

acquired from the wild after April 1, 1998, provided a valid CITES permit or re-export certificate is issued and accompanies the shipment.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be limited circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this clearly at the beginning of your comment. But, we will not consider anonymous comments. We generally make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Required Determinations

This document has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

The Department of the Interior certifies that this document will not have a significant effect on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). This proposed policy would restrict the sturgeon industry within the United States from engaging in foreign commerce with "pre-Convention" caviar that is, according to industry representatives, perhaps no longer available, and if available, only in very limited quantities at greatly reduced value. We estimate that there would likely be less than 100 businesses with remaining stocks of "pre-Convention" caviar. Any such caviar has exceeded its normal shelf life and has decreased in value dramatically. Therefore, this proposed policy is restricting the sturgeon industry within the United States from engaging in commerce, under an exemption to CITES, with a commodity that may no longer even be available, and if available, only in very limited quantities at greatly reduced value. Therefore, it does not appear likely that this proposed policy will have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities as defined under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. It should be noted that this proposed policy will not restrict members of the sturgeon products industry from conducting business with caviar that has been obtained after April 1, 1998. Only the availability of the

"pre-Convention" exemption would be terminated if this proposed policy were made final.

Similarly, this proposed policy is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

This proposed policy does not impose an unfunded mandate of more than \$100 million per year or have a significant or unique effect on State, local, or tribal governments or the private sector because we, as the lead agency for CITES implementation in the United States, are responsible for the authorization of shipments of live wildlife, or their parts and products, that are subject to the requirements of CITES.

Under Executive Order 12630, this proposed policy does not have significant takings implications for the same reason as described above under the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Under Executive Order 12612, this proposed policy does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment because it is not anticipated that a state tagging program, similar to the one currently employed in the management of CITES listed furbearer species for export, will be administered in the management of exports of sturgeon products from U.S. wild-caught stock.

Under Executive Order 12988, the Office of the Solicitor has determined that this proposed policy does not unduly burden the judicial system and meets the requirements of Sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of the Order.

This proposed policy does not contain new or revised information collection for which Office of Management and Budget approval is required under the Paperwork Reduction Act. Information collections associated with CITES permits is covered by an existing OMB approval, and is assigned clearance No. 1018-0093, Form 3-200-27, with an expiration date of January 31, 2001. Detailed information for the CITES documentation appears at 50 CFR 23.15(g). The Service may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This proposed policy does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. The proposed policy is categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act requirements, under Part 516 of the Departmental Manual, Chapter 2, Appendix 1.10.

Executive Order 12866 requires each agency to write regulations that are easy to understand. We invite your comments on how to make this proposed policy easier to understand including answers to questions such as the following: (1) Are the requirements in the proposed policy clearly stated?; (2) Does the proposed policy contain technical language that interferes with its clarity? What else could we do to make this proposed policy easier to understand?

Our normal practice is to publish proposed policies with a 60-day comment period. But in this case, we are using a 15-day comment period since we feel that a 60-day comment period is unnecessary because: 1) we have learned in discussions we have had with the sturgeon products industry and others, that the normal shelf life for caviar is 12 months so, there no longer is any pre-Convention caviar available; 2) as a member of CITES, it is our responsibility to carry out promptly our obligations under the treaty.

Dated: September 21, 1999.

Donald J. Barry,

Assistant Secretary—Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

[FR Doc. 99-27953 Filed 10-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Digital Earth Interagency Working Group

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of rescheduled meeting—digital earth alpha version.

SUMMARY: THE DIGITAL EARTH MEETING ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED IN THE OCTOBER

14, 1999, **Federal Register** has been rescheduled from October 25, 1999, to November 10, 1999, to provide additional preparation time for interested participants. The Digital Earth Interagency Working Group, chaired by NASA with representatives from other Federal departments and agencies, will hold an open meeting at the USGS facility in Reston, Virginia, to discuss options for a near-term demonstration of the Digital Earth vision by public and private sector technology providers (for details, visit www.digitalearth.gov).

Throughout Federal, State, and local government, the private sector, and other public sector interests, there exist data, infrastructure, partnerships, and capability to support the exploitation of

geospatial information to answer questions of students, researchers, community leaders, and others. The goal of this meeting will be to identify existing and emerging data, infrastructure, and tools, that can be brought together to provide an "alpha version" demonstration of the Digital Earth vision in a limited number of use contexts (e.g., a student asking a question about the effects of pollution on the community). The results of this discussion may lead to subsequent Commerce Business Daily requests for proposals regarding cooperative technology demonstrations.

