

International organizations (which must have offices in more than one country) may request approval directly from the Secretariat. After granting of that approval, a national non-governmental organization is eligible to register with the CITES Secretariat and must register with the Secretariat prior to the COP in order to participate in the COP as an observer. All registrations must be received by the Secretariat no later than 30 days prior to the meeting of the COP, and preferably much sooner.

Individuals that are not affiliated with an approved organization may not register as observers. Requests for such approval should include evidence of technical qualification in protection, conservation, or management of wild fauna and/or flora, on the part of both the organization and the individual representative(s). Organizations previously approved by the Service (for prior meetings of the COP) must submit a request but do not need to provide as detailed information concerning their qualifications as those seeking approval for the first time. Organizations seeking approval for the first time should detail their experience in the protection, conservation, or management of wild fauna and/or flora, as well as their purposes for wishing to participate in the COP as an observer. Such requests should be sent to the Office of Management Authority (OMA; see ADDRESSES, above) or submitted to OMA electronically via E-mail to: R9OMA_CITES@MAIL.FWS.GOV, prior to the close of business on April 1, 1997. That deadline will assure approval in time to submit registration materials to the Secretariat in time. Organizations are encouraged to submit requests for approval as soon as possible, however. Upon approval by OMA, an organization will receive instructions for registration with the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland, including relevant travel and hotel information. Any organization requesting approval for observer status at COP10 will be added to the Service's CITES Mailing List if it is not already included, and will receive copies of all future **Federal Register** notices and other information pertaining to COP10. A list of organizations approved for observer status at COP10 will be available from OMA just prior to the start of COP10.

Future Actions

COP10 is scheduled for June 9–20, 1997, in Harare, Zimbabwe. Through a series of additional notices in advance of COP10, the Service will inform the public about preliminary and final negotiating positions on resolutions and

amendments to the Appendices proposed by other Parties for consideration at COP10. The Service will also publish an announcement of a public meeting to be held in April 1997 to receive public input on its proposed negotiating positions for COP10.

AUTHORS: This notice was prepared by Dr. Susan S. Lieberman, Chief, Operations Branch, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (703–358–2095).

Dated: March 19, 1997.

John G. Rogers,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 97–7725 Filed 3–26–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

Bureau of Land Management

[AK–962–1410–00–P]

Alaska; Notice for Publication, AA–6703–A2; Alaska Native Claims Selection

In accordance with Departmental regulation 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that a decision to issue conveyance under the provisions of Sec. 14(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, 43 U.S.C. 1601, 1613(a), will be issued to The Tatitlek Corporation for approximately 1,850 acres. The lands involved are in the vicinity of Tatitlek, Alaska.

Copper River Meridian, Alaska

T. 13 S., R. 7 W.,
Secs. 25 and 27;
Secs. 34, 35 and 36.
T. 14 S., R. 7 W.,
Secs. 2 and 3.

A notice of the decision will be published once a week, for four (4) consecutive weeks, in the ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS. Copies of the decision may be obtained by contacting the Alaska State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513–7599 ((907) 271–5960).

Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision, an agency of the Federal government or regional corporation, shall have until April 28, 1997 to file an appeal. However, parties receiving service by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal. Appeals must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management at the address identified above, where the requirements for filing an appeal may be obtained. Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart

E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

Patricia K. Underwood,

Land Law Examiner, ANCSA Team Branch of 962 Adjudication.

[FR Doc. 97–7771 Filed 3–26–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–JA–P

[CA–060–07–1990–00]

Notice of Extension of Public Comment Period for the Proposed Fort Irwin Expansion

AGENCY: Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Public Laws 92–463 and 94–579, that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Department of the Interior, is extending the public comment period on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Army's proposed expansion of the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin to June 3, 1997.

The DEIS analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed expansion of the NTC, which includes the withdrawal and transfer of approximately 310,296 acres of public land managed by the BLM to the U.S. Army, and an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. The NTC is located approximately 35 miles northeast of Barstow in north-central San Bernardino County. The DEIS was released for public comment on January 3, 1997 (61 FR 68289, December 27, 1996).

BLM has not identified an agency preferred alternative in the DEIS. Following analysis of the comments received from all the public, agencies, and organizations on the DEIS, BLM will select a preferred alternative in the Final EIS.

