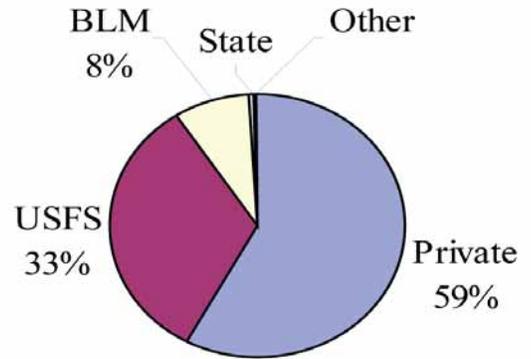


**FIGURE 32: LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE JDBRMP AREA**



Source: BLM GIS database, 2006

Passage of the Oregon Land Exchange Act in 2000 resulted in a land ownership adjustment in Northeast Oregon, primarily in Grant County. In exchange for public lands disposed of in this Act, the BLM acquired approximately 44 thousand acres along the North Fork of the John Day River.

### LEASES AND PERMITS (RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES ACT)

Temporary land use permits or leases may be used to authorize such activities as trespass prior to resolution, access, storage, apiary sites national guard or military reserve training, engineering feasibility studies, and other miscellaneous short-term activities. In the John Day Basin Planning Area there are numerous agricultural leases on BLM lands for which fees are not collected.

The Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) authorizes the sale or lease of BLM managed lands for recreational or public purposes to State and local governments and to qualified nonprofit organizations. In the John Day Basin planning area the transfer of land utilized for a dump to Prairie City under the R&PP Act has been attempted but has not occurred.

### WATER

Water is the fundamental resource of the John Day Basin. It enables plants to grow and is essential for wildlife. People need water to drink, for play, and to support livestock grazing, irrigation, mining and other economic enterprises. Who gets water and when and how they get it are questions that have dominated the west for over a century and a half.

These questions are answered through the allocation of water rights. Surface and ground water are the property of the State and the Oregon Water Resources Department administers the water to those who have a water right.

Water rights are important tools that have allowed BLM to accomplish a wide variety of their multiple use objectives. Water rights can be used to extract minerals, provide wildlife habitat, and preserve aquatic life. The majority of water rights on BLM land are for irrigation. BLM actively manages over 700 acres of the irrigation water rights under the John Day Wild and Scenic River Plan and the Sutton Mountain Coordinated Resource Management Plan. The remaining 1175 acres of irrigation occur on scattered pieces of agricultural land through out the plan area. Approximately one third of BLM's water rights are related to mining. The majority of the mining water rights are located near John Day on Little Canyon Mountain. This area was hydraulically mined for gold in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many of the water rights completely overlap each other and include a