



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68 – 2103 E. Park Ave
Kremmling, CO 80459
<http://www.blm.gov/co/kfo>

MAY 11 2018

In Reply Refer To:
1793 (CO-N02)

Dear Reader:

The Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is available for your review and comment. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared this document in consultation with cooperating agencies and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended; implementing regulations; the BLM's Land Exchange Handbook (H-2200-1); and other applicable law and policy.

The proposed land exchange includes 1,489 acres of Federal lands managed by the BLM Colorado Kremmling field office in Grand County, Colorado that would be transferred into private ownership for approximately 1,830 acres of non-federal lands, previously owned by Blue Valley Ranch, in Summit and Grand counties, Colorado. Subsequent to completion of the proposed exchange, approximately 300 acres of the non-Federal lands would be transferred to the White River National Forest, while the remaining approximately 1,530 acres would be managed by the BLM Colorado Kremmling field office. As a component of the Proposed Action, Blue Valley Ranch has proposed a number of Recreation Design Features intended to facilitate realization of certain opportunities for enhanced public recreation. Included in the proposed Recreation Design Features are a river restoration project, installation of enhanced boat take-outs, and construction of a multi-use trail that would provide pedestrian access to the Blue River on an exchanged parcel. Picnic tables, seasonal bathrooms, and improvements related to parking and access are also included the proposed Recreation Design Features.

The BLM will decide whether to approve the proposed land exchange based on the analysis contained in the Draft EIS. The BLM may choose to: a) proceed with the exchange as proposed, b) proceed with the proposed exchange with modifications/mitigation, including a donation of non-Federal land, or c) not proceed with the exchange.

The proposal would not be modified to change the total acreage of lands transferred between federal and non-federal ownership as discussed under the Proposed Action throughout the Draft EIS; however, the configuration of the proposal may be modified in the Record of Decision to allow the Proponent to donate, rather than exchange, portions of the non-Federal parcels in order to equalize appraised values, as provided by the BLM Land Exchange Handbook (H-2200-1). All environmental effects determinations would remain unchanged under such a modification, as the effects are based on a change in ownership, rather than the specific method of transfer (i.e., exchange or donation).

The BLM encourages the public to review and provide comments on the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is available on the project website at: <https://go.usa.gov/xnBJ5>. Hard copies are also available for public review at the BLM Colorado Kremmling field office.

Public comments will be accepted for forty-five (45) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's publication of its Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The BLM can best use your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

Written comments may be submitted as follows (submittal of electronic comments is encouraged):

1. Written comments may be submitted electronically at:
blm_co_kr_webmail@blm.gov.
2. Written comments may also be mailed directly or delivered to the BLM at:

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Annie Sperandio
P.O. Box 68
2103 East Park Avenue
Kremmling, CO 80459

To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we encourage you to submit comments in an electronic format. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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 from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

During the Draft EIS comment period two public open houses will be held by the BLM. The first public meeting will be held on June 4, 2018 at the Summit County Library in Silverthorne, Colorado. The second public meeting will be held the following day on June 6, 2018 at the Grand County Extension Office of the Fairgrounds in Kremmling, Colorado.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange. We appreciate the information and suggestions you contribute to the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hunter Seim', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J Hunter Seim
Field Manager (Acting)