

Date Issued: July 21, 1997.

Permit Number: 829937.

Applicant: Holnam Inc./HCR Limestone Inc.

Species: Red-cockaded woodpecker.

Project Location: Citrus and Alachua Counties, Florida.

Date Issued: August 21, 1997.

Permit Number: 832536.

Applicant: E.J. Mouhot.

Species: Florida scrub jay.

Project Location: Charlotte County, Florida.

Date Issued: September 29, 1997.

Dated: October 10, 1997.

Judy L. Jones,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 97-27573 Filed 10-16-97; 8:45 am].

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[1020-04 MT-001-EA97]

Final Supplementary Rule Requiring the Use of Certified Noxious Weed Seed-Free Forage on Public Lands in Montana and the Availability of the Environmental Assessment, Decision Record, and Finding of No Significant Impact for Implementation of Requirements for Weed Seed-Free Forage on Public Lands in the Bureau of Land Management; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Montana State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently prepared an environmental assessment (EA) documenting the analysis of two alternatives for managing noxious weeds on public lands in Montana. The EA's proposed action consisted of a supplementary rule under 43 CFR 8365.1-6 to require the use of certified noxious weed seed-free forage on those public lands. Forage subject to this rule would include hay, grains, cubes, pelletized feeds, straw, and mulch. The State Director of the BLM's Montana State Office has issued a decision record that the EA's proposed action and supplemental rule will not have any significant impact on the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required.

Therefore, the State Director is requiring that public land users, including permittees and local, state, or federal government agents conducting administrative activities, use certified noxious weed seed-free forage on BLM-administered public lands in Montana.

Six people commented on the Proposed Supplementary Rule Requiring the Use of Certified Noxious Weed Seed-Free Forage on Public Lands in Montana, placed in the **Federal Register** dated March 28, 1997. The comments are covered in the USDI, 43CFR4130.0-2, October 1, 1996, concerning supplemental feeding on BLM-administered lands.

Montana encompasses approximately 8,069,002 acres of public land administered by BLM. This rule will affect public land users who use hay or other forage products on the BLM-administered public 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 reclamation purposes. These individuals or groups would be required to use only certified noxious weed seed-free forage products, while on BLM-administered public lands in Montana.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The rule will become effective November 17, 1997 and will remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Authorized Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hank McNeel, Weed Management Specialist, BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, MT 59107, 406 255-2931.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EA is consistent with the land use plans for Montana BLM.

Noxious and undesirable weeds are a serious problem in the western United States. Estimates of the rapid spread of weeds in the West include 2,300 acres per day on BLM-administered public lands and 4,600 acres per day on all federally-administered land in the West. Species such as leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, Russian knapweed, musk thistle, dalmatian toadflax, purple loosestrife, houndstongue, and other non-native noxious and undesirable weeds have no natural controls to keep their populations in balance. Consequently, these weeds invade healthy ecosystems, displace native vegetation, reduce species diversity, and damage wildlife habitat. Widespread infestations lead to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Furthermore, noxious weed invasions weaken revegetation efforts, reduce livestock and wildlife grazing capacity, occasionally affect the health of public land users by aggravating allergies and other ailments, and threaten federally-protected or native plants and animals.

To help reduce the spread of noxious weeds, a number of Western States are jointly developing noxious weed-free or weed seed-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 the Montana Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program and the Regional Weed Free Forage Certification Standards for crop inspection; a certification-identification process; participates in a regional inspection certification-identification process; and encourages forage producers in Montana to grow noxious weed seed-free products and have them certified.

Region I of the United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, implemented a similar policy for all National Forest lands in Montana in 1997. This proposal will provide a standard regulation for all users of BLM-administered public lands in the Montana and will provide for coordinated and consistent management with the U.S. Forest Service.

In cooperation with the State of Montana and the U.S. Forest Service, Montana State Office is implementing a ban of the use of forage that has not been certified, on all BLM-administered lands within Montana. This proposal includes public information to insure that: (1) this ban is well publicized and understood, and (2) visitors to and land users of public lands administered by the Montana BLM will know where they can purchase state-certified hay and other forage products.

These supplementary rules will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations. The principal author of these supplementary rules is Hank McNeel, Weed Management Specialist, BLM Montana State Office.

