

**EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER
BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT
STILLWATER FIELD OFFICE
CARSON CITY DISTRICT**

Emergency Closure of Selected Public Lands in portions of Churchill County, Nevada

Action: Pursuant to 43 CFR 9268.3(d) and 43 CFR 8364.1, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is giving notice that public lands east of Fallon, Nevada, known as the Sand Mountain Recreation Area (SMRA) as described below, are closed to all forms of public access, effective immediately. Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and recommendations from state and local public health authorities, the BLM is temporarily closing the SMRA to limit the spread of COVID-19. The health and safety of staff and visitors in this recreation area is our number one priority.

Affected Area:

The public lands affected by this closure of the Sand Mountain Recreation Area are described as follows:

Lands north Nevada Highway 50 in the Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, as described below:

T. 16N., R. 32E.,

sec. 4, lots 1 thru 4, SW1/4NE1/4, S1/2NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4;

sec. 5, lots 1 thru 4, S1/2N1/2;

T. 17N., R. 32E.,

sec. 15, S1/2S1/2;

sec. 16, SE1/4SE1/4;

sec. 20, SE1/4;

sec. 21;

sec. 22, W1/2, NE1/4;

sec. 28;

secs. 28 and 29, and secs. 32 and 33.

The area described contains approximately 4,808.61 acres, more or less, in portions of Churchill County, Nevada.

Prohibitions:

1. You must not enter the closure area.

Dates: This closure is effective immediately and will remain in effect until such a time conditions allow for safe use of the recreation area.

Supplemental Information: Under 43 CFR 9268.3, and 43 CFR 8364.1, the following are exempt from the provisions of this order:

- a. Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force engaged in fire, emergency, or law enforcement activities, or public utility employees engaged in emergency repairs.

- b. BLM employees, contractors, or agents engaged in official duties;
- c. Individuals operating within the scope of their official and legitimate governmental duties;
- d. Additional persons may be allowed, but must carry written approval signed by the BLM Authorized Officer, Carson City District.

Addresses: The closure notice, communications plan and map of the closure area will be posted at the BLM Carson City District Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada, and in the vicinity of Sand Mountain. The areas affected by this closure order will be posted with appropriate regulatory signs and/or physical barriers to notify the public of the closure.

Penalties: On all public lands, under section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1733(a), 43 CFR 8360.0-7, and 43 CFR 9262.1, any person who violates any of these supplementary rules, closures or restrictions on public lands of this order may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to enhancement fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571 (not to exceed \$100,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months).

Dated: March 23, 2020



Ken Collum
Stillwater Field Office Manager