

- Updates on the Federal, State, and educational components of the NCGMP
- Strategic Goals

DATES: March 24–25, 2005 commencing at 9 a.m. on March 24 and adjourning by 5 p.m. on March 25.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laurel Bybell, U.S. Geological Survey, 908 National Center, Reston, Virginia 20192 (703) 648–5281.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meetings of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program Advisory Committee are open to the Public.

P. Patrick Leahy,

Associate Director for Geology, U.S. Geological Survey.

[FR Doc. 05–2721 Filed 2–10–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–17–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY–090–1220–MA]

Notice of Seasonal Closure of Public Lands to Motorized Vehicle Use

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of seasonal closure of certain public lands located in Lincoln County, Wyoming, to all types of motor vehicle use.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) subpart 8364, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its intentions to close certain BLM-administered public lands to all types of motor vehicle use during the period of January 1 through April 30, annually. This seasonal closure is needed to protect public lands and resources and to minimize stress to wintering elk, moose, pronghorn antelope and mule deer.

This seasonal closure affects public lands located within the Raymond Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA), Slate Creek, Rock Creek, and Bridger Creek winter ranges. Except for travel on highways or county roads, motorized vehicle travel within these areas will be allowed only by written authorization from the Kemmerer Field Manager. Personnel of the BLM, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture-APHIS & Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and law enforcement personnel are exempt from this closure only when performing official duties. Operators of existing oil and gas facilities may perform maintenance and pumping, as approved, and livestock operators may perform permitted activities.

DATES: This seasonal closure will be effective annually from January 1 through April 30.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wally Mierzejewski, Outdoor Recreation Planner, or Dale Wondercheck, Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Land Management, 312 Highway 189 North, Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101. Mr. Mierzejewski or Mr. Wondercheck may also be contacted by telephone at 307–828–4500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Kemmerer Resource Management Plan (RMP) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) states that big game winter ranges may be closed to minimize stress to wintering animals. Prior to effecting seasonal closures the BLM must consult annually with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. If conditions warrant, the BLM Kemmerer Field Manager may implement a seasonal closure on certain BLM-administered lands and travel ways including existing roads and two-track trails, to all types of motorized vehicle travel (i.e., snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, any vehicle including trucks, sport utility vehicles and cars, motorcycles etc.). Crucial big game winter range as identified in the Kemmerer RMP may be closed annually from January 1 through April 30. Use of these areas by non-motorized means is still allowed.

The BLM Kemmerer Field Office is responsible for management of crucial winter range habitat located on public lands within Lincoln County. The Raymond Mountain WSA, Slate Creek, Rock Creek, and Bridger Creek areas are crucial wintering ranges for elk, moose, antelope, and mule deer. Reasons for the closure include the effects of persistent drought and/or severe winter conditions which threaten the health of these wintering wildlife species. Low forage production associated with persistent drought conditions causes animals to go into winter in poor condition. Losses of wintering habitat from development activity can reduce the area available to the wintering animals. These impacts to wintering wildlife are compounded by significant human activity, such as day and night wildlife observation, still and video photography, snowmobiling, and antler gathering. Because of the increased stress the presence of motorized vehicles inflicts on wintering big game during difficult winter periods, the number of animals that could die and the rate of aborting of fetuses on the winter range can increase. This decreases production of young during the following summer. Therefore, closing crucial winter range to

motorized vehicles reduces impacts to wintering big game.

The following BLM-administered lands are included in this closure:

- The Raymond Mountain WSA, located approximately 15 miles north of Cokeville and contains 32,956 acres.
- The Slate Creek area including all BLM-administered lands south of Fontenelle Creek, west and north of Route 189, and east of the crest of Slate Creek Ridge, and contains 111,100 acres.
- The Rock Creek area including all BLM-administered lands south of County Road 204 (Pine Creek Road), west of the crest of Dempsey Ridge, west of Fossil Butte National Monument, north and east of Highway 30, and contains 105,750 acres.
- The Bridger Creek area including all BLM-administered lands south of Highway 30, west of Fossil Ridge, west of Bear River Divide, north of the Uinta—Lincoln County line, east of the Utah—Wyoming border, and southeast of Highway 89, and contains 98,400 acres.

Maps of these areas will be posted with this notice at key locations that provide access into the closure areas, as well as at the Kemmerer Field Office, 312 Highway 189 North, Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101–9710.

Seasonal closure orders may be implemented as provided in 43 CFR, subparts 8341.2 and 8364.1. Violations of this closure are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000, and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Dated: December 21, 2004.

Robert A. Bennett,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 05–2638 Filed 2–10–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY–100–04–1310–DB]

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Jonah Infill Drilling Project, Sublette County, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Jonah Infill Drilling Project and notice of public involvement meeting for the purposes of providing comment on the DEIS.

SUMMARY: Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the