A patrol is also required for one hour following the cessation of all work activity. The patrolperson's responsibilities include checking for compliance with required fire precautions.

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

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

Violation of this order is prohibited by the provisions of the regulations cited. Under 43 CFR 9212.4, any violation is subject to punishment by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both.

DATES: Restrictions go into effect at 12:01 am on Tuesday, September 12, 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: September 12, 2000.

Roberta A. Moltzen,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 00-23851 Filed 9-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-SS-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[OR-035-00-1150-ES : GPO-0364]****Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification; Oregon****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The following public lands in Baker county, Oregon have been examined and found suitable for

classification for lease to the Oregon Travel Information Council under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The Oregon Travel Information Council purposes to use the lands for a highway visitor parking area with an Oregon Trail historical interpretive sign.

Willamette Meridian

T. 09S., R. 41E.,

Sec. 06, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Containing 0.12 acres more or less.

The lands are not needed for Federal purposes. Lease is consistent with current Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land use planning and would be in the public interest.

The lease, when issued, will be subject to the following terms, conditions and reservations:

1. Provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and to all applicable regulations of the secretary of the Interior.

2. All valid existing rights documented on the official public land records at the time of lease issuance.

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals.

4. Any other reservations that the authorized officer determines appropriate to ensure public access and proper management of Federal lands and interests therein.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the lands will be segregated from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease 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, interested persons may submit comments regarding the proposed classification of the lands to the District Manager. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective 60 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Upon the effective date of classification, the lands will be open to the filing of an application under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act by any interested, qualified applicant. If, after 18 months following the effective date of classification, an application has not been filed, the segregative effect of the classification shall automatically expire and the lands classified shall return to their former status without further action by the authorized officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susie Manezes, Bureau of Land Management, Vale District, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR 97918.

Juan Palma,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-23708 Filed 9-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets the schedule for a meeting of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Advisory Committee. Notice of this meeting is required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463).

DATE, TIME, AND ADDRESS: Wednesday, October 4, 2000; 9 a.m. until business and public comment are complete; Chase County Community Building, Swope Park, Walnut and County Road, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.

This business meeting is open to the public. Space and facilities to accommodate members of the public are limited and people will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. An agenda will be available from the Superintendent 1 week prior to the meeting. Attendees are encouraged to participate in these meetings. If you would like to address the committee, please contact the Superintendent by September 29, 2000, at the address or telephone number listed below requesting that your name be added to the agenda. Depending on the number of requests, the Superintendent has the right to limit the amount of time each participant is allowed to address this committee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Miller, Superintendent, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, P.O. Box 585, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 66845; or telephone him at 316-273-6034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve was established by Public Law 104-333, dated November 12, 1996.

Dated: September 6, 2000.

David N. Given,

Deputy Regional Director, Midwest Region.

[FR Doc. 00-23731 Filed 9-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Notice of New Policy Interpreting the National Park Service (NPS) Organic Act**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of new policy.

SUMMARY: The Director of the NPS has approved "Director's Order #55: Interpreting the National Park Service Organic Act." This Director's Order adopts section 1.4 of NPS "Management Policies" in advance of adopting the entire 10-chapter volume. We have done this so that all NPS employees will have access to our official interpretation of the 1916 NPS Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1) and the 1978 amendment to the National Park System General Authorities Act of 1970 (16 U.S.C. 1a-1). These statutes, taken together, are the primary source of guidance for managing the national parks. All NPS personnel must conduct their work activities and make decisions affecting the national park system in conformance with the interpretation in this Director's Order.

ADDRESSES: Director's Order #55 is available on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/refdesk/DOrders/index.htm#new>. Requests for paper copies should be sent to: NPS Office of Policy, Room 2414, Main Interior Building, Washington, DC 20240. Copies may also be obtained by calling (202) 208-7456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Chick Fagan at (202) 208-7456.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A draft of proposed revisions to NPS "Management Policies" was issued for a 60-day public review and comment period, beginning January 19, 2000 [65 FR 2984]. We subsequently considered all the comments received, and will adopt the year 2000 edition of Management Policies in the near future. However, due to the importance of instituting as soon as possible a Service-wide interpretation of the most salient provisions of the Organic Act and General Authorities Act, we have issued Director's Order #55 as a means of adopting section 1.4 of "Management Policies." This Service-wide interpretation will help all NPS employees understand their legal duties in managing the national park system, and will help ensure the law is properly and consistently applied throughout the national park system.

Comments on Draft Section 1.4

Sixteen organizations and individuals commented on section 1.4 of the draft "Management Policies." Their comments and our responses are summarized below. Most of the comments listed are summaries or consolidations of comments that shared similarities.

Comment #1: The NPS Organic Act gives equal weight to the NPS's obligation to conserve park resources unimpaired, and to the NPS's obligation to provide opportunities for public enjoyment. This is not properly reflected in the NPS's proposed policy.

Our response: Congress, recognizing that the enjoyment by future generations of the national parks can be assured only if the superb quality of park resources and values is left unimpaired, has provided that when there is an unavoidable conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant. This is how courts have consistently interpreted the Organic Act, in decisions that variously describe it as making "resource protection the primary goal" or "resource protection the overarching concern," or as establishing a "primary mission of resource conservation," a "conservation mandate," "an overriding preservation mandate," "an overarching goal of resource protection," or "but a single purpose, namely, conservation."

Comment #2: It is virtually impossible to provide opportunities for enjoyment without causing at least some degree of impairment. The NPS should acknowledge this fact and not use the Organic Act as a pretext for curtailing the level of public use and enjoyment allowed in national parks.

Our response: The Organic Act and the General Authorities Act prohibit impairment of park resources and values, not all impacts to park resources and values. We have revised section 1.4 to make that distinction clearer.

Comment #3: The definitions of "enjoyment," "resources and values," and "impairment" are critically important to how the NPS will implement the policy. As written, they are too unclear; or will allow too much (or too little) discretion by decision-makers.

Our response: We have revised the definitions to make it easier to understand how these words apply within the context of the overall policy. We have also revised text at other key points to help make the overall policy clearer and, in the process, reduced the need for more explicit definitions.