

areas became effective May 22, 2001 (66 FR 28198). These four areas, totaling 16,355 acres, will remain in the "limited to existing roads and trails" designation until interdisciplinary planning with all affected interests occurs to determine the appropriate designated travel routes in these areas. Interdisciplinary planning is currently underway for the Penrose area and planning will begin for the other three areas in 2003. The BLM has determined that it is necessary for the current designation of "limited to existing roads and trails" to remain in effect in order to prevent unacceptable impacts to public lands and to provide management consistency to these areas while planning efforts are underway.

DATES: The extension of this Special Rule goes into effect with the publication of this notice and shall remain in effect for two years. At the end of the two year period it may be reviewed and extended, or revoked.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain additional information by any of several methods. You may mail, hand deliver, or call in your requests to: Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office, 3170 East Main Street, Canon City, CO 81212, (719) 269-8500. You may also make requests via e-mail to: rgfo_comments@blm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy L. Masinton, Field Manager or Diana Kossnar, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at the address and phone number listed above, or John Nahomenuk, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 307 W. Sackett Ave., Salida, CO 81201, 719-539-7289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Special Rule provision of 43 CFR 8341.2 allows the authorized officer to close certain areas to specific types of OHV use. In the case of the Texas Creek, Penrose, Grand Canyon Hills, and Sand Gulch OHV "Open" areas, the authorized officer closed these areas to all forms of OHV use that goes off of existing travel routes. This changed the OHV designation for the areas to "limited to existing roads and trails", the same designation that is found on the surrounding public lands. The Special Rule was implemented to prevent a continuation of unacceptable impacts to soils, vegetation, wildlife, and wildlife habitat. The Royal Gorge Field Office will follow implementation of this Special Rule with amendments to the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan. The plan amendments will be completed with full public involvement, interagency coordination and consultation as required by the BLM planning regulations (43 CFR part 1600).

This Special Rule does not apply to emergency, law 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 fines and/or imprisonment as defined in 18 U.S.C. 3571. Notice of this Special Rule and detailed maps of the four affected areas are posted at the Royal Gorge Field Office in Canon City and the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Office in Salida.

John L. Carochi,

Associate Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-013-02-1210-AA WSAS]

Limited Use Designation within Elko Field Office Wilderness Study Areas; Elko, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Establishment of Limited Use designation for mechanical transport, including all motorized devices as well as trail and mountain bikes, in Wilderness Study Areas under the jurisdiction of the Elko Field Office, Nevada.

SUMMARY: The following Wilderness Study Areas are designated as Limited Use. Cedar Ridge WSA (NV-010-088); Red Spring WSA (NV-010-091); Little Humboldt WSA (NV-010-132); Rough Hills WSA (NV-010-151); South Fork Owyhee River WSA (NV-010-103A); Owyhee Canyon WSA (NV-010-106); Bluebell WSA (NV-010-027); Goshute Peak WSA (NV-010-033); South Pequop WSA (NV-010-035); and Bad Lands WSA (NV-010-184). Persons operating mechanical transport, including all motorized devices, as well as trail and mountain bikes, are limited to accessing only those boundary roads or ways existing inside a Wilderness Study Area, which were identified during the inventory phase of the wilderness review. Maps depicting those open roads within each Wilderness Study Area are available at the Elko Field Office. All other ways and roads are assumed closed. Persons with authorization to utilize the area by BLM regulations, contracts, leases or permits, may use the area described in accordance with those authorizations. Nothing in this closure effects the exercise of valid existing rights created

by a contract, right of way, lease, permit or mining claim that is carried out in accordance with the regulations under which the rights were established.

Exemptions to this order are granted for these purposes only:

(a) In emergencies and search and rescue operations;

(b) for official purposes by the BLM and other Federal, State, and local agencies and their agents when necessary and specifically authorized the BLM for protection of human life, safety, and property; for protection of the lands and their resources; and

(c) to build or maintain structures and installations authorized as grandfathered uses or valid existing rights in the Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review, as long as such use of vehicles is determined to satisfy the nonimpairment criteria and is only along routes authorized and specified by the BLM.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This designation is official on March 1, 2002 and will remain in effect until either rescinded by the authorizing official, or until Resource Management Plans for both Elko and Wells Resource Areas are amended, or until such time as Congress either designates the WSA as Wilderness or releases it for other purposes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Helen Hankins, Elko Field Office Manager, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801. Telephone (775) 753-0200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM's Off Road Vehicle Regulations, 43 CFR 8342.1., require that the BLM establish off-road vehicle designation of areas and trails that meet the non-impairment mandate. It is the BLM's policy that cross-country vehicle use in the WSAs does cause the impairment of wilderness suitability. The BLM policy establishing what is necessary to prevent such impairment is set forth in BLM Manual Handbook H-8550-1, Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review.

The Limited Use designation is established to comply with the "nonimpairment" mandate established in the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review, BLM Manual Handbook H-8850-1.

Helen M. Hankins,

Field Manager.

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