

educational efforts about wolf recovery and management in northwestern Montana.

Authority

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

Dated: October 28, 1999.

Terry Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 99-29001 Filed 11-4-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Three Public Open Houses Prior to Proposing a Revision to the Special Rule for a Nonessential Experimental Population of Red Wolves in North Carolina

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public open houses.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce three public open houses in eastern North Carolina to present information to, and answer questions from the public prior to proposing a change to the special rule for the nonessential experimental population (NEP) of red wolves in eastern North Carolina under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

DATES AND ADDRESSES: We will hold the first open house on Tuesday, November 16, 1999, at the Mattamuskeet Lodge, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, 1 Mattamuskeet Refuge Road, Swan Quarter, North Carolina 27885, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The second open house will be on Wednesday, November 17, 1999, at the Vernon James Research & Extension Conference Center, 207 Research Station Road, Plymouth, North Carolina 27962, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The third open house will be on Thursday, November 18, 1999, at Tyrrell Hall, 108 South Water Street, Columbia, North Carolina 27925, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Brian T. Kelly, Wildlife Biologist/Field Projects Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1969, 708 North Highway 64/264, Manteo, North Carolina 27954 (telephone 252/473-1131, extension 27).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The red wolf is an endangered species that is currently found in the wild only

as a NEP in northeastern North Carolina on the Alligator River, Pocosin Lakes, and Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuges; the U.S. Air Force's Dare County Bombing Range; and adjacent private land in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties, North Carolina; and as an endangered species in three small island propagation projects located on Bulls Island in South Carolina and Cape St. George and St. Vincent Islands in Florida. These four carefully managed wild populations contained a minimum of 48 animals as of September 30, 1999. The remaining red wolves are located in 33 captive-breeding facilities in the United States. The captive population numbered 161 animals as of September 30, 1999.

We published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** of July 24, 1986 (51 FR 26564), to introduce red wolves into Alligator River, Dare County, North Carolina. We published a final rule on November 19, 1986 (51 FR 41790), making a determination to implement the proposed action with some modifications. We determined that the red wolf population in Dare County and adjacent Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties would be a NEP, according to Section 10(j) of the Act. We revised the rule in the **Federal Register** of November 4, 1991 (56 FR 56325), to add Beaufort County to the list of counties where the NEP designation would apply. We reevaluated the status of the population after 5 years and included input from public meetings in this reevaluation.

We published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** of November 24, 1993 (58 FR 62086), to revise the special rule for NEPs of red wolves in North Carolina and Tennessee. We published a final rule in the **Federal Register** of April 13, 1995 (60 FR 18940), making a determination to implement the proposed action with some modifications.

We will hold three public open houses in eastern North Carolina. Through these open houses, we will provide the public with a forum to obtain information and ask questions of us before we request their formal comment through the rulemaking process.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Brian T. Kelly (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: October 29, 1999.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-29000 Filed 11-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-090-00-2822-JL-N843; GP0-0024]

Closure of Public Lands in Lane County, OR

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Closure of public lands and access road in Lane County, Oregon.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain public lands and access road in Lane County, Oregon are indefinitely closed to all public use, including vehicle operation, recreation, hunting, parking, camping, shooting, hiking and sightseeing. The closure is made under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1.

The public lands affected by this closure are located within the Austa Fire Unit and are specifically identified as follows:

Willamette Meridian, Oregon

T. 18 S., R. 8 W.

Sec. 9: All lands south of the north right-of-way line of the Bonneville Power Administration Transmission line

Sec. 10: BLM Road No. 18-8-10 in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$

Sec.15: N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Containing approximately 450 acres.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following persons, operating within the scope of their official duties, are exempt from the provisions of this closure order: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) employees; BLM and BPA contractors and their subcontractors; State of Oregon, local and other federal government employees; State of Oregon, local and other federal contractors and their subcontractors; the holders of BLM road use permits that include roads within the closure area; purchasers of BLM resources within the closure area and their employees and subcontractors. Access by additional parties may be allowed, but must be approved in advance in writing by the Authorized Officer.

Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this closure order may be subject to, but not limited to, the penalties provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7, which include a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to

exceed 12 months, as well as the penalties provided under Oregon State law.

The public lands closed to public use under this order will be posted with signs at points of public access.

