

Permit No. TE-106764

Applicant: Gary Roemer, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct surveys, capture, tag, and draw blood for black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) within Arizona.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*

Dated: June 29, 2005.

Joy E. Nicholopoulos,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 05-13618 Filed 7-11-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

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

[WY-050-1990-NJ]

Notice of Emergency Closure of Public Lands to Motorized Vehicle Use

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) subpart 8341.2(a), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the closure of certain BLM-administered public lands to all types of motor vehicle use to protect the desert yellowhead, a plant species and its critical habitat protected by listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

This closure affects public lands located within, and adjacent to, the 360-acre designated critical habitat of the only known population of desert yellowhead (*Yermo xanthocephalus*). Under the ESA, the desert yellowhead is listed as "threatened." Public access leading to, and within, the desert yellowhead and its critical habitat by nonmotorized means, such as by foot or horseback is permitted.

DATES: This closure will be effective March 16, 2005, and remain in effect until the threat to this desert yellowhead population and its critical habitat by motorized vehicles has ceased.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ray Hanson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, 1335 Main Street, P.O. Box 589, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Mr. Hanson may also be contacted by telephone: (307) 332-8420.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM Lander Field Office is responsible for management of public lands within Fremont, Natrona, Carbon, Sweetwater,

and Hot Springs Counties. The management of these lands is addressed in the Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP) Record of Decision (ROD), which was signed in June 1987. Under the authority of the ESA, the RMP provides that no activities will be permitted in habitat for threatened and endangered species that would jeopardize the continued existence of such species. The RMP further provides that neither surface disturbing activities nor surface occupancy will be allowed in known threatened or endangered species habitat.

Because these Wyoming plants are the only known population in the world, the desert yellowhead (*Yermo xanthocephalus*) was listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as "threatened" in 2002 and an area of 360 acres of critical habitat was designated. In 2004, the Lander Field Office prepared a biological assessment of the desert yellowhead for review by the USFWS. The USFWS completed a biological opinion for the desert yellowhead in 2005.

This Emergency Closure is necessary to protect the desert yellowhead and its critical habitat from threats posed by increased motorized vehicle use which could easily expand into the critical habitat of this sole population. Reasons for the closure include the effects of motorized vehicle use damaging plant populations and critical habitat of the desert yellowhead.

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

- The 360 acres of designated desert yellowhead critical habitat including the 10 acres presently occupied by the only known plant population.
- The designated two-track trails leading to the desert yellowhead's critical habitat.

A map of these areas will be posted with this notice at key locations near the closure area, as well as at the BLM's Lander Field Office, 1335 Main Street, Lander, Wyoming 82520.

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

Persons who are administratively exempt from this closure include: any Federal, State, or local officer or employee acting within the scope of their duties, members of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in performance of an official duty, and any person holding written authorization from the Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: May 5, 2005.

Alan L. Kesterke,

Associate State Director.

[FR Doc. 05-13766 Filed 7-11-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

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

[OR-027-1020-PI-020H; G-05-0165]

Notice of Public Meeting, Steens Mountain Advisory Council

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Burns District Office.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act (Steens Act) of 2000, Public Law 106-399, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and the Steens Mountain Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Steens Mountain Advisory Council will meet at the Bureau of Land Management, Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon, 97738 on August 11 and 12, 2005. Both days will begin at 8 a.m., local time, and will end at approximately 4:30 p.m., local time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Steens Mountain Advisory Council was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior on August 14, 2001, pursuant to the Steens Act and re-chartered in August 2003. The Steens Mountain Advisory Council's purpose is to provide representative counsel and advice to the Bureau of Land Management regarding (1) new and unique approaches to management of the land within the bounds of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area, (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs, maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area, and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area.

Topics to be discussed at this meeting include operating protocols, challenges and opportunities for collaboration, visioning, roles of the Steens Mountain Advisory Council and the Bureau of Land Management, ground rules, dispute resolution, and other matters