

6/9/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange

1 message

Shanna Koenig Camuso [REDACTED]

Wed, Jun 8, 2016 at 5:15 PM

To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Dear Kremmling CO BLM,

I support the Summit and Grand County Commissioners' letters on record for the Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange. This looks like a great deal for Summit County Open Space.

Thanks,

Shanna Koenig Camuso
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]





KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Comments on BRV LEX 6 /8 /16

1 message

Blue Heron Forge [REDACTED]
To: sodell@blm.gov, kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Wed, Jun 8, 2016 at 5:05 PM

Bureau Of Land Management – Kremmling Field Office

Attn: Field Manager/ Assistant Field manager

Po Box 68 Kremmling, CO, 80459

Dear all,

These are comments I would like to enter into the public record.

According to reports from the Government Office of Accountability, differences between government appraisal reports and independent appraisal have been off in the millions of dollars

'even among reasonable people' using the same standards.

Decades of efforts to remedy this situation have not evolved well and FLTMA/BLM policy remedies fall far short of fixing the problem with litigation pending.

Also the FLTMA/ BLM requirement for mitigating financial differences in value for Land exchanges to the public is a moot point if the appraisals are so extreme.

The current time line of public scoping and inputs absolutely needs (and should require) *appraisals* to be executed, submitted and available for public comment as part of the conversation. These should be available to all public trustees including an independent third party public review board far in advance of any requirements that would censure or omit public comment and options based on the values. There should be a clearly written standard of public benefit and requirements. This should be a very measurable high standard written by appraisals specialists dealing with assemblage land values and properties that reflect those extraordinary circumstances and values.

The current input system for appraisals can be far too subjective or omit substantially many public value inputs for which metrics need to be calibrated and observed.. Metrics for those values should be established under a review of a standard of public benefit requirement. Thus there should be a specific appraisal standard for most if not all proponent driven land exchanges designed by experts in this specific field to demonstrate public benefit. In addition much of the subjective valuation in existing appraisals systems must be elucidated for reasonable, serious public scrutiny during the comment periods.

In general the appraisal system needs to include and document these economic and intrinsic values for all changes in use and to whom the benefits accrue. This should be public record and come early enough in the process for public and independent comment scrutiny.

Economic Inputs for public uses often missing in appraisals include : biking, walking/ wildlife viewing, antler hunting, fishing, all big and small game hunting, pedestrian and non-pedestrian access through parcels.

Tradeoffs should be compared economically and subjectively in a public format for each set of revisions.

For example;

' Highest and best use' appraisal terms should be set by these third party appraiser and should include all proponent development potentials, scenarios including the assemblage of large properties with or without easements. These appraisal reports should be aired to the public and be part of the open process. If the owner can take a partial or full value tax cut for an easement that easement language and donation it should be made public right away.

The EIS should clearly notify to the public;

if the existing winter habitat is protected under federal/public ownership and it changes to private ownership, is there a permanent easement in place that equally guards habitat and what are all the changes in use permitted for the private ownership. How do water rights change? Does the public loose water rights or usage? Is use as ag water degrading the quality of water returning to the rivers and creeks?

If there is no net gain in wildlife Habitat- regardless of who owns it- why would the public give up the land at all? Simply changing ownership for consolidation may complicate many existing uses.

Values for all public use should be used in the appraisals and given a qualitative value for the measurable and obvious economic returns to the state and region and counties.

Appraisals need to evaluate the net gain(losses) of each *economic* area of the public use for all changes in access and use and importantly quality of uses.

Qualitative values should be used for the wildlife habitat benefit.

Values for whether or not the wildlife is more or less accessible to public it should be clearly spelled out for public comment.

Vulnerabilities to wildlife/fauna need to be spelled out in a general EIS overview and also specifically through the EIS process.

Is wild life/fauna more or less protected with change of ownership and laws that govern water usage and plant diversity on private Ag lands vs public lands.

Easement language, if easements are used, may effect each part of public to private land change. Issues such as whether the public or its wildlife could lose quality water to ag uses vs instream flows and what happens to water quality, should all be part of the very early proposal meetings and literature.

Easement holder and easement language need to be determined and allowance for public comment on these needs to happen.

At all public meetings and for all participants government ,private, un-solicited, and hired, there needs to be a requirement for full disclosure.

All parties taking a position on the exchange, involved tangentially, directly or interested in the exchange through their past work, past and present efforts , and future benefits – implied or consented- should publically disclose all work, present and benefits. This would include private facility use, hunting /fishing privileges/ access privileges, and privileges for friends, neighbors and adjacent land owners to any part of the exchange.

Thank you for registering these comments

Sincerely,

Franz Froelicher....

Franz C. Froelicher jr

[Redacted signature block]



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— 2 —

— 3 —

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KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Fwd: BLM / Blue Valley Land Exchange

1 message

Jim Yust [REDACTED]

Wed, Jun 8, 2016 at 4:37 PM

To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Cc: [REDACTED]

RE: Bureau of Land Management / Blue Valley Land Exchange

Yust Cattle Co./ San Toy Land Co.

Jay Yust
Jim Yust

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Other than Blue Valley Ranch, the Yust Ranch is the most affected private property involved in this exchange. To think that this process could take at least another two years makes us very upset. We do not oppose the exchange if the BLM will continue to manage all lands gained in this exchange in present and historic uses after said exchange, including grazing and irrigated hayland.

Thank you,

Yust Cattle Co.
San Toy Land. Co.



100



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

BOCC comment letter re: Scoping Notice Blue Valley Land Exchange

2 messages

EvaH [redacted]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>
Cc: [redacted]

Wed, Jun 8, 2016 at 3:06 PM

Bureau of Land Management,

Please find attached a Comment Letter from the Summit County Board of County Commissioners re: the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange.

I have sent the original in today's mail.

Please take note of our new web and email addresses

Eva Henson

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
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 **BOCC Scoping Notice Response Letter - 6.7.16 .pdf**
195K

[Redacted]

Thanks, everyone.
tg

[Redacted]
Date: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 3:06 PM
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Subject: BOCC comment letter re: Scoping Notice Blue Valley Land Exchange
[Quoted text hidden]



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

970.453.3402 ph | 970.453.3535 f

208 East Lincoln Ave. | PO Box 68

www.SummitCountyCO.gov

Breckenridge, CO 80424

June 7, 2016

Stephanie Odell
Field Manager
BLM Kremmling District
2103 E Park Avenue, P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO, 80459

Re: Blue Valley Land Exchange Scoping

Dear Ms. Odell,

Through this letter, the Summit County Board of County Commissioners is providing comments on the scoping notice for the Blue Valley (BV) Land Exchange. As you know, the proponents have included a 120-acre property owned by Summit County Government in this exchange proposal. We have also been cooperating partners with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and BLM on managing recreational and natural resources, and have undertaken numerous efforts to support USFS management of the lower Blue River valley in recent years. Our comments relating to this proposal reflect our goals of working in the public interest, providing and maintaining public access, and facilitating efficient management of our public lands.

Summit County Government applauds the benefits identified as goals of the amended BV land exchange. These include improvement to big-game winter range, public ownership of the majority of Green Mountain, and protection of wildlife habitat and scenic resources at the northern edge of the County. We also appreciate the opportunity to leverage our open space resources while advancing open space goals, by transferring property into Federal ownership.

Based on our discussions with the proponent's representatives and our staff's review of the scoping materials, it appears that improvements to recreational resources outlined as amendments to the 2005 proposal may address many of the public concerns. Our support for this project is based upon our understanding that the following amendments will be included in the final decision (excerpted from BLM Website):

- *At Green Mountain (near Parcels 2, 9 and 10) - funding for implementation of road and trail improvements for improved access to Green Mountain and the lower reach of Green Mountain Canyon;*
- *Near the Confluence of the Blue and Colorado Rivers (near Parcel 8) - funding for construction of day use recreational amenities (e.g., picnic benches and wheel chair access improvements at the cottonwood grove, plus, trails, fishing access points, fencing to enclose the animal pasture, and associated irrigation ditch improvements around Parcel 8);*
- *Near the Confluence of the Blue and Colorado Rivers (near Parcel 8) - donation of the seven-acre chevron shaped parcel of land across the river from the cottonwoods;*
- *Near the Confluence of the Blue and Colorado Rivers (near Parcel 8) - funding for implementation of in-stream river and riparian aquatic habitat improvements as shown on the Matrix Design Group and Wildland Hydrology drawings;*
- *Funding to cover operational and maintenance costs for the improvements;*

- o *Public access to the existing boating take-out on Blue Valley Ranch property at Spring Creek Bridge would become permanent with a perpetual easement for floaters' use as a take-out and a rest-stop. Currently, Blue Valley Ranch voluntarily allows access at this location, which lies just upstream of Parcels G and H. Blue Valley Ranch would also provide funding for construction of permanent day use rest-stop amenities here, such as picnic benches and seasonal toilets; and*
- o *Inclusion of Parcel 10 to provide pedestrian fishing access into the canyon.*

Our remaining interests and concerns focus on the recreation-related components of the exchange and related socio-economic impacts. Floating and fishing on the Blue are substantial contributors to the recreation based economy of Summit County in the summer. As such, Summit County will be working with Blue Valley Ranch on the design and long term operation of the revised Spring Creek Take-out and Rest Stop. We will be pursuing safety improvements to the put-in below Green Mountain Dam and will coordinate in the design and operation of the Spring Creek Take-out and Rest Stop; Blue Valley Ranch has agreed to this coordination and the BLM and U.S. Forest Service will be kept informed of this activity.

Summit County was involved in past discussions among stakeholders regarding a management plan for the lower Blue River. BLM, U.S. Forest Service, Blue Valley Ranch and other stakeholders were also involved in that process. It came together to identify options for protecting the fragile riverine environment, providing a safe and quality recreational experience, while respecting private property interests, and addressing safety and sound management of the river resources. Development of a Lower Blue River Management Plan is important to Summit County. Following the BLM's decision process on the Blue Valley land exchange, Summit County requests that BLM join in an effort to re-initiate this river management planning process; land ownership patterns and recreational opportunities will be known and create a baseline for the planning process.

Although many of these issues lie outside the physical borders of Summit County, the public resources of the Blue River are of high importance to Summit County residents and visitors, and represent a substantial economic driver to summer tourism in Summit County. As such, we provide the above issues to BLM for appropriate consideration as part of its NEPA review.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed action. We support the goals set forth for this exchange. If you have questions regarding the comments provided in this letter, please contact Brian Lorch, Summit County Open Space and Trails Department at [REDACTED].

Respectfully,



Thomas C. Davidson
Chairman



Dan Gibbs
Commissioner



Karn Stiegelmeier
Commissioner

cc.: Tom Glass, Western Land Group
Gary Martinez, Summit County Manager
Jim Curnutte, Summit County Community Development Director
Brian Lorch, Summit County Open Space and Trails Director



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Comment on proposed BLM-Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange

1 message

Carl Wood [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 7, 2016 at 10:34 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

My background, life-time resident of Grand County, rancher, miner, taxpayer.

I whole heartily urge the BLM to approve this proposed land exchange for the following reasons:

1. The elimination of "in-holding" parcels is always in the best interest of the public. There is no public value in having public property that is not accessible by the public. There is nothing unique about the property that will be removed from the public holdings.
2. The new foot trail to Green Mountain Canyon provides the public with much improved access to this superb natural feature.
3. The floater exit access below Green Mountain Canyon will improve usability of the river through the Canyon.
4. The new access at the confluence of the Blue and Colorado Rivers provides improved facilities and access to this unique natural feature. The facilities and river improvements that will be constructed by BVR will be great, and could never be built by the government alone.

Thank You,
Carl Wood
[REDACTED]



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

BVR land swap

1 message

Dan Campbell [REDACTED]
Reply-To: [REDACTED]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Tue, Jun 7, 2016 at 8:56 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of my wife and myself in regards to the proposed Blue Valley Ranch land swap.

We have a few concerns. First being that we live in blue valley acres and back up to parcel BLM-G. One of the main reasons that we bought the home that we live in was the fact that it backed up to BLM. My wife and I like to use this piece of land for walking our dogs, shed hunting, etc. I understand that BVR wants to "gift" parcel BLM-K to the BVMD. They can keep it as far as I'm concerned. Nobody makes use of that parcel. I know for a fact that residents other than ourselves use BLM-G. We also feel that our property value will be degraded by the fact that our property will no longer have recreational access out our backdoor.

Another issue that we have are the so called "improvements" to the river access on the upper section of the Blue river. The public already have access to the upper sections of the river by floating. In their presentation to the Blue Valley Sportsman Club, BVR brings up the fact that by opening up access to walk in fisherman, it will give the public access to some of the most pristine areas in Colorado. I completely agree, however, it will not stay that way for long. The area will become littered with fishing line, beer cans, bait containers and who knows what else. Just take a look at any other stretch of the river with public access. The residents of BVA have private access to the river and work hard as stewards of the land to keep our section of river clean and trash free. Which brings me to my next concern. The take out on the other side of the Spring Creek bridge. They want to put in trash cans, a permanent outhouse and other "improvements". I posed the question to BVR of who would be responsible for maintaining the area. Where will the money come from to empty the toilet's vault and removal of the trash. They had no answer. I am willing to bet that in a short amount of time the area will become littered by ravens and other animals scattering trash to the wind. I want to think that folks will take care of the area, but past history prove that that will not be the case.

My last concern is the degradation of the fishing on the river. I feel that with the increased upriver pressure and river traffic that the quality of fishing will suffer. One of the biggest perks of purchasing in BVA is the private fishing. If this proposal is successful and goes through, make no mistake about it, our property values will suffer. If they want to make improvements, then let them go ahead with the improvements at the confluence. Improve an area already open to the public with facilities already in place. I'm all for it. We really don't want it in our backyard.

To summarize, we don't want to lose BLM-G in the swap and we do not want the "improvements" or the public access to the upper sections of the river. Thank you for taking the time to hear us out.

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KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

blue valley land exchange

2 messages

t nelson [REDACTED]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Tue, Jun 7, 2016 at 3:41 PM

s on land exchange with bvr. this land exchange has changed from 10 years ago. i like the fact some of dice hill was removed and the mining claims. xc

t nelson [REDACTED]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Tue, Jun 7, 2016 at 4:24 PM

please disregard first email, my dog put his paw on keyboard and sent it..

as stated below removal of dice hill and mining claim was a good thing. the offering to add a handy cap access at the confluence and improved take-out for kayak is a benefit for public.

where i disagree is "g tract" . there is public access from the river and is currently used by the public. this tract offers good hunting for our youth, fishing access and walking path for bva filing 1 & 2 . many residents who are "the public" hunt here every year. loss of this tract would affect 600 residents not to mention guests.(bv filing 1 @ 89 lots and bv filing 2 @ 150 lots x 2.5 average population per lot = almost 600 person) there is no tract that equals the value of g tract in regards to deer hunting. ie food source, water source, habitat ect. i also wonder who has the water rights on king creek in the draw. the water in this draw is unique. following the flow of the water you see how it comes and goes from the surface back to under ground. in the event bva filing 1 or 2 ever needs an sewer treatment plan/ joint water plant t it would be a logical place for one. i am of the understanding that a lease can be done with government agency's for such use with other governmental agency's . i do not feel this tract should be traded.

on another note and in a general statement the federal gov. needs to modify how land exchanges are done in the west. the average person with average income has no chance of a land swap due to expenses. the current system is not fair to the "un wealthy" person in America.

t nelson blue valley acres

6-7-2016

From: t nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 2:41:02 PM
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov
Subject: blue valley land exchange



10/10/10

10/10/10

10/10/10



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Comment on BLM/Blue Valley Ranch Land Swap

1 message

Andrew Dionne [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Mon, Jun 6, 2016 at 12:52 PM

I write today to object to the proposed land exchange between the BLM and Blue Valley Ranch covering areas within Grand and Summit Counties. If the proposed deal is accepted it will limit public areas and stopping points along the Blue River and force rafters to float excessive distance without respite to avoid trespassing on private lands.

As a rafter and fly fisherman, floating the Blue River below Green Mountain Reservoir is one the greatest experiences Colorado has to offer. In a state where the ability to get away from the crowds seems to diminish every year, placing a raft on the Blue River quickly transports you into picturesque canyons and fields flanked by the Gore Range with minimal sign of civilization. Areas like the Blue River should be given expanded access to the public to allow more people to experience the tranquility they offer. I believe this land swap will have the unintended consequence of reducing travel on and along the Blue River below Green Mountain Reservoir, and for that reason I ask you to reject any land swap that transfers water-front BLM land along the Blue to any entity.



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6/7/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Upcoming Blue River Proposal (DEIS)



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Upcoming Blue River Proposal (DEIS)

1 message

Chuck Pratt [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Mon, Jun 6, 2016 at 11:25 AM

Hello,

I am writing you with my comments for the upcoming Blue River Proposal.

I would first like to say that i strongly oppose the potential loss of 3 public parcels (on the map these are BLM H, G, I) between Spring Creek and Trough Rd. These are very important to river users as rest breaks and lunch spots.

I would also like to suggest that the put in at the current boat ramp be improved.

Lastly, I would like to suggest that Spring Creek Rd be available as a raft put in location.

Thank you for your time,

—
Chuck Pratt
[REDACTED]

TROUT UNLIMITED

June 6,, 2016

Stephanie Odell,
Kremmling Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
2103 E. Park Avenue
PO Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Dear Ms. Odell,

The Colorado River Headwaters Chapter, Colorado Trout Unlimited and National Trout Unlimited (jointly referred to as "Trout Unlimited") have the following comments on the scoping for the Blue Valley Ranch (BVR) Land exchange.

Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's cold water fisheries and their watersheds. Most West Slope rivers experience an altered stream flow regime and the Blue River is an example of this. Trout Unlimited has been working diligently on the West Slope on stream channeling projects to improve stream health in rivers with altered stream flows and have found that they are an important tool in restoring aquatic habitat health. We believe that while the rechanneled stream reach is the direct beneficiary of the channeling work, aquatic life in stream reaches above and below the channeled section also benefit from this work.

As part of the proposed land exchange, BVR is proposing to improve $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of what will be a new public portion of the Blue River near its confluence with the Colorado River. The cost of construction of these improvements is currently estimated at more than \$1 million. In preparing the EIS for the proposed land exchange, we encourage BLM to look at the benefits of the proposed stream improvements very closely, both in terms of improved aquatic habitat in the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section of the Blue River and downstream, in sections of the Colorado River currently administered under BLM's adopted Wild and Scenic River Stakeholder Group Management plan.

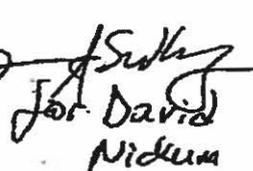
We believe that this portion of the BVR proposal is an important aspect of the land trade and should be given all due consideration.

Sincerely,

Mely Whiting
National TU

David Nickum
Colorado TU

Kirk Klancke
Colorado River Headwaters TU



For David
Nickum



Rob Firth
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

June 5, 2016

Bureau of Land Management – Kremmling Field Office
Ms. Stephanie O’Dell, Field Manager
2103 East Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Comments sent electronically to: kfowebmail@blm.gov and to sodell@blm.gov

RE: Comments on Proposed Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange

Dear Stephanie,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Land Exchange between Blue Valley Ranch and the Kremmling Field Office. I am very familiar with the proposed Exchange and have attended numerous public meetings as well as both open houses / workshops conducted by your office during the scoping process. I respectfully request that you please consider the following:

As I see it, the Exchange offers incredible value to the public in many forms including more definitive boundaries with better and improved public access and new and incredible opportunity for hiking, wildlife viewing / watching, wading and float fishing, hunting for big game, small game and waterfowl, wildlife habitat protection / management and, in the case of the fisheries, some incredible stream improvement and habitat enhancement. These significant gains in terms of high-quality public access and opportunity far outweigh the loss of those specific BLM parcels offered in the exchange in my opinion.

Although both private and public lands offered in the exchange provide quality habitat for a great variety of wildlife, the lands offered to the Blue Valley Ranch are for the most part land-locked parcels unavailable to the general public and difficult to manage for BLM. That said, based on the Blue Valley Ranch management history to date, those parcels offered back to the Blue Valley Ranch will continue to provide the wildlife habitat and open space as they have historically, so I do not see any loss in that regard. If anything, internal fencing can now be minimized allowing for safer and easier movement by wildlife, and ranch management practices which have always been undertaken with wildlife habitat improvement, preservation and conservation foremost in mind, will continue and quite possibly enhance these forfeited parcels.

In contrast, those Blue Valley Ranch parcels offered in the exchange to the BLM not only provide fantastic opportunity, but also “unlock” previously unavailable public lands that were only available to

private landowners. This is an added benefit for the public, as more than just the acquired parcel comes with this Exchange!

Specifically, I would offer the following comments with regards to the involved Parcels and values:

Parcel BVR – 1 This 656.58 acre parcel (A.K.A. Anita Thompson property) will give public access to portions of San Toy Mountain and further, will provide additional access to 480 acres of adjacent BLM lands previously unavailable to the public. An incredible “gain” on behalf of the public of over *1100 contiguous acres* plus a boundary that is rather easily defined limiting possible trespass issues. Public wildlife viewing, big game and small game hunting, year round wildlife habitat plus the traditional agricultural grazing lease are still the primary uses and values associated with this parcel. BLM would do well to acquire this valuable parcel, consider limiting motorized access to existing ranch roads - closing or reclaiming unnecessary roads, removing internal fencing and consider the possibility of limiting / prohibiting winter use if it might conflict with wintering wildlife needs.

Parcel (s)BVR - 2 & 10 plus 3, 4 and 9 – Parcels 2 & 10 comprise part of Green Mountain Canyon access and Parcel 10 provides foot access for the public to the east side of the Blue River on USFS property for hiking and wade fishing. This incredible access will for the *first time*, allow hiking access into the spectacular canyon below Green Mountain Dam. Previous to the Exchange proposal, only those persons floating past the “pinch point” from the upstream access point below the Green Mountain Reservoir Dam could access this stretch of the Canyon and the River. This new public access point offers an incredible and new opportunity for the public!

Parcels 2, 3, 4 and 9 comprise the old Knorr ranch and are traditionally highly valued as formerly private-only big game hunting lands and also offer small game hunting, grand hiking & wildlife viewing opportunity and access to Green Mountain with Parcel 4 providing Williams Peak access and additional hunting opportunity to the east of Hwy 9. These Parcels also provide year-round wildlife habitat and some critical winter range for big game wildlife as well. As such, future management by BLM should include limited motorized access, removal of non-essential internal fencing and perhaps winter closures on those portions identified as critical winter range for big game wildlife.

*Concerns have been mentioned by a relatively few individuals about also gaining west- side access to the Blue River in Green Mountain Canyon. While I do not take issue with the good intentions here, I feel that this narrow ribbon of public USFS land along the Blue River’s west bank within the Canyon poses (invites?!) additional trespass issues with the adjacent landowner further west and in my opinion, only serves to delay and not enhance this Exchange proposal. I fear it would prove costly, time-consuming and inefficient. Better to have quality access and opportunity to only one side of the river than risk slowing up the process over two-sided access.

Parcel BVR – 8 - This offered parcel will receive valuable stream habitat improvement structures and vegetative plantings to approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the Blue River, and greatly improve and enhance the fish habitat here. The proposed stream improvements including Cross Vanes, strategically placed Toe Wood, J-hooks and side channels designed to improve flows, provide shade and security areas for fish, scour and deepen holding water pools, narrow the channel in places to direct flow and improve scouring and sediment transport flows will greatly improve this stretch of water as a trout fishery. These proposed structures are similar to those located on the Blue River within the Blue Valley Ranch property currently – and are time-tested and proven structures that provide the incredible fish habitat

and fishing on the ranch now. Plantings of willows and narrow leaf cottonwood will provide stream-bank stabilization and much-needed shade, further enhancing the habitat for the fishery as well as the public use experience.

Additionally, the Blue Valley Ranch proposes to provide completely developed public access walk-ways (including special-needs fishing piers and access) upon approval of the Land Exchange to BLM. These compacted gravel, wheel-chair accessible trails and strategically placed special-needs accessible fishing platforms as well as the boat take-out makes this parcel among the greatest values to be received by the public and the BLM in this Exchange.

Not to be overlooked with this parcel is the irrigated hay meadow and associated (*and highly valuable!*) water rights to be gained by the BLM. I would hope that BLM would continue with the traditional uses of irrigating and haying this parcel, as well as offering limited grazing as these traditional agricultural practices preserve the water rights usage and still provides tremendous wildlife habitat and use. Should this type of agricultural use or practice be deemed incompatible for whatever reason, I would hope that shallow waterfowl nesting ponds be created within this parcel as waterfowl nesting, brood rearing and associated habitats all benefit greatly from the current irrigation of this parcel and waterfowl hunting is quite popular as the Blue River nears the Colorado River.

*I am aware of a request that access to *both* sides of the Blue River here has been proposed by a relatively small number of individuals and the idea of a foot bridge provided for access across the River in this parcel. Again, not to belittle the intent, I have discussed with local BLM personnel the fact that there is a public land link to the opposite bank from County Road 1 (Trough Road) giving foot access to the opposite bank without the need for an expensive foot bridge here! It is a similar walk distance-wise to the Blue River here as it currently is to fish the Blue River in the Parcel BLM - I. I feel an expensive foot bridge proposal here is absolutely unnecessary – and risks reducing by the same amount, the well-thought-out plans and proposed funding currently earmarked for proposed stream improvements mentioned previously and providing the boat take-out, walk ways and fishing platforms already proposed for this parcel!

Parcels BLM A, B, C, F, G and H – These are among those parcels identified to be exchanged to BVR. These are all relatively small parcels offering limited or no access to the public. Parcels BLM-A, BLM-F, offer limited public access and do provide some hunting opportunities. Parcel BLM-I is accessible to the public from the Trough Road and does provide limited big game hunting opportunities and a short stretch of the Blue River for fishing opportunity, however, the fishing here is quite limited and there have been documented instances of trespass onto Blue Valley Ranch land and citations issued as the amount of fishable stream is relatively small. Parcel BLM G offers limited hunting, fishing and viewing opportunities but no public access is available here as access to this parcel is limited to the owners of private property which adjoin them. Parcel BLM H is only available to float boaters but for the most part is unavailable to the general public.

Parcel BLM J is irrigated hay meadow, and is best put back into private hands. I am unaware of *any* public use of this parcel. Since it does not in any way deter the use of the Reeder Creek and Colorado River public use it is good to be able to offer it as part of this exchange. It certainly seems to be in the BLM's best interest to not have to expend energy and money on parcels such as this one!

In Summary:

On paper, simple math suggests this Land Exchange is a "win" for the public and BLM when you realize a gain of 1,832 acres of public land vs. the loss of 1,489 acres going to Blue Valley Ranch. Yet these figures are somewhat misleading! A more honest evaluation of Gain vs. Loss suggests an even greater "win" here for the public and the BLM! Of the 1,489 acres that will transfer to Blue Valley Ranch, a fairly significant portion of this acreage has been either landlocked or only available to a very small fraction of the public. In contrast, ALL of the offered 1,832 acres by Blue Valley Ranch to the BLM is available for honest and immediate public use – and when the landlocked portion of BLM near BVR Parcel -1 is "added" back into the mix, the ratio of "Gain Vs. Loss becomes something on the order of 2,200+ acres gained by BLM and the public vs. approximately 850 acres lost to public use! The "Gain" number grows too when one considers those lands giving access to USFS lands as well... So, just in acreage alone, this Land Exchange is a great win for the public and the BLM.

Additional "value" offered to the public includes improving the parking and adding the restroom facility for the take out at Spring Creek, the cleaning up of small parcels such as BVR – 7 and BVR – 8B, the creation of a parking lot in BVR – 10, the picnic facilities for BVR – 8.

As a former Public Lands Manager with the Colorado Division of Wildlife in both Grand and Summit Counties for over 20+ years, as well as a former Project Manager for Trout Unlimited in this area for 4+ years, it is quite satisfying to see such an opportunity come along! Of particular interest are private lands adjoining public lands such as those on Green Mountain (BVR-2, 3, 4, 9, and 10) and San Toy Mountain (Parcel BVR-1). The additional offer to improve a section of the Blue River on Parcel BVR – 8 is an added bonus that will provide incredible public fishing and public use and value to this parcel. It is quite apparent that Blue Valley Ranch has made an extremely attractive and enticing offer to the BLM and the public in order to clean up and clarify its holdings! I certainly hope this Land Exchange goes through as I see it as an absolute win for the public!

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this worthy proposal!

Sincerely,

Rob Firth

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*I am not aware of either verbal discussions having taken place with BLM personnel or official letters representing these views having been submitted to BLM for consideration. However, I am aware that such views have been expressed and discussions have occurred within the public realm and I have had personal communication with one individual that does wish to see these additional access requests as a condition of accepting this Exchange which is why I have expressed my concerns to the contrary.

Cc: Ms. Sherry Steuben – Manager, Blue Valley Ranch



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Hot Sulphur Springs Service Center
PO BOX 216 | 346 Grand County Road 362
Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado 80451
P 970.725.6200 | F 970.725.6217

June 2, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
Stephanie O'Dell, Field Manager
2103 East Park Avenue
PO Box 68
Kremmling, Colorado 80459

RE: Blue Valley Land Exchange

Dear Stephanie,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has had an opportunity to review the "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange, Grand and Summit Counties, Colorado" and associated documents. CPW Area Wildlife Manager Lyle Sidener, District Wildlife Managers Rachel Sralla and Elissa Knox, and Conservation Biologist Michelle Cowardin have attended the open house information sessions the BLM has hosted in Silverthorne and Kremmling and spoken with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personnel regarding the exchange.

The Blue Valley Land exchange as proposed would put 1,489 acres of current federal land into private ownership and 1,832 acres of current private and county-owned lands into the public trust as federal lands. This would give the public access to an additional 223 acres of land that is currently privately owned. (This number acknowledges the 120 acre Summit County parcel BVR-9 that is currently proposed to become BLM) There will be a net gain of federal lands of 343 acres. These parcels sit in the Blue River Valley, which is home to a diverse array of big and small game animals, as well as many non-game species and provides critical habitat to those species throughout the year.

CPW supports the Blue Valley Land Exchange. CPW feels that sportsmen and wildlife will benefit from the access and protections created by the land exchange. CPW is in favor of "blocking up" public and private land boundaries when possible. CPW personnel have considered all documents provided by BLM regarding the exchange as proposed and would like to make the following comments and recommendations regarding specific parcels proposed for exchange:



Parcel BVR-1:

This parcel is currently private property. As part of the proposed land exchange, this 656.58 acre parcel would become BLM land. In addition, this would provide legal public access to a currently land-locked 480 acre parcel of BLM land on San Toy Mountain.

Increased legal access to San Toy post-exchange would especially benefit hunters. This area provides important habitat for mule deer and elk throughout the year. In addition, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, pronghorn, black bear, and mountain lion utilize the resources on the mountain during all or part of the year. The entrance of this parcel into the public trust would protect greater sage-grouse (sage-grouse) habitat including mapped breeding, production, and brood-rearing habitat.

CPW encourages continued good grazing practices on Parcel BVR-1 for the benefit of rangeland health and wildlife habitat. The eastern portion of San Toy is in the Engle grazing allotment and the allotment is well managed.

Currently a minimal number of roads exist on these parcels. CPW stresses the importance of this habitat for wildlife, and acknowledges that where road access is decreased, hunter success increases. CPW strongly recommends that no additional roads be created in these parcels post-exchange, CPW also recommends that existing roads be assessed to determine if closure to motorized use would be appropriate. At a minimum, closures to protect wintering deer and elk and breeding sage-grouse in the spring.

Parcels BVR-2, 10:

CPW supports this exchange to improve public fishing access to the Blue River from Hwy 9. CPW recommends maintaining/improving the existing foot trail to the river, but do not support development of new trails, and recommends limiting the trail to foot access only (no bikes or motorized use). CPW personnel have discussed this parcel with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and learned that this management is in line with their vision for the acreage the USFS would acquire in the exchange.

Parcels BVR-2, 3, 9:

CPW supports these exchanges to improve public hunting access on Green Mountain. Hunting is very popular in this area, and the current mixed land ownership is not well marked and very confusing to the public. CPW believes this exchange will improve access and opportunity for hunters. CPW recommends that if the new boundaries are to be marked, that they are posted with signs or markers but not with fences, as fences can be an impediment to wildlife movement.

CPW also encourages the removal of old grazing and boundary fences on/between any of the parcels on Green Mountain. Green Mountain provides year-round wildlife habitat, including



summer and winter range for elk, and summer range, winter range and winter concentration area for mule deer. Bighorn sheep also move through the area. Unmaintained fences are a hazard to these animals, as they can easily become entangled in loose wire. CPW has cooperated with non-profit groups (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Mule Fanatics) on other projects and would be happy to assist in facilitating fence removal efforts.

CPW recommends that post-exchange, no additional roads or trails are to be created in the Green Mountain area. A few existing dirt roads and trails exist, some of which are open to motorized use and others that are not. CPW recommends restricting motorized use to existing roads that are currently open. Additional roads and trails and subsequent recreational use will negatively impact animals on summer and winter ranges.

Parcel BVR-4:

CPW supports this exchange. This parcel is currently posted and has a public road (Williams Peak Road) running through it, which receives heavy public use during summer and fall months. Converting this parcel to BLM will reduce trespass issues and improve hunting opportunity for the public. CPW encourages BVR and BLM to post the new boundary to minimize trespassing.

Parcel BVR-8:

This parcel is a 67.3 acre hay meadow currently owned by Blue Valley Ranch and leased to a neighboring ranch. The ranch irrigates, and cuts and puts up hay from this meadow every year. CPW strongly encourages BLM to keep this meadow in agricultural production through grazing or haying. If this is not feasible, CPW would like to recommend a partnership with BLM to perform a habitat project. When hay meadows are no longer used for hay production, the potential for the parcel to be overtaken by weeds is very high. This puts neighboring properties at risk for noxious weed infestation and reduces the quality of vegetation available for wildlife species. In addition, the parcel has a valuable water right that should be maintained.

The neighboring landowner has placed adjacent land into a conservation easement held by Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust. This land will be conserved for historical use in perpetuity. The acquisition of BLM-8 by the BLM will conserve this land and its important historic and wildlife values.

Post-exchange public access to this stretch of the Blue River would make walk-in bank or wade fishing possible. Public access for such opportunities is currently limited south of Spring Creek Road. The Blue River from Green Mountain dam to the Confluence with the Colorado River holds the Gold Medal Water designation and is popular with anglers who float the river. The confluence of the Blue River, Colorado River and Muddy Creek is a popular spot for waterfowl hunters. Waterfowl hunting access would also be increased in this river stretch and on the hay meadows post-exchange.



Blue Valley Ranch has proposed the funding of in-stream river work to improve the trout fishery in this stretch of the Blue River. If J-Hook vanes, "bankfull" benches, and toewood structures are put into this stretch, the angling experience would be greatly enhanced. This section of the Blue River is wide and shallow with little cover available for trout. The creation of trout habitat would disperse fish through the channel and allow for increased and a wider variety of fishing access than the current float access.

Parcels BLM-A, B, C, F:

These parcels are proposed to become private property in the exchange. Parcels A, C, and F are projections of public land into private property. Hunting trespass is a consistent issue in these spots. Parcel B is land locked by private and inaccessible to the public without permission. The trade of these parcels into private holding would reduce trespass, fencing maintenance, and make the public-private boundary easier for hunters to understand.

