

Reason: Extensive deterioration.
5 Bldgs.
Fort Pickett
T2832, T2834, T2835, T2839, T2840
Blackstone Co: Nottoway VA 23824–
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 21200320086
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Extensive deterioration.
3 Bldgs.
Fort Pickett
T2843, T2844, T2845
Blackstone Co: Nottoway VA 23824–
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 21200320087
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Extensive deterioration.
Bldg. T0113
Fort AP Hill

Bowling Green Co: VA 22427–
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 21200320088
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Extensive deterioration.
Bldg. T0114
Fort AP Hill
Bowling Green Co: VA 22427–
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 21200320089
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Extensive deterioration
Bldg. T0114
Fort AP Hill
Bowling Green Co: VA 22427–
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 21200320090
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Extensive deterioration
Bldg. 584
Langley Air Force Base
Hampton Co: VA 23665–
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54200320007
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area
GSA Number: 4–Z–VA–740–B
Bldg. 720
Langley Air Force Base
Hampton Co: VA 23665–
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54200320008
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area
GSA Number: 4–Z–VA–740–A
Bldg. 1443/adj. bldg.
Norfolk Naval Shipyard
Portsmouth Co: VA 23704–
Landholding Agency: Navy
Property Number: 77200320018
Status: Excess
Reason: Extensive deterioration

Washington
Bldg. A1001
Fort Lewis
Ft. Lewis Co: Pierce WA 98443–
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 21200320091
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Extensive deterioration
Bldg. 09778
Fort Lewis
Ft. Lewis Co: Pierce WA 98433–9500

Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 21200320092
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Extensive deterioration

Land (by State)

New Jersey
2.1 acres
Naval Weapons Station
Earle Co: NJ
Landholding Agency: Navy
Property Number: 77200320016
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA–338–1220–AF]

Supplementary Rules: King Range National Conservation Area, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Establishment of emergency final supplementary rules.

SUMMARY: The Arcata Field Office is establishing the following emergency final supplementary rules for the King Range National Conservation Area (KRNCA) as provided for under the Visitor Services regulations of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The supplementary rules require all backcountry overnight users camping on BLM-administered public lands within the boundaries of the KRNCA to carry and use hard-sided bear-proof food storage canisters. The supplementary rules are necessary to protect the safety, health, and welfare of persons, property, and wildlife.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may send inquiries or suggestions to Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Field Office, 1695 Heindon Rd., Arcata, CA 95521.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lynda J. Roush, (707) 825–2300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The emergency final supplementary rules are authorized by 43 CFR 8365.1–6: “The State Director may establish such supplementary rules as he/she deems necessary. These rules may provide for the protection of persons, property, and public lands and resources.”

The purpose of these emergency final supplementary rules is to prevent—

- Injury to backcountry users,
- Damage to their property,
- Additional bears learning to associate humans with food, and
- The need for destruction of “problem bears.”

The reason that the supplemental rules are being published on an emergency final basis is the high risk of human injury if steps are not implemented immediately to remedy the problem. For this reason, we find good cause under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553 *et seq.*) for publishing and promulgating these supplementary rules without soliciting public comment, and making them effective the date of publication.

BLM staff and visitors camping in the KRNCA backcountry are experiencing increasingly frequent incidents of black bears entering occupied campsites and tents in search of food, stealing backpacks and damaging equipment, and presenting an increasing risk of injury to humans. Bear/human interactions in the KRNCA have been steadily increasing for the past several years, despite active public education efforts and the implementation of a voluntary, low-cost bear-proof backpacking food storage canister rental program in 2000. These incidents have increased significantly in frequency and intensity in the spring of 2002 to the point where the possibility of injuries to humans will become high without BLM taking immediate steps to change bear behavior. Bear/human contacts have been most common in the central portion of the Lost Coast Trail (LCT), although bear/human contacts are being documented at other locations in the KRNCA as well. Backpacks and equipment have been damaged, destroyed, and/or stolen, and at least 3 incidents of bears ripping into human-occupied tents have been reported. Hanging food from trees is no longer an effective method for bear-proof food storage, as bears have become very adept at climbing trees and removing the stored food. Most backpackers without proper food storage canisters have lost their food.

Unprotected food also attracts raccoons, skunks, rodents, and other wildlife, which become nuisances and whose own health can be compromised if they become accustomed to human food.

The King Range National Conservation Area, particularly along the Lost Coast, is receiving steadily increasing visitation. Experience with black bears in similar backcountry areas indicate that close human/bear contacts are likely to increase, with the risk of injuries to humans imminent unless