The purpose of this closure is to protect persons from injury incurred by falling or moving debris and/or conditions which create potential for slips and falls, especially on steep slopes. The recent Austa Fire created extreme hazards. Dead and dying trees were left on unstable, vegetationless ground. Unstable objects are numerous throughout the unit. Weather conditions such as rain and wind will escalate the likelihood that objects will break loose and roll down hill and dead trees will fall unexpectedly. These hazardous conditions are expected to remain for several years as this fire occurred in Late Successional Reserve (LSR) lands which are reserved from intense management practices. Lane County has already closed a segment of its county road (#4386), Stagecoach Road, at the bottom of this unit due to debris falling and rolling onto the road. A gate will be installed on BLM Road No. 18-8-10.

DATES: This closure is effective from November 1, 1999 and will continue until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Copies of this closure notice and maps showing the location of the closed lands are available from the Eugene District Office, P.O. Box 10226 (2890 Chad Drive), Eugene, Oregon 97440.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Chung, Coast Range Field Manager, Eugene District Office, at (541) 683-6600 or 1-888-442-3061.

Dated: November 1, 1999.

Dan Howells,

Acting Field Manager, Coast Range Resource Area.

[FR Doc. 99-29002 Filed 11-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Chiricahua National Monument, Arizona

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan for Chiricahua National Monument.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy

Act of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan (DEIS/GMP) for Chiricahua National Monument, Arizona.

DATES: The DEIS/GMP will remain available for public review through January 30, 2000. If any public meetings are held concerning the DEIS/GMP, they will be announced at a later date.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the DEIS/GMP should be sent to the Superintendent, Chiricahua National Monument, Dos Cabezas Route, Box 6500, Willcox, Arizona 85643-9737. Public reading copies of the DEIS/GMP will be available for review at the following locations:

Office of the Superintendent, Chiricahua NM, Dos Cabezas Route, Box 6500, Willcox, Arizona 85643-9737, telephone: (520) 824-3560

Planning and Environmental Quality, Intermountain Support Office—Denver, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287, Telephone: (303) 969-2851 or (303) 969-2377

Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, Telephone: (202) 208-6843

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS/GMP analyzes 3 alternatives to identify and assess the various management alternatives and related environmental impacts relative to park operations, visitor use and access, natural and cultural management, and general development at the monument. The General Management Plan would guide the management of the Chiricahua National Monument for the next 12 to 15 years.

Alternative A, The National Park Service proposal, identified as one of the alternatives, would retain most existing visitor experiences and would construct a new headquarters/visitor orientation/administrative area just outside park boundaries.

Alternative B provides for a traditional park experience with increased personal services and a small number of facility enhancements.

The No-Action Alternative would maintain visitor services and resource protection at current limited levels throughout the life of the plan.

The DEIS/GMP in particular evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the other alternatives on visitor experience, cultural resources, long-term health of natural ecosystems, economic contribution to gateway communities,

adjacent landowners, and operational efficiency.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Superintendent, Chiricahua National Monument, at the above address and telephone number.

Dated: October 27, 1999.

Michael D. Snyder,

Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 99-28974 Filed 11-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Winter Use Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway, Wyoming

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of time for review of draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

SUMMARY: The National Park Service is extending the public review period to December 1, 1999 for the DEIS for the Winter Use Plan for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway, Wyoming. The notice of availability for the DEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on October 1, 1999 (64 FR 53379). The public review period was originally to end on November 15, 1999.

DATES: Public comments on the DEIS should be submitted on or before December 1, 1999. There will be hearings on the DEIS. The hearing dates and locations are:

- October 14, 1999, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., in the Teton and Yellowstone Rooms, at the Cavanaughs on the Falls, 475 River Parkway, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

- October 21, 1999, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., in the Multi-purpose Room at the West Yellowstone School, 500 Delacy Avenue (Entrance on N. Geyser Street), West Yellowstone, Montana.

- October 23, 1999, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the City/County Complex, 414 E. Callendar, Livingston, Montana.

- October 26, 1999, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., in the Cody Auditorium, 1240 Beck Avenue, Cody, Wyoming.

- October 28, 1999, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Teton County Library Auditorium, 125 Virginian Lane, Jackson, Wyoming.

- November 3, 1999, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Four Points Denver West Hotel, 137 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado.