

fellings, bucking, skidding, wood cutting, road building, and other high fire risk operations between 1 p.m. and 1 a.m. local time. Exceptions are helicopter yarding and earth moving on areas of cleared and bare soil. Sawing incidental to loading operations on cleared landings is not necessarily restricted (43 CFR 9212.1(h)).

Using chainsaws or other equipment with internal combustion engines for felling, bucking, skidding, wood cutting or any other operation within areas having a significant accumulation of dead or down slash or timber (43 CFR 9212.1(h)).

Welding, blasting (except seismic operations confined by ten or more feet of soil, sand or cuttings), and other activities with a high potential for causing forest fires (43 CFR 9212.1(h)).

A patrol is required for a period of two hours after any woods operations including felling, bucking, skidding, woodcutting, or road building cease. A patrol is also required for one hour following the cessation of all work activity. The patrolperson's responsibilities include checking for compliance with required fire precautions.

Possessing or using motorized vehicles such as, but not limited to cars, trucks, trail bikes, motorcycles and all terrain vehicles off of cleared roads is prohibited except for persons engaged in a trade, business or occupation in the area. Cleared roads are defined as roads cleared of vegetation shoulder to shoulder (43 CFR 9212.1(h)).

Exemptions to the above prohibitions are allowed only for any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force or Law Enforcement in the performance of an official duty, or persons with a permit or written authorization allowing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

Violation of this order is prohibited by the provisions of the regulations cited. Under 43 CFR 9212.4, any violation is subject to punishment by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both.

DATES: Restrictions go into effect at 12:01 pm (noon) on Tuesday, September 5, 2000, and will remain in effect until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to BLM Montana State Director, Attention: Pat Mullaney, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pat Mullaney, Fire Management Specialist, 406-896-2915.

Dated: September 5, 2000.

Roberta A. Moltzen,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 00-23197 Filed 9-6-00; 12:37 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-912-0777-HN-003E]

Notice of Rescindment of Special Fire Closures in Billings, Missoula, Helena, Butte and Dillon Field Offices; MT

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations 9212.2, the prohibitions listed in Order No. MT-00-03, MT-00-05, MT-00-06, applicable to Bureau of Land Management lands administered by the Billings, Missoula, Helena, Butte and Dillon Field Offices, dated August 11, 2000, August 17, 2000, and August 23, 2000, will be terminated at 12 noon Tuesday, September 5, 2000.

DATES: Restrictions are terminated at 12:01 pm (noon) on Tuesday, September 5, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to BLM Montana State Director, Attention: Pat Mullaney, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pat Mullaney, Fire Management Specialist, 406-896-2915.

Dated: September 5, 2000.

Roberta A. Moltzen,

Acting State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-023-1232-EA-NV06; Special Recreation Permit #NV-023-00-03]

Nevada: Emergency Closure of Certain Public Lands in the Winnemucca District for the Management of Lands and Activities Located In and Around the Burning Man Event Site, Pershing County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Closures and restrictions of public lands in Washoe and Pershing Counties.

SUMMARY: Certain lands would be temporarily closed on an emergency

basis, in the Winnemucca District, Pershing and Washoe Counties, Nevada, to public use from 6 a.m., August 28 to 12 pm, September 6, 2000. This emergency closure is being made in the interest of public safety in relation to an authorized Burning Man Event airstrip south and southwest of the Burning Man site, at and around the public lands location of an event known as the Burning Man Festival. This event is expected to attract at least 28,000 participants this year, with a certain percentage of clientele arriving by aircraft and landing on the authorized airstrip. All other temporary closures and prohibitions as previously published in the **Federal Register** for this location remain in effect. The lands involved are located in the Mount Diablo Meridian and located northeast of Gerlach, Nevada.

The "Middle Track" and "East Track" that lead out from the "First Exit/Entrance" ("3-Mile") to the playa areas east and west of the Burning Man site, from the Burning Man site east to the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks, and the entire Southern end of the playa southwest of Burning Man will be closed public use during the Burning Man event period, 6 a.m., August 28 to 12 pm, September 6, 2000, with the exception of BLM personnel, law enforcement and emergency medical services, and authorized Burning Man staff. The "tracks" are those sunken roadways or trackways on the Black Rock Desert playa that traverse the length of the playa "west arm." The affected playa lands southwest to northeast are:

T32N, R23E,
Sec. 1; Sec. 2; Sec. 3; Sec. 11; Sec. 12; Sec. 13; Sec. 14.
T33N, R23E,
Sec. 25; Sec. 26; Sec. 34; Sec. 35; Sec. 36.
T32N, R24E,
Sec. 5; Sec. 6.
T33N, R24E,
Sec. 1; Sec. 2; Sec. 3; Sec. 4; Sec. 5; Sec. 8; Sec. 9; Sec. 10; Sec. 11; Sec. 12; Sec. 13; Sec. 14; Sec. 15; Sec. 16; Sec. 17; Sec. 18; Sec. 19; Sec. 20; Sec. 21; Sec. 22; Sec. 28; Sec. 29; Sec. 30; Sec. 31; Sec. 32.
T33, R25E,
Sec. 2; Sec. 3; Sec. 4.

