

PRT-197165

Applicant: University of Georgia,
College of Veterinary Medicine,
Athens, GA

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples of green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) from Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, for the purpose of enhancement of the species through scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

PRT-199101

Applicant: Jene W. Mobley, Palmer, AK

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-198116

Applicant: Herb M.R. Rudolf, Bonita Springs, FL

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-199697

Applicant: Robert J. Jones, Clovis, CA

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-200275

Applicant: William S. Young, Dallas, TX

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-200419

Applicant: Eric T. Bond, Conroe, TX

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa,

for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Dated: December 5, 2008.

Lisa J. Lierheimer,

*Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits,
Division of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. E8-31012 Filed 12-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[CA-340-08-1220-DD]

Notice of Order Closing Public Lands at the Knoxville Recreation Area, Lake County, CA, to Recreational and Target Shooting.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8364.1, an Order has been issued by the Ukiah Field Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), prohibiting recreational and target practice shooting on six (6) acres previously available for such shooting within the Knoxville Recreation Area. These six acres, managed by the Ukiah BLM Field Office, are located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ section 28, Township 12 North, Range 5 West, Mount Diablo Meridian. The BLM land base for the Knoxville Recreation Area is located in southeastern Lake, northern Napa, and northwestern Yolo counties, California. This shooting closure is necessary to protect persons, property, and public lands. An increase in visitors, coupled with housing/subdivision development of adjacent ranches, has led to a significant increase in documented cases where stray bullets have narrowly missed public land users, vehicles, and adjacent private buildings. This Closure Order does not apply to hunting under the laws and regulations of the State of California. Other BLM managed public lands of the Knoxville Recreation Area remain unavailable for shooting due to the lack of identified designated shooting areas as defined by the Ukiah Resource Management Plan (June 2006.)

DATES: This Order is effective upon publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Burns, Field Manager, BLM Ukiah Field Office, 2550 North State Street, Ukiah, California, 95482. Telephone: (707) 468-4000; Fax: (707) 468-4027, during regular business hours, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Knoxville Recreation Area is located in a remote region of northern California where Lake, Napa, and Yolo counties meet. The entire Knoxville region is approximately 35,000 acres of lands open to the public of which 11,000 acres are managed by the State of California Department of Fish and Game and 24,000 acres are managed by the BLM, Ukiah Field Office. The BLM-managed area is open to most types of recreational activities including motorized and non-motorized recreational pursuits. The Ukiah Resource Management Plan designated 5,236 acres as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern for botanical studies and research because the Knoxville region is considered a "hot spot" for plant evolution.

BLM has issued this shooting closure because of increased shooting pressures. The Ukiah Resource Management Plan limited shooting at the Knoxville Recreation Area to a designated six (6) acre site historically used for recreational shooting and target practicing. Since designation, the BLM Ukiah Field Office has been receiving an increasing number of public complaints from recreational users, researchers, and adjacent private property owners about near misses to people, animals, buildings, and equipment from stray bullets fired in, around, and from the designated shooting range. In addition, serious resource degradation has been occurring throughout the Knoxville Recreation Area, including the Hunting Creek Campground, caused by indiscriminate shooting of BLM signs, buildings, and natural resources. This shooting closure is necessary to protect resources and meet the documented health and safety concerns raised by the surrounding land owners and public land users regarding the dangers of stray bullets fired by indiscriminate shooters.

Closure Order: Notice is hereby given that effective on this date of publication in the **Federal Register** and pursuant to 43 CFR 8364.1, the public lands described as the Knoxville Shooting Range within SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 28, Township 12 North, Range 5 West, MDM., containing approximately six (6) acres are closed to the public for recreational shooting and target practice. These lands, managed by the Ukiah BLM Field Office, are located at the Knoxville Recreation Area in southeastern Lake County, California. Be advised that other BLM-managed public lands of the Knoxville Recreation Area remain unavailable for shooting due to the lack of identified designated shooting areas as defined by the Ukiah Resource Management Plan. This

Closure Order is necessary to protect people, public and private property, and public land resources due to an increase in documented cases of stray bullets fired by indiscriminate shooters.

The following persons are exempt from this closure order:

(1) Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers, while acting within the scope of their official duties.

(2) BLM personnel or their representatives while acting within the scope of their official duties.

(3) Any member of an organized rescue, fire-fighting force, or emergency medical services organization while in the performance of their official duties.

(4) Any person in receipt of a written authorization of exemption obtained from the authorized officer.

(5) Any person with a current legal California hunting license in his/her possession and hunting in accordance with state law.

This Notice and maps of the restricted area will be clearly posted at main entry points to the Knoxville Recreation Area and at the area affected by this Order and will also be available at the BLM Ukiah Field Office.

This Closure Order is effective on the date published in the **Federal Register** and will remain in effect until revoked.

Failure to comply with this order is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months pursuant to 43 CFR 8360.0-7. A failure to comply may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

This Shooting closure is supported by NEPA document number CA-340-08-020. The NEPA document and its associated decision record are available upon request at the BLM Ukiah Field Office.

Rich Burns,

Ukiah Field Manager.

[FR Doc. E8-30960 Filed 12-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWO300000.L91310000.PP000]

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 202 of the National Environmental

Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and applicable agency guidance, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendments for geothermal leasing in the western United States (U.S.). The decision is hereby made to amend 114 BLM land use plans covering public lands managed by the BLM under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) in order to allocate about 111 million acres of BLM-administered lands as open to geothermal leasing and to adopt a reasonably foreseeable development scenario, stipulations, best management practices (BMPs), and leasing procedures for geothermal resources within the 11 western states and Alaska. The Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, in the Department of the Interior signed the ROD on December 17, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack G. Peterson, BLM Project Manager at (208) 373-4048 (Jack_G_Peterson@blm.gov), BLM, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83706 or visit the PEIS Web site at http://www.blm.gov/Geothermal_EIS.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the ROD and Approved RMP Amendments are available for review via the Internet from a link at http://www.blm.gov/Geothermal_EIS, as well as at BLM State Offices and Field Offices. Copies may also be obtained by contacting Jack G. Peterson at the address and phone number listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ROD and Approved RMP Amendments for geothermal leasing in the western U.S. was developed through preparation of the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States*.

The NOA of the Final PEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on October 24, 2008 (73 FR 63430). The elements of the ROD and Approved RMP Amendments were evaluated through this PEIS, which was prepared in accordance with NEPA and FLPMA. Alternative B was identified as the Proposed Action in the Draft PEIS. As a result of public comment, internal review, and agency coordination, Alternative B was clarified and slightly modified to become the preferred alternative and proposed to amend 122 plans in the Final PEIS. The Approved RMP Amendments are identical to the proposed plan amendments presented

in the Final PEIS except that the East San Diego County RMP has been removed from the list of plans for amendment because in October 2008 the BLM issued a ROD revising the RMP to include allocations and management for geothermal resources. In addition, the BLM is deferring the decision to amend the Box Elder RMP, House Range Resource Area RMP, Iso-tract Management Framework Plan (MFP), Park City RMP, Pony Express RMP, Randolph RMP, and Warm Springs Resource Area RMP in accordance with the provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA § 2815 [a and d], 113 Stat. 512, 852 [1999]). Based on these changes, the decision is to amend 114 BLM land use plans to adopt the allocations, reasonably foreseeable development scenario, stipulations, BMPs, and leasing procedures provided in Alternative B of the PEIS.

In accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the ROD/Approved RMP Amendments facilitates geothermal leasing of the Federal mineral estate that has geothermal potential in the 11 western states and Alaska. In the ROD and Approved RMP Amendments, the BLM: (1) Identifies public lands with geothermal potential as being legally and administratively open or closed to leasing, and under what conditions; (2) provides a reasonably foreseeable development scenario; (3) develops a comprehensive list of stipulations, BMPs, and procedures to serve as consistent guidance for future geothermal leasing; and (4) provides information that the Forest Service (FS) can use to facilitate making consent determinations for any lease decisions on National Forest System lands. The Final PEIS also provided analysis on 19 specific pending lease applications located in seven geographic areas. This ROD/Approved RMP Amendments does not issue a decision for these applications. Separate RODs will be issued for the applications as the environmental review process is complete.

Over 530 million acres of the western U.S. and Alaska have been identified as potentially containing geothermal resources suitable for commercial electrical generation and other direct uses, such as heating. Much of the resource base is held in the Federal mineral estate, for which the BLM has the delegated authority for processing and issuing geothermal leases. The BLM is prohibited from issuing leases on statutorily closed lands (*see* 43 CFR 3201.11), including Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, lands contained in a unit of the National Park System, National Recreation Areas,