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NEWS RELEASE

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BLM, FAA and Grand Junction Regional Airport seek public comment for proposed land transfer to relocate runway

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. June 19, 2015, -- The Bureau of Land Management, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Grand Junction Regional Airport are now seeking public comments on a proposed land transfer and runway relocation.

The airport seeks 188 acres of BLM managed land to relocate its primary runway approximately 650 feet north to enhance public safety and meet FAA design standards.

Public comments are needed for the draft Environmental Assessment evaluating this transfer under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982.

“The Federal Aviation Administration’s Runway Safety Action Team has identified the intersecting runways as a “hotspot” that constitutes a runway risk factor,” said Business and Administration Manager, Amy Jordan, of the Grand Junction Regional Airport. “This runway relocation will provide critical safety improvements for the Grand Junction Regional Airport.”

The land proposed for transfer is immediately north and northwest of the airport and is currently a small portion of what would be the Grand Valley OHV Special Recreation Management Area in the Resource Management Plan awaiting approval. This is an area very popular for off-highway vehicle recreation. The original 720 acre proposal was modified to 188 acres. If the preferred alternative is constructed, the BLM and the Airport plan to construct a general use parking and staging area for public use on BLM managed property, adjacent to 27 ¼ Rd. to help further mitigate the impacts to recreation.

“This project has been in the works for about 20 years.” said BLM Grand Junction Acting Field Manager Wayne Werkmeister. “We understand how important off highway vehicle recreation is in this valley. Now we want to know what the public think about transferring this valuable BLM land used for recreation to help the airport improve safety.”

The project is currently scheduled in the Airport’s Capital Improvement Program to begin in calendar year 2017 and be completed in approximately 10-12 years depending on construction phasing and funding availability.

The draft EA will be jointly reviewed and evaluated by the FAA and BLM. The FAA is the agency responsible for reviewing and approving Federal actions that pertain to airports. The BLM is the agency responsible for reviewing and approving the request for the land transfer to the Airport.

The draft EA is available online for public review electronically at the Airport's website at www.gjairport.com and the BLM's web site at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html>. Printed copies of the document can also be viewed during regular business hours at the following locations: Mesa County Central Library, 443 N. 6th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501; The BLM Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction CO 81506; and the Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority Administration Office, 2828 Walker Field Drive, ATO1, Grand Junction, CO 81506.

Additionally, there will be a series of public meetings to receive comments on the draft EA.

- July 21; 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Grand Junction Regional Airport, Terminal Building, 2nd Floor, 2828 Walker Field Drive, Grand Junction
- July 22; 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Mesa County Central Public Library, 443 N. 6 St., Grand Junction
- July 22; 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., Fruita Community Center, 324 N. Coulson St., Fruita
- July 23; 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Palisade Community Center, 120 W. 8 St., Palisade

Written comments will also be accepted through August 3, 2015 by email to ajordan@gjairport.com or to Amy Jordan, Business and Administration Manager, Grand Junction Regional Airport, 2828 Walker Field Drive, ATO1, Grand Junction, CO 81506.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or any other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request the Airport and BLM withhold personal identifying information from public view, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

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