The 3-Mile (First Exit/Entrance) will be closed during the Burning Man event period, August 28, 2000 to September 4, 2000, with the exception of BLM personnel, law enforcement and emergency medical services, and authorized Burning Man staff. The affected lands are:

T33N, R23E,
Sec. 35, NW¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄.

A map showing the temporary closure area is available from the following BLM

office: BLM-Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Bilbo, Outdoor Recreation Planner, or Les Boni, Assistant manager, Non-Renewable Resources, at (775) 623-1500, or write to: BLM-Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445. A map showing the temporary closure area is available from the following BLM office: Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, (775) 623-1500. BLM contact person is Michael Bilbo at above address and phone.

Authority: 43 CFR part 8340, 43 CFR subpart 8341, 43 CFR subpart 8341.2, 43 CFR part 8360, 43 CFR subpart 8364.

Penalty: Any person failing to comply with the closure orders may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571, or both. Any person who fails to comply with this closure notice issued under 43 CFR, part 8364, may be subject to the penalties provided for in 43 CFR 8360.0-7.

Dated: August 25, 2000.

Terry Reed,

Field Manager, Winnemucca Field Office.

[FR Doc. 00-23084 Filed 9-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1020-PH-WEED]

Use of Weed-Free Forage on Public Lands in Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed action.

SUMMARY: The State Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Nevada is proposing a requirement that all BLM visitors, permittees, and operators in Nevada use certified noxious weed seed-free hay, straw, or mulch when visiting, or conducting authorized activities on BLM-administered lands in Nevada. This requirement will affect visitors who use hay, straw, or mulch on the BLM-administered lands in Nevada such as: recreationists using pack and saddle stock, ranchers with grazing permits, outfitters, and contractors and operators who use straw or other mulch for re-seeding or reclamation purposes. These individuals or groups would be required to use certified noxious weed seed-free

forage and mulch products, or use other approved products such as processed grains and pellets while on BLM-administered lands in Nevada.

DATES: Comments concerning the proposal should be received on or before October 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments concerning the Nevada requirement to: Deputy State Director (930), USDI, Bureau of Land Management, 1340 Financial Blvd, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520-0006. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of any NEPA documentation associated with this proposed rulemaking. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, Brian C. Amme, Environmental Protection Specialist, Division of Natural Resources, Lands, and Planning, at the above address, or telephone (775) 861-6645.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Noxious 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 lands and 4,600 acres per day on all western public lands. Species like perennial pepperweed (tall whitetop), purple loosestrife, yellow starthistle, hoary cress (short whitetop), leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, russian knapweed, diffuse knapweed, squarrose knapweed, scotch thistle, dalmatian toadflax, rush skeletonweed, and many others are non-native to Nevada and the United States and have no natural enemies to keep their populations in balance. Consequently, these undesirable weeds rapidly invade healthy ecosystems, displace native vegetation, reduce species diversity, destroy wildlife habitat, and degrade designated wilderness, wilderness study areas, and other special areas including areas of critical environmental concern

(ACECs) and National Conservation Areas (NCAs). Widespread infestations lead to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Furthermore, noxious weed invasions weaken rehabilitation and landscape restoration efforts, reduce domestic and wild ungulates' grazing capacity, occasionally irritate public land users by aggravating allergies and other ailments, and threaten federally protected plants and animals.

To curb the spread of noxious weeds, a growing number of Western States have jointly developed noxious weed-free forage certification standards, and, in cooperation with various federal, state, and county agencies, passed weed management laws. Because hay, straw, mulch, and other forage products containing noxious weed seed contribute to the spread and establishment infestations, the State of Nevada has recently implemented, a state hay inspection-certification program, participates in a regional inspection-certification-identification process, and encourages, on a voluntary basis, forage producers in Nevada to grow noxious weed-free products. The Nevada Division of Agriculture has documented that growers in Nevada produced 250 acres of certified Timothy hay as of October 30, 1999. The State of Nevada encourages growers to request voluntary certification inspections of all forage products including grass hay, alfalfa hay, a mixture of grass and alfalfa hay, as well as barley and wheat straw.

Region Four of the United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, implemented a similar policy for National Forest lands outside of the State of Nevada in 1994, and Forest Units within the State of Nevada on January 1, 2000. The BLM in Nevada encourages all BLM Field Offices to attach a standard stipulation on all Special Recreation Permits and other use authorizations, requiring holders of those permits and authorizations to use certified weed seed-free products. This proposal will provide a standard regulation for all users of BLM public lands in Nevada and will provide for coordinated management with National Forest lands across jurisdictional lines.

In cooperation with the State of Nevada and other federal agencies, the BLM is proposing—for all BLM-administered lands within Nevada—a ban on hay, straw or mulch that has not been certified as weed seed-free. This proposal includes a public information plan to ensure that: (1) This ban is well publicized and understood; and (2) BLM visitors and land users will know where they can purchase state-certified hay or other products. Similar to other agency closure orders, a grace period will be in