BLM-G, H:

These BLM parcels are proposed to become private property in the exchange. These parcels are currently only legally accessible to neighboring private property owners or by floating the Blue River. These parcels provide an opportunity for floating fishermen to beach their rafts and wade fish or get out of their rafts. The Blue River would become all private property from the Grand County/Summit County line south to the lower Blue River takeout post-exchange. This would reduce trespass onto the private land, but wouldn't change the current float access to the Blue. Parcel H is not accessible from Spring Creek Road, and gets very little hunting use. Parcel G does provide opportunity for deer harvest during the hunting seasons. The conversion of these parcels to private land would be considered a loss for the public, but CPW feels this loss is outweighed by benefits to sportsmen and wildlife when the whole exchange is considered.

Parcel BLM-I:

This 396.9 acre parcel is currently held by BLM. It provides hunting access south of the Trough Road and fishing access to a short section of the Blue River. This section of river is popular legal access to the Blue River for anglers. This parcel is problematic with anglers who do not understand the public/private land boundary before fishing the parcel. Local District Wildlife Managers respond to and have written multiple fishing trespass tickets over the years to anglers who fish on the adjacent private land without permission. The exchange of this parcel into private ownership will be a loss to hunters and anglers who utilize this parcel. CPW believes this loss is outweighed by an overall gain to sportsmen. Anglers will experience a net gain of fishing access on the Blue River post-exchange.

Post-exchange, CPW recommends that the public road into Parcel BLM-I be gated and locked. Signage should be posted that the property is in private ownership to deter trespass on the parcel.

Parcel BLM-J:

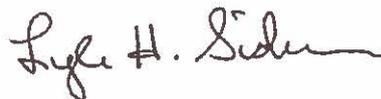
This 89.7 acre parcel was acquired by BLM in a past land exchange. CPW supports the trade of this property back into private ownership. This parcel was a hay meadow pre-exchange, and CPW recommends grazing, haying, or both be conducted on the parcel again.

Parcel BLM-K:

This 40 acre parcel is currently BLM and is proposed to become property of the Blue Valley Metropolitan District. This parcel is currently accessible to the public and the ridge holds a large number of wintering mule deer during the winter months. During the summer months it is a popular dog-walking and motorized recreation area for the residents from the subdivision. The proposed removal of this 40 acre parcel from the 200 acres it is parceled with will block up the private/public land boundary between BLM and the subdivision.

The Blue Valley Land Exchange will be an overall benefit to sportsmen in Colorado and to wildlife. CPW and I look forward to a continued strong working relationship and dialogue about the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange. If you have any further questions, please contact me at [REDACTED], or District Wildlife Manager Rachel Sralla at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Lyle H. Sidener
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc. Ron Velarde, Northwest Region Manager-CPW
Rachel Sralla, District Wildlife Manager-CPW
Elissa Knox, District Wildlife Manager-CPW
Tom Davies, District Wildlife Manager-CPW
Taylor Elm, Land Use Specialist-CPW
Blue Valley Ranch

Blue Valley Land Exchange Comments

June 6, 2016

I respectfully submit the comments that follow in response to the April 19, 2016 request for comments regarding the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange. Having been actively involved with the earlier land exchange proposal prior to the deferral due to the Kremmling Field Office RMP Revision, I am very familiar with the parcels that are included in the exchange. In fact, as a former KFO Assistant Field Manger, I have personally reviewed all of the parcels on the ground and facilitated public reviews of the parcels during the public review period associated with the original proposal. In submitting the comments that follow, I urge you to also review the Denver Post newspaper articles (2) that were written in conjunction with the original exchange proposal and add them to your administrative files if they are not already included. The first article (I do not have a copy of this one) was extremely critical of the exchange and was entitled something like "BLM Sells Public down the River". This article was written from misinformation that had been anonymously submitted to sportswriter Charlie Meyers of the Denver Post. This article did not consider the entire exchange but was primarily focused on the access and fishing on the Blue River, in particular Parcel 'I'. After reading the article, Kremmling BLM Field Manager John Ruhs invited Charlie Meyers to visit the Field Office and take a tour of the exchange parcels. Mr. Meyers took the BLM up on its offer and, after spending time on the ground with the Field Office Manager, wrote a follow-up article that was more objective regarding the exchange. That article was entitled "Landmark Proposal Goes Public" and was dated July 3, 2005. At the time the proposed exchange included some prime big game habitat (BLM public lands) high above and south of the Trough Road, as well as some old mining sites (private parcels) further west and north of the Colorado River. This part of the original exchange was not viewed favorably at the time by either the BLM staff or the public. I feel that the current exchange proposal, which does not include these parcels, is substantially improved as a result of their removal.

Public Lands Access: Access to public lands is one of, if not the, most important issue(s) to the recreating publics. The current exchange proposal adds considerable access to previously inaccessible public lands as well as enhancing existing access:

- **San Toy Mountain Access:** The access that would be provided to this area in conjunction with the exchange would result in high quality hunting opportunities for big game hunters atop and on the flanks of San Toy Mountain. Should the exchange be approved, I urge the BLM to consider managing this area as a walk-in opportunity in order to preserve the hunting quality. There is plenty of motorized access in the Wolford Mountain area (SRMA) for hunters who prefer motorized access. This access would also provide some incredible hiking, viewing, and outdoor photography opportunities for the recreating public from atop San Toy Mountain (another good reason to limit motorized access – could be similar experience to that which was created for the Strawberry SRMA in the KFO RMP Revision).
- **Green Mountain Canyon Access:** The access that would be provided into Green Mountain Canyon represents a very high-quality walk-in fishing access to some incredible Blue River fishing habitat in a canyon setting that is almost wilderness-like (solitude, roadless, etc.) It is different and perhaps slightly more difficult than the walk-in access to the diversion in Parcel 'I' ; however the pools in the canyon hold plenty of large trout, and, the overall experience is likely to exceed that of Parcel 'I' for most users. The Green Mountain parcels also represent addition of high quality upland hiking and hunting opportunities that have previously been inaccessible or of very limited access to the recreating public.
- **Confluence Recreation Area:** This parcel represents an enhanced takeout opportunity as well as enhanced, readily accessible fishing habitat along a meander of the Blue River immediately above the confluence with the Colorado River. This portion of the exchange is a huge plus for the river-recreating publics, as Blue Valley Ranch has committed to providing the resources necessary to enhance the river habitat (and fishing quality), as well as

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provide several improvements/facilities to benefit floaters, kayakers, fishermen, etc. I encourage the BLM to wrap the required NEPA associated with these proposed improvements into the EIS in order to fast-track their development should the exchange be approved. This proposed development would undoubtedly add to recreation facilities already provided by the KFO BLM's river program, such as the recently developed white water park at Pumphouse Recreation Area, while indirectly adding to the local economy.

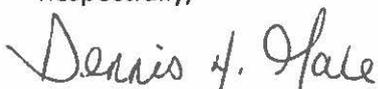
Wildlife Habitat: The proposed exchange adds some wildlife habitat that I believe is of high value to wintering wildlife as well as Greater Sage-grouse. Winter habitat in the valleys and along the ridges of the Colorado and Blue Rivers has become increasingly critical as residential development creep occurs on adjacent private lands in these areas. During severe winters the vegetation on the public lands adjacent to the private parcels is needed for wintering wildlife to survive. The parcels that would be added as part of the exchange would supplement the current winter habitat on the public lands in these areas, as well as ensure that it continues to be managed for wintering wildlife (as opposed to being sold and residentially developed). The parcels that would be exchanged to Blue Valley Ranch would, at least for the foreseeable future, likely continue to be managed for wildlife as well (Blue Valley Ranch has a well-documented history of wildlife management). I believe that there is also at least one Greater Sage-grouse lek either on or near a parcel that would become public land in the exchange? The value of adding a parcel of sage grouse habitat should not be underestimated given the ongoing emphasis on Greater Sage-grouse habitat protection.

Other Resource Considerations: Addition of parcels in the Green and San Toy Mountain areas would also help preserve value of these landmarks as visual resources. They currently offer outstanding vistas and are recognized as part of the natural landscape and view-shed of the Gore Canyon and Green Mountain Canyon areas. They are very visible from U.S. Highway 40 and CO State Highway 9. Adding these proposed exchange parcels to the public lands would help to protect and preserve these view-sheds, as opposed to residential development 'creep' up their flanks should the parcels remain in private ownership (i.e., the residential development on the flanks of the mountain ridge east of the Blue River in Silverthorne).

The exchange as proposed would also serve to 'block up' some of the public lands that are currently interspersed with private parcels, while removing public parcels that are harder to manage, adding to resource management efficiency. This is certainly an added plus for public lands management.

In summary, I feel that the current proposed land exchange is a **considerable** plus for the public and the area's public land resources, and that it would add some unique and diverse resources as well to the area's BLM public lands. I sincerely appreciate the combined efforts in revising the original exchange proposal - the removal of the mining claims as well as the addition of proposed Confluence Recreation Area amenities – this is a much improved proposal!

Respectfully,



Dennis H. Gale

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This ensures transparency and allows for easy verification of the data.

In the second section, the author details the various methods used to collect and analyze the data. This includes both primary and secondary research techniques. The primary research involved direct observation and interviews with key stakeholders. Secondary research was conducted through a thorough review of existing literature and industry reports.

The third section presents the findings of the study. It highlights several key trends and patterns observed in the data. These findings are supported by statistical analysis and visual representations such as charts and graphs. The results indicate a significant shift in consumer behavior over the period studied.

Finally, the document concludes with a series of recommendations based on the findings. These suggestions are aimed at helping organizations optimize their operations and better serve their customers. The author also notes the limitations of the study and suggests areas for future research.



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Land Exchange on Blue River

1 message

Dennis Buechler <wetlandsandwater@comcast.net>

Sun, Jun 5, 2016 at 6:32 PM

To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Dear Managers:

I have owned property in Fraser since 2000 and have fished many streams in the area. I think exchanging the 1/3 mile of access on BLM land on the Blue River for 2 ½ miles of public access upstream from the Blue River confluence with the Colorado River is a great deal for fishermen, and I solicit your support. I have fished that 1/3 mile section a couple of times and was not impressed. It can get crowded in a hurry and does not have many good spots to fish. I also ask that you support the proposed implementation of Rosgen methodologies on the ¼ mile of that stream that has been identified for improvement. Thank you for your consideration. Dennis

Dennis G. Buechler

[REDACTED]





KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Grand & Summit County Land Exchange

1 message

Stan Harwood [REDACTED]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Sat, Jun 4, 2016 at 7:43 AM

To all who may be interested in the above:

As a citizen of Colorado since the early 1960's, and an avid outdoors-person, I have enjoyed activities in the area in question for more than 50 years. It is my opinion that the proposed land exchange and facilities improvements will provide the citizens increased access to recreational activities, and therefore should be approved.

Stanley C. Harwood
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Comment on proposed land exchange

To all who may be interested in the above:

As a citizen of Colorado since the early 1960's, and an avid outdoors-person, I have enjoyed activities in the area in question for more than 50 years. It is my opinion that the proposed land exchange and facilities improvements will provide the citizens increased access to recreational activities, and therefore should be approved.

Stanley C. Harwood
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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PO Box 3236 Winter Park, Colorado 80482



t: 800.903.7275

p: 970.726.4118

f: 970.726.9449



playWinterPark.com

May 25, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Ms. Stephanie Odell- Field Manager
PO Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Dear Ms. Odell,

The Winter Park and Fraser Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to voice support for the proposed land exchange between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Blue Valley Ranch.

Blue Valley Ranch is proposing an exchange that will provide additional recreation acres and access to the Blue River. The increased access to the land and the Blue River along with the public improvements such as accessible fishing platforms, parking areas, in-stream improvements and boat put in/take outs and trails will have a direct positive economic impact to the Grand County business community. The Winter Park & Fraser Chamber markets our community as "Colorado's favorite playground". This proposed exchange will reinforce our brand and the activities we promote throughout Grand County.

The Winter Park & Fraser Chamber appreciates the open process that the BLM has put into place for this land exchange. This exchange is a model for others in that the public will benefit greatly from the project as well as the landowner. It has been a positive experience to be able to be in the loop of information. We applaud the BLM staff for reaching out and being open to the views of the local community.

Thank you again for the opportunity for the Winter Park & Fraser Chamber to voice our support from the Blue Valley Land Exchange. If you have questions please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Ross".

Catherine Ross
Executive Director
Winter Park & Fraser Chamber

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Colorado's favorite Playground





KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Fwd: [BLM Objectionable Words] Lower blue

1 message

Admin, BLM SPAM <blm-spam-admin@doi.gov>
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Thu, Jun 2, 2016 at 11:17 AM

This email was blocked by the spam filter for objectionable words/attachment violation and after review is being released. Please do not reply back to this email as it will go to the Spam box.

IT Security
Continuous Monitoring
BLM, IRM, IT Security Division (WO-840)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brodiak Bear [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, May 13, 2016 at 8:23 AM
Subject: [BLM Objectionable Words] Lower blue
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

To whom it may concern the proposal for the lower blue swap should not happen! Are you not supposed to be working for the people? You want to strip us from the right to float the lower blue one of the most gorgeous stretches in Colorado? Y'all should be embarrassed this is even a consideration. We the people will show up in droves and float irregardless of your selfish decisions! You clowns should be putting in more boat ramps and access not stripping it away from the peons that make this country work! Do your job!

Also why the hell is there not a ranger at the upper c enforcing rules? Why is there not a ranger floating everyday handing out tickets? Why do we have to see shit and tp all over the bank? A little enforcement and a groover would go a long way to keeping the place prestine yet you clowns do nothing! Get it the fuck together! Honestly this is the only damn sate where you don't see BLM enforcing rules and regulations. I have never even had my fishing license checked there let alone had someone tell me to put my pfd on. Y'all are a waste of tax money we the people could enforce the rules better.



6/2/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Land exchange



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Land exchange

1 message

Chris Mckinney [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Wed, Jun 1, 2016 at 6:27 PM

I do not like the idea of this exchange because of the fishing access. If someone is floating this stretch it allows only one spot where a boat can stop and rest or have lunch as the rest will be private. This is a long float and the small areas that are currently blm are nice to be able to stop and rest on. I feel the current layout is the best because it offers more areas for boaters to stop and it helps to have these multiple spots we can potentially stop instead of just one spot where everyone would stop. Thanks for reading, Chris



6/2/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Lower Blue river access



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Lower Blue river access

1 message

Chad Hanson [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Thu, Jun 2, 2016 at 8:18 AM

I am writing to you to ask you not to remove the stopping points for public boaters on the lower Blue river. I am a Colorado native and am saddened by the removal of public access to rivers and good fishing spots in the state. It's a travesty that you have to be rich to fish and those of us without private property are left with less desirable land. Thanks for thinking about the public when making decisions regarding the lower Blue river.
Sincerely, Chad Hanson





KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue Valley Ranch swap

1 message

Sally Butler [REDACTED] >
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Tue, May 31, 2016 at 12:16 PM

Please consider not doing the BLM land swap with Blue Valley Ranch. I am an avid outdoors person, rafter, kayaker, and I fish. The swap is negative for rafters as the BLM will trade away 3 small river properties to BVR. Although small, these properties are the only stopping places for roughly 10 miles of river. They are lunch spots, fishing holes, and just good spots to stretch the legs.

Please do not diminish the recreational possibilities on the Blue River.

Thank you for your time.
Sally Butler

6/1/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Blue Valley exchange



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue Valley exchange

1 message

Rich Newton [REDACTED]

Sat, May 28, 2016 at 9:20 AM

To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Cc: Kirk & Darlene Klancke [REDACTED]

Dear BLM

I have lived in Grand County since 1976 and fished its waters since 1971. I have seen the angling pressure on these waters increase exponentially over the years. Public access to these rivers is essential. The proposed exchange and the stream improvements will greatly increase potential public access from the 1/3 mile which will be lost to over 2 miles gained. I support this exchange.

Rich Newton

Please note that this gmail account is my preferred email.
Sent from my iPad



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May 27, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Dear Committee for the Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange Scoping

I have lived and fished in Grand County for nearly 20 years and am very aware of the crowded conditions anglers often face on the Blue and Colorado Rivers.

As I understand the Blue Valley Ranch land exchange proposal, it will increase the available public fishing on the lower Blue by over 2 miles. I offer my full support for this increase in access. Giving up the small stretch that is currently available on the lower Blue is a great exchange. Numerous times I have tried to fish that area only to find it already taken and I prefer not to crowd myself into someone else's fishing spot.

I also believe that improvements to the Rosgen stream will have a positive impact on river health and fishing.

Sincerely,



Paul Hollrah
Tabernash, Colorado

RECEIVED MAY 31 2016

Page 1 of 1

Received by: [Name]
PO Box 123
City, State, ZIP

Dear [Name],

I have received your letter of the 15th of the month and am pleased to hear from you. I will be in contact with you again soon.

An important note: The [Name] of the [Name] is [Name]. Please contact [Name] if you have any questions. I will be happy to assist you.

I look forward to hearing from you again. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Title]

RE BLUE Valley Ranch Land exchange ⁵⁻²⁴⁻¹⁴

TO: Whom it may concern

My name is Jeff McCann and I have been a landowner in the Blue River Valley for over 16 years. I looked at the details of the land exchange and I have no problem with it.

The land Blue Valley Ranch wants appears to be individual parcels that don't have good access and doesn't appear to be used by many people.