The morning session will be focused on providing the Federal Digital Earth vision, program, progress, and organization. The afternoon session will be devoted to discussion on a Digital Earth alpha version for FY 2000. Time will be allocated for attendees to provide their perspectives on Digital Earth. Attendees must indicate their intent to present their views, and statements should be limited to 10 minutes.

DATES: The meeting will be held in the USGS main Auditorium on November 10, 1999, commencing at 9 a.m. and adjourning at 3 p.m. The meeting may be extended to 5 p.m. based on the number of attendees indicating interest in presenting their views on Digital Earth.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To reserve a space for the meeting, please contact Mr. Mark Reichardt at (703) 748-5742, or via e-mail at mreichardt@usgs.gov with your name, address, telephone, and e-mail address, and indicate whether or not you want to make a statement on Digital Earth. Although the meeting is open to all interested parties, space is limited and will be allocated on a first come basis. Please limit requests to one member of your organization.

Dated: October 20, 1999.

Hedy J. Rossmeissl,

Acting, Chief, National Mapping Division.

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BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-200-1620-MA]

Motor Vehicle Travel; Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Temporary closure order for motor vehicle travel.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that effective October 15, 1999 certain public lands in Fremont County are closed to all types of motor vehicle travel. The purpose of this closure is to prevent the development of unauthorized user-created trails and to prevent resource damage to soils and vegetation. Future interdisciplinary planning will determine the appropriate travel routes for these areas.

EFFECTIVE DATES: These closures are effective October 15, 1999 and shall remain in effect until revised, revoked or amended.

ADDRESSES: Royal Gorge Field Office, 3170 East Main Street, Canon City, CO 81212; Telephone (719) 269-8500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Levi D. Deike, Field Office Manager or Diana Kossnar, Outdoor Recreation Planner.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public lands affected by this temporary closure are identified as follows:

Fremont County, Colorado, Sixth Principal Meridian

Current Creek Area, located approximately 22 miles northwest of Canon City, Colorado, south and west of State Highway 9.

T. 16S., R. 72W.—All the part of Sections 6 and 7 lying south and west of the right-of-way of state highway 9.

T. 16S., R. 73W.—All that part of the following described public lands lying south and west of the right-of-way of state highway 9:

Section 1 Lots 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 2 Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, S $\frac{1}{2}$

Section 3 Lots 9, 10, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 10 E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 11 N $\frac{1}{2}$

Section 12 N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Cooper Mountain Area, located approximately 12 miles north of Canon City, Colorado, west of County Road 67.

T. 16S., R. 69W.

Section 29 SW $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 17S., R. 69W.

Section 5 Lots 2, 3, 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$

Section 6 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 7 NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 8 N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$

Section 9 Lots 1, 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Ecology Park Area, located approximately 1 mile southwest of Canon City, Colorado, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northwest of County Road 3.

T. 19S., R. 70W.—The Bureau of Land Management public lands located in Section 6 and 7.

This closure does not apply to emergency, law of enforcement, and federal or other government vehicles while being used for official or emergency purposes, or to any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized or otherwise officially approved by BLM.

Violation of this order is punishable by fine of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year as defined in 18 U.S.C. 3571. Notice of this closure and a detailed map will be posted at the Royal Gorge Field Office.

Levi D. Deike,

Royal Gorge Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-27853 Filed 10-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-084-6333-00; GP-0-0006]

Notice of Temporary Motor Vehicle Closure on Public Lands; Linn County, OR

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Salem District Office, Cascades Resource Area, Oregon.

ACTION: A temporary closure to motorized vehicle use on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cascade Resource Area, Salem District, Oregon.

SUMMARY: The BLM is temporarily closing certain public lands in Linn County to the use of motorized vehicles.

DATES: The closure will take effect upon the published date of this notice. The closure will continue until August 31, 2001 to allow time for a restoration plan to be completed and implemented.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Graves, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, OR 97306, telephone (503) 375-5908.

Discussion of the Rules

The public lands affected by this closure are all lands administered by the BLM in Sections 15, 16, 17, 21 and 23 of Township 11 South, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian, Oregon. Closure signs will be posted at main entry points to these locations. Maps of the closure area and information on the restoration plans may be obtained from the Salem District Office.

The lands affected by this closure have special status fish and wildlife species and are currently receiving high levels of off-road use by motorized vehicles. This use is causing soil erosion into streams, loss of vegetation and disturbance to wildlife. In addition, vehicles are being used for illegal dumping of household and commercial trash.

The restoration plan will address improving resource conditions and managing motorized access in the long term.