

**To:** Mike Nedd[mnedd@blm.gov]  
**From:** Amy Lueders  
**Sent:** 2017-04-25T21:46:36-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rio Grande del Norte Land Exchange (4)  
**Received:** 2017-04-25T21:46:46-04:00  
[ATT00001.htm](#)  
[Rio Grande del Norte Land Exchange \(4\).docx](#)

Heads up. I just got off the phone with Commissioner Dunn. He is considering sending out the following press release tomorrow. He got a press inquiry from the Santa Fe New Mexican today re: the forthcoming EO. He expressed his concerns that the EO could sink the exchange because of delays it could cause. I asked him not to send the press release- we are going to visit again in the morning  
Feel free to call me tonight or in the morning

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Hummel, Donna" <[dhummel@blm.gov](mailto:dhummel@blm.gov)>  
**Date:** April 25, 2017 at 7:09:12 PM MDT  
**To:** Amy Lueders <[alueders@blm.gov](mailto:alueders@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rio Grande del Norte Land Exchange (4)

**Donna Hummel**  
**Chief, Office of Communications**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**New Mexico State Office**  
**301 Dinosaur Trail**  
**Santa Fe, NM 87508**  
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----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** **Haase, Kristin** <[khaase@slo.state.nm.us](mailto:khaase@slo.state.nm.us)>  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 4:31 PM  
**Subject:** Rio Grande del Norte Land Exchange (4)  
**To:** "Hummel, Donna" <[dhummel@blm.gov](mailto:dhummel@blm.gov)>

Hi Donna,

Commissioner Dunn tried to reach Director Lueders about the attached.

We are getting calls from the media and Commissioner wants to respond.

We were hoping to wait until tomorrow morning but may need to send this out tonight.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

**Kristin Haase**

*Assistant Commissioner*

*Communications*

New Mexico State Land Office

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**\*\*DRAFT\*\***

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**\*\*DRAFT\*\***



Aubrey Dunn, State Land Commissioner  
State of New Mexico

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 26, 2017

**Contact:**

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(505) 699-1276 (C)  
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***Trump Executive Order Could Kill Plan to Improve Public Access to  
Río Grande del Norte National Monument and Sabinoso Wilderness Area***

**SANTA FE, NM** – An executive order signed today by President Trump instructing the Department of the Interior to review designations of national monuments could effectively kill a proposed land exchange between the New Mexico State Land Office and the Bureau of Land Management that would have consolidated state and federal holdings within the Río Grande del Norte National Monument, creating one of the most preeminent recreational spots in the United States.

Trump's order reportedly instructed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to examine designations dating back to 1996 to determine whether they were within the scope of a century-old law that allows presidents to set aside federal lands without congressional approval.

State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn today said his agency and the BLM had been negotiating an agreement to initiate a land exchange which would have transferred about 41,000 acres of state-owned surface and mineral estate within the monument to the BLM.

In turn, the SLO had selected approximately 78,000 acres of federal surface and mineral estate in Chaves, Colfax, Guadalupe, Lincoln, McKinley, Mora, Otero, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Socorro, and Torrance Counties which are more favorable for economic development.

Commissioner Dunn expressed concern that a delay of 60 days or more from the current time table will push the closing past his first term and possibly put the exchange in the hands of another land commissioner who may not support the trade.

“This exchange is an example of officials on both sides of the aisle, at all levels of government, coming together to do a good thing for New Mexico,” said Commissioner Dunn. “I hope we will be able to move forward sooner than later but I believe that if we can’t finalize the exchange within the next couple of months, it won’t get done.”

The Río Grande del Norte National Monument is an approximately 242,455-acre area of public lands in Taos County, proclaimed as a national monument in 2013 by President Barack Obama under the provisions of the Antiquities Act. The unique setting of the monument provides a wealth of recreational opportunities, such as whitewater rafting, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking and camping.

“Once the exchange was completed, the public would have had greatly enhanced access to explore the monument,” Commissioner Dunn said. “This could have been the Yellowstone National Park of the Southwest.”

A second component of the exchange involved the Sabinoso Wilderness Area in San Miguel County. The BLM owns and manages the 16,030-acre area that offers exceptional opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, backcountry camping, and photography. The BLM could have acquired about 2,000 acres of State Trust Lands within the wilderness area and the State Land Office would have picked up federal lands elsewhere.

“State Trust Lands and federal lands are often intermingled which prevents us from effectively managing our respective resources,” said Commissioner Dunn. “This exchange was significant because the BLM could have fully implemented its objective as a public land manager and the SLO could have fulfilled our mandate which is to generate much-needed revenue for public education.”

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***Oil, gas, and mineral production, ranching and farming, and commercial development on State Trust Lands support public schools, seven universities, New Mexico Military Institute, New Mexico School for the Deaf, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, three hospitals, correctional facilities, water conservation projects, and public building construction and repair.***