What they are giving in return is as usual more than generous. The access & improvements there offering seems more than fair and it seems more of the public would benefit from the improvements they're proposing so I have no problem with it and believe it should proceed

Yours Truly

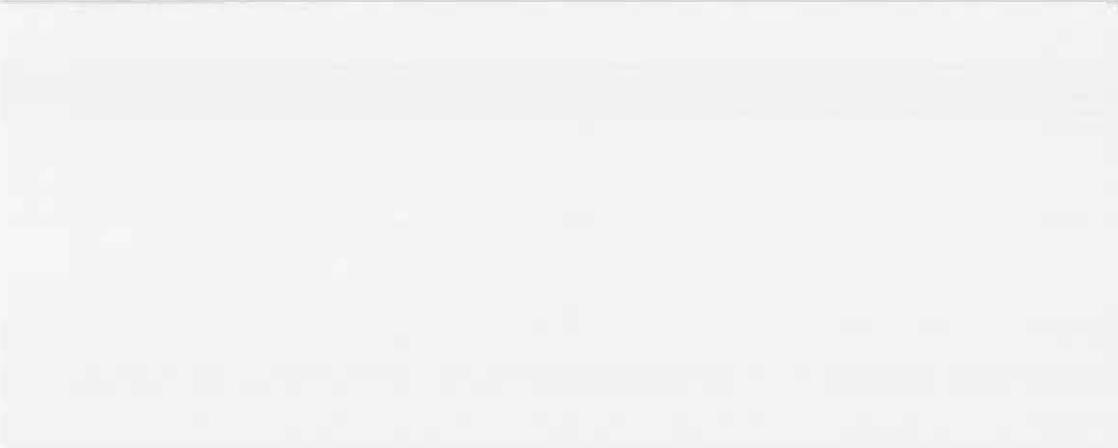
Jeff McCann

RECEIVED MAY 27 2016



The following information is for your information only. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for professional advice. The information is for your information only. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for professional advice. The information is for your information only. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for professional advice.

Very truly yours,
 [Signature]





KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue valley ranch land exchange

1 message

Doug and Karen Moses [REDACTED]

Fri, May 27, 2016 at 11:38 AM

To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Cc: [REDACTED]

5-27-16

BLM Kremmling Field Office

I am writing to express my support for the land exchange currently being proposed between the BLM and Blue Valley Ranch. As long time property owners in the lower Blue River valley we have found Blue River Ranch to not only be good land stewards but also long term friends of the community.

The guaranteed, long term, improved access to the river along with the Blue Valley Ranch funded improvements prove that the Ranch has the best long term interests of the community in mind.

Improving management of land locked parcels at the Ranch and conveying parcels to the BLM allowing for improved management of their areas is a goal that should be supported by all.

Doug Moses

Karen Moses

Summit County property owners at;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



5/27/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Blue Valley Land Exchange



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue Valley Land Exchange

1 message

Laura Snow [REDACTED]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Fri, May 27, 2016 at 10:22 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

The Blue Valley Ranch made a presentation at our annual homeowners meeting and for the most part I do not have a problem with the Land Exchange. However, there is a parcel BLM - G which lies between Blue Valley Acres 1 and 2. I would like this section to either remain BLM land or possibly donate to Blue Valley Acres 1 and 2 as joint tenants and it be open space between the two subdivisions. This small section would not detract from the Blue Ranch continuity after the Land Exchange but would provide open space to the two subdivisions if it were donated allowing habitat maintenance for the wildlife but private access to the the two neighborhoods. At a minimum, I would like it to remain BLM if not donated to Blue Valley Acres 1 and 2.

Laura Snow, CPA, MBA
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad



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May 26, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Honorable Review Committee for the Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange Scoping,

I have lived in Grand County and fished in Grand County for over 45 years. This experience on rivers like the Blue and the Colorado give me an understanding of how many anglers there are and how little public access there is.

The Blue Valley Ranch land exchange proposal which will increase the miles of public fishing access has my full support. I have fished the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the Blue River on the BLM land that will be lost to public access in the trade. I was lucky enough to arrive at this bend in the river with no other anglers present. My luck quickly changed as a party of two fishermen arrived and moved into the hole that I was fishing. Their bold move was dictated to them because I was in the only hole on the river on that section of BLM land. When the 3rd party arrived and proceeded to crowd in, I left. To sacrifice this $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Blue river access and gain 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of access to better fishing between the canyon and the confluence area is a huge gain for the anglers in Grand and Summit counties and all of Colorado.

In your scoping considerations, I ask that you support the loss of the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of river access in lieu of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of public access gained. Please give equal consideration to the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of Rosgen stream improvement on the confluence area of the Blue River that will improve fishing and the river health.

Sincerely,



Kirk Klancke
Grand County Resident and Angler



Sperandio, Annie <asperandio@blm.gov>

Fwd: Blue Valley Land Exchange

1 message

Senor, Monte <mсенor@blm.gov>
To: Annie Sperandio <asperandio@blm.gov>

Thu, May 26, 2016 at 6:47 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kathleen Duncan [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, May 26, 2016 at 6:44 AM
Subject: Blue Valley Land Exchange
To: "mсенor@blm.gov" <mсенor@blm.gov>

To Monte Senor:

The Blue Valley Land Exchange should proceed on the basis that it is in the Public's best interest and is weighted in favor of public land use benefits in my opinion. Regardless of exchange equity issues, a portion of the Public will object to any exchange as a matter of principle that no lands should ever exit the public domain, notwithstanding a favorable outcome. I believe this philosophy is short-sighted and would deprive the Public of a net gain, which would be the case should this exchange not proceed.

Sincerely,
Hamilton R. Duncan
[REDACTED]

—
Monte Senor
Assistant Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459
(970)724-3002 FAX (970)724-3006



الجمهورية العربية السورية
الوزارة العامة للتعليم والبحث العلمي

مركز البحوث والدراسات
دمشق - سورية

تاريخ: ١٥/١٠/٢٠٢٤
رقم: ١٢٣٤٥٦٧

السيد/ة:
موضوع:
الرجاء الرد على هذا البريد الإلكتروني في موعد لا يتجاوز ١٠ أيام عمل من تاريخ استلامه.

معرف الوثيقة:
تاريخ الإصدار:
موقع النشر:
الناشر:
الطبعة:
حقوق النشر محفوظة © ٢٠٢٤



Sperandio, Annie <asperandio@blm.gov>

Fwd: Blue valley Land Exchange

1 message

Senor, Monte <msenor@blm.gov>
To: Annie Sperandio <asperandio@blm.gov>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 3:29 PM

Please print for file

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Larry Lunceford [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, May 25, 2016 at 9:15 AM
Subject: Blue valley Land Exchange
To: msenor@blm.gov

Monte Senor
USDOI Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, Colorado 80459

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my support for the Blue Valley Land Exchange.

The net increase in public access for widely varied recreational purposes as well as increases in wildlife habitat and stream improvements will yield great benefits for generations to come. Placing most of Green Mountain in the public domain is critical in that regard. Were it to remain in the private sector, it would be developed at some point in the future.

Increased access to the canyon below Green Mountain damn is another huge positive this exchange provides for the public. I feel this area should be carefully managed, post-exchange, to ensure it remains in its current pristine, primitive state.

Improvements in fisheries habitat with mobility impaired access points and boat pull outs at the north end of the project are very desirable improvements. In this area, I feel it is important to maintain the historic agricultural and ranching traditions, preserving them for future users to experience whenever possible.

I appreciate the complete thinking and the vision that have gone into this process.

Respectfully,
Larry Lunceford

Larry Lunceford
[REDACTED]

—
Monte Senor
Assistant Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Land swap concern

1 message

Terri Ell [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 2:49 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

The public will really lose in a big way if the BLM and Blue Valley Ranch (BVR) swap land. Although small, these properties are the only stopping places for roughly ten miles of river. The places are lunch spots, fishing holes, and a great place to stop and stretch the legs. Please Stop the Swap.

Thanks for considering my request,

Terri Ell
[REDACTED]

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the tradewinds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

Mark Twain
[REDACTED]



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5/25/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - proposed land swap between the BLM and Blue Valley ranch



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

proposed land swap between the BLM and Blue Valley ranch

1 message

Janis Taylor [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 8:45 AM

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land swap between the BLM and Blue Valley Ranch. I would like to access these stopping points on the Blue River now, and allow public access to future generations.

—
Janis Taylor

[REDACTED]





KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue Valley Land Swap

1 message

Roth, Chandler [REDACTED]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 11:43 AM

Hello Sir or Ma'am,

I would like to comment on the proposed land swap of lands along the Blue River near Kremmling. The owner of Blue Valley Ranch has been trying to acquire this last sliver of property for many years in order to complete his utter domination of the Blue River Valley. This land swap would fulfill that dream and would serve to lock the PUBLIC out of said river valley. The fact that he is willing to improve areas further downstream in order to limit the ability of people to exit their watercraft at any point in his perceived kingdom illustrates how badly he wants this to go through. I am very much opposed to this land transfer and Mr. Jones should learn to share and not just with his millionaire and billionaire investor friends but with all of the people of Colorado. The fact that the BLM and the Corps of Engineers has been complicit in Mr. Jones manipulation of the waterway to endanger boaters and encourage accidents only illustrates their contempt for the people they are supposed to represent. Our forefathers moved away from England and Europe to get away from this type of behavior from the ultra-wealthy and we as Americans should resist any attempt by them to monopolize our natural resources that should belong to everyone rather than an elite few.

Chandler Roth
[REDACTED]



5/24/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Blue River Land Exchange:



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue River land Exchange:

1 message

KYLE BURRIS [REDACTED]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Tue, May 24, 2016 at 10:32 AM

Please count me as strongly against the Blue River land exchange as currently proposed.

It is very important to have dispersed parcels for rafters and kayakers and fisher folk to stop along the river.

Thank you,

Bryan Kyle Burris

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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5/24/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Horrible plan



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Horrible plan

1 message

pbkluther [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 5:20 PM

Please support local fishing

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone



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**CUTTHROAT
ANGLERS**

Monte Senor
USDOI Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, Colorado 80459

PO BOX 2540
400 BLUE RIVER PKWY
SILVERTHORNE, CO 80498

T: 970.262.2878
F: 970.262.2892

May 17, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam:

We support the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange. It will provide a net increase in public access. It will also provide an increase in important big game winter range on public lands. Further, this exchange will preserve almost all of Green Mountain as public lands. This will prevent future real estate development and preserve this area in its primitive state for future generations to experience.

Increased access to the Canyon below Green Mountain Dam is a huge public benefit this exchange provides. This, coupled with improve pull outs, rest areas provided, handicapped access for mobility impaired fisherman, all are benefits to the public. we believe these benefits greatly outweigh any loss in walk and wade fishing acces

We also feel that the irrigated agricultural usages along the river should be preserved whenever possible as they are integral part of the history and tradition of the lower Blue Valley.

Thanks for all the good and thoughtful work that has gone into this process.

Sincerely,


James H. Buckler





FOLBR Board of Directors

John Longhill, President
John Fielder, Vice President
Signe Ferguson, Treasurer
Sharon Sweet, Secretary

Currie Craven
Jim Donlon
Bob Girvin
John Hillman
Barbara Rapp
Sher Steuben

May 10, 2016

Attention: David Boyd, BLM Public Affairs Specialist
Proposed BLM Blue Valley Land Exchange

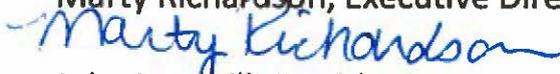
Friends of the Lower Blue River (FOLBR) is a non-profit advocacy group whose mission is "To sustain and protect the traditional agricultural and rural character, promote the safety of the residents, livestock and wildlife and maintain the environmental integrity of the Lower Blue River Valley through education, collaboration and community involvement." FOLBR would like to go on record in support of the proposed *Blue Valley Land Exchange*

RECEIVED MAY 8 0 2016

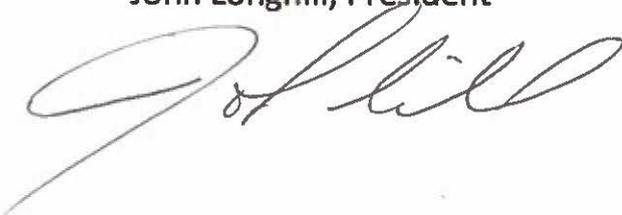
The proposed land exchange will benefit the Lower Blue River Valley. The reorganization of private and public land parcels will enable better agricultural and wildlife management. The public will benefit from enhanced recreational opportunities, and better designed facilities for boating and fishing will help maintain environmental integrity of the riparian area along the Blue River and of the adjacent land. In addition to offering improved land management, the exchange will open more than two miles of river and river front for public use in exchange for 0.3 of a mile that is currently available.

Sincerely,

Marty Richardson, Executive Director



John Longhill, President



DR. RICHARD H. O'CONNELL

SILVERTHORNE, COLORADO 80498

3744 CHRISTY RIDGE ROAD SEDALIA, COLORADO 80135

303- 229-3850 roctrout@hotmail.com

May 17, 2016

SUPPORT FOR BLUE VALLEY LAND EXCHANGE

I would like to offer my support for the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange. As part-time resident of Summit County and head of household of an avid fly-fishing family, I have been impressed with the long-term development of the area and the cooperation between landowners and the Bureau of Land Management. For example, the improvements of Highway 9 to increase motorist safety and the access for wildlife are major accomplishments.

The specific land exchanges that are currently proposed, would give the public improved access to hunting and fishing as well as provide additional picnic, restroom, and handicapped facilities. I wholeheartedly support the Blue Valley Land Exchange and strongly encourage your approval.

Sincerely,



Richard H. O'Connell

Douglas County School District Superintendent, retired

RECEIVED MAY 20 2016



10/10/10

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The following information is for internal use only and should not be distributed outside the organization. It contains sensitive data and is subject to the organization's information security policy.

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Page 1 of 1

$$E = mc^2$$

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May 16, 2016

Monte Senor

USDOJ Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office

P.O. Box 68

Kremmling, Colorado 80459

Re: Proposed Land Exchange, Blue Valley Ranch and BLM

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed land exchange between Blue Valley Ranch and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. At present there are BLM parcels that sit within the Ranch's boundaries, and there are Ranch properties that are surrounded by BLM lands. Some of the BLM parcels are surrounded by private land and are inaccessible to the public. Others are not accessible to the public because entry would require crossing private property. The proposed exchange will address this by consolidating both public and private lands so the BLM and Blue Valley Ranch can better manage them. Under the proposed exchange, nine parcels of Federal land managed by BLM totaling 1,489 acres will be traded to BVR in exchange for nine parcels of private land totaling 1,832 acres

The land exchange will create new opportunities for public access to both the river and adjacent land. Blue Valley Ranch has proposed a series of design features that it will pay for as part of the exchange. These proposed recreational design features include improvements such as: stream habitat enhancements near the confluence of the Blue and Colorado rivers with wheelchair accessible fishing access; creation of a picnic area and a walking trail; a new take-out for rafts and kayaks on the Blue River near the Colorado; a seasonal take-out and rest stop at Spring Creek Bridge on the Blue River; and a recreation trail into the lower Green Mountain Canyon north of Green Mountain Reservoir. Having attempted to travel into and out of the Canyon, this benefit alone leads me to support the exchange.

Blue Valley Ranch will benefit from the land exchange by gaining ownership of parcels located within existing Ranch property, and by giving lands currently surrounded by BLM and not adjacent to the Ranch back to the BLM, thus simplifying ownership and providing for better management by both entities.

In order for any land exchange of this magnitude to work it must include benefits to both parties, and in the case of the BLM those benefits must be to the general public. Some might question how trading away public lands can benefit the public. However gaining even more acreage in exchange and increasing the overall public access to fishing and hunting in this area, along with the benefits to other water users such as boating, more than offset the loss of any current public property. In considering the overall land exchange I believe the overall benefits from what is gained outweigh the loss of other parcels and access.

For the reasons outlined above, I support the proposed exchange.

Sincerely

Bill Linfield,



Silverthorne, CO

RECEIVED MAY 19 2016

5/17/2016

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail Comment



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Comment

1 message

ecklundc1 [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Tue, May 17, 2016 at 4:08 PM

As a life long angler, I fully support the BVR land exchange. I especially like the new access to the Blue River and the access to the 1,100 acres off trough road.

Additionally the rest stop take out is a huge benefit. Thanks.

Carl Ecklund

Frisco

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 6.



May 16, 2016

Monte Senor

USDOI Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office

P.O. Box 68

Kremmling, Colorado 80459

Re: Proposed Land Exchange, Blue Valley Ranch and BLM

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed land exchange between Blue Valley Ranch and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. At present there are BLM parcels that sit within the Ranch's boundaries, and there are Ranch properties that are surrounded by BLM lands. Some of the BLM parcels are surrounded by private land and are inaccessible to the public. Others are not accessible to the public because entry would require crossing private property. The proposed exchange will address this by consolidating both public and private lands so the BLM and Blue Valley Ranch can better manage them. Under the proposed exchange, nine parcels of Federal land managed by BLM totaling 1,489 acres will be traded to BVR in exchange for nine parcels of private land totaling 1,832 acres

The land exchange will create new opportunities for public access to both the river and adjacent land. Blue Valley Ranch has proposed a series of design features that it will pay for as part of the exchange. These proposed recreational design features include improvements such as: stream habitat enhancements near the confluence of the Blue and Colorado rivers with wheelchair accessible fishing access; creation of a picnic area and a walking trail; a new take-out for rafts and kayaks on the Blue River near the Colorado; a seasonal take-out and rest stop at Spring Creek Bridge on the Blue River; and a recreation trail into the lower Green Mountain Canyon north of Green Mountain Reservoir. Having attempted to travel into and out of the Canyon, this benefit alone leads me to support the exchange.

Blue Valley Ranch will benefit from the land exchange by gaining ownership of parcels located within existing Ranch property, and by giving lands currently surrounded by BLM and not adjacent to the Ranch back to the BLM, thus simplifying ownership and providing for better management by both entities.

In order for any land exchange of this magnitude to work it must include benefits to both parties, and in the case of the BLM those benefits must be to the general public. Some might question how trading away public lands can benefit the public. However gaining even more acreage in exchange and increasing the overall public access to fishing and hunting in this area, along with the benefits to other water users such as boating, more than offset the loss of any current public property. In considering the overall land exchange I believe the overall benefits from what is gained outweigh the loss of other parcels and access.

