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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Resource Area Management Plan Amendment; Bishop Resource Area, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of plan amendment to the Bishop Resource Management Plan.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1508.13, 43 CFR 1610.5-5), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will

implement a plan amendment to the Bishop Resource Area Management Plan.

The plan amendment releases from wilderness review eight Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the Bishop Resource Area. The WSAs would no longer be managed under Wilderness Interim Management Policy and would be subject to the Bishop Resource Management Plan (1993) or other applicable guidance.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Eight WSAs are removed from WSA status. In 1979-80, the eight areas were designated as WSAs in association with adjoining Forest Service WSAs. The BLM areas met the criteria for wilderness study status only because they were considered in combination with adjacent Forest Service WSAs. The Forest Service has subsequently removed their WSAs from wilderness study status. The Bureau's plan amendment releases the eight WSAs from further wilderness study because of this Forest Service action.

The WSAs include the following:

1. CA-010-060--Paiute WSA--7,600 acres
2. CA-010-063--Coyote Southeast WSA--3,211 acres
3. CA-010-065--Black Canyon WSA--6,518 acres
4. CA-010-068--Wheeler Ridge WSA--3,197 acres
5. CA-010-072--Laurel-McGee WSA--110 acres
6. CA-010-075--White Mountain WSA--1,260 acres
7. CA-010-077--Benton Range WSA--4,052 acres

8. CA-010-103--Sweetwater WSA--960 acres

A final environmental assessment (#CA-017-96-007) incorporating full public review documents the effects of this action. This document and accompanying Record of Decision is located in the Bishop Resource Area files.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Genivieve D. Rasmussen, Bishop Resource Area, 785 N. Main., Ste E, Bishop, CA 93514. Telephone (760) 872-4881.

Genivieve D. Rasmussen,

Area Manager, Bishop Resource Area.

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