

roads connected to the designated roads are also closed. The roads are located in Sections 19, 30, and 32 of T.25S., R.3W., and Sections 25, 26, and 35 of T.25S., R.4W., Willamette Meridian, Douglas County, Oregon.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Maps showing the above described area are available at the BLM's Roseburg District Office for public review. The roads closed under this order will be posted with signs at barricaded locations.

The closure is made under the authority of 43 CFR 9268.3(d)(1)(ii) and 8364.1(a). Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this closure order may be subject to the penalties provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7, which include a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months, as well as the penalties provided under Oregon State law.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This closure is effective from January 20, 2000, until this notice is rescinded.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Patrick, Civil Engineer Technician, at (541) 440-4931, ext. 261.

Dated: January 7, 2000.

**William O'Sullivan,**

*Field Manager, Swiftwater Field Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[MT019-1060-DH]

#### Notice of Intent to Prepare an Amendment to the Billings Resource Area Management Plan and Revision of the Herd Management Area Plan, Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, MT

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an amendment to the Billings Resource Area Management Plan in order to establish an appropriate management level for wild horses, based on the results of eight years of ecological research studies on population genetics and ecosystem modelling. This research represents a synthesis of important issues pertaining to a landscape scale, interdisciplinary evaluation of the effects of wild horses and native ungulates on the rugged Pryor Mountain ecosystem. In addition, the existing 1984 Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, Herd Management Area Plan, and the subsequent 1992 Revision, will be revised to update the management of these horses and to consider issues

pertaining to public safety and commercial use within the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range.

**SUMMARY:** An RMP Amendment/Environmental Assessment will be prepared to establish the appropriate management level for the number of horses in the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Herd. This amendment will incorporate results of eight years of ecological research studies on population genetics and ecosystem modelling. Specific studies addressed competitive interactions between the three ungulates inhabiting the area (Bighorn sheep, mule deer, and wild horses), the effects of all ungulates on the vegetation, the conservation genetics of the wild horses and simulations of the predicted effects of different wild horse management scenarios. These efforts resulted from a comprehensive interagency approach involving six agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the U.S. Forest Service. Major research direction and effort came from the U.S. Geological Survey and Natural Resources Ecology Lab, Colorado State University with participating efforts from Montana State University and the University of Kentucky.

In addition, the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, Herd Management Area Plan, will be revised. Based on previously stated public concern and input, the planned revision will consider issues pertaining to, but not necessarily limited to: long-term preservation of the genetic viability of the Pryor Mountain herd; maintaining an ecological balance within the Pryor ecosystem; use of immunocontraceptive (fertility control) techniques for population control within the wild horse herd; range expansion efforts in order to support a genetically viable wild horse herd; management of existing and/or proposed water sources within the Pryors while considering impacts on horse and wildlife distribution and forage use; permanent road closures in an effort to create retreat areas for wildlife; road improvements on the Pryor horse range for reasons of public safety; limiting indiscriminate shooting on the Pryor horse range for reasons of public safety; and options for controlling future commercialization of the Pryors.

**DATES:** The Billings Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, plans to hold public scoping meetings, in order to provide opportunities for public comment, during late March 2000.

Tentatively, meetings are scheduled for Billings, Montana on March 29 and Lovell, Wyoming on March 30, 2000. Details, regarding planned locations and specific times for these meetings, will be published in local news releases. Any issues, concerns, additional information, or alternatives should be submitted to the BLM at the address below on or before April 7, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandra S. Brooks, Field Manager, or Linda Coates-Markle, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, BLM, PO BOX 36800, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59107 or 406-896-5013.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Listings, and a brief summary of the above stated research efforts pertaining to the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, may be requested at the above address. Final reports for all research studies should be available to the BLM by mid-February 2000 and this information will then be available to public members upon request. This research represents the "best available information" which currently exists with respect to the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. If other documents exist, which public members wish to identify for consideration during the revision process, please provide a copy to the Billings Field Office (address above), on or before April 7, 2000.

Dated: January 7, 2000.

**Larry E. Hamilton,**

*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 00-795 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Status of Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Maps and Official Protraction Diagrams

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that effective with this publication, the following Leasing Maps (Louisiana and Texas) and Official Protraction Diagrams (OPDs) last revised on the date indicated are the latest date documents available. These maps and diagrams are on file and available for information only, in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional Office, New Orleans, Louisiana. In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, these maps and diagrams are the basic record for the description of mineral and oil and gas lease sales in the geographic areas they represent.