For the reasons outlined above, I support the proposed exchange.

Sincerely

Bill Linfield,

Silverthorne, CO





KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue Valley Land Exchange

1 message

Ryan Kloberdanz [REDACTED]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 2:03 PM

Hello,

I am writing to oppose the Blue Valley Land exchange. As an avid fly fisherman and frequent Lower Blue River floater, this exchange throws up several red flags.

"The proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange would potentially benefit the public by providing increased public access for hunting and fishing as well as important wildlife wintering areas."

I would like to know what or how this improves the fishing access for the public? The land that is gained for the public in the exchange (BVR 9 and 2 specifically) is nothing but mountain. If you've ever been in the canyon you know that the access from the east side is zero to none because of canyon walls. Granting foot access to the east side of the river gives the public the exact same amount of access to the east side of the river that it currently has, which is zero.

Also, exchanging land along the river eliminates the public's access down river of Spring Creek road. The last BLM land (plot H) along the float is 2.5 miles downstream from Spring Creek Road, which allows the public one more stop before pushing the next 7 miles of already private land to the take out. Asking floaters and kayakers to go for 10 miles without any access to take a break seems crazy.

In conclusion, I believe that no one should own a river. I completely understand that it is Colorado law that allows for it, but I do not agree with this practice. The proposed exchange gives an already giant land owner ownership of basically all of one of the gems of Colorado boating and fishing.

Please do not consider this exchange for the above reasons. And thank you for listening.

Ryan Kloberdanz



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

BVR and BLM Blue River Land Exchange

2 messages

brett wamsley [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Thu, May 12, 2016 at 9:29 PM

To whom it may concern-

Please do not go forward on this land swap. As an avid boater, who frequently floats this stretch of river, the proposed land exchange takes away all public stopping points for miles of river. This negatively impact a float experience- no place to stop and have lunch or take a break. It severely limits the publics ability to enjoy a recreational resource. I hope you will not go forward with this swap.

Sincerely,
Brett Wamsley

KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>
To: Stephanie Odell <sodell@blm.gov>, Annie Sperandio <asperandio@blm.gov>

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 8:46 AM

Visitor Information Services

Bureau of Land Management

Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459
970-724-3000

[Quoted text hidden]





KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Comment: Strategically, Safely and Sensitively Manage, Preserve, Distribute, Access and Use the Blue Valley Land Exchange Values So That All Win.

2 messages

Strauss Richard [REDACTED]
To: BLM Kremmling <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Thu, May 12, 2016 at 4:41 PM

Comment:

Strategically, Safely and Sensitively Manage, Preserve, Distribute, Access and Use the Blue Valley Land Exchange Values So That All Win.

It is in the wildlife, environment, Blue Valley Ranch, Grand and Summit Counties, Colorado, United States of America and public's interest and values for a more comprehensively balanced Blue Valley Land Exchange to provide, as illustrated and described at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/32973405@N05/albums/72157622069329517> , throughout the Lower Blue Corridor, from the Green Mountain Reservoir dam parking area to the Blue and Colorado Rivers' confluence, with access points, walk-over access footbridges, put-in and take-out vessel access, walk-in access paths, walk- and boat- through access fences, interpretive/guide/access point signage, riparian and aquatic restoration, modification and rehabilitation, portage area/emergency repair/medical access and communications provisions AND/OR a mutually beneficial private- and public-interest behavior code cooperatively agreed on by public and private land- and water- owners and users to strategically, safely and sensitively manage, preserve, distribute, access and use the exchange values so that All Win.

For fuller understanding, please read the text accompanying the Title and individual images and note that there are 2 pages of photos.

Richard Strauss
private and public land- and water- owner and user
Arvada, Colorado

KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>
To: Stephanie Odell <sodell@blm.gov>, Annie Sperandio <asperandio@blm.gov>

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 8:48 AM

Visitor Information Services

Bureau of Land Management

Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459
970-724-3000

[Quoted text hidden]



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Comment: Spring Creek West Side Access Point

2 messages

Strauss Richard [REDACTED]
To: BLM Kremmling <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Thu, May 12, 2016 at 4:41 PM

Comment:
Spring Creek West Side Access Point

It is in the wildlife, environment, Blue Valley Ranch, Grand and Summit Counties, Colorado, United States of America and public's interest that the Blue Valley Land Exchange provides, as illustrated and described at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/32973405@N05/albums/72157667938927315> , for a permanent Spring Creek access easement that includes walk-in access on the west side of the Lower Blue River, complementary and in addition to the east side Parcel 10 access easement, extending to/from the Green Mountain Canyon's USFS parcel and the Spring Creek bridge access point for wade fishing, hiking, photography, watchable wildlife viewing, etc., as well as for a vessel walk-through put-in/take out.

Complementary access via the Spring Creek Access Point on the west side and Parcel 10 Access Point on the east side of the Lower Blue River traveling south upstream into Green Mountain Canyon, and then to the upper canyon's west side parking at the dam, also provides for a more strategically, safely and sensitively distributive access to better manage the exchange's increased human impact to the canyon, protect the canyon's wildlife conservation interest and values and preserve the canyon's overall environment interest and values so that All Win.

For fuller understanding, please read the text accompanying the photo album's Title and individual images.

Richard Strauss
private and public land- and water- owner and user
Arvada, Colorado

KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>
To: Stephanie Odell <sodell@blm.gov>, Annie Sperandio <asperandio@blm.gov>

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 8:47 AM

Visitor Information Services

Bureau of Land Management

Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459
970-724-3000

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Town of Kremmling

P.O. Box 538
Kremmling, CO 80459-0538

970/724-3249
970/724-9409 Fax

May 5, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Office
PO Box 68, 2103 Park Avenue
Kremmling, CO 80459

Subject: Blue Valley Land Exchange

To whom It May Concern:

The Board of Trustees for the Town of Kremmling met on May 4, 2016 and watched a comprehensive presentation from Blue Valley Ranch in regards to the proposed Land Exchange with the Bureau of Land Management.

The Board of Trustees were enthused by the project and had no objections to the proposal. Following the discussion and presentation, the Town Board voted unanimously to support the proposed land exchange in its entirety.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Clark
Mayor

Mark Campbell
Town Manager

RECEIVED MAY 13 2016



TOWN and COUNTRY INSURANCE, INC.



P.O. Box 1060
Kremmling, CO 80459
(970) 724-0505 (ph)
(970) 724-0507 (fax)
(888) 225-6311

P.O. Box 2115
Granby, CO 80446
(970) 887-3030 (ph)
(970) 887-3337 (fax)
(877) 887-3131

May 10th, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
Attn. David Boyd
2103 E. Park Avenue
PO Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Re: Blue Valley Land Exchange

Dear David,

I am writing to you to express my support of the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange. I am a local business owner with offices in both Kremmling and Granby and believe the proposed exchange will have a substantial benefit for our community. Our community will receive an additional 340 acres, access to over a mile of the Blue River frontage, a new take-out for raft and kayaks, wheelchair accessible fishing, and trails and parking areas. In addition to the above benefits the public will also receive access to the big game winter range as well. I believe the land exchange will provide opportunities the public has never had and in turn will improve commerce as well, coupled with the Highway 9 project that will be completed later this year I see this land exchange as imperative for the long term goals of our community and region and will have far reaching benefits. I believe Blue Valley Ranch is being more than equitable in the exchange and I am very much in favour of approval of the exchange.

Sincerely,

Thad Scholl
President
Town and Country Insurance, Inc

May 10th, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
Attn. David Boyd
2103 E. Park Avenue
PO Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Re: Blue Valley Land Exchange

Dear David,

I am writing to you to express my support of the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange. I was born and raised in the Kremmling area and I am still a full time resident of Grand County. I believe that the proposed exchange is truly a win-win situation for both parties with the general public as the clear winner in this exchange. Not only will the public be receiving an additional 340 acres, but they will also be receiving access to over a mile of the Blue River frontage, a new take-out for raft and kayaks, wheelchair accessible fishing, and trails and parking areas. In addition to the above benefits the public will also receive access to the big game winter range.

Having grown up on a ranch that my parents still own and operate, I can empathize with Blue Valley Ranch not wishing to have a public access in the middle of the ranch due to the numerous problems this entails based upon personal experience.

I see nothing but positive outcomes for all parties involved so once again I am very much in favour of the Blue Valley Land Exchange.

Sincerely,



Thad Scholl

RECEIVED MAY 13 2016





BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

E. JANE TOLLETT

District I, Tabernash 80478

MERRIT S. LINKE

District II, Granby 80446

KRISTEN MANGUSO

District III, Kremmling 80459

[REDACTED]
EDWARD T. MOYER
Interim County Manager
ALAN N. HASSLER
County Attorney

May 10, 2016

Bureau of Land Management - Kremmling Field Office
Attn: Ms. Stephanie Odell – Field Manager
PO Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Sent via regular mail and email kfo_webmail@blm.gov and sodell@blm.gov

Re: Grand County comments on Blue Valley Land Exchange

Dear Ms. Odell,

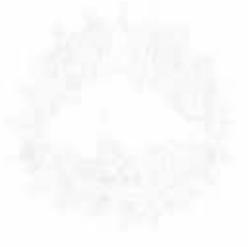
The Grand County Board of County Commissioners appreciates the opportunity to comment on Blue Valley Land Exchange – Environmental Impact Statement and Scoping Process and respectfully requests the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) consider this letter as our formal comments.

We applaud Blue Valley Ranch's diligence in listening to public comments provided during the previously proposed land exchange, especially with regard to BLM Parcel I, and coming back to the table with a proposed land exchange that we believe is a win-win and provides benefit to the public interests of both our citizens and visitors. In the end, the public gains approximately 343 acres of public land. However, Blue Valley Ranch specifically addressed previous public comment by now providing public access to nearly 1 mile of Blue River near its confluence. BVR Parcel 8a is the property provided to BLM in lieu of the BLM giving up .3 miles of Blue River accessed off County Road 1 – Trough Road within BLM Parcel I. In addition, Blue Valley Ranch is providing walk-in access to approximately 1.6 miles of Blue River in the canyon below Green Mountain Reservoir and other public property described below.

The proposed public improvements (in-stream fishery improvements, accessible fishing platforms, boating put-in/take-out, trails, parking areas and day use areas) within BVR Parcel 8a will provide a tremendous benefit to the public and will likely result in a direct economic benefit

[REDACTED]

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: ...
FROM: ...
SUBJECT: ...

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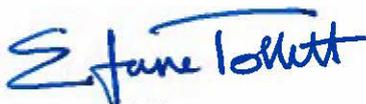
to the Town of Kremmling. We have been provided a copy of the current BLM Access Easement to the existing public land near the confluence and understand it allows for permanent access to BVR Parcel 8a, as well. Perfecting a public high water mark easement now or in the future on the west bank of the Blue River along the common boundary between BVR Parcel 8a and San Toy Land Company would eliminate any future trespass issues from wade fisherman in this section, as the property line is depicted to be the middle of the river.

BVR Parcel 1 provides nearly 657 acres of walk-in hunting and recreational property on the north east side of San Toy Mountain, which is contiguous to and provides access to another 480 acres of public property on its west boundary. In total, the public would have access to over 1,130 contiguous acres access off of County Road 1 – Trough Road.

BVR Parcel 10 (including the adjacent access trail into the canyon) and BVR Parcel 2 provide both approximately 1.6 miles of angler walk-in access to the Blue River canyon below Green Mountain Reservoir previously accessible via boat, and nearly 622 acres of additional walk-in hunting and recreational property and access to Green Mountain (not the reservoir). Downriver from BVR Parcel 10 at the County Road 10 - Spring Creek Bridge, Blue Valley Ranch is also providing a permanent boating rest stop, take-out, seasonal toilet and parking area. We assume Blue Valley Ranch will be providing an easement to make this “permanent” as proposed. Likewise, we appreciate BLM retaining the public section of Colorado River adjacent to BLM Parcel J currently accessed via Reeder Creek.

To summarize, the Grand County Board of County Commissioners fully supports the Blue Valley Land Exchange. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this land exchange. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Edward Moyer at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



E. Jane Tollett
Chair



Kristen Manguso
Commissioner

Merrit Linke
Commissioner

Cc: Ms. Sherry Steuben – Manager, Blue Valley Ranch

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Third block of faint, illegible text.

Fourth block of faint, illegible text.

[Handwritten signature]
[Faint text below signature]

[Handwritten signature]
[Faint text below signature]



Sperandio, Annie <asperandio@blm.gov>

Fwd: Fw: public comment on federal register

1 message

KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>
 To: Annie Sperandio <asperandio@blm.gov>

Wed, Apr 20, 2016 at 11:00 AM

Visitor Information Services

Bureau of Land Management

Kremmling Field Office
 2103 E. Park Avenue
 P.O. Box 68
 Kremmling, CO 80459
 970-724-3000

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jean Public [REDACTED]
 Date: Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 8:14 AM
 Subject: Fw: public comment on federal register
 To: monte_senor@fws.gov, vicepresident@whitehouse.gov
 Cc: kfo_webmail@blm.gov, SIERRA SIERRA CLUB <INFORMATION@sierraclub.org>

DONT ALLOW THIS. THAT FEDERAL LAND IS WORTH PLENTY AND THIS ALLEGED SWAP IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE BLM TO ALLOW. BLM BTW IS A KNOWN BRIBE TAKING AGENCY. YOU HAVE TO WATCH WHAT THEY DO VERY VERY CLOSELY BECAUSE THEY HAVE TAKEN BRIBES IN THIS AGENCY IN THE PAST. THE WILDLIFE LIVING IN PEACE ON THE NATIONAL LANDS WILL BE SEVERELY DISRUPTED BY ALLOWING A PRIVATE PROFITEERS TO USE IT FOR GRAZING ALL OF A SUDDEN AND THEN KILLING THE WILDLIFE THAT LIVES ON THE NATIONAL LAND. YOU HAVE TO WATCH PRIVATE DEALS LIKE THIS. THEY ARE NOT GIVING ENOUGH. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A DEAL LIKE THIS., MAKE THE PRIVATE DEVELOPER/RANCHER/PROFITEER GIVE MORE. THIS IS NOT A GOOD ENOUGH DEAL FOR OUR GOVT TO ACT ON. PUT ME ON THE MAILING LIST HERE. EVERYBODY WANTS TO GET THEIR HANDS ON NATIONAL LAND THAT BELONGS TO 325 MILLION PEOPLE. ARE YOU DOING OUTREACH BESIDES THE INNER CIRCLE HERE THAT MAKES MONEY ON THESE KINDS OF DEALS? I REQUEST THAT YOU DO PUBLIC OUTREACH TO MAKE SURE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS THAT ARE TRULY HONEST AND NOT JUST CLAUQUES OF THE BLM HEAR ABOUT THIS. YOUR OUTREACH IS VERY VERY POOR. YOU TRY TO KEEP ALL USE OF OUR NATIONAL LAND JUST WITHIN THE INSIDERS IN GOVT. THAT IS WRONG. THIS IS PUBLIC LAND. PUT ME ON THE MAILING LIST BY EMAIL. JEAN PUBLIEE
 [REDACTED]

> [Federal Register Volume 81, Number
 > 75 (Tuesday, April 19, 2016)]
 > [Notices]
 > [Pages 23006-23007]
 > From the Federal Register Online via the Government
 > Publishing Office [www.gpo.gov]
 > [FR Doc No: 2016-09040]
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Sperandio, Annie <asperandio@blm.gov>

Proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange - AGAINST

1 message

Tom Kellen [REDACTED]

Tue, Apr 5, 2016 at 3:22 PM

To: asperandio@blm.gov, Tom Kellen [REDACTED]

Hello Anne,

My family and I live in Blue Valley Acres directly across the street from BLM tract K and we do not want to see this land change hands. Last night at our local Blue Valley Metro District meeting, the people from Blue Valley Ranch said if the land exchange goes through, they would give tract K to Blue Valley Acres. The President of the Board, Todd Nelson, then said he'd like to see a few high priced lots go in their to attract an expensive Summit County buyer in order to generate money for the board. This is exactly what we do NOT want.

Lots of animals call this tract home especially during the winter. As I write this I can see a herd of deer on the tract. On occasion I see elk on the tract. In fact, in 2008, seventeen cow elk wintered their for about 7 weeks.

Why is this tract even in the proposal? I don't agree with, but I understand Paul Jones' reasons for wanting the rest. In my opinion, if the land exchange goes through the public loses!

I spoke with Olivia in your office, she wasn't sure when the public comment period was. Please email me with that information. Thank you, Tom Kellen

Tom Kellen
[REDACTED]





Sperandio, Annie <asperandio@blm.gov>

Blue Valley Exchange

1 message

Clark, Olivia <oclark@blm.gov>
To: Annie Sperandio <asperandio@blm.gov>

Tue, Apr 5, 2016 at 2:37 PM

Annie,

Will there be a public comment period for the BV exchange? If so, do you have any idea as to when it might be?

I had a guy call today about it with some concerns. He will likely be contacting you by email, his name is Thomas Kellen.

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Any guidance on how to deal with this kind of call, would be helpful.

Thanks,
Olivia





KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Re: BVR Land Exchange Scoping

1 message

Kathleen Lorch [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov
Cc: Kathleen Lorch [REDACTED]

Sat, Jun 4, 2016 at 10:11 AM

June 3, 2016

Stephanie Odell

Field Manager

BLM Kremmling District

2103 E Park Avenue, P.O. Box 68

Kremmling, CO, 80459

via email: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Re: Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange Scoping

Dear Ms. Odell,

Through this letter, I am providing comments on the scoping notice for the Blue Valley Ranch (BVR) Land Exchange. This letter is written as an individual who has spent much of his career furthering the goals of public access and natural resource preservation, not in my official capacity as Director of Summit County Open Space and Trails Department.

