

Public Notice

Sale of Federal Land and Proposed Access Rights-of-Way in Deschutes County

Why is the BLM selling public land?

The Prineville District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 1.6 million acres of public land in central and north-central Oregon. A portion of this land base is configured in small, isolated parcels that generally do not provide substantial resource, public, or tribal benefits, and are not cost effective to manage. The parcels to be offered for sale are identified as Zone 3 lands in the BLM's Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan (RMP, 2005) and are considered suitable for sale or exchange.

Where are the parcels?

There are 14 parcels identified for sale that are situated in the vicinity of La Pine, Redmond, and Bend. Three parcels totaling 280 acres are located west of Wickiup Junction near La Pine. There are 10 parcels located west of Redmond. They are configured in two groups that comprise a total of 800 acres: Group 1 is located adjacent to Lower Bridge Estates, just south of where Lower Bridge Road crosses the Deschutes River, and Group 2 is just north of Highway 126 between NW 74th Street (Tetherow Road) and NW 101st Street. A single 40 acre parcel is located along Highway 97 between Bend and Redmond. View maps at → <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/index.php>

Can anyone buy the land?

Yes. The parcels will be offered for sale by competitive bid via public auction.

Where does the money from the sales go?

The revenue will be available to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture for acquiring in-holdings within certain federally designated areas, or land adjacent to those areas that contain exceptional resources.

How has the public been involved?

In 2005, the Prineville BLM completed the Upper Deschutes RMP which set long term management direction for public lands in central Oregon. During preparation of this RMP, the BLM held numerous public meetings to obtain input on proposed decisions. A decision in the RMP identified lands in three categories for future management. Zone 1 lands would be retained in public ownership, Zone 2 lands are considered available for exchange and lands identified as Zone 3 are considered suitable for sale or exchange.

What are the next steps in the process?

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to analyze the proposed access rights-of-way that affect three of the Redmond parcels. These rights would be noted in the patents and allow the properties to be marketed with the legal right of access for the buyers. This action does not involve physical road development at this time nor does it commit the use of federal funds in the future. We are currently accepting public comments to help us prepare the EA. After the EA is completed we will again solicit public comments before making a decision on the rights-of-way. A Notice of Realty Action (NORA) will then be published announcing the sale. The sales are expected to be held in the spring 2009. An Environmental Assessment will not be written for the sales since the action was already analyzed, and public input was considered, during the development of the Upper Deschutes RMP.

How can the public comment on the proposal?

If you have comments regarding the rights-of-way for the Redmond parcels that you would like considered as we prepare the EA, send them to us at the address below by **August 1, 2008**.^{*} You may use the attached comment form, or whatever format you wish.

There are several ways you can stay involved in this process. Please check the appropriate boxes, below, and *return this checklist* to the address below:

- Rights-of-way in Redmond parcels only: Put me on the mailing list to be notified when the EA is available for public review.
- Public Sale of La Pine, Redmond or Bend parcels: Notify me when the NORA is published.
- Remove my name from THIS mailing list.** ← *we will do this option if we don't hear from you!*
- Remove my name from ALL Prineville District mailing lists.

More information?

Call the Prineville BLM at 541/416-6700 and ask for Phil Paterno, Project Lead, or Molly Brown, Field Manager for the Deschutes Resource Area. Our address is **3050 NE Third Street, Prineville, OR 97754**. You can view the Upper Deschutes RMP on our web page at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/deschutesrmp/index.php>

**Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment –including your personal identifying information –may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*