

that our limited resources are directed toward species at the greatest conservation risk and that can benefit from our enhanced attention.

(3) *Reduce paperwork, streamline the permit process, and provide user-friendly service.*

- Explore the feasibility of providing a single point of contact in each regional office for the processing of permit applications and administration of the general conservation permit.

- Develop and use harmonized permit application forms to consolidate the information needed to apply for a permit under multiple wildlife and plant laws and actively seek comments from the public during the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-approval process for forms under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

- Develop and use general findings (e.g., no-detriment advices under CITES, programmatic biological opinions under the ESA) to decide when an application meets the permits issuance criteria.

- Issue and track the processing of permits through SPITS.

- Issue general conservation permits for up to 5 years for ongoing activities, depending on the results of the risk assessment.

- Consolidate annual reporting requirements and, when possible, tailor the report due date to the activities conducted. This would allow the permittee to submit a single report and meet the requirements of more than one law or treaty.

(4) *Implement the permit process fairly and consistently.*

- Develop standardized permit conditions for activities with the same species or related groups of species.

- Use the computer system SPITS to share data and ensure use of consistent permit terms and conditions.

F. What if I don't qualify for a general conservation permit?

Individuals or organizations that do not qualify for permits under this policy may apply for individual permits under existing regulations, just as they do now.

G. What is the scope of this policy?

This policy applies Service-wide to programs that process permit applications for all species of wildlife and plants under the law and treaties listed in section H of this policy.

H. Authority

The authorities for this action are the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668a); Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (27 U.S.T. 1087); Endangered Species Act of

1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*); Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42); Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*); Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712); and Wild Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4901-4916).

Dated: August 30, 1999.

John G. Rogers,
Acting Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Emergency Closure and Restriction of Certain Uses of Public Lands Within the Dillon Field Office, Montana

AGENCY: Dillon Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of Emergency Closure and Restriction Order.

SUMMARY: Effective immediately, all newly acquired public lands that lie within sections 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13 of Township 9 South, Range 10 West, PMM; and the South East corner of section 35 in Township 8 South, Range 10 West, PMM; will be restricted to certain uses. The closure and restriction order is being implemented to prevent conflicts with waterfowl management, which is one of the primary reasons for the acquisition. Travel restrictions are necessary to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and to prevent resource damage to the area. In addition restriction of certain uses are necessary for public safety.

Vehicle Travel

All public land in sections 1, 2, and 11 (Township 9 South, range 10 West, PMM) that lie East of the I-15 frontage road and West of the Union Pacific Rail Road right of way will be closed to all motorized vehicle travel. Motorized vehicle travel will be allowed from the point where the road crosses the Union Pacific Railroad tracks at the SW¹/₄ of the NW¹/₄ of section 11 (Township 9 South, Range 10 West, PMM) and continues parallel to the north east of the tracks, until the point where Gallagher Creek meets it. At this point the road will be closed to further motorized vehicle travel through the creek bed. This closure is necessary to prevent further damage to the Gallagher Creek stream bed, to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, and to reduce erosion. Motorized vehicle travel in the remaining area will be limited to existing roads and trails unless otherwise designated.

Hunting

Hunting on those public lands in sections 1, 2, and 11 (Township 9 South, Range 10 West, PMM) that lie East of the I-15 frontage road and West of the Union Pacific Rail Road right of way will be restricted to archery, shotgun, traditional handgun, and muzzleloader only. Definitions of legal archery, shotgun, traditional handgun, and muzzleloader are contained within the State of Montana regulations for hunting.

The authority for this closure and restriction order is 43 CFR 8364.1. The order will remain in effect until a Management Plan for the area is completed.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the closure and restriction order, and maps showing the location of the affected lands are available from the Dillon Field Office, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, Montana, 59725.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Powers, Field Manager, Dillon Field Office, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, Montana 59725.

Scott Powers,

Field Manager, Dillon Field Office, Dillon, Montana 59725.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-020-00-1020-00]

Salt Lake Field Office Proposed Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Notice of availability

SUMMARY: The Utah Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office, has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a Proposed Plan Amendment to the Box Elder Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1986). The proposed plan amends the RMP by eliminating domestic livestock grazing from the Newfoundland Mountains upon relinquishment of the current sheep permit. This action is needed to eliminate future conflicts between domestic livestock and bighorn sheep.

DATES: The proposed plan amendment may be protested. The protest period will commence with the date of publication of this notice. Protests must be submitted on or before November 29, 1999.