

Preliminary issues to be considered in the Environmental Assessment (EA)

Purpose

The objective of the action is to ensure that all parcels being considered for sale in the spring of 2009 will have legal access. Three of the parcels considered for sale currently do not have legal access. The proposed action is that the BLM would provide legal access to these parcels through a right-of-way grant. The rights would be noted in the patent and conveyed with the property. Following the sale, the right-of-way would be assigned to the respective buyer.

The proposed rights-of-way would be 60 feet wide and extend through Parcels 5, 10 and 12 to provide legal access to Parcels 6, 7 and 13 (see maps on web site).

The proposed action is in conformance with the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan (RMP, 2005), which states the BLM will, "Provide new or modified rights-of-way for transportation/utility corridors to meet expected demands and minimize environmental impacts"

Need

The rights-of-way would ensure that the properties could be offered for sale competitively with the legal right of access. Legal access would allow the parcels to be available to all interested bidders resulting in a more equitable sale through public auction. This action would not involve physical road development at this time nor would it commit the use of federal funds in the future.

Issues

An issue is a point of disagreement, debate, or dispute with an action based on an anticipated effect. The BLM analyzes significant issues in EAs to help make a reasoned choice between alternatives. One issue that may be addressed in the EA is, "What would be the effect of each of the alternatives on visual resources?" We would like input from the public on other issues that should be addressed.

Alternatives

Alternative A (No Action): No rights-of-way would be issued.

Alternative B (Proposed Action): Issue three right-of-way grants as shown on maps (see web site) that will provide legal access to public land parcels being considered for sale.

Alternative C: Approve an alternative alignment for right-of-way OR-65418 (see maps on web site) by relocating the route south 665 feet to avoid close proximity to the adjacent private property.

Alternative D: We want to hear from the public on other options.