

by minimizing the adverse effects of human disturbance to wild and captive bighorn sheep, through the proposed actions referenced in EA-660-03-08. These actions include BLM and City commitments: (1) To block human access to the old "Shirley" road on their lands through a combination of signage, fencing and physical barriers, including deconstructing and recontouring the road sufficient to discourage access and reinforce the closure along the saddle immediately south of the BLM property line that leads to an overlook on BLM lands of the Bighorn Institute's sheep pens, and (2) to employ a progressive management strategy to prevent hiking off the designated trail system and towards or overlooking captive sheep in the Bighorn Institute pens, including signage, stricter enforcement and penalties when legally feasible, physical barriers and fencing at strategic locations. The BLM issued a Decision Record to implement the proposed action, including the Terms and Conditions of the Biological Opinion, on March 7, 2003. The City issued an ordinance (Ordinance No. 1034) and a resolution (Resolution No. 03-12), approving construction of a new trail and closing portions of City lands between the National Monument Visitor Center and the ridge overlooking the Bighorn Institute, on January 23, 2003 (mitigation measures B-5 and B-6).

II. Closure

In compliance with 43 CFR 8364.1(c), notice is hereby given that BLM is closing portions of public lands in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. The public lands hereby closed are those lands within the north ½ of the north ½ of Section 7, Township 6 South, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Meridian (SBM). These restrictions will be in effect year-round from December 4, 2003 until rescinded by the authorized officer. The order to close these lands is needed to protect the resources of the public lands and to minimize conflicts among various uses of the public lands.

BLM finds good cause to publish this closure notice effective the date of publication and without providing for public comment due to the immediate need to protect the Peninsular Range bighorn sheep from the stress that is likely to be caused by recreational use of land overlooking their captive breeding pens. A 30-day public comment on the subject of this action began on December 30, 2002, through publication of an environmental assessment (*Homme-Adams and Visitor Center Trail Loops*, EA-660-03-08). A Biological Opinion issued by the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service on February 13, 2003 (FWS-ERIV-3354.1) supported BLM's proposed action as a reasonable and prudent measure to minimize the adverse effects of human disturbance to wild and captive bighorn sheep. All public comments received were considered prior to BLM's issuance of its Decision Record (DR) on March 7, 2003. BLM provided the public notification of this DR and the procedures for appeals through a news release issued March 11, 2003. No appeals were filed. Furthermore, the public was fully involved in the development of the joint plan. Also, the regulations on Closures and Restrictions at 43 CFR 8364.1 do not require publication of a request for comments.

The BLM lands covered by this closure order cannot be accessed except by crossing closed City lands. In compliance with the proposed action described in *Homme-Adams and Visitor Center Trail Loops*, EA-660-03-08, the Biological Opinion (FWS-ERIV-3354.1) dated February 13, 2003, and the City of Palm Desert ordinance, BLM hereby closes the described public lands to recreational and casual use. Any person who fails to comply with this order may be subject to the penalties provided in CFR 8360.0-7.

III. Exceptions

The following are exempt from this order: (1) fire, emergency, or law enforcement personnel when engaged in emergency or patrol activities; and (2) persons or uses expressly authorized by BLM.

Dated: October 30, 2003.

Linda Hansen,

California Desert District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

30-Day Federal Register Notice of Submission of Network to Freedom Application Package to Office of Management and Budget; Opportunity for Public Comment

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. 3507) and 5 CFR part 1320, Reporting and Recordkeeping

Requirements, the National Park Service (NPS) invites comments on a submitted request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve an extension of a currently approved information collection clearance (OMB 1024-0232). Comments are invited on (1) the need for the information including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of this reporting burden estimate; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. This program will measure performance in meeting goals as required by the 1995 Government Performance and Results Act.

Public Law 105-203 authorizes the NPS to develop and administer the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (Network), a nationwide collection of governmental and nongovernmental sites, facilities, and programs associated with the historic Underground Railroad movement. The NPS has developed the application process through which associated elements can be included in the Network. The information collected will: (a) Verify associations to the Underground Railroad, (b) Measure minimum levels of standards for inclusion in the Network, and (c) Identify general needs for technical assistance.

The purpose of the proposed ICR is to evaluate sites, facilities, and programs that are applying for inclusion in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The information will be used by the NPS to determine if candidates seeking inclusion in the Network meet the minimum criteria. There were no public comments received as a result of publishing in the **Federal Register** a 60-day notice of intention to request clearance of information collection for this survey.

DATES: Public Comments on the proposed ICR will be accepted on or before January 5, 2004, to be assured of consideration. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore to ensure maximum consideration, OMB should receive comments 30 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments directly to Ms. Ruth Solomon, Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB 0124-0232), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, by fax at 202-395-6566 or by