

above sea level. The site is located within a fragmented landscape of conifer, hardwood, and mixed conifer-hardwood forests; agricultural lands including vineyards, orchards, and grazing lands; and scattered wineries, residences, and bed and breakfast facilities. The Terra Springs LLC property currently includes an existing vineyard, orchard, and winery, in addition to approximately 65 acres of forest lands dominated by Douglas-fir trees.

The proposed Terra Springs LLC project includes a Timberland Conversion and Timber Harvest Plan prepared under California Forest Practices Rules. The project would convert 22 acres of forest to vineyard and would also include removal of commercial conifer trees from the remaining acres of forest, consistent with providing 41 acres of nesting/roosting-quality habitat for northern spotted owls.

Northern spotted owls have large home ranges and inhabit lands containing older forest types, or the ecological equivalent, to meet their biological needs. The minimum size of the home range for northern spotted owls that meets their biological needs varies from province to province. Within the Klamath and Coast Provinces of California (which include the proposed Plan area), a 1.3 mile radius area around a nest site or activity center is considered representative of the home range for the species for management purposes. The Terra Springs LLC site is within the home range of one northern spotted owl activity center, site number NSO NP033. This activity center is located approximately 1.1 miles from the Terra Springs site. Thus, forest within the Plan area is considered habitat for the owls associated with the activity center.

The applicant proposes to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the effects of the project on the northern spotted owl by implementing the Plan. Under the Plan the applicant proposes to manage 41 acres of the 76 acres property as forested, nesting/roosting habitat for the northern spotted owl. The applicant will also place a deed restriction on the parcel requiring management of these 41 acres as northern spotted owl habitat, in perpetuity. Currently 30 acres of the 41 acres are nesting/roosting habitat quality. The remaining 11 acres, currently of foraging habitat quality, will be managed to develop into the higher quality nesting/roosting habitat. In addition to mitigation, the Plan also includes measures to minimize take of the northern spotted owl.

No critical habitat for any listed species occurs on the project site.

The Proposed Action consists of the issuance of an incidental take permit and implementation of the Plan, which includes measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts of the project on the northern spotted owl. Three other alternatives are considered in the Plan. Under the No Action Alternative, no permit would be issued. Under the Off-site Mitigation Alternative, roosting and foraging habitat would be purchased and used to replace habitat affected by the proposed activities. Under the Higher Intensive Use Alternative, more intensive land uses than are currently in place or proposed in the Plan would be sought.

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the Plan qualifies as a "low-effect" plan as defined by its Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (November 1996). Determination of low-effect Habitat Conservation Plans is based on the following three criteria: (1) Implementation of the Plan would result in minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) implementation of the Plan would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) impacts of the Plan, considered together with the impacts of other past, present and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources which would be considered significant.

Therefore, the Service has preliminarily determined that approval of the Plan qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2, appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, appendix 1). Based upon this preliminary determination, we do not intend to prepare further National Environmental Policy Act documentation. We will consider public comments in making our final determination on whether to prepare such additional documentation.

The Service provides this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be made available to the public. We will evaluate the permit application, the Plan, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If the requirements are met, we will issue a permit to Terra Springs, LLC for the incidental take of the

northern spotted owl from conversion of 22 acres of forest lands to vineyard and any subsequent removal of commercial conifer trees from the remainder of the covered lands. We will make the final permit decision no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: October 22, 2002.

Miel R. Corbett,

Acting Deputy Manager, Region 1, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 02-27424 Filed 10-28-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-023-02-1410-HY-011L-241A; F-14836-EE]

Public Easement Closure; Prohibition of All Activities

AGENCY: Northern Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ACTION: Notice to the public of a temporary closure of a public easement [17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1616(b)] administered by the Northern Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska.

SUMMARY: This notice closes a 17(b) easement identified as Easement Identification Number 1 C5, E. The easement is located east of Barrow, Alaska, from Niksiirak to Plover Point. This closure notice is necessary to protect humans from an unprecedented number of polar bears in the area. The welfare of the polar bear population around Barrow, Alaska also necessitates this closure action.

Discussion of this closure has taken place between BLM, the North Slope Borough, Ukeagvik Inupiat Corporation, and the Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government.

DATES: This closure is effective September 23, 2002, and will be in effect until May 1, 2003, unless revoked earlier by the Authorized Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Additional information concerning the closure may be obtained from Craig McCaa, Public Affairs, BLM Northern Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844. Mr. McCaa may be reached at (907) 474-2231 or at 1-800-437-7021, x2231, or at Craig_McCaa@ak.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Closure Order

1. *Authority:* 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8364.1.

2. *Closure:* The following described lands are closed to all activity.

