

recreation, wildlife, water and border issues.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Deborah Stevens, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2203, (602) 417-9215.

Denise P. Meridith,
Arizona State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT010-1220-DA]

Notice of Pryor Mountain Area Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Designation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Notice is hereby given that 92,000 acres of public land will be designated as open, closed, or limited to OHV use in the Pryor Mountain area pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 8342.1 and Executive Order 11644.

SUMMARY: The area affected has been previously designated. This notice is to update and correct errors in the September 25, 1979 and August 4, 1987 designations. The area affected is located approximately 80 miles south of Billings, Montana, in Carbon County described as follows:

All OHV use on the following public lands are limited to designated open roads and authorized use.

T.7S., R.25E., all public lands in Sections 22, 23, 27-29, Section 32 SESE, 33 & 34.

T.8S., R.25E., all public land in Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 14, 15, 22 & 23 and in Section 5 all public lands east of the Pryor Gap Road.

T.8S., R.26E., all public lands in Sections 31 & 32.

T.9S., R.26E., all public lands in Sections 1-4, 10-15, 22-27, 34, 35, and public lands north of Helt Road [1016] in Sections 5, 6, 8, 9.

T.9S., R.27E., all public land.

T.8S., R.28E., all public land.

T.9S., R.28E., all public land.

The following roads are designated open within the Pryor Mountain area:

Bear Canyon Ridge Road [1031] from East Horsehaven [1030] T.9S., R.26E., Section 2, meandering north to the Custer National Forest in Section 2.

Bear Canyon Road [1014] from the intersection of Helt Road [1016], NW, Section 9, T.9S., R.26E., meandering northeast for approximately 3 miles to within 1/2 mile of the National forest

where it divides into two roads, [1014, 1041] both of which are open to the Custer National Forest.

Bent Springs Road [1039] from T.7S., R.25E., Section 29 meandering east for about 2 1/2 miles to the Custer National Forest.

Burnt-Timber Ridge Road [1018] starting in Section 25, T.9S., R.27E., meandering north for approximately 10 miles becoming USFS Road 2849 through public land Section 18, T.8S., R.28E.

Crooked Creek Road [1017] from T.9S., R.27E., Section 33, meandering north to the Custer National Forest Section 3, T.9S., R.27E.

Dandy Mine Road [1034] from junction of Red Pryor Mountain Road, T.9S., R.27E., Section 9 meandering east to the junction of Crooked Creek Road [1017] T.9S., R.27E., Section 9.

Demi John Flat Road [1035] is designated as open. The road starts at Crooked Creek Road [1017] at the north boundary of Section 3, T.9S., R.27E., and southerly approximately 2 miles to the south boundary of Section 10.

East Horsehaven Road [1030] starting in T.9S., R.27E., Section 18, meandering north then northeast in Section 6, T.9S., R.27E., to the Custer National Forest.

East Petroglyph Canyon Road [1040] from T.9S., R.26E., Section 24 meandering south for approximately 1 1/4 miles to Montana State land, Section 36.

Gyp Spring Road [1015] starting at T.10S., R.27E., Section 4, meandering NW for approximately 6 miles to T.9S., R.26E. Section 9.

Helt Road [1016] from T.9S., R.27E., Section 33 meandering north then west, approximately 14 miles to the NWNE, Section 1, T.9S., R.25E.

Inferno Canyon Road [1050] from T.8S., R.25E., south boundary of Section 11, USFS boundary extends southwesterly approximately 1 1/2 miles to the south boundary of Section 15. Also that portion of the road which connects Bent Spring Road, Timber Canyon Road, Water Canyon Road and Inferno Canyon Road that crosses public land is designated open.

Lower Timber Ridge Road [1048] goes north across T.8S., R.25E. Section 4, 3/4 mile to Timber Ridge Road [1047].

Miller Trail Road [1046] starts in SESE of Section 32, T.7N., R.25E. and proceeds approximately 2 1/4 miles to the NE corner, Section 34, Custer National Forest boundary.

Red Pryor Mountain Road [1022] starting T.9S., R.27E., Section 17, at the junction of Helt Road [1016]

meandering north for approximately 3 miles to the Custer National Forest.

Stockman Trail [1013] from T.9S., R.26E., Section 6, meandering north for

approximately 2 miles through the Custer National Forest.

Sykes Road East Loop [1033] from the intersection of Sykes Ridge Road [1019] in the NW Section 34, T.9S., R.28E., to the point it returns to Sykes Ridge Road [1019] in the NWNE Section 28.

Sykes Ridge Road [1019] starting at T.58N., R.95W., Section 23 meandering north for approximately 12 miles to T.8S., R.28E., Section 17.

Sykes Spring Road [1052] starts at junction of Sykes Ridge Road [1019], SW Section 23, T.58N., R.95W north to Montana-Wyoming line.

Timber Canyon Road [1049] from T.7S., R.25E. Section 9 meandering northeast for about 1 mile then ends.