The twelve member Open Space Advisory Council (OSAC) holds monthly public meetings to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding open space, trail and access matters. They have discussed the BVR land exchange in multiple public meetings through the past 10 years, and recently recommended funding for design and construction of improvements to the put-in below the Green Mountain Dam to address the identified safety issues.

Conceptual designs have been created by a professional engineer based upon OSAC recommendations. As a result of these meetings, the members of the OSAC forwarded recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners voicing unanimous consensus regarding the concerns set forth in this letter.

Many of the goals heralded as public benefits of the amended BVR land exchange are laudable.

These include improvement to big-game winter range, public ownership of the majority of Green Mountain, and protection of wildlife habitat and scenic resources.

The following improvements to recreational resources outlined as amendments to the 2005 proposal may address many public concerns and should be included in the final decision

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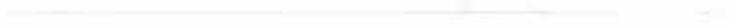
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document:

- o At Green Mountain (near Parcels 2, 9 and 10) - funding for implementation of road and trail improvements for improved access to Green Mountain and the lower reach of Green Mountain Canyon;*
- o Near the Confluence of the Blue and Colorado Rivers (near Parcel 8) - funding for construction of day use recreational amenities (e.g., picnic benches and wheel chair access improvements at the cottonwood grove, plus, trails, fishing access points, fencing to enclose the animal pasture, and associated irrigation ditch improvements around Parcel 8);*
- o Near the Confluence of the Blue and Colorado Rivers (near Parcel 8) - donation of the seven-acre chevron shaped parcel of land across the river from the cottonwoods;*
- o Near the Confluence of the Blue and Colorado Rivers (near Parcel 8) - funding for implementation of in-stream river and riparian aquatic habitat improvements as shown on the Matrix Design Group drawings;*
- o Funding to cover operational and maintenance costs for the improvements;*
- o Public access to the existing boating take-out on Blue Valley Ranch property at Spring Creek Bridge would become permanent with a perpetual easement for floaters' use as a take-out and a rest-stop. Currently, Blue Valley Ranch voluntarily allows access at this location, which lies just upstream of Parcels G and H. Blue Valley Ranch would also provide funding for construction of permanent day use rest-stop amenities here, such as picnic benches and seasonal toilets; and*
- o Inclusion of Parcel 10 to provide pedestrian fishing access into the canyon.*

However the primary public concerns associated with this exchange focus on the conveyance of parcels BLM G, BLM H, and BLM I out of Federal ownership, and how this could alter public opportunities to navigate and access approximately 15 miles of the Blue River, one of the largest tributaries of the Colorado River that has been navigated since before the first Europeans explored Colorado. Floating and fishing on the Blue are substantial contributors to the recreation based economy of Summit County in the summer. As such, the following socio-economic impacts must be evaluated as part of the current Environmental Impact Statement.

- **The identity of the easement holder for the Spring Creek access and how it will be managed.**

According to the proponent, no existing entity has been identified to take responsibility to manage a public access to the Blue River at Spring Creek Road. The Summit County Board of County Commissioners offered to take an easement on this site to assure this access point will be managed in the public interest over the long-run. Questions such as who will maintain facilities, signage, parking, etc., and enforcement of BVR's desired restrictions against put-ins remain unresolved. There are also concerns whether BVR's proposed restrictions against accessing into the river at this point will be legal, enforceable, or in the public interest as these restrictions may be used to privatize the public waters of Colorado. Although BVR has stated its desire to grant an easement to a non-profit organization, there is no assurance that this group will be structured to act in the public interest.

- **The adequacy of the proposed Spring Creek access location for current or future use.**

This site currently only provides a pass through trail up a steep eroding hill to on-road parking, and the river lacks sufficient slack-water for an adequate take-out. BVR has provided no specificity regarding the amount of land that will be made available to improve these facilities, nor any specific plans that will assure this site will function adequately in the public interest in the long-run. Although access to BLM Parcel H is not currently recognized by BVR due to an alleged narrow strip of private land between the Spring Creek Road Right of Way and Parcel H, the legal validity under Colorado Law of BVR denying BLM access to Parcel H should be evaluated prior to the exchange. Denying access on the existing road has reduced preliminary appraised values of Parcel H and negatively effects the public interest because Parcel H has the necessary river frontage to create a public river access that would be sufficient to address current and future uses. At a minimum, Parcel H must remain in public ownership until concerns regarding long-term access at Spring Creek are fully addressed.

- **The potential for additional opportunities for wade-fishing.**

Numerous Public comments have indicated that the potential for increasing opportunities for walk-in fishing on both sides of the river from Spring Creek Road should be reviewed in the analysis.



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- **The public's continued use rights to float and fish the lower river.**

The BLM website assures that "Boaters will still be able to float through the Blue Valley Ranch as before." However, according to the proponent's representatives, BVR refuses to enter into any agreement that would provide long-term assurance or public right of navigation. Public opportunities to access the Blue River between the Spring Creek Bridge and the confluence will likely be in peril after exchange without this assurance. Although this issue has not been addressed through legal or legislative action, several Colorado land owners have treated lack of public lands along "their" sections of rivers as leverage to physically close public navigation and fishing. Options to address this threat will be limited this public land becomes private and then changes ownership in the future. Contractual assurance of a permanent public right of navigation must be included in the exchange agreement for this exchange to be in the public interest.

Otherwise a direct result of this exchange could be to facilitate future owners of BVR restricting all public enjoyment of these unique natural treasures. BLM is in a position to require this public right of navigation as a mitigation requirement before approving this exchange.

- **Safe navigation of the Lower Blue River**

In recent years BVR has made in-stream modifications or installed new in-stream diversions and other "habitat structures" that David Rosgen and others constructed without including navigation in the design parameters. Because of these deficiencies, safe navigation of the river now may require scouting or portaging around these structures on BVR property. This health and safety concern should be mitigated as a condition of approval through requirements to alter the structures, or a contractual agreement providing an easement or other mechanism to assure safe passage around and/or over these structures.

- **The future process for management planning regarding public uses of the river above and below Spring Creek road.**

Although master planning for public uses of the lower Blue River has been discussed by public agencies and interested landowners in the past, no decisions were made. Provisions for public agency involvement in management of the Blue River from the Green Mountain Dam to the Colorado River confluence should be included in the decision document for this exchange. A river management planning process should be reinitiated and decisions made regarding management of the river prior to the exchange. These provisions are critical to ensure public involvement in management of the river after the land exchange.

The public resources of the Blue River are of high importance to the public and represent a substantial economic driver to summer tourism in Colorado. Therefore, the socio-economic impacts of the above issues must be fully evaluated in the NEPA review, and mitigated in the decision document prior to approving this exchange.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed action. I am confident the above issues can be addressed through the NEPA process as mitigation that assures continued public enjoyment of all public waters of the Blue River, resulting in an exchange that is in the public interest. If you have questions regarding the comments provided in this letter, please contact me at [REDACTED]. Thank you again for your consideration of these scoping concerns.

Respectfully,

Brian Lorch

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

BLM G parcel

1 message

brandon freel [REDACTED]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Fri, Jun 3, 2016 at 9:37 AM

I believe that the BLM parcel between blue valley acres and spring creek subdivision should remain public access. With this open it allows people in the community to travel to other public land by atv or motorcycle. If this is private land, people will be required to trail or their equipment to their riding destination.

Thank you,
Brandon Freel
Blue Valley Acre Land Share resident

Sent from my iPhone



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KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

BLM Land Swap

1 message

Justin Meagher [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 7, 2016 at 12:09 AM

To whom it may concern:

I have recently been made aware of the proposed blue valley land exchange and would like to urge those making the decision to reject this proposal. The proposed swap would restrict the public's ability to enjoy the lower blue river by removing all public stopping points for an 11 mile stretch. This would not only decrease public enjoyment of a beautiful part of Colorado, but tax revenue from tourism dollars spent in the area as well. Thank you for your time.

—
Justin Meagher
[REDACTED]



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue River Exchange

1 message

Duane Larson [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 7, 2016 at 10:18 AM

Good Morning:

I purchased property at Blue Valley Acres with the primary intent of fishing the River. By trading the public access near our property you will essentially damage my (as well as all within our development) land values. What is the plan for reimbursing us for our losses to value and to the inability to sell our properties due to the loss of this access?

You must know, additionally, that Blue Valley Ranch have not been good neighbors. They behave like the land barons of the late 1800's and generally try to make it absolutely impossible to float the river. Their intent here is not honorable and again feel they can bully you into a position which further captures the river on their behalf.

There are plenty of access points within the surrounding area for hunters...very few on the Blue for fishing. Please float the River below the damn with someone knowledgable of fishing and rafting use. The Ranch has one motive "exclusion of all but their own". Look at the dam's they have built and ask yourself about their motives toward rafters. That is not what the laws intend.

Please do not let people from New York limit the use of residents of Colorado from the Blue. I would have thought the days of the mighty rich manipulating government agencies for their own benefit was behind us. This is an obvious ploy by Blue Valley ranch to exclude the public from the river.

Sincerely, Duane Larson

Sent from my iPhone



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue Valley Land Exchange

2 messages

Jesse Hill [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Mon, Jun 6, 2016 at 10:57 AM

To whom it may concern,

RE: Blue Valley Land Exchange 2016

As an avid sportsman, angler, public lands user and river advocate - I do NOT believe this exchange is in the public interest.

Currently, I have the opportunity to float and fish from green mountain to the confluence on average 4 times a year. These tend to be all day adventures to take advantage of the fishing and floating opportunity. the following are my most pressing concerns:

- Removal of the public rest points on the river will negatively impact my ability to enjoy the float.
- The additional "mile of access near the confluence" is of no desire as it is usually mosquito laden and of poor fishing quality.
- The addition of spring creek access would diminish the nature an quality of float.
- the big game area is very difficult to use and access for actual harvest.

Regards,

Jesse Hill
[REDACTED]

Cook, Michael J. [REDACTED]
To: "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Tue, Jun 7, 2016 at 1:00 AM

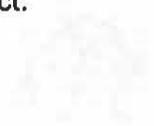
Dear Sirs/madam:

I am a citizen of Colorado and own property in Summit and Grand Counties. I vigorously oppose the portion of this land exchange that would eliminate all public access to the Blue River below Green Mountain Reservoir for the reasons listed below. I urge you not to approve the land exchange if it includes the public parcels on the Blue River.

1. The exchange would eliminate ALL public access to the Blue below Grn Mtn. There is significant raft traffic on the Blue below Grn Mtn extending to the Colorado. There are currently only 4 locations where rafters can access public land to take short breaks in that long stretch of river. The exchange will eliminate all 4 of those public access points for the rafting public, which is clearly not in the public's interest.
2. I believe that certain of those 4 locations are also accessible by foot (I know the lower one is). How can it possibly be in the public interest to eliminate all public access to this stretch of river?
3. The owners of Blue Valley Acres would be particularly impacted since the exchange would effectively eliminate approximately 1 mile of public fishing access that is now accessible from the BVA property. While this is not an impact that affects the public as a whole, it is a detriment to a large number of citizens and landowners and, in turn, benefits only a single landowner who will then have virtually a complete monopoly on the river.
4. The financing of improvements to Highway 9 by the proposed beneficiary of the exchange is suspect and will likely generate further investigations in inquiries. On the surface this arrangement smacks of bribery and, at the very least, creates the appearance of impropriety that creates a negative public relations situation for the Federal Government. Once again the very rich appear to be getting

very special consideration in return for making a big donation to an unrelated government project.

Very truly yours,
Michael Cook





Board of Directors
Cray Healy, President
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Diana Matheson
Nick Meyer
Graham Powers

Manager
Anna Drexler-Dreis

June 6, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
Stephanie O'Dell, Field Manager
2103 East Park Avenue
PO Box 68
Kremmling, Colorado 80459

RE: Blue Valley Land Exchange

Dear Ms. O'Dell,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange. The Colorado Headwaters Land Trust (CHLT) has had the opportunity to review the project information. CHLT understands that the proposed exchange would take 1,489 acres of federal land and transfer them into private land ownership while exchanging 1,832 acres of private lands to public landownership along the Blue River drainage south of Kremmling.

CHLT supports this project because it exchanges small isolated public parcels surrounded by private lands for lands that are adjacent to larger tracts of public lands. Thereby creating increased continuity of public lands and decreasing fragmentation, which will protect wildlife habitat and scenic values. Many of the BLM parcels that are being exchanged had limited public benefit because they were in-holdings within private lands or were small acreage parcels. The exchange has a net gain of public lands which will provide an increase in recreational opportunities and protect critical wildlife habitat. By joining larger parcels of public lands there is less threat that these lands will be sold by BLM in the future.

CHLT's mission is to preserve and steward open lands within the headwaters of the Colorado River for vistas, wildlife, agriculture and water, in partnership with landowners and for the benefit of all. The Blue River drainage is extremely important to our mission and is a gateway for visitors into Grand County. The Blue Valley Land Exchange will be a benefit by ensuring that there will be less habitat fragmentation and dispersed future home development along this corridor by consolidating lands under federal protection. CHLT supports the Blue Valley Land Exchange because this project closely aligns with our mission to protect important wildlife and scenic values

Sincerely,

Anna Drexler-Dreis
CHLT Manager



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

BLM Comment Blue River Exchange

2 messages

Stephen Fausel [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Tue, Apr 26, 2016 at 10:07 AM

To: David Boyd,

Regarding public comments on the Blue River Land Exchange we at Quaking Creek Ranch are supportive of the exchange.

Stephen Fausel

Owner

Tom Glass [REDACTED] Tue, Apr 26, 2016 at 10:37 AM
To: Stephen Fausel [REDACTED], "kfo_webmail@blm.gov" <kfo_webmail@blm.gov>

Thanks, Steve.

tg

[Quoted text hidden]



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue Valley Land Exchange Proposal - scoping comments

1 message

Christopher Krupp [REDACTED]

Wed, Jun 8, 2016 at 1:52 PM

To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

I have attached Western Lands Project's scoping comments for the Blue Valley land exchange proposal. Please contact me if you are unable to view the attached file. Thank you.

-Chris Krupp

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Christopher Krupp, Staff Attorney



 Blue Valley LX - BLM - CO - 2016 scoping comments.pdf
92K



PO BOX 95545 SEATTLE, WA 98145 (206)325-3503
WESTERNLANDS.ORG

Mr. Monte Senior
2103 E. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459
Attn: Blue Valley Land Exchange

June 8, 2016

Dear Mr. Senior:

The Western Lands Project is a non-profit, membership organization that conducts research, outreach and advocacy for reform in federal lands policy. We are writing today to comment on the scope of the environmental impacts analysis that your office will prepare for the proposed Blue Valley land exchange.

Existing Conditions

The environmental impact statement (EIS) must provide clear, detailed descriptions of the existing conditions on the selected and offered lands. The EIS must describe the wildlife and plants that inhabit the parcels and identify whether the proposed exchange would result in an increase or decrease in important habitats under federal management. Old-growth or native habitat should be identified. The EIS must identify the quantities of native versus non-native habitat on both the public and private lands. The qualities of these habitats should also be addressed in the EIS, as a smaller quantity of high quality habitat may provide greater benefits than a larger quantity of marginal habitat of the same type. The EIS should also describe the extent of any past resource extraction on the private parcels, i.e., have the private lands been grazed, logged or mined? If the EIS reveals that the Federal lands contain native or naturally regenerated habitat and the private parcels do not, the public interest determination mandated by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) must consider the merits of trading away a portion of our nation's dwindling native heritage.

The EIS must also identify the condition of existing roads on both the Federal and private parcels and whether future federal management would likely call for decommissioning or improving roads on the parcels coming into public ownership.

Environmental Impacts

When addressing the environmental impacts of the proposed trade, the EIS must not identify only the benefits of acquiring the private lands, but also the impacts that would result from the private parties' likely uses of the now-public land. The EIS should identify whether the proponents intend to graze livestock, cut timber, or build housing on the public lands it would acquire. Such analysis is necessary to fulfill the mandates of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It is also needed so that the public can evaluate whether the proposed trade would well-serve the public interest, as required by the FLPMA.

The EIS should address whether the proposal would likely increase or decrease recreational use of the river and identify the subsequent impacts of the increase/decrease.

The EIS must address likely connected actions that will follow from this proposal. If decisions will need to be made as to how the offered lands will be managed, the likely impacts of management should be addressed in this EIS rather than piecemealed to a separate proposed action.

Benefits of the Exchange

Many land exchanges are proposed with the ostensible purpose of improving public land management efficiencies by trading out of difficult to manage federal parcels. Although it is hypothetically more efficient to manage fewer landlines and corners, most of the time there are few actual management costs associated with the boundaries that would be eliminated by a land trade. The EIS should provide an estimate of the agency's annual net cost savings due to increased management efficiencies that would result from this exchange. The EIS should also identify past costs for maintaining property boundaries on the federal parcels, including costs for managing trespass on the private lands adjacent to the selected parcels. This will help the public evaluate whether increased management efficiencies are legitimate benefits that would be attained with this proposal.

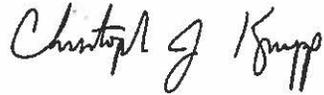
Alternatives

The environmental analysis must consider reasonable alternatives in addition to the proposed action and the no action alternative. Purchasing the private parcels must be one of those alternatives considered. The analysis of the purchase alternative would provide the public with a much clearer picture of the comparative impacts of trading public lands versus purchasing them.

A post-exchange grazing prohibition on land that would come into Federal ownership should be an element of every action alternative considered. It is not in the public interest to consolidate public lands if the result further subsidizes harmful grazing practices.

Thank you for informing us of this proposal and providing an opportunity to comment. Please retain the Western Lands Project on the mailing list for all future notices and documents pertaining to this exchange and any other proposed land trades involving your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher J. Krupp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Christopher J. Krupp, Staff Attorney



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Comment on Blue Valley Land Exchange

2 messages

Mara Sheldon [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Wed, May 11, 2016 at 11:36 AM

Dear BLM,

I heard recently about the Blue Valley Land Exchange and as a resident of Summit County think this is a win-win for our residents and visitors. As a long-time hiker, I was especially thrilled to hear of the addition of open space and trails!

I wholeheartedly support this land exchange.

Mara Sheldon
Breckenridge, CO

KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>
To: Annie Sperandio <asperandio@blm.gov>

Wed, May 11, 2016 at 2:28 PM

Visitor Information Services

Bureau of Land Management

Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459
970-724-3000

[Quoted text hidden]



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue Valley Land Exchange

2 messages

Shannon Fallon [REDACTED]

Wed, May 11, 2016 at 11:42 AM

To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

I recently heard about the Blue Valley Land Exchange and, as a rafter and angler, I was thrilled to read about the possibility of walk-in access to the Blue River Canyon and the permanent rest stop and take out. I support the exchange. Keep up the good work.

Regards,
Shannon Fallon
Frisco, CO

KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Wed, May 11, 2016 at 2:28 PM

To: Annie Sperandio <asperandio@blm.gov>

Visitor Information Services

Bureau of Land Management

Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459
970-724-3000

[Quoted text hidden]



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Letter mailed to wrong address, please update

2 messages

Kris Monday [REDACTED]
To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Tue, Apr 26, 2016 at 3:14 PM

Hi,

Today our office received a News Release from your office Titled "BLM seeks comment on proposed land exchange in Grand and Summit counties". The news release was dated 4/19/2016. The mailing label for this News Release was addressed to Allan Pfister and he retired years ago, Ann Timberman is his replacement.

The mailing label was addressed to our old mailing address and we moved on 1/21/14.

Could you please notify the appropriate people to update your database/system with our new mailing address for future correspondence.

Please address mail to:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our phone system changed back in March 2014 and each employee has a direct phone #. The [REDACTED] # is still active, rings directly to Admin Assistant.

Since our staff is so small I'm attaching the direct dial phone #'s for everyone in our FWS-ES office in Grand Junction:

Mark Brennan [REDACTED]

Kurt Broderdorp

[REDACTED]

Creed Clayton

[REDACTED]

Gina Glenne

[REDACTED]

Terry Ireland

[REDACTED]

Ellen Mayo (teleworks on Fri)

[REDACTED]

Kris Monday, Admin Assistant

[REDACTED]

Barb Osmundson

[REDACTED]

Dan Reinkensmeyer

[REDACTED]

Elise "Apple" Snider

[REDACTED]

Ann Timberman, Western CO Supervisor

[REDACTED]

Thank You

Kris

Kris Monday

Administrative Support Assistant

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ecological Services

445 W Gunnison Ave, Suite 240

Grand Junction, CO 81501-5711

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Work Hours: 8am - 4:30pm

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>
To: Olivia Clark <oclark@blm.gov>

Thu, Apr 28, 2016 at 8:19 AM

Visitor Information Services

Bureau of Land Management

Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459
970-724-3000

[Quoted text hidden]



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Blue Valley Ranch Scoping comments

1 message

m kade [REDACTED]

Wed, Jun 8, 2016 at 10:11 AM

To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

Please find attached a letter containing comments from Colorado Wild Public Lands.

Thank you for your consideration

Anne Rickenbaiugh

Hawk Greenway

Franz Froelicher

Jean Perry

COWPL Board of Directors



BVR scoping comment letter - COWPL.docx

220K



Colorado Wild Public Lands

**PO BOX 590
BASALT, CO 81621
coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com**

June 7, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Odell
Field Manager
BLM Kremmling Field Office
2103 Park Ave.
Kremmling, CO 80459

Dear Ms. Odell,

We respectfully submit the following comments on the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange. We are small non-profit of volunteers who advocate for public lands throughout Colorado. We hope that you will find these scoping comments constructive.

ALTERNATIVES

The EIS should include detailed analysis of alternatives to “the Proposed Action” and “No Action”; these should earnestly consider the agency’s discretion under FLPMA’ to reserve all existing public rights to float, fish and hunt parcels A, B, G, H, and I. The analysis should describe existing conditions accurately and provide detailed, quantitative evidence that the exchange enhances the public interest and not just expedient agency management; enhancement would include, but not be limited to, a quantifiable and qualitative net increase in stream access for floating and wade fishing, for hunting, for other recreational and for publicly managed wildlife habitat.

The BLM often asserts that the proposed action is the preferred alternative because the parcels traded to the proponent are “difficult to access” and “hard to manage”. The draft EIS should demonstrate in detail why this is so; such documentation should include information about

access agreements across private property to reach these “difficult to manage” parcels, documentation of problems with public trespass, and any other such documentation and detail to uphold the agency’s assertions that the exchange enhances efficiencies.

MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT

Generally, the EIS should include analysis of future management actions by any future management entity, whether it be the Spring Creek takeout, the “river park” on parcel 8 or the purported “road and trail improvements” to Green Mountain Canyon on parcel 10. Not only does the public deserve to know specifics about what they are receiving in return for conveying public lands to private entities, but these new public amenities will have impacts on the local environments and economies.

If the EIS reflects the proposed action as the preferred alternative, the document should include detailed analysis of future management of the Spring Creek takeout including specifics regarding which entities will hold the easement and undertake management, and how management will be funded. Nothing short of a perpetual easement will ensure on-going access to the public waters through the BVR; if the proponent chooses to convey this easement to a 501(3) organization, the easement should be co-held by the BLM or CPW; these organizations are charged with protecting public interest, whereas non-profit land trusts are privately funded organizations that steward private property rights, with no obligation to the public whatsoever.

The EIS should demonstrate that the proponent has conveyed a perpetual guarantee of the public’s right to float the Blue River, including a commitment to eliminate physical and verbal barriers to exercising those rights; the draft EIS should include an appendix disclosing a binding agreement between the proponent and appropriate entities, charged with protecting the public’s right to float the river.

Absent execution and disclosure of these important agreements, the BLM should hold Parcel H in escrow until such details are realized.

Parcel I’s conveyance to the proponent will eliminate wading access to the river; the management of Parcel 8 should offer mitigation for that loss. And include a trail across the oxbow to allow easy access to wading the river

THIRD PARTIES

This land exchange involves three beneficiary entities in addition to the proponent: Summit County, Skylark Ranch and the Blue Valley Homeowner’s association. The draft EIS should include full disclosure of and include as appendices, the contractual agreements among the BLM, the proponent and these other entities, especially as they involve private beneficiaries other than the proponent.

APPRAISALS AND VALUATION

The draft EIS should include an appendix of all current (as of the time of the draft's release) appraisals so as to allow public scrutiny and comment; ideally, they should have been available as part of the public information posted on the website for the public to consider in scoping. If there are updated appraisals at the time of the release of the draft and/or final EIS and ROD, the new documents should be included as appendices as well.

In conducting future appraisals for this exchange, the BLM should ensure the appraisals utilize multiple techniques to fully consider the value of the lands included in the exchange, including but not limited to the assemblage value of the BLM lands *to the exchange proponent*. As documented in "Trophy Property Valuation; A Ranch Case Study, (2003) by Bill Mundy", Trophy Ranch appraisals require specialized expertise and review. They should quantifiably document values for the proposed changes in use and costs and benefits to all parties in the exchange, be they public or private.

Appraisals should also reflect the full range of public property rights and values the proposed action conveys to the proponent. Parcels A and B offer access to the Game Species that pass through them and the adjacent public lands. The values of BLM Parcels G, H and I are the same to both the public and the proponent – access to the water and fish in the river; these appraisals should treat these parcels as would two private entities willingly entering into a transaction over developable river front property. Appraisals should include an analysis of other public values associated with river front property, including recreational contributions to the regional economy, habitat and species diversity and of the riparian area's value in the region's overall economic and environmental health.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

In accordance with NEPA's requirement to evaluate cumulative impacts of this action, the draft EIS should include details of previous exchanges of which the BVR and previous owners of the ranch (or ranches, if more than one were consolidated to create today's singular one) were parties. This larger context is important in demonstrating the cumulative impacts of multiple land exchanges on the public's right to enjoy this stretch of the Blue River.

PROCESSING AND FUNDING OF THE EXCHANGE

It is our opinion that the practice of having the proponent pay all costs of the analysis and processing of the exchange discourages the agencies from making committed decisions about participation. Such decisions should be based on the agencies' long term planning and vision, and some proponent driven exchanges would not proceed due to the agencies' limitations on resources and the proposals' lack of enhancement to the agencies' specific planning goals. However, since this is the standard practice, future documents should reflect revisions of the "Processing Costs and Funding" analysis in the Feasibility Analysis executed by the Agency in 2004; these revisions should reflect today's costs and fees.

Finally, the NEPA process should include full disclosure of all paid participation in the development and processing of the exchange, including, but not limited to actual staff time at the BLM and other public agencies, and background and remuneration to any consultants providing services to the agency or the proponent.

We thank you and your staff for your consideration of our opinions and comments.

Regards,

Anne Rickenbaugh
Secretary, Colorado Wild Public Lands



KR_Webmail, BLM_CO <blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov>

Fwd: Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange Comment Letter

1 message

hssrobnjul@comcast.net [REDACTED]

Tue, Jun 7, 2016 at 5:38 PM

To: kfo_webmail@blm.gov

2nd attempt to email BLM Kremmling Field Office

Thanks!

Rob

From: [REDACTED]**To:** kfowebmail@blm.gov, sodell@blm.gov**Cc:** "Sherry Steuben" [REDACTED]**Sent:** Tuesday, June 7, 2016 5:31:33 PM**Subject:** Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange Comment Letter

Please find attached my comment letter concerning the proposed Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange.

Additionally, I respectfully request your prompt email response acknowledging your having received the letter!

Thanks Very Much!

Rob Firth
[REDACTED]

BVR Land Exchange ltr.docx

24K

Rob Firth
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

June 5, 2016

Bureau of Land Management – Kremmling Field Office
Ms. Stephanie O'Dell, Field Manager
2103 East Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Comments sent electronically to: kfowebmail@blm.gov and to sodell@blm.gov

RE: Comments on Proposed Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange

Dear Stephanie,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Land Exchange between Blue Valley Ranch and the Kremmling Field Office. I am very familiar with the proposed Exchange and have attended numerous public meetings as well as both open houses / workshops conducted by your office during the scoping process. I respectfully request that you please consider the following:

As I see it, the Exchange offers incredible value to the public in many forms including more definitive boundaries with better and improved public access and new and incredible opportunity for hiking, wildlife viewing / watching, wading and float fishing, hunting for big game, small game and waterfowl, wildlife habitat protection / management and, in the case of the fisheries, some incredible stream improvement and habitat enhancement. These significant gains in terms of high-quality public access and opportunity far outweigh the loss of those specific BLM parcels offered in the exchange in my opinion.

Although both private and public lands offered in the exchange provide quality habitat for a great variety of wildlife, the lands offered to the Blue Valley Ranch are for the most part land-locked parcels unavailable to the general public and difficult to manage for BLM. That said, based on the Blue Valley Ranch management history to date, those parcels offered back to the Blue Valley Ranch will continue to provide the wildlife habitat and open space as they have historically, so I do not see any loss in that regard. If anything, internal fencing can now be minimized allowing for safer and easier movement by wildlife, and ranch management practices which have always been undertaken with wildlife habitat improvement, preservation and conservation foremost in mind, will continue and quite possibly enhance these forfeited parcels.

In contrast, those Blue Valley Ranch parcels offered in the exchange to the BLM not only provide fantastic opportunity, but also "unlock" previously unavailable public lands that were only available to

private landowners. This is an added benefit for the public, as more than just the acquired parcel comes with this Exchange!

Specifically, I would offer the following comments with regards to the involved Parcels and values:

Parcel BVR – 1 This 656.58 acre parcel (A.K.A. Anita Thompson property) will give public access to portions of San Toy Mountain and further, will provide additional access to 480 acres of adjacent BLM lands previously unavailable to the public. An incredible “gain” on behalf of the public of over *1100 contiguous acres* plus a boundary that is rather easily defined limiting possible trespass issues. Public wildlife viewing, big game and small game hunting, year round wildlife habitat plus the traditional agricultural grazing lease are still the primary uses and values associated with this parcel. BLM would do well to acquire this valuable parcel, consider limiting motorized access to existing ranch roads - closing or reclaiming unnecessary roads, removing internal fencing and consider the possibility of limiting / prohibiting winter use if it might conflict with wintering wildlife needs.

Parcel (s)BVR - 2 & 10 plus 3, 4 and 9 – Parcels 2 & 10 comprise part of Green Mountain Canyon access and Parcel 10 provides foot access for the public to the east side of the Blue River on USFS property for hiking and wade fishing. This incredible access will for the *first time*, allow hiking access into the spectacular canyon below Green Mountain Dam. Previous to the Exchange proposal, only those persons floating past the “pinch point” from the upstream access point below the Green Mountain Reservoir Dam could access this stretch of the Canyon and the River. This new public access point offers an incredible and new opportunity for the public!

Parcels 2, 3, 4 and 9 comprise the old Knorr ranch and are traditionally highly valued as formerly private-only big game hunting lands and also offer small game hunting, grand hiking & wildlife viewing opportunity and access to Green Mountain with Parcel 4 providing Williams Peak access and additional hunting opportunity to the east of Hwy 9. These Parcels also provide year-round wildlife habitat and some critical winter range for big game wildlife as well. As such, future management by BLM should include limited motorized access, removal of non-essential internal fencing and perhaps winter closures on those portions identified as critical winter range for big game wildlife.

*Concerns have been mentioned by a relatively few individuals about also gaining west- side access to the Blue River in Green Mountain Canyon. While I do not take issue with the good intentions here, I feel that this narrow ribbon of public USFS land along the Blue River’s west bank within the Canyon poses (invites?!) additional trespass issues with the adjacent landowner further west and in my opinion, only serves to delay and not enhance this Exchange proposal. I fear it would prove costly, time-consuming and inefficient. Better to have quality access and opportunity to only one side of the river than risk slowing up the process over two-sided access.

Parcel BVR – 8 - This offered parcel will receive valuable stream habitat improvement structures and vegetative plantings to approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the Blue River, and greatly improve and enhance the fish habitat here. The proposed stream improvements including Cross Vanes, strategically placed Toe Wood, J-hooks and side channels designed to improve flows, provide shade and security areas for fish, scour and deepen holding water pools, narrow the channel in places to direct flow and improve scouring and sediment transport flows will greatly improve this stretch of water as a trout fishery. These proposed structures are similar to those located on the Blue River within the Blue Valley Ranch property currently – and are time-tested and proven structures that provide the incredible fish habitat

and fishing on the ranch now. Plantings of willows and narrow leaf cottonwood will provide stream-bank stabilization and much-needed shade, further enhancing the habitat for the fishery as well as the public use experience.

Additionally, the Blue Valley Ranch proposes to provide completely developed public access walk-ways (including special-needs fishing piers and access) upon approval of the Land Exchange to BLM. These compacted gravel, wheel-chair accessible trails and strategically placed special-needs accessible fishing platforms as well as the boat take-out makes this parcel among the greatest values to be received by the public and the BLM in this Exchange.

Not to be overlooked with this parcel is the irrigated hay meadow and associated (*and highly valuable!*) water rights to be gained by the BLM. I would hope that BLM would continue with the traditional uses of irrigating and haying this parcel, as well as offering limited grazing as these traditional agricultural practices preserve the water rights usage and still provides tremendous wildlife habitat and use. Should this type of agricultural use or practice be deemed incompatible for whatever reason, I would hope that shallow waterfowl nesting ponds be created within this parcel as waterfowl nesting, brood rearing and associated habitats all benefit greatly from the current irrigation of this parcel and waterfowl hunting is quite popular as the Blue River nears the Colorado River.

*I am aware of a request that access to *both* sides of the Blue River here has been proposed by a relatively small number of individuals and the idea of a foot bridge provided for access across the River in this parcel. Again, not to belittle the intent, I have discussed with local BLM personnel the fact that there is a public land link to the opposite bank from County Road 1 (Trough Road) giving foot access to the opposite bank without the need for an expensive foot bridge here! It is a similar walk distance-wise to the Blue River here as it currently is to fish the Blue River in the Parcel BLM - I. I feel an expensive foot bridge proposal here is absolutely unnecessary – and risks reducing by the same amount, the well-thought-out plans and proposed funding currently earmarked for proposed stream improvements mentioned previously and providing the boat take-out, walk ways and fishing platforms already proposed for this parcel!

Parcels BLM A, B, C, F, G and H – These are among those parcels identified to be exchanged to BVR. These are all relatively small parcels offering limited or no access to the public. Parcels BLM-A, BLM-F, offer limited public access and do provide some hunting opportunities. Parcel BLM-I is accessible to the public from the Trough Road and does provide limited big game hunting opportunities and a short stretch of the Blue River for fishing opportunity, however, the fishing here is quite limited and there have been documented instances of trespass onto Blue Valley Ranch land and citations issued as the amount of fishable stream is relatively small. Parcel BLM G offers limited hunting, fishing and viewing opportunities but no public access is available here as access to this parcel is limited to the owners of private property which adjoin them. Parcel BLM H is only available to float boaters but for the most part is unavailable to the general public.

Parcel BLM J is irrigated hay meadow, and is best put back into private hands. I am unaware of *any* public use of this parcel. Since it does not in any way deter the use of the Reeder Creek and Colorado River public use it is good to be able to offer it as part of this exchange. It certainly seems to be in the BLM's best interest to not have to expend energy and money on parcels such as this one!

In Summary:

On paper, simple math suggests this Land Exchange is a "win" for the public and BLM when you realize a gain of 1,832 acres of public land vs. the loss of 1,489 acres going to Blue Valley Ranch. Yet these figures are somewhat misleading! A more honest evaluation of Gain vs. Loss suggests an even greater "win" here for the public and the BLM! Of the 1,489 acres that will transfer to Blue Valley Ranch, a fairly significant portion of this acreage has been either landlocked or only available to a very small fraction of the public. In contrast, ALL of the offered 1,832 acres by Blue Valley Ranch to the BLM is available for honest and immediate public use – and when the landlocked portion of BLM near BVR Parcel -1 is "added" back into the mix, the ratio of "Gain Vs. Loss becomes something on the order of 2,200+ acres gained by BLM and the public vs. approximately 850 acres lost to public use! The "Gain" number grows too when one considers those lands giving access to USFS lands as well... So, just in acreage alone, this Land Exchange is a great win for the public and the BLM.

Additional "value" offered to the public includes improving the parking and adding the restroom facility for the take out at Spring Creek, the cleaning up of small parcels such as BVR – 7 and BVR – 8B, the creation of a parking lot in BVR – 10, the picnic facilities for BVR – 8.

As a former Public Lands Manager with the Colorado Division of Wildlife in both Grand and Summit Counties for over 20+ years, as well as a former Project Manager for Trout Unlimited in this area for 4+ years, it is quite satisfying to see such an opportunity come along! Of particular interest are private lands adjoining public lands such as those on Green Mountain (BVR-2, 3, 4, 9, and 10) and San Toy Mountain (Parcel BVR-1). The additional offer to improve a section of the Blue River on Parcel BVR – 8 is an added bonus that will provide incredible public fishing and public use and value to this parcel. It is quite apparent that Blue Valley Ranch has made an extremely attractive and enticing offer to the BLM and the public in order to clean up and clarify its holdings! I certainly hope this Land Exchange goes through as I see it as an absolute win for the public!

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this worthy proposal!

Sincerely,

Rob Firth

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*I am not aware of either verbal discussions having taken place with BLM personnel or official letters representing these views having been submitted to BLM for consideration. However, I am aware that such views have been expressed and discussions have occurred within the public realm and I have had personal communication with one individual that does wish to see these additional access requests as a condition of accepting this Exchange which is why I have expressed my concerns to the contrary.

Cc: Ms. Sherry Steuben – Manager, Blue Valley Ranch

June 8, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
Stephanie O'Dell, Field Manager
2103 East Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Dear Stephanie,

On behalf of the Schake family I am sending you this letter in support of the land exchange between Blue Valley Ranch and the Kremmling Field Office. We are excited that the general public will be the winners on this exchange, with the consolidation of the parcels that are listed in this exchange it is good business and will make managing easier.

Opening access to the Blue River below Green Mountain Dam will allow me to take my grandkids fly fishing on that stretch of the Blue. I had discussed having a handicap fishing access on the Colorado River at the BLM property along the Highway 9 Bridge to the Kremmling Rotary Club several years ago but was told that there would be too much red tape involved. With this exchange that opportunity will be realized with far better facilities and a larger area.

The improvement of public access to the Blue River and the parcel that provides access to confluence of the Colorado River exchange alone will provide opportunity's to a large group of the public that due to their disabilities would never enjoy this part of Colorado. This exchange will be a "win win" for Colorado, Grand County, Kremmling and the Steve Schake family.

My family is looking forward to the completion of this exchange. If you have any questions please contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Steve and Martha Schake

BLUE VALLEY SPORTSMAN CLUB



Grand and Summit Counties
Inc. since 1955

PO Box 2732
Silverthorne, CO 80498-2732

June 2, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
Stephanie O'Dell, Field Manager
2103 East Park Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459

Dear Stephanie,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Blue Valley Sportsman Club (BVSC) to comment on the proposed land exchange between Blue Valley Ranch and the Kremmling Field Office. Several of our Club officers and some of members were able to attend the land exchange workshops conducted by your office during the scoping process for this proposed exchange. In addition, Blue Valley Ranch representatives recently attended one our monthly meetings and provided detailed information regarding the exchange proposal to the members present.

The BVSC is one of the oldest sportsman clubs in the state of Colorado, chartered in 1955. The BVSC was founded by a group of concerned hunters, fishers, and shooters from Grand and Summit Counties, Colorado. Our current membership is approaching 200 members and includes sportsmen from Grand and Summit counties as well as the front range of Colorado. The purpose of the BVSC according to our bylaws is "to conserve, restore, and manage the game, fish and wildlife and its habitat in the Blue River Valley and its environments; to seek to procure better fishing and hunting for sportsmen; to promote and to cooperate in obtaining proper respect for the game and fish laws; and so far as possible to spread knowledge of useful conservation practices among the residents of the Blue River Valley".

The BVSC feels the proposed land exchange falls directly in line with our purpose and we support the exchange in its entirety. Both the private and public lands in the exchange provide habitat for a great variety of wildlife, both aquatic and terrestrial including big game small game and a variety of nongame species as well, all of which offer fishing, hunting, and viewing opportunities to our membership as well as the general public. These species include elk, mule deer, pronghorn, Greater sage-grouse and more recently, Mountain sharp-tailed grouse, several species of trout, and a wide variety of nongame birds and mammals as well. Fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing opportunities abound in the Blue River Valley and are well recognized by the BVSC.

The proposed land exchange will enhance the opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing since land ownership will be consolidated and more acreage, both aquatic and upland will become available to the general public to take advantage of these opportunities. Of particular interest to the BVSC are private lands adjoining public lands on Green Mountain (BVR-2, 3, 9) and San Toy Mountain (Parcel BVR-1). The proposed exchange would not only add to the public lands in these areas but would also provide public access to public lands that does not currently exist. Both these areas

provide outstanding big game and small game hunting and viewing opportunities. This scenario also holds true for BLM lands adjacent to the Williams Peak road which do not currently offer public access. The addition of BVR parcel BVR-4 to the existing public lands in this area will increase the size of the public land parcel and include access for hunters and viewers.

Fishing opportunities will also increase with the land exchange as proposed. The improvement of public access to the Blue River between Green Mountain Reservoir and the Spring Creek Road will provide additional trout fishing opportunities for fishers willing to walk to this area and fish. Float fishing opportunities will also improve with the exchange since raft access to the Blue River will be improved.

The proposed exchange will also provide additional fishing and hunting opportunities at the Blue River confluence with the Colorado River. Also, handicap access would be added to this section of the Blue River, a very important addition to fishing opportunities in our area. Aquatic habitat improvements in this section of the Blue River are proposed to increase trout habitat if the exchange is approved. In addition waterfowl hunting could increase in this stretch of the Blue River and adjacent hay meadows (BVR-8) as well since the hay meadows which would become public land, offer wetland habitat development opportunities to the BLM.

BVR-7 is a small parcel but will provide legal vehicle access to the public to a large tract of BLM land and to the Colorado River. This parcel adjoins the Trough Road and the BLM land which would become accessible by vehicle provides big game and small game hunting opportunities and would improve fishing access to the Colorado River below Gore Canyon.

BLM parcels identified to be exchanged to BVR are for the most part, small parcels with limited access available to public fishers, hunters, and wildlife viewers. Only parcels BLM-A, BLM-F, and BLM-I have public access available, albeit somewhat difficult with the exception of BLM-I. All these parcels provide some hunting opportunities and parcel BLM-I also includes a short segment of the Blue River with public access used by fishers. BLM-I is accessible to the public from the Trough Road one of the more heavily traveled county roads in west Grand County and does provide limited big game hunting opportunities. Vehicle travel along this parcel limits wildlife and thereby reduces hunting and viewing opportunities. BLM-C does have a contiguous corner with land owned by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, however, contiguous corners do not provide legal public access. Parcel BLM-B has no public access due to the contiguous corner restriction.

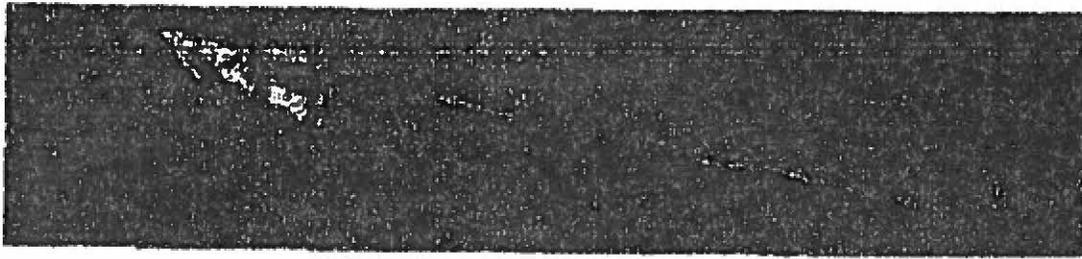
BLM parcels H and G offer hunting, fishing and viewing opportunities but no public access is available to them. Access to these parcels is limited to owners of private property which adjoin them and to float boaters that can float to parcel H.

The Blue Valley Sportsman Club recognizes that all land exchanges do not necessarily please the public in its entirety. There could be some controversy included in the exchange process, however, we feel the benefits gained through the exchange, both in acreage in public ownership and access will more than compensate for the loss of opportunities currently available on the BLM lands which would be exchanged. Therefore, the Blue Valley Sportsman Club strongly recommends the BLM approve the exchange as proposed.

We look forward to working with both BLM and Blue Valley Ranch to complete the exchange process. If you have any questions or need more information from our Club, please do not hesitate to contact me or Chuck Cesar. I can be reached at 970-9368 and Chuck can be reached at [REDACTED].

Sincerely, 

Steve Schake, President



Colorado Wild Public Lands

PO BOX 590
BASALT, CO 81621
coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com

June 7, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Odell
Field Manager
BLM Kremmling Field Office
2103 Park Ave.
Kremmling, CO 80459

Dear Ms. Odell,

We respectfully submit the following comments on the proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange. We are small non-profit of volunteers who advocate for public lands throughout Colorado. We hope that you will find these scoping comments constructive.

ALTERNATIVES

The EIS should include detailed analysis of alternatives to "the Proposed Action" and "No Action"; these should earnestly consider the agency's discretion under FLPMA' to reserve all existing public rights to float, fish and hunt parcels A, B, G, H, and I. The analysis should describe existing conditions accurately and provide detailed, quantitative evidence that the exchange enhances the public interest and not just expedient agency management; enhancement would include, but not be limited to, a quantifiable and qualitative net increase in stream access for floating and wade fishing, for hunting, for other recreational and for publicly managed wildlife habitat.

The BLM often asserts that the proposed action is the preferred alternative because the parcels traded to the proponent are "difficult to access" and "hard to manage". The draft EIS should demonstrate in detail why this is so; such documentation should include information about

access agreements across private property to reach these "difficult to manage" parcels, documentation of problems with public trespass, and any other such documentation and detail to uphold the agency's assertions that the exchange enhances efficiencies.

MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT

Generally, the EIS should include analysis of future management actions by any future management entity, whether it be the Spring Creek takeout, the "river park" on parcel 8 or the purported "road and trail improvements" to Green Mountain Canyon on parcel 10. Not only does the public deserve to know specifics about what they are receiving in return for conveying public lands to private entities, but these new public amenities will have impacts on the local environments and economies.

If the EIS reflects the proposed action as the preferred alternative, the document should include detailed analysis of future management of the Spring Creek takeout including specifics regarding which entities will hold the easement and undertake management, and how management will be funded. Nothing short of a perpetual easement will ensure on-going access to the public waters through the BVR; if the proponent chooses to convey this easement to a 501(3) organization, the easement should be co-held by the BLM or CPW; these organizations are charged with protecting public interest, whereas non-profit land trusts are privately funded organizations that steward private property rights, with no obligation to the public whatsoever.

The EIS should demonstrate that the proponent has conveyed a perpetual guarantee of the public's right to float the Blue River, including a commitment to eliminate physical and verbal barriers to exercising those rights; the draft EIS should include an appendix disclosing a binding agreement between the proponent and appropriate entities, charged with protecting the public's right to float the river.

Absent execution and disclosure of these important agreements, the BLM should hold Parcel H in escrow until such details are realized.

Parcel I's conveyance to the proponent will eliminate wading access to the river; the management of Parcel 8 should offer mitigation for that loss. And include a trail across the oxbow to allow easy access to wading the river

THIRD PARTIES

This land exchange involves three beneficiary entities in addition to the proponent: Summit County, Skylark Ranch and the Blue Valley Homeowner's association. The draft EIS should include full disclosure of and include as appendices, the contractual agreements among the BLM, the proponent and these other entities, especially as they involve private beneficiaries other than the proponent.

APPRAISALS AND VALUATION

The draft EIS should include an appendix of all current (as of the time of the draft's release) appraisals so as to allow public scrutiny and comment; ideally, they should have been available as part of the public information posted on the website for the public to consider in scoping. If there are updated appraisals at the time of the release of the draft and/or final EIS and ROD, the new documents should be included as appendices as well.

In conducting future appraisals for this exchange, the BLM should ensure the appraisals utilize multiple techniques to fully consider the value of the lands included in the exchange, including but not limited to the assemblage value of the BLM lands *to the exchange proponent*. As documented in "Trophy Property Valuation; A Ranch Case Study, (2003) by Bill Mundy", Trophy Ranch appraisals require specialized expertise and review. They should quantifiably document values for the proposed changes in use and costs and benefits to all parties in the exchange, be they public or private.

Appraisals should also reflect the full range of public property rights and values the proposed action conveys to the proponent. Parcels A and B offer access to the Game Species that pass through them and the adjacent public lands. The values of BLM Parcels G, H and I are the same to both the public and the proponent – access to the water and fish in the river; these appraisals should treat these parcels as would two private entities willingly entering into a transaction over developable river front property. Appraisals should include an analysis of other public values associated with river front property, including recreational contributions to the regional economy, habitat and species diversity and of the riparian area's value in the region's overall economic and environmental health.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

In accordance with NEPA's requirement to evaluate cumulative impacts of this action, the draft EIS should include details of previous exchanges of which the BVR and previous owners of the ranch (or ranches, if more than one were consolidated to create today's singular one) were parties. This larger context is important in demonstrating the cumulative impacts of multiple land exchanges on the public's right to enjoy this stretch of the Blue River.

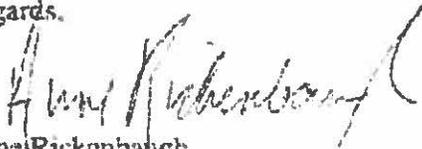
PROCESSING AND FUNDING OF THE EXCHANGE

It is our opinion that the practice of having the proponent pay all costs of the analysis and processing of the exchange discourages the agencies from making committed decisions about participation. Such decisions should be based on the agencies' long term planning and vision, and some proponent driven exchanges would not proceed due to the agencies' limitations on resources and the proposals' lack of enhancement to the agencies' specific planning goals. However, since this is the standard practice, future documents should reflect revisions of the "Processing Costs and Funding" analysis in the Feasibility Analysis executed by the Agency in 2004; these revisions should reflect today's costs and fees.

Finally, the NEPA process should include full disclosure of all paid participation in the development and processing of the exchange, including, but not limited to actual staff time at the BLM and other public agencies, and background and remuneration to any consultants providing services to the agency or the proponent.

We thank you and your staff for your consideration of our opinions and comments.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Rickenbaugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Rickenbaugh
Secretary, Colorado Wild Public Lands



Bureau of Land Management | Blue Valley Land Exchange Open House | ~~June 23, 2016~~ – Silverthorne, CO

May

Please use this form, or submit a concisely-written letter, to comment on the Blue Valley Land Exchange. Address all comments to:

Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office
ATTN: Monte Senor, Assistant Field Manager
RE: Blue Valley Land Exchange
2103 E. Park Avenue, P.O. Box 68, Kremmling, CO 80459
kfo_webmail@blm.gov

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY! (ok to use backside of page or additional sheets if necessary)

Name (First and Last) Organization (if applicable)	Brett Wamsley
Mailing Address Please include: City, State, Zip Code	[Redacted]
Email address	[Redacted]
<p>Hi - I use the blue river corridor as a floater, fisherman, and kayaker (occasionally). I am not <u>against</u> the current proposal as the BLM lands below Spring Creek Rd (BLMH, 6, ±) would be traded to BUR. These are <u>key</u> stopping points for float trips to have lunch + get out of the boat. the trip To do the lower blue float, it requires <u>a lot</u> of effort + losing these stopping points hinders a floater's enjoyment. The proposed additions of bathroom at Spring Creek is nice, but not necessary. The take-out could use improving, <u>but</u> the loss of these lands greatly outweighs the benefits.</p> <p>To more consider the swap - I would ask that rafts could put in at spring creek, improve the put in and <u>keep</u> BLMH as a stopping point. Thank You! Brett Wamsley.</p>	

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



Bureau of Land Management | Blue Valley Land Exchange

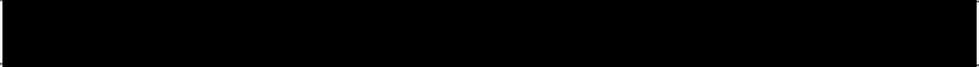
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May

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 2103 E. Park Avenue, P.O. Box 68, Kremmling, CO 80459
kfo_webmail@blm.gov

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY! (ok to use backside of page or additional sheets if necessary)

Name (First and Last) Organization (if applicable)	DAVID CANNIGHAN
Mailing Address <i>Please include:</i> City, State, Zip Code	
Email address	

The exchange looks great. Great for Summit County open space. Keep up to good work on this project.



Bureau of Land Management | Blue Valley Land Exchange

Open House | ~~June 23, 2016~~ – Silverthorne, CO

MAY

Please use this form, or submit a concisely-written letter, to comment on the Blue Valley Land Exchange. Address all comments to:

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PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY! (ok to use backside of page or additional sheets if necessary)

Name (First and Last) Organization (if applicable)	Karen Mason
Mailing Address <i>Please include:</i> City, State, Zip Code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
<p>This looks like a really good deal for the BLM. They did their homework and have put together a land exchange that will be good for Summit County.</p> <p>The improvements to the Spring Creek proposed take-out area will really improve the area's recreational offerings.</p>	

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.