Jhanglers@aol.com
02/25/03 02:19 PM

To: pinedale_wymail@blm.gov
cc:
Subject: Snake River RMP

To whom it may concern;

I am a commercial fishing outfitter on the Snake River in Jackson Hole. I am writing with a concern I have with your preffered alternative for the Snake River RMP. It would seem that some of your action alternatives hand over control of recreation activities to another government agency (The National Forest Service or National Park Sevice). I am one of a small number of outfitters who operate on BLM land and do not have Forest Service or Park Service Permits. It is my concern that if control is handed over to one of these other agencies, they will allow their current permitees to operate on BLM lands without offering new permits to companies that don't hold Forest or Park Permits. Handing over control to these other agencies could put many small outfitters out of work.

I understand that the BLM does not want to continue to manage the Wilson to Southpark stretch of the Snake River, but I would ask that the RMP looks after those of us who make our living on it. If control is handed over to another agency, please make them issue a new set of permits to outfitters that currently use the BLM access points exclusively.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please don't hesitate to call or write me with any questions or concerns.

Enjoy,

David Ellerstein
Jackson Hole Anglers
PO Box 9005
Jackson, WY 83002
307-690-5717

"tetontrout"
<tetontrout@onewest.net>
02/26/03 07:58 AM

To: "BLM Snake R. RMP team leader BLM" <pinedale_wymail@blm.gov>
cc:
Subject: BLM letter- S.Park access, Feb 26,03.doc

Teton Troutfitters

PO.Box530 Wilson, Wy. 83014

office:307 733-5362 Fax 307 733-5360

info@tetontroutfitters.com

February 26, 2003

Dear Snake RiverRMPteam leader,

This letter is in reference to the BLM plan to develop a boat ramp at the SouthParkSnake Riveraccess, in TetonCounty.

Please allow the Forest Service to manage this proposed boat ramp in Teton County.Growingriver use and quality of river experience need the direction that the Forest Service has already allowed for in their management plan for the Snake River in Teton Co., Wy.

I am unable to attend your meeting on March 26,2003at the Teton Co. Commisionersmeeting room. I will attend these meetings whenever possible, and would appreciate be kept up to date on this proposal.

Please enter my e-mail address on your contact list and feel free to update me at any

time.

Thank you, Scott Hocking, owner Teton Troutfitters guide service.

Sincerely,

Signature

- header.htm

Beatrice van Roijen
<bvanr@earthlink.net>

03/14/03 07:12 AM

To: pinedale_wymail@blm.gov
cc:
Subject: Snake River BLM

I applaud your plan to put your blm land along the Snake into land preservation. Let's not let it go to private developers who have access to those in the know. .. thanks, sincerely Bea van Roijen post office box 332, Wilson, Wy. 83014 phone 307 733 6420

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
Pinedale, Wyoming

Open House for Snake River Resource Management Plan
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

3/26/2003

LEAVE COMMENTS AT REGISTRATION TABLE OR MAIL THEM TO: Bureau of Land Management; Kellie Roadifer, Project Manager; Pinedale Field Office; P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

Please Read Carefully

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the , Wyoming during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Name/Organization: LEN CARLMAN

Address: PO Box 1230 Wilson, **Zip Code:** Wyo 83014

Comments:

Re BLM Snake River Riparian Parcels in Teton County, Wyo

1 I support: (1) Signed [illegible]

2 (2) Consolidation of scattered parcels into 5 or 6 larger signed sites

3 (3) Wildlife habitat protection as a higher [illegible] than [illegible] [illegible] extraction etc.)

4 (4) Stewardship by local agency - JH Land Trust, Teton County or Wyo G&F.

Thank you, Len Carlman

Steve Poole
<scepoole@earthlink.net>

03/29/03 11:04 AM

To: pinedale_wymail@blm.gov
cc:
Subject: BLM land along Snake River

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the BLM land that is found in Teton County along the Snake River. Please enter this comment into your public record for this project. I am a long time resident of Teton county who has enjoyed the Snake River recreational opportunities since the early 1980's. I would like to ask that you preserve the land for
1 public use. The River frontage is under great pressure in Teton county from development and increased use. I would like to see the parcels
2 used for primitive overnight camping, allowing users to travel the length of the river from Jackson lake through the snake river canyon to
3 Alpine. Please consider trading these parcels to the National Forest Service and ask them to utilize the parcels for public recreation.
Thanks again,

Steve Poole
PO Box 237
Wilson, WY 83014

<lewisem2@msu.edu>

03/31/03 09:40 AM

To: pinedale_wymail@blm.gov
cc:
Subject: 1073 acres of Public Land

Snake River RPM Team Leader,

Hello my name is Emilie Lewis and I am citizen of Teton County.

I have a keen interest and appreciation for the Snake River along with the majority of Teton County. I was saddened to hear that you had a low turn out for you meeting about the public access land. I am currently living in Quito Ecuador or else I would have been there.

I would like to write you about my concerns and suggestions for the land. With the controveresy surrounding the Canyon Club and the already overbundant developing in Teton County I urge you not to let the land go to private interests and development. We all live in Jackson and surrounding areas for its natrual beauty and opportunites it provides. Please support a plan that consists of public access so the population of the greater Teton area can enjoy our river. Please do not this valuable asset fall to the hands a few private investors.

Thank you for your time,

Emilie

"George Hendley"
<geohendley@onewest.net>

03/31/03 12:41 PM

To: <pinedale_wymail@blm.gov>
cc:
Subject: snake river public use

Hello, I strongly support the obviously fair and justified public access to blm controlled lands along the snake river. the politically controled judiciary has denied public access without allowing reasonable due process. I believe the osbourne decision denied the use of federal lands. Wyoming cronyism at its best. good luck to you in your endevour.
I have a notion you will find Just Us, rather than justice. all the best,
George Hendley, Wilson

Richard Greenwood
<Rich@GreenwoodMap.com>
04/01/03 10:49 AM

To: pinedale_wymail@blm.gov
cc:
Subject: Snake River management plan comments

Dear Reader,

1 I am writing to express my support for management of the Snake River BLM lands for public access. Although the private lands within Jackson Hole are surrounded by vast areas of public lands, access is not as easy as it might seem. All too frequently access to public lands, or the Snake River recreational easement, is blocked by private ownership. In many cases a strip of private land only a few hundred yards in width preludes convenient access public lands, forcing people get in their car and drive to recreation.

One example that comes to mind are the BLM lands in Sections 24 and 25, T40N, R117W (see link below for a map). The BLM lands "connect" Fall Creek County Road to the Snake River, but because of fencing and "No Trespassing" signs, the public has no idea where the BLM land is.

2 I would imagine that the BLM is under pressure from adjoining lands owners to NOT manage these lands for public access, and to dispose of these into private ownership. Don't do it! The public has a right to use these lands and the BLM has the responsibility to protect the rights of the general public over the self interest of a few individuals.

The March 21, 2003 issue of the Jackson Hole daily ran a story that suggested some frustration on the part of the BLM at a lack of attendance at a recent meeting. I would point out that we all have busy lives - you, me, most everybody - we all have trouble finding time to do everything we would like to do. So please do not interpret a lower than hoped for attendance as a lack of support. It is your job to manage these lands, the rest of us have to take time away from our jobs, or personal lives, to attend meetings.

Sincerely,
Richard Greenwood

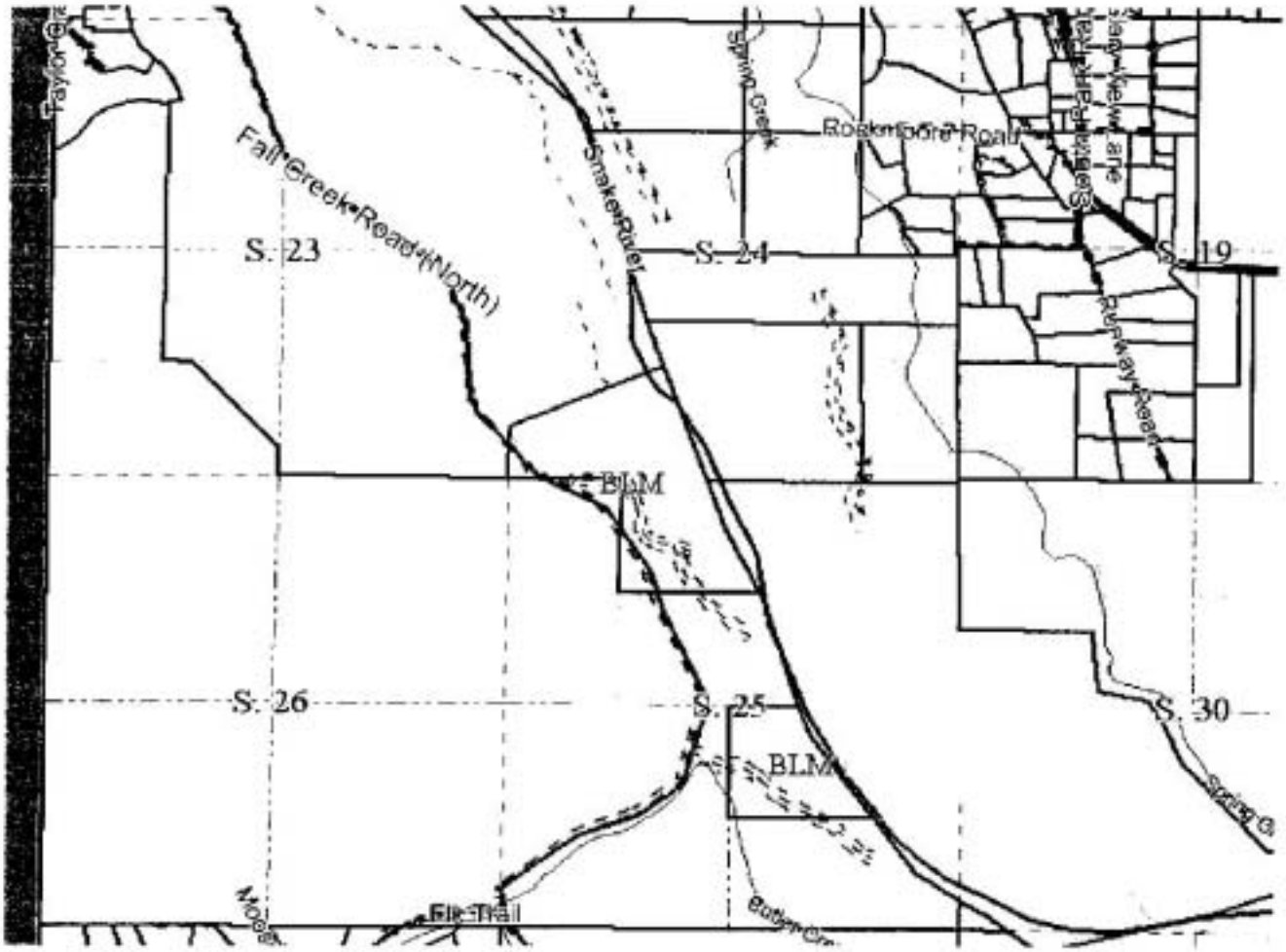
Link to map of BLM land between Snake River and Fall Creek Road:

http://www2.tetonwyo.org/mapserver/mapserv.exe?MAP_LEGEND_STATUS=&MAP_REFERENCE_STATUS=ON&imgext=2421178.017712+1380675.997272+2435638.867236+1391554.219350&map=tc%2Ftc.map&mapext=shapes&mode=browse&zoomsize=

2&template=tc.html&layers=Roads+PLS+ownership+Water+state_fed&zoomdir=0&imgxy=264+145&imgbox=264+145+264+145&map_size=645+485

Richard W. Greenwood, PLS
Greenwood Mapping, Inc.
Rich@GreenwoodMap.com
(307) 733-0203
http://www.GreenwoodMap.com

8


Fall Creek Road (North)
Snake River
Spring Creek
Rockmore Road
S. 23
S. 24
S. 19
BLM
S. 26
S. 25
S. 30
BLM
Elk Trail

"Hall, Matthew"
<mwhall@pardee.com
>

04/02/03 01:19 PM

To: "pinedale_wymail@blm.gov" <pinedale_wymail@blm.gov>
cc:
Subject: Snake River RMP

To Whom It May Concern:

1 I write to urge the Bureau of Land Management to retain ownership of
the 22 parcels along the Snake River in Jackson Hole, totaling more than
1,000 acres, which it is considering conveying to other agencies, and to
2 manage them in a way that provides maximum protection for their natural and
wildlife values. If the BLM does choose to transfer any of those tracts to
3 other agencies, I urge that they be designated as "Areas of Critical
Environmental Concern" and managed primarily to protect natural and wildlife
values. These riparian areas are important wildlife habitat and migration
routes, and they provide BLM with an opportunity to counterbalance to some
small degree the damage to those values occurring on other BLM properties,
such as along the Green River, where wildlife interests are being sacrificed
to allow the development of natural gas reserves. That trade off may be
justified there but great harm is being done nonetheless, and this current
situation provides some opportunity for BLM to redress the balance. There
are other areas in Jackson Hole where recreational values can and should be
a major land use component, but the BLM should use its unique position to
protect wildlife values in these immensely important areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Hall
65 Huckleberry Drive
Jackson, WY 83001

3/30/03

ATTN:
SNAKE RIVER RMP TEAM LEADER

1 SORRY WE MISSED THE MEETING. OUR COMMENT IS THAT WE SUPPORT 100% KEEPING BLM LANDS ALONG THE SNAKE RIVER PUBLIC. WHO MAINTAINS OR ADMINISTERS THE PROPERTY IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS LONG AS IT IS A PUBLIC AGENCY AND PUBLIC ACCESS IS GUARANTEED AND PROTECTED. PUBLIC LAND NEEDS TO REMAIN PUBLIC.

THANKS

KURT & DEB HENRY
P.O. BOX 1115
JACKSON, WY 83001

APR 3 2003

11

"Gillespie, Garth"
<Garth.Gillespie@sothebys.com>
04/03/03 12:56 PM

To: "pinedale_wymail@blm.gov" <pinedale_wymail@blm.gov>
cc:
Subject: Snake River Lands

To: The Snake River RMP Team Leader

I am writing you to let you know that I am in agreement with the policy being put forth to keep BLM lands throughout the Teton County valley open to the public. I have read two articles in recent papers that there has not been much public input on the issue and that has worried some officials. This interests me that some officials are concerned that public support is not making their voice heard. I would like to turn this around and say that maybe most of us are in agreement with the policy set forth and we are happy with the decision. Why in these times that every issue is debated to death do we always have to create comments? The argument I hear that when there is a lot of comments is that there tend to be form letters and those are discounted. For once I believe the general public is supporting the issue and we should not look for reasons why people are not commenting. If the BLM had decided to develop all these lands I believe we would see lawsuits, debates, hearing ect. Let's save some money and move forward with the plan.

As for the plan---I am in full agreement with the plans set forth. I believe we could get a little more creative as the plans move forward. For example-a BLM/forest service campground at the South Snake river bridge property would be welcomed by our summer visitors. Here is a property right on the Snake River, ample land for campers, and close to Jackson. As for property land locked on the snake we should post these areas and encourage day use for floaters. Maybe the forest service could set up overnight camping on the Snake-a much needed resource. I also believe that these properties should stay open for gravel mining as we are going to continue to need gravel in the valley and the digging that takes place seems to encourage island growth in the Snake River.

1 2 3 4

With that said, I agree with the plan outlined by the BLM.

Regards,

Garth and Christy Gillespie
P.O. Box 11600
Jackson, WY 83002
307-734-3838

"mike craig"
<zitlight73@hotmail.com>

04/03/03 03:23 PM

To: pinedale_wymail@blm.gov
cc:
Subject: Snake River land

As a lifelong Wyoming resident and a seventeen year resident of Teton County I vehemently oppose any more land giveaways to the wealthy elite. For way too long I have seen our land mangement bureaucrats make sweatheart deals with wealthy land owners and developers at the cost of public trust.

Some of the BLM acreage in question lies along the Wilson levee,which was fenced off and the little access roads into the trees were trenched giving giving public land the appearance of private land. Then without any public input the gate that was once two and a half to three miles down the levee road was moved up to the Wilson bridge undoubably at the behest of a few wealthy landowners. The Wilson levee is an object lesson how the public is either denied or hindered access to their own lands by a few bureaucrats to favor a handful elite. By denying motorized traffic along the levee the powers that be also denied access to the eldarly and other physically impaired to some decent fishing. This same levee is maintained at no small cost by taxpayer money. The public must rise up against any more dubious deals made with their lands.

What then should be done with the land in question? It should be kept public that's for sure. Why not give it to Fish and Game who could manage it in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Federation and like groups. These river bottom parcels are way too precious to be turned into yet more snobbish gated communities with their goddamned golf courses. The Tetons might be the backbone of this valley but the Snake River is it's life's blood. very sincerely yours Mike Craig,Jackson Wy.

jtwallace
<jtwallace@ft.newyorklife.com>

04/03/03 03:59 PM

To: "pinedale_wymail@blm.gov" <pinedale_wymail@blm.gov>
cc:
Subject: Snake River RMP Team Leader

Thank you for allowing continued imput and most importantly, having the vision to see that public lands in Teton County are very limited and continue to decrease at an alarming rate. Thank you for caring.

As a 25year plus resident of Teton County and past river guide on the Snake, I truly understand how important it is to maintain these riparian lands in public trust. Such lands are few and critical to wildlife. The general recreationists needs these lands today and more so tomorrow. The development, poor land use and nazi style character of some of property owners on the Snake River have greatly stressed wildlife and recreationists. Without these lands in public trust, the Snake River, from the Moose Bridge to the South Park Bridge could become a large irrigation ditch barren of wildlife and native plants. As outrageous as this may sound, you know this could become reality.

Although my voice is heard through this correspondence, many interested and affected persons remain silent. However, I can offer witness that the large majority of citizens of Teton County, and I suspect, the vast majority of the State of Wyoming and the United States do strongly support maintaining these lands in public trust.

Thank you for keeping America great and beautiful. Your children and grandchildren will be proud of you for doing the right things.

If I can help, in anyway, please let me know. Best wishes, Jim Wallace

"Denny Emory"
<dennyemory@earthlink.net>

04/06/03 01:03 PM

To: <pinedale_wymail@blm.gov>
cc:
Subject: Snake River RMP

Greetings from Wilson, Wyoming.

I want to record my strong support for the BLM lands along the Snake River in Teton County, Wyoming to be managed for public access and maintained in public ownership. Under no circumstances should these lands be sold or transferred into private ownership.

As this region continues to grow in population and attract an innumerable number of visitors every year, recreational pressures increase and the need for public access to a resource like the Snake River is invaluable and irreplaceable.

Thank you for your time and your efforts.

Denny Emory
P. O. Box 190
Wilson, Wyo. 83014
307 / 733-3601
DennyEmory@EarthLink.net

Thank you.