Timber Ridge Road [1047] from USFS boundary at the east boundary of Section 3, T.8S., R.25E., and extends west approximately 2 miles to the west boundary of the SENW, Section 4.

Water Canyon Road [1051] T.8S., R.25E., Section 10 from west line of Section 10 approximately 1 mile to Custer National Forest.

West Horsehaven Road [1021] starting in T.9E., R.26E., Section 10 meandering northeast then southeast to the junction of East Horsehaven [1030].

West Petroglyph Canyon Road [1036] from T.9S., R.26E., Section 24 meandering southeast for approximately 1 1/4 miles to T.9S., R.26E., Section 26.

DATES: Any issues or concerns should be submitted to the BLM at the below address on or before May 22, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Jaynes, Assistant Field Manager, BLM, PO BOX 36800, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59107 or 406-896-5013.

Dated: April 14, 2000.

Sandra S Brooks,

Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

State of Nevada Assembly Bill 380, Newlands Project, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental document (environmental assessment or environmental impact statement) and notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

proposes to prepare an environmental document. The environmental document is for the purpose of evaluating the effects of Reclamation providing approximately \$7,000,000 of Federal funds over a period of years, along with monies from other entities, to partially support the Newlands Project Water Rights fund, a program for the acquisition and retirement of 6,500 acres of surface water rights in Reclamation's Newlands Project. This action is outlined in the State of Nevada Assembly Bill Number 380 (A.B. 380).

At present it is not clear whether the scope of the action and anticipated project impacts will require preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) instead of an environmental assessment (EA). However, to ensure the timely and appropriate level of NEPA compliance and to limit potential future delays to the project schedule, Reclamation is proceeding as if the project impacts can be adequately analyzed through preparation of an EA. Reclamation will reevaluate the need for an EIS after obtaining written and oral comments on the project scope, alternatives and environmental impacts, and after Reclamation's evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed project. Reclamation will publish a notice of change if a decision is made to prepare an EIS rather than an EA. However, the scoping process to be conducted will suffice for either course of action.

There are no known environmental justice issues associated with the proposed action. The water acquisition program supported by Reclamation funds will avoid, where possible, any adverse impacts to Indian Trust Assets. If adverse impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation or compensation will be provided.

DATES: Four scoping meetings will be held to solicit comments from interested parties to assist in determining the scope of the environmental analysis and to identify the significant issues related to this proposed action. The meeting dates are:

- Monday, May 8, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., in Fallon, Nevada.
- Tuesday, May 9, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., in Fernley, Nevada.
- Wednesday, May 10, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., in Nixon, Nevada.
- Thursday, May 11, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., in Carson City, Nevada.

Written comments on the scope of the environmental documents should be submitted by May 25, 2000, to the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: The meeting locations are as follows:

- Fallon—Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; telephone: (775) 423-4556.

- Fernley—Fernley Town Complex, 595 Silver Lace Blvd., Suite 117, Fernley, NV 89408; telephone: (775) 575-5455.

- Nixon—Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Council Chambers, 208 Capital Hill (Highway 447) Nixon, NV 89424; telephone: (775) 574-1000.

- Carson City—Nevada State Library, 100 N Stewart Street, Conference Room A, Carson City, NV 89701; telephone: (775) 684-3313.

Written comments on the scope of the environmental documents should be submitted to Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office, Attention: LO-450, P.O. Box 640, Carson City, NV 89702.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at telephone and TDD: (775) 882-3436, Lahontan Basin Area Office, Attention: LO-450, P.O. Box 640, Carson City, NV 89702.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Newlands Project Water Rights Fund program is to provide a mechanism for meeting some of the goals outlined in A.B. 380 through acquisition and retirement of 6,500 acres of surface water rights. The goals of A.B. 380 include resolving certain administrative and judicial proceedings involving challenges to Newlands Project and Truckee Meadows water rights. These proceedings are time consuming and costly for all parties involved, and the need for resolution is the purpose of A.B. 380 and the water rights acquisition and retirement program.

Special Services

Persons requiring any special services should contact Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at

(775) 882-3436. Please notify Ms. Hunt DeCarlo as far in advance of the particular meeting as possible, but no later than 3 working days prior to the meeting to enable Reclamation to secure the services. If a request cannot be honored, the requester will be notified.

Dated: April 14, 2000.

Frank Michny,

Regional Environmental Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Notice of Availability of a Draft Agency Handbook on the National Environmental Policy Act

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a draft agency handbook on the National Environmental Policy Act.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 1507.3, the Bureau of Reclamation has prepared a handbook to provide basic guidance to its employees on NEPA issues. Comments on the document will be accepted.

DATES: A 60-day public review period commences with the publication of this notice. Comments must be submitted to Reclamation at the addresses provided below no later than June 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the NEPA Handbook should be addressed to the Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Policy, Attention: Dr. Darrell Cauley, Manager—Environmental and Planning Coordination, D-5100, Denver Federal Center, PO Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225-0007.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves