

BLM seeks input on river use

The Bureau of Land Management wants public opinions concerning methods to avoid overcrowding the nation's popular recreation rivers which run through lands it manages.

Nationwide rules will be proposed based on public comments received through February 8 and from experience already gained in man-

aging the use of such rivers as the Rogue, Deschutes, John Day and Owyhee in Oregon.

Both commercial and private use of the Rogue are managed under cooperative agreement with three other Federal and state agencies. On the Deschutes, John Day, and Owyhee rivers, commercial permits are required, but with no quotas set and no

permits required for private use.

BLM National Director Frank Gregg said, "The tremendous interest in some river areas makes them so overcrowded that no one can enjoy them. We hope that through better management, the recreation experience will be enjoyable and worthwhile."

BLM is seeking opinions on options for managing use, such as advance reservations, lottery, first-come-first-served, price, merit, or a combination of these and others. Where there is competition between commercial and non-commercial users, the agency seeks to develop a fair and equitable method to allocate the use.

Another objective is to consider complaints that some commercial boating operators illegally have sold recreation permits issued by BLM.

Written comments should be addressed to: Bureau of Land Management (WO-370), Interior Building, 18th & C Sts. NW, Washington, DC 20240.

BMCC music students raise funds for trip to Hawaii

Thirty-eight students in the Blue Mountain Community College music department are currently involved in fundraising projects to finance an April trip to perform in the Hawaiian Festival of Music.

According to John Weddle, instrumental music instructor,

current projects include recycling, caroling, cutting firewood, and their most noteworthy venture, the carol-a-gram.

The carol-a-gram is a Christmas carol, personalized to fit the recipient, that is delivered by singing students.

National recognition was gained last year, said Dave Miller, department head and vocal music instructor, when local radio station KUMA ran a spot about the carol-a-gram program.

The item was picked up by the Associated Press and run nationwide, spotlighting the BMCC music department. Carol-a-grams can be delivered anywhere locally, and can be scheduled by calling Miller at 276-1260, ext. 305. Minimum cost is \$5 per gram.

Tamarack and pine firewood, cut by music students, is being sold for \$40 a cord, and can be ordered by calling 276-8892. Delivery will take about three weeks.

A recycling program is conducted on the second Tuesday of each month in the Armory parking lot, and music students are also caroling for downtown merchants on Saturday afternoons.

Miller said that Christmas trees will also be sold as Christmas approaches. Details will be posted.

Other planned projects include operating the concessions at home basketball games, working for the Community Concerts program in Pendleton, and staging car washes, a raquetball tournament and discos at area high schools.

The Hawaii festival, to be held Apr. 17-24, is part of the continuing International Music Festivals put on by Performing Arts Abroad, Inc. The program's purpose, said Weddle, is to promote and award excellence in performing groups.

During last year's festival, held in Garden Grove, Calif., the BMCC swing choir was awarded a silver medal and the chorale a bronze medal, a feat topped by no other schools. Groups are judged against international standards of excellence rather than against each other. Weddle said that only one other silver medal was awarded throughout the festival.

The official invitation for the Hawaii Festival of Music, sent by Auditions Chairman Wilfred Bain, retired Dean of the School of Music, Indiana University, was "extended on the basis of the musical accomplishments achieved in your audition tape."

Firewood use is up in National Forests

Pacific Northwest residents collected a record amount of free firewood from National Forests during fiscal year 1978.

Permits for the use of 630,108 cords of firewood were issued on the 19 National Forests in Oregon and Washington in 1978, compared to 489,200 cords the previous year. Actual volume removed, however, is estimated to be only about two-thirds of the total listed in the permits.

Permits to Oregon residents totaled 499,538 cords, while in Washington the figure was only 130,480 cords. Estimated value of the 1978 harvest was \$513,025.

Forest Service Regional Forester R.E. (Dick) Worthington said the demand for firewood has grown rapidly in recent years, and will probably continue to expand in the foreseeable future.

The Regional Forester said use of firewood "serves several purposes, including the use of material that otherwise would have to be left to rot or burned on the ground. Its use also helps defray the rising cost of heat from electricity and fossil fuels as well as to reduce consumption of those fuels."

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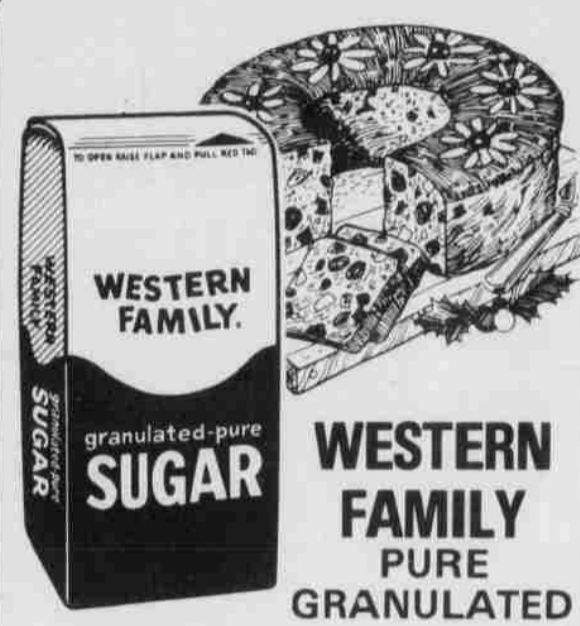
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