"Sarah ."
<medieval_3@hotmail.com>
04/11/03 08:09 AM

To: pinedale_wymail@blm.gov
cc:
Subject: snake river

I don't know if I'm too late to send this, but it can't hurt. I grew up in Pinedale and spent every weekend possible on either the Green River or the Snake honing my new kayaking skills and marveling at the landscape. The sections of land that are in question should undoubtedly be used for public access. Fishing, boating (rafting, kayaking, canoeing), general hiking and lounging are just a few of the recreational activities that drive the Jackson Hole community. If the land is developed for more houses or used to unknowingly drill for oil, it will eventually die and become brown and barren. The lure of the land will drastically decrease and people won't come from hundreds to thousands of miles away to look at what we have. The economy will die. But more importantly, the mental escape the land offers will disappear. People won't be able to float the river with easy access to the put in and take out when all they want to do is! relax for a day. Another consideration is the habitat the section of the river offers animals. Often I paddled past a bald eagle flying overhead or perched on a rock feasting on a trout. Herons sit on the banks and deer and moose patrol the shores. Please put the land to good use and apply it to public access.

-Sarah Maclean

Greater Yellowstone Coalition

13 South Willson, Suite 2 • P.O. Box 1874 • Bozeman, Montana 59771 • **phone:** (406) 586-1593
fax: (406) 586-0851 • **email:** gyc@greateryellowstone.org • **web:** www.greateryellowstone.org

April 11, 2003

Kellie Roadifer
Snake River RMP Team Leader
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, WY 82941

RECEIVED
APR 14 2003
PINEDALE RESOURCE
AREA OFFICE

RE: Snake River Resource Management Plan

Dear Ms. Roadifer:

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to comment on the DEIS for the Snake River Resource Management Plan. The following comments represent the views of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. GYC is a non-profit conservation organization of over 12,000 members dedicated to protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Based in Bozeman, Montana, we also have offices in Jackson, Wyoming, and Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Overview

Let me begin by saying that we appreciate the BLM's overall objective of protecting the 1,073 acres of surface lands along the Snake River and the 15,123 acres of federal mineral estate from activities that would compromise the area's national-caliber fish, wildlife, recreational, and visual resources. Clearly, preserving the existing natural values of the BLM lands along the Snake and Gros Ventre rivers far outweighs the short-term economic benefits that would be derived from mining, oil and gas development, grazing, OHV use, and other potentially damaging activities. It is for this reason that we support Alternative C – BLM Management for
1 Preservation – with a few suggested changes. Please refer to the attached tables for details.

Land Ownership

The BLM states in the DEIS that the reason it wants to dispose of these riverfront lands is because they are located far from the Pinedale District Office, they are scattered and irregularly shaped, and because adjacent landowners along the Snake River have expressed an interest in acquiring them. While all of these things may be true, there are other ways to address these challenges without disposing of these lands. For instance, if management oversight is difficult
2 because of the distance from Pinedale, the BLM could easily transfer some of its Pinedale staff to Jackson, where they could share space with another federal agency that already has an office there. It is our understanding that even if the BLM chooses to develop a Recreational Area Management Plan, it would need only two or three staff in Jackson.

3 Likewise, if it is problematic that the BLM parcels along the Snake River are scattered and irregularly shaped, the BLM could seek to consolidate them by designating a Special Project Area, thus allowing Land and Water Conservation Act funds to be tapped. When confronted with similar challenges along the South Fork of the Snake River in the mid-1980s, the BLM's Idaho Falls field office chose to aggressively consolidate its scattered riverfront lands rather than dispose of them. Since 1991, the Idaho Falls field office has acquired fee title to 24 properties and conservation easements on 23 other properties at a cost of nearly $22 million. In so doing, they have assembled a river corridor that is second to none for its abundant wildlife, thriving coldwater fisheries, and diverse, high-quality recreational opportunities. The reason they were able to accomplish this impressive feat this was