



BLM News

Bureau of Land Management • Little Snake Field Office

455 Emerson Street • Craig, CO 81625

Phone 970-826-5000 • Fax 970-826-5002

www.co.blm.gov

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist (970) 640-3451
(local contact) (970) 826-5000

For Immediate Release October 10, 2006

BLM issues notice for Emerald Mountain Land Exchange

CRAIG, Colo. – The Emerald Mountain Land Exchange today moved one step closer to completion with the Bureau of Land Management’s release of a Notice of Availability of Decision authorizing the proposed land exchange.

Under the proposed exchange, BLM would acquire the 4,139-acre Emerald Mountain parcel just west of Steamboat Springs from the Colorado State Land Board in exchange for 123 isolated BLM parcels in Routt County totaling 15,416 acres.

Public access to the Emerald Mountain parcel will not be allowed until the exchange is complete and the parcel is in BLM ownership, which is expected to occur in early 2007.

A 45-day public protest period follows the release of the Notice and will close Nov. 27, 2006.

The State Land Board has slated the Emerald Mountain parcel for sale as part of its fiscal mandate to generate school system revenue. Through a multi-party exchange facilitated by the Western Land Group, BLM would acquire Emerald Mountain while the isolated parcels currently held by BLM would be transferred to the State Land Board. Most would then be sold to private landowners.

“The public would get the spectacular Emerald Mountain parcel in exchange for isolated parcels that are extremely difficult for BLM to manage and have little or no public access,” said Little Snake Field Office Manager John Husband. “Plus Colorado schools would receive revenue from the resulting land sales.”

The Notice also includes general land management guidelines for the Emerald Mountain parcel if the exchange takes place. The area would be managed for multiple use including outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, and wildlife habitat. The emphasis on outdoor recreation would include hiking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing and hunting. A recreation management plan outlining specific management actions will be developed

within a year of the exchange in close coordination with local partners such as the City of Steamboat Springs and Emerald Mountain Partnership.

To view the Notice of Decision and additional information related to the exchange, visit the Little Snake Field Office web site at www.co.blm.gov/lra/lraindex.htm or contact Duane Johnson, BLM Little Snake Field Office, at 970-826-5001.

###