

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604-2968
WYW 158772

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management is considering a proposal to exchange land pursuant to Section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1716). This is an exchange with Eagle Creek Ranch, LLC.

The following described Federal land (surface estate only), is being considered for disposal by the United States:

Sixth Principal Meridian, Natrona County, Wyoming

T. 30 N., R. 83 W.,

sec. 3, SW¹/₄SW¹/₄;

sec. 4, S¹/₂N¹/₂, SW¹/₄, N¹/₂SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄;

sec. 6, NE¹/₄SE¹/₄;

sec. 8, W¹/₂SE¹/₄;

sec. 9, lots 1-3, N¹/₂NW¹/₄, SE¹/₄NW¹/₄;

sec. 10, NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, E¹/₂SE¹/₄;

sec. 11, S¹/₂SW¹/₄;

sec. 13, W¹/₂E¹/₂, NW¹/₄, N¹/₂SW¹/₄;

sec. 14, NE¹/₄, E¹/₂NW¹/₄, NE¹/₄SW¹/₄, N¹/₂SE¹/₄;

sec. 17, W¹/₂NE¹/₄, E¹/₂NW¹/₄;

sec. 21, NW¹/₄NW¹/₄.

aggregating approximately 2,072.95 acres.

It is anticipated that this land would continue to be used for grazing/ranching operations.

In exchange, the United States would acquire the following non-Federal land:

Sixth Principal Meridian, Natrona County, Wyoming

Alcova Parcel—9.681 acres located in lot 3 (NW¹/₄SW¹/₄) of section 19, T. 30 N., R 82 W. (Surface estate only including sand and gravel);

Government Bridge Parcel—9.2062 acres located in the SE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of Section 23 and the SW¹/₄NW¹/₄ and the NW¹/₄SW¹/₄ of Section 24, T. 31 N., R. 82 W. (Surface estate only. The U.S. still owns the mineral estate);

Trapper's Route #1 Parcel—3.00 acres located south and west of the North Platte River in the SW¹/₄SE¹/₄ of Section 11, T. 31 N., R. 82 W. (Surface estate only. The U.S. still owns the mineral estate.);

Trapper's Route #2 Parcel—8.28 acres located south and west of the North Platte River in the NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of Section 14, T. 31 N., R. 82 W. (Surface estate only including sand and gravel),

aggregating approximately 30.10 acres.

This exchange will be completed on an equal value basis, based on approved appraisals. The final difference in appraised values will be confined to as small an amount as possible and will be equalized if necessary within the constraints of 25% of the value of the Federal land as allowed by regulations at 43 CFR 2201.6. If the Federal land value is greater than the

non-Federal land, the proponent will make a cash equalization payment prior to closing. If the non-Federal land is more valuable than the Federal land, BLM will seek cash equalization funding.

The anticipated primary public benefits of this exchange are:

1. Acquisition of non-Federal land to provide public access and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities along the river. Acquisition of these parcels would block up lands adjacent to existing Federal parcels and eliminate some inholdings that limit public access along the riverfront, allowing continuous public access over longer stretches of the river.
2. Protection and preservation of riparian and wetlands along the river, as well as protection and preservation of associated wildlife and fisheries habitat.
3. Prevention/reduction of subdivision/residential development or urban sprawl along the river.

The exchange proposal is in conformance with the Platte River Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved in July 1985. The RMP specifically identifies acquisition of lands along the North Platte River as a management objective. It also designates the river corridor as the North Platte River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and directs preparation of a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP).

If the exchange is completed the four parcels of non-Federal land would be managed as part of the North Platte River Special Recreation Management Area, in a manner consistent with the adjacent Federal land and as directed in the RAMP. General management goals and objectives are specified in the RMP, and will be further refined in the RAMP.

Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land identified above was segregated from appropriation under the public land laws and mineral laws beginning December 7, 2006.

More detailed information concerning the proposed exchange may be obtained from Randy Sorenson at the Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604, 307-261-7522.

Interested parties may submit comments concerning the proposed exchange, including notification of any liens, encumbrances, or other claims relating to the lands being considered for exchange, to Jim Murkin, Casper Field Office Manager at the above address. Comments may also be submitted electronically to casper_wymail@blm.gov. In order to ensure consideration in the environmental analysis of the proposed exchange, written comments to the Field Office Manager should be postmarked or delivered within 45 days of the date of the first publication of this Notice.

Date: January 18, 2007
James K. Murkin
Casper Field Manager