Lands Affected

Sec. 12 & 13, T. 23 N., R. 18 W., and Sec. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 18, 32 and 33, T. 23 N., R. 17 W., of the Umiat Meridian, approximately 1 acre.

Dated: September 24, 2002.

Susan M. Will,

Associate Field Manager, Northern Field Office, Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 02-27479 Filed 10-28-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P

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

[UT-020-02-2640-HO-UTZA]

Notice of Temporary Closure of the Manning Canyon Area

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of temporary closure of the Manning Canyon Area.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that all access by the public to the roads and surrounding public lands in Manning Canyon, Utah County, will be temporarily closed to the general public beginning October 1, 2002 and continuing through October 1, 2006. The public lands, which total approximately 4,110 total acres, that are affected by this closure are as follows:

Manning Canyon Hazardous Material Cleanup Site

T. 6 S., R. 3 W., SLM,
Section 13, W¹/₂,
Section 14, all,
Section 15, all,
Section 22, E¹/₂, all public lands east of and including the north-south road,
Section 23, all,
Section 24, S¹/₂NE¹/₄, W¹/₂,
Section 25, W¹/₂, SE¹/₄, those lands which BLM holds interest in pursuant to Manning Canyon remediation contract,
Section 26, all public lands east of the West Manning Canyon Road,
Section 27, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, north of the West Manning Canyon Road,
Section 36, N¹/₂NW¹/₄ north and east of the West Manning Canyon Road and north of the old railroad grade.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Ingwell, BLM Hazardous Material Specialist, Salt Lake Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84119; (801)-977-4300, or email at Tim_Ingwell@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This closure to public access and use will serve to protect the safety and health of individuals and groups visiting and utilizing the network of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails, visiting, hiking, hunting, and camping within the Fivemile Pass OHV area during the cleanup of the hazardous material in Manning Canyon. The hazardous materials consist of numerous mine tailings piles that contain large concentrations of heavy metals, such as lead and arsenic, and exceed the recommended parts per million concentrations. These tailings are also a potential threat to ground water contamination to water sources used by local residents. A map depicting the closure area is available for public inspection at the Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office.

The authority for establishing this restriction is found at 43 CFR 8364.1(a). This restriction does not apply to:

- (1) Any federal, state or local government officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force while in the performance of an official duty.
- (2) Any Bureau of Land Management employee, agent, contractor, or cooperator while in the performance of an official duty.
- (3) Any federal, state, local, or contract law enforcement officer, while in the performance of their official duties, or while enforcing this closure notice.

Violation of this closure is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months as provided in 43 CFR 8360-0.7 as further defined in 18 U.S.C. 3571.

Dated: September 25, 2002.

Glenn A. Carpenter,

Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. 02-27477 Filed 10-28-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-SS-P

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

[NM-952-03-1430-BJ]

Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; NM

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey described below are scheduled to be officially filed in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Santa Fe, New Mexico, (30) thirty calendar days from the date of this publication.

Indian Meridian, Oklahoma:

T. 7 N., R. 21 W., approved September 27, 2002, for Group 65 OK;
T. 10 N., R. 10 E., approved September 30, 2002, for Group 88 OK;
T. 25 N., R. 24 E., approved September 04, 2002, for Group 72 OK;

New Mexico Principal Meridian, New Mexico:

T. 9 S., R. 14 E., approved September 26, 2002, for Group 928 NM;
Tierra Amarilla Grant, approved September 10, 2002, for Group 904 NM;
Felipe Gutierrez or Town of Bernalillo Grant, approved September 23, 2002, for Group 994 NM;

6th Principal Meridian, Kansas

T. 33 S., R. 40 W., approved September 30, 2002, for Group 25 KS;

Protraction Diagrams for:

T. 19 N., R. 11 E., approved September 30, 2002, NM;

If a protest against a survey, as shown on any of the above plats is received prior to the date of official filing, the filing will be stayed pending consideration of the protest. A plat will not be officially filed until the day after all protests have been dismissed and become final or appeals from the dismissal affirmed.

A person or party who wishes to protest against any of these surveys must file a written protest with the NM State Director, Bureau of Land Management, stating that they wish to protest.

A statement of reasons for a protest may be filed with the notice of protest to the State Director, or the statement of reasons must be filed with the State Director within thirty (30) days after the protest is filed. The above-listed plats represent dependent resurveys, surveys, and subdivisions.

These plats will be available for inspection in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115. Copies may be obtained from this office upon payment of \$1.10 per sheet.

Dated: October 7, 2002.

Steve Beyerlein,

Acting Chief Cadastral Surveyor for New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 02-27490 Filed 10-28-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-FB-M