For the reasons stated above, under the authority of 43 Code of Federal Regulations 8365.1-6, the Montana State Director issues supplementary rules to read: Supplementary Rules to Require the Use of Certified Noxious Weed Seed-Free Forage on Bureau of Land Management-Administered Public Lands in Montana.

1. To help prevent the spread of weeds on BLM-administered lands in Montana, shall be closed to possessing, transporting or storing hay, grain, cubed or pelletized products, straw, and mulch that has not been certified as free of noxious weed seed.

2. Certification will comply with "Montana Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program and the Regional Weed Free Forage Certification Standards Procedures Manual for Certification of: Hay, Pellets, Mulch, Straw, Cubes and Feeds by the State of Montana

Department of Agriculture, Helena, Montana, April 1, 1997.

3. The possession or storage of hay, grain, straw, or cubedor pelletized products that have an identifiable label as being certified Noxious Weed and/or Noxious Weed Seed-Free by an authorized State or County Department of Agriculture Official; the authorizing State must be recognized as having a Noxious Weed Certification Program for agronomic products; each individual bale or container must be tagged or marked as weed or weed seed-free and reference the written certification.

4. The following persons are exempt from this order: (1) Any person with a permit signed by an authorized officer of the BLM's Montana State Office or field offices within Montana, specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission within that resource area; (2) Persons transporting forage products on Federal and State Highways and County roads that are not BLM Development Road or Trails.

5. Any person who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions of these supplemental rules 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 United States Code 1733(a).

Dated: October 3, 1997.

Thomas P. Lonnie,

Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.
[FR Doc. 97-27327 Filed 10-16-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

[CA-350-1230-00]

Notice of Intent To Prepare Land Use Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Eagle Lake Resource Area, California.

SUMMARY: This is a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment for the Fort Sage OHV Area. The planning process to date included scoping, a public meeting and development of an Environmental Assessment for revised OHV designations. This Notice of Intent is specifically to amend the Honey Lake/Beckwourth Management Framework Plan of 1976.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Scoping commended on May 20, 1996. A public meeting was held June 12, 1996 in Susanville, California. All comments received since scoping commenced and

during the public meetings, are being considered in this process.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Honey Lake/Beckwourth Management Framework Plan is in the area of the Northwest Great Basin in Southeastern Lassen County, California. The scoping, and public participation covers the whole of the Fort Sage OHV Area. This draft plan amendment for the Honey Lake/Beckwourth Management Framework Plan is scheduled for completion in late December, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR RELATED DOCUMENTS CONTACT: Linda Hansen, Area Manager, Eagle Lake Resource Area, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, California 96130. Telephone: (916) 257-0456.

Linda Hansen,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-27616 Filed 10-16-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-050-1020-00: GP8-0010]

Notice of Meeting of John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council

October 7, 1997.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District.

ACTION: Meeting of John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council: Pendleton, Oregon; November 24, 1997.

SUMMARY: A meeting of the John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council will be held on November 24, 1997 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, at the Double Tree Inn, 304 SE Nye Ave, Pendleton, Oregon. The meeting is open to the Public. Public comments will be received at 1:00 pm. Topics to be discussed by the council include the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing on public lands, development of a John Day River Management Plan, and an update on significant land exchanges within the council's geographic area.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James L. Hancock, Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office, 3050 NE Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754, or call 541-416-6700.

Dated: October 7, 1997.

James L. Hancock,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-27537 Filed 10-16-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-912-08-0777-52]

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting of the Utah Resource Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: A meeting of the Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will be held November 7, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Provo Park Hotel, 101 West 100 North in Provo, Utah. The purpose of this meeting is to review and accept, by the RAC, the fire rehab methods and policies which will then be submitted to the State Director for implementation. We will also discuss recreation issues across the state.

Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public; however, transportation, meals, and overnight accommodations are the responsibility of the participating public. A public comment period has been scheduled from 2:30-3:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Anyone interested in attending the meeting or wanting to address the Council, should contact Sherry Foot at the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, 324 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111 or by calling (801) 539-4195.

Dated: October 9, 1997.

Ted Stephenson,

Acting, State Director.

[FR Doc. 97-27575 Filed 10-16-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-010-07-1020-00-241A]

Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The next meetings of the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council will be held on Friday, November 7, 1997, in Eagle, Colorado. **DATES:** Friday, November 7, 1997.

ADDRESSES: For further information, contact Joann Graham, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Grand Junction District Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; Telephone (970) 244-3037.