Copies of the DEIS, executive summary, and technical appendices are available for review at most libraries, and BLM's Barstow Resource Area Office, 150 Coolwater Lane, Barstow, California 92311, California Desert District Office, 6221 Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, California 92507, and California State Office, 2135 Butano Drive, Sacramento, California 95825.

DATES: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Army's proposed expansion of the NTC must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, June 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Resource Area Office, Attention: Mike Dekeyrel, Project Manager, 150 Coolwater Lane, Barstow, California 92311.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Dekeyrel at (619) 255–8730.

Dated: March 18, 1997.

Jo Simpson,

Assistant District Manager, External Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-7534 Filed 3-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-M

[CO-934-97-5700-00; COC56821]

Colorado; Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease COC56821, Huerfano County, Colorado, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from September 1, 1996, the date of termination.

No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms or rental and royalties at rates of \$10 per acre and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee for the lease and has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice.

Having met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Section 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, (30 U.S.C. 188 (d) and (e)), the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective September 1, 1996, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Patti Gillard of the Colorado State Office (303) 239-3777.

Dated: March 18, 1997.

Patti Gillard,

Land Law Examiner, Oil and Gas Management Team.

[FR Doc. 97-7801 Filed 3-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M

[MT-923-07-1020-04-WEED]

Notice of Proposed Supplementary Rules To Require the Use of Certified Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage or Pelletized Feed on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management-administered Lands in Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Montana State Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing a requirement that BLM visitors in Montana use certified noxious weed seed free hay, grain, straw, mulch, cubes and pelletized feed

when visiting BLM-administered lands in Montana. This requirement will affect visitors who use hay, grain, cubes, straw or pelletized feed on the BLM-administered lands in Montana such as: recreationists using pack and saddle stock, ranchers with grazing permits, outfitters, and contractors who use straw or other mulch for reseeding or erosion control purposes. These individuals or groups would be required to purchase certified noxious weed seed free forage products, for use while on BLM-administered lands in Montana.

DATES: The comment period ends on April 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Director (923), USDI Bureau of Land Management, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Noxious weeds are a serious problem in the western United States. Species like leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, Russian knapweed, musk thistle, Dalmatian toadflax, purple loosestrife, and many others are alien to the United States and have no natural enemies to keep their populations in balance. Consequently, these undesirable weeds invade healthy ecosystems, displace native vegetation, reduce species diversity, and destroy wildlife habitat. Widespread infestations lead to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Furthermore, noxious weed invasions weaken reforestation efforts, reduce forage for domestic and wild ungulates occasionally irritate public land users by aggravating allergies and other ailments, and threaten federally protected plants and animals.

To curb the spread of noxious weeds, a growing 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, Montana has developed a state forage inspection-certification-identification process; participates in a regional inspection-certification-identification process; and encourages forage producers to grow noxious weed seed free products.

In cooperation with the State of Montana, and the Forest Service as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, the BLM is proposing—for all BLM-administered lands within Montana—a ban on hay, straw, mulch, cubes or pellets that have not been certified. This proposal includes a public information plan to

ensure that: (1) this ban (a.d.a. closure order) is well publicized and understood; and (2) BLM visitors will know where they can purchase state-certified hay or other products.

These supplementary rules will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

The principal author of these proposed supplementary rules is Hank McNeel, Weed Management Specialist, BLM Montana State Office.

For the reasons stated above, under the authority of 43 CFR 8365.1-6, the BLM Montana State Office, proposes supplementary rules to read as follows: Supplementary Rules to Require the Use of Certified Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage on BLM-Administered Lands in Montana:

(a)(1) To prevent the spread of weeds on BLM-administered lands in Montana, effective May 20, 1997, all BLM lands within the State of Montana, at all times of the year, shall be closed to possessing or storing hay, straw, or mulch that has not been certified as free of noxious weed seed.

(2) Certification must be by an authorized State Department of Agriculture official or designated county official.

(3) The following persons are exempt from this order: anyone with a permit signed by BLM's authorized officer at the BLM Resource Area Office specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission within that area.

(b) Any person who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions of these supplemental rules regarding the use of noncertified noxious weed seed free hay, straw, mulch, cubes or pellets when visiting BLM-administered lands in Montana without authorization required, 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 U.S.C. 1733(a).

Dated: March 14, 1997.

Thomas P. Lonnie,

Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.

[FR Doc. 97-7753 Filed 3-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-M

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board; Notice and Agenda for Meeting

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.