

Foothills. This recovery plan includes six plant species, of which five species are federally listed as endangered or threatened. The draft plan includes recovery criteria and measures for the plants—Stebbin's morning-glory (*Calystegia stebbensi*), Pine Hill ceanothus (*Ceanothus roderickii*), Pine Hill flannelbush (*Fremontodendron californicum* ssp. *decumbens*), El Dorado bedstraw (*Galium californicum* ssp. *sierrae*), and Layne's butterweed (*Senecio layneae*), and an additional species of plant, El Dorado mule-ears (*Wyethia reticulata*), that is considered to be a species of concern.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before June 7, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California (telephone (916) 979-2710); and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, Ecological Services, 911 N.E. 11th Ave., Eastside Federal Complex, Portland Oregon 97232-4181 (telephone (503) 231-6131). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Wayne S. White, Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, at the above Sacramento address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Miller, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Sacramento address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in

1988 requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

The six species of plants covered in the draft recovery plan are primarily restricted to gabbro soils habitat in the central Sierra Nevada foothills of California. Conversion of habitat to urban uses has extirpated the listed species and species of concern from a significant portion of their historic ranges. The remaining natural communities are highly fragmented, and many are marginal habitats in which these species may not persist during catastrophic events.

The objectives of this recovery plan are two-fold: (1) to delist the plants Stebbin's morning-glory, Pine Hill ceanothus, Pine Hill flannelbush, El Dorado bedstraw, and Layne's butterweed by protecting, enhancing, restoring, and appropriately managing their habitat; and (2) to ensure the long-term conservation of the one species of concern, El Dorado mule-ears, that occurs in the same gabbro soils habitats with the listed species.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of this plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: March 2, 1999.

Michael J. Spear,

Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office.

[FR Doc. 99-5560 Filed 3-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-035-1220]

Emergency Closure and Restriction on Public Lands in the South Fork of the Walla Walla River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

January 12, 1999.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Vale District Office, Baker Resource Area, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of Closure and Restriction on Public Lands for the protection of resource values identified in South Fork of the Walla Walla River Area Plan Amendment, February 1992, for public safety, and subsequent listing of the Bull Trout as a federally threatened and endangered fish and proposed listing of the Mid-Columbia River Summer Steelhead.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the regulations contained in the Title 43 CFR 8364, the Bureau of Land Management is limiting motorized vehicle travel within the ACEC. Motorcycles will continue to be allowed on the South Fork of the Walla Walla trail. Motorized vehicles will also continue to be allowed at the trailhead parking area and access road. All other motorized vehicle use is prohibited within the ACEC. The ACEC is closed to overnight camping. Discharging firearms within the road corridor between the cattleguard west of the trailhead parking area and the trail head gate is prohibited.

These closure and restriction orders will be in effect on approximately 1,955 acres of public land within the South Fork of the Walla Walla River corridor. These limitations are located within the South Fork of the Walla Walla River ACEC in Umatilla County, Oregon in the western foothills of the Blue Mountains, Township 4N., Range 37E, sec. 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, Range 38E, sec. 6 and 7, Willamette Meridian. A map of the area described above may be viewed in the Baker Resource Area Office.

The limitations are necessary to prevent deterioration of the area's resource values including soil and water resources and habitat for Threatened and Endangered fish. The limitations will also provide for public safety and will be consistent with U.S. Forest Service regulations for the trail right-of-way connecting to Umatilla National Forest lands to the east of the ACEC.

Personnel that are exempt from the area limitations include any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in the performance of an official duty, or

any person authorized in writing, in advance by the Bureau of Land Management, Baker Resource Area Manager.

This replaces and rescinds all previous closures including the Emergency Closure and Restriction on Public Lands in the South Fork of the Walla Walla River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) dated September 28, 1994.

DATES: The closures and restrictions are in effect immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded by the authorized officer.

Penalties: Violators are subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of Title 18 U.S.C. 3571, or both.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Penny Dunn-Woods, Baker Resource Area Manager, Baker City, OR 97814, Telephone 541-523-1256.

Ed Singleton,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-5317 Filed 3-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-921-09-1320-01; MTM 80697]

Notice of Hearing

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 31, 1999, in the conference room on the Sixth Floor of the Granite Tower Building, Bureau of Land Management, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana 59107.

Western Energy Company has requested the Bureau of Land Management to re-schedule a coal lease sale for Coal Lease Application MTM 80697. Western Energy Company submitted an amended coal lease application on July 16, 1998, that reduced the lease application acreage from 2,061 acres to 1,401 acres.

Pursuant to regulations at 43 CFR 3425.4 (a)(1), the Bureau of Land Management requests additional public comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement dated September 9, 1994, fair market value, and maximum economic recovery of certain coal resources it proposes to re-offer for a competitive lease sale. A Decision Record dated May 15, 1995, and an Administrative Determination dated November 13, 1998, allow for coal leasing.

The lands included in Coal Lease Application MTM 80697, as amended,

are located approximately 10 miles west of the town of Colstrip, Montana, in Rosebud County, Montana, and are described as follows:

T. 1 N., R. 39 E., P.M.M.

Sec. 2: N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 1 N., R. 40 E., P.M.M.

Sec. 6: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$,

N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Sec. 8: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Sec. 14: S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 2 N., R. 40 E., P.M.M.

Sec. 32: NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,

N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

The 1,401-acre tract contains an estimated 27.6 million tons of recoverable coal reserves.

The amended application will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.*) and the implementing regulations at 43 CFR 3400.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rebecca Good, Coal Coordinator (telephone 406-255-2828), Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

Dated: March 2, 1999.

Randy D. Heuscher,

Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals

[FR Doc. 99-5563 Filed 3-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-910-0777-61-241A]

State of Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting, notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Arizona Resource Advisory Council.

The meeting will be held April 9, 1999 in Safford, Arizona. The one-day meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at approximately 3:00 p.m. It will be held at the Ramada Inn located on 420 E. Highway 70, Safford, Arizona. The agenda items to be covered at the meeting include review of previous meeting minutes; BLM State Director's update on legislation, regulations and statewide planning efforts; Presentations on Eco-Tourism and Gateway Communities, and the Cerbat Horse Herd Report and Analysis; Updates on

proposed National Monument on the AZ Strip, and the proposed Las Cienegas National Conservation Area; Proposed Field Office Rangeland Resource Teams; and Reports by the Standards and Guidelines, Recreation and Public Relations, Wild Horse and Burro Working Groups; Reports from BLM Field Office Managers; Reports from RAC members; and Discussion on future meetings. A public comment period will be provided at 11:30 a.m. on April 9, 1999, for any interested publics who wish to address the Council. For Further Information Contact: Deborah Stevens, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2203, (602) 417-9215.

Joanie Losacco,

Acting Arizona State Director.

[FR Doc. 99-5561 Filed 3-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-130-1020-00; GP9-0128]

Notice of Meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District, DOI.

NOTICE: Notice of Meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council.

ACTION: Meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council; March 18, 1999, in Spokane, Washington.

SUMMARY: A meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council will be held on March 18, 1999. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m., at the Spokane District Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, Washington, 99212-1275. The meeting will adjourn upon conclusion of business, but no later than 4:30 p.m.. Public comments will be heard from 10:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.. If necessary to accommodate all wishing to make public comments, a time limit may be placed upon each speaker. At an appropriate time, the meeting will adjourn for approximately one hour for lunch. Topics to be discussed include: Recreation, Wildlife and Range.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Clifford D. Ligons, Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District Office, 1103 N. Fancher Road, Spokane, Washington, 99212-1275; or call 509-536-1200.