



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

New Mexico State Land Office



Proposed Dingell Act State Land Exchange



Photo: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
National Monument Area.

Presentation Date: April 13, 2022



Why a land exchange?

Congress passed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which stated the Secretary of the Interior shall attempt to enter an agreement to initiate a land exchange under Section 2201.1 of Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, with the Commissioner of the Public Lands of New Mexico

In addition, the land exchange would:

- Consolidate ownership of Federal land and reduce mixed BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and State of New Mexico ownership of lands in and around the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, increasing management efficiencies;
- Increase recreational access opportunities into and around the Monument, supporting the purpose of Secretarial Order 3373
- Reduce the number of isolated and difficult-to-manage parcels of BLM lands in these areas;
- Enhance the State of New Mexico's opportunities for economic development and support the State's goal to enhance and provide opportunities for state trust land beneficiaries.



Where We Are...

- The BLM and State Land Office (SLO) have been working to select lands for exchange that will benefit the agencies and the public. The BLM and SLO resource teams and leadership have cooperatively selected lands to be exchanged and have worked closely together on all steps of this project.
- The proposed exchange will be equal value as determined by appraisals, and current acreage is approximately:
 - **85,154+/-** acres of New Mexico State Trust Land to the BLM; and
 - **169,621+/-** acres of Federal land to the State of New Mexico
- The BLM has been developing a Feasibility Package that will be sent to BLM's Headquarters for review and approval.
- The BLM and SLO sent preliminary outreach letters to permittees/lessees and Tribes/Pueblos in early February 2022.



Lands Selected for Potential Exchange

- The proposal would exchange New Mexico State Trust Lands and minerals in and around the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument to the BLM, for BLM lands and minerals in the BLM's Las Cruces District and Socorro Field Office areas.
- Counties involved in the proposed exchange include Catron, Socorro, Grant, Sierra, Hidalgo, Luna, Dona Ana, and Otero Counties;
- A higher acreage of Federal lands for transfer to the state has been identified to ensure that an adequate appraised balance exists between the exchanged lands. Upon appraisal and through the National Environmental Policy Act process, it is possible that some selected Federal lands could be removed from the exchange.



Lands Selected for Potential Exchange

Proposed State Land Exchange
Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks National Monument
Federal Selected and Offered New Mexico State Trust Lands

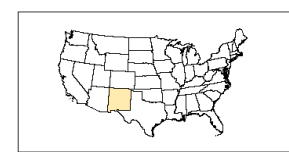
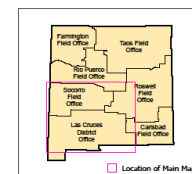
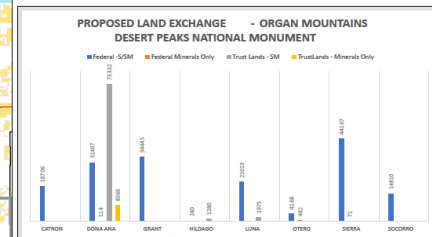
Legend

Federal Lands Selected by NMSLO	Surface Ownership
Surface and Minerals: Surface Only	Bureau of Land Management
Minerals Only	Bureau of Reclamation
	Dept. of Agriculture
	Dept. of Defense
	Fish & Wildlife Service
	Forest Service
	National Park Service
	Private
	State
	State Game & Fish
	State Park
	Tribal
	Other State Authority (University)

New Mexico State Trust Lands

- Surface and Minerals
- Minerals Only

Wilderness Areas
National Monuments
Counties
City Limits



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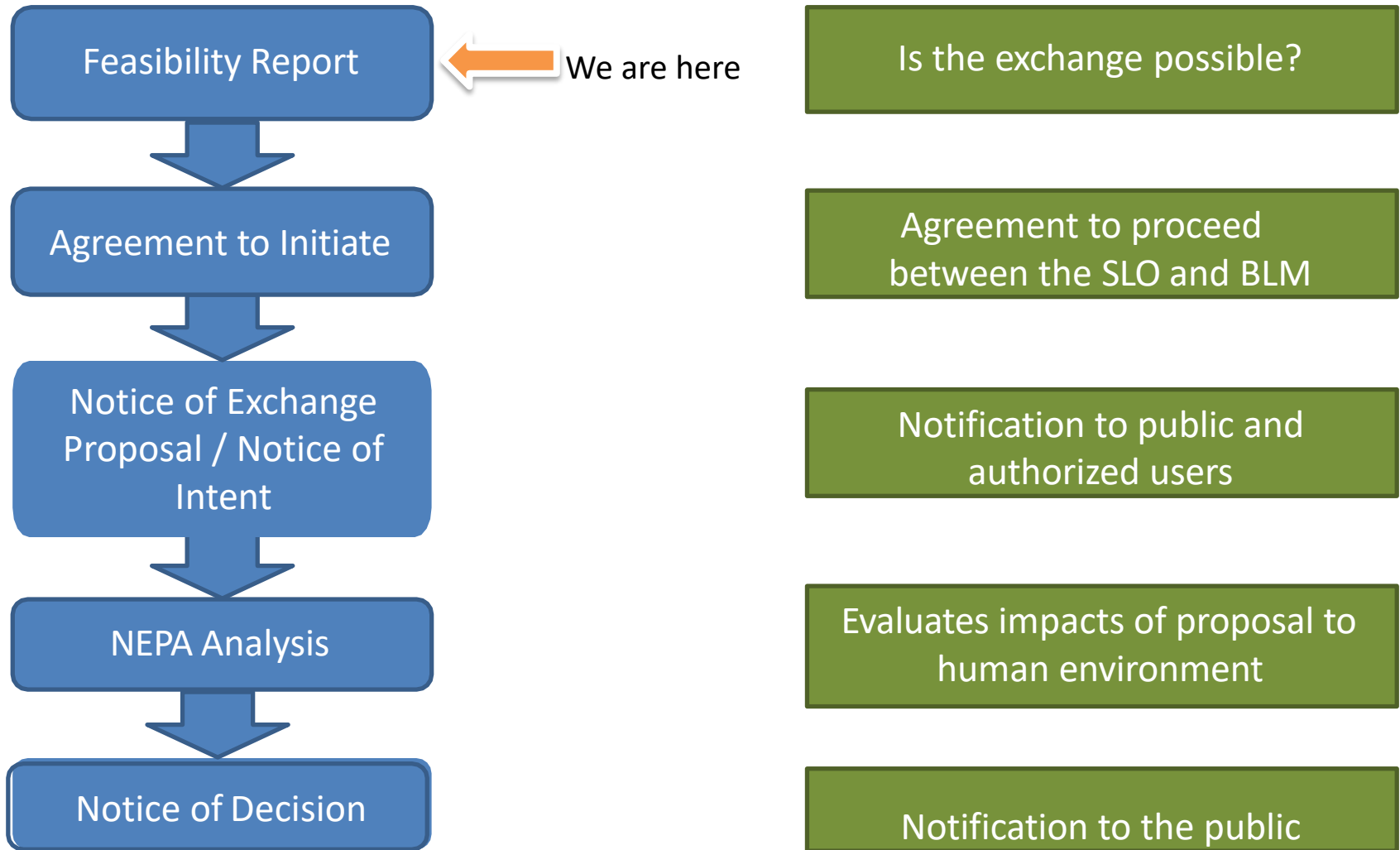


National Environmental Policy Act

- Once the Feasibility Package and Agreement to Initiate are approved, the Notice of Exchange Proposal and Notice of Intent publish together in the Federal Register initiating public scoping;
- The BLM will complete an environmental analysis for the National Environmental Policy Act to identify any environmental effects and determine their significance;
- A decision on the land exchange cannot be made until the National Environmental Policy Act, supporting studies, and appraisals are complete, and it has been determined that the proposed exchange is in the public interest (43 CFR part 2201.7-1)



Land Exchange Process Overview





Grazing

- 153 grazing allotments affected on lands administered by the BLM's Socorro Field Office and the Las Cruces District Office
- The exchange of Federal lands to the SLO will potentially result in the reduction of Federal Animal Unit Months on 81 allotments and the elimination of Federal grazing preference on 40 allotments
- The exchange of State Trust lands to the BLM would result in increases to the grazing preference on 23 BLM grazing allotments within the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.
- 9 allotments within the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument will be affected by lands being exchanged to the SLO as well as lands being received from the SLO.



Grazing

- Preliminary outreach letters, Agency Range Comparison, and allotment maps displaying affected parcels were sent to BLM grazing permittees/lessees in early February 2022;
- Letters were also sent from the SLO to permittees on how to obtain agricultural leases.



Grazing

- Current BLM Permittees:
 - Will receive a two-year notice that preference may be cancelled;
 - Can waive two-year period and convert to SLO lease upon land transfer;
 - Will have priority for obtaining the SLO grazing lease corresponding to the BLM parcels



Grazing – Range Improvements

- Range improvements on lands exchanged to the SLO will either be:
 - Recognized as belonging to the individual (Range Improvement Permits); or
 - Be transferred to the SLO and will be assigned to the individual through the SLO leasing process
- Ownership and interest in Improvements on lands exchanged to the BLM from the SLO will be authorized through Cooperative Range Improvement Agreements.



Next Steps

- Approval of Feasibility Package by BLM Headquarters;
- Signing of Agreement to Initiate by the BLM and SLO;
- Publish of Notice of Exchange Proposal and Notice of Intent, which will start the formal exchange process and scoping for the National Environmental Policy Act;
- Appraisals and completing various resource studies/reports;
- Continue dialogue and communication with permittees and the public.



Website:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-reealty/new-mexico/organ-mountains-desert-peaks-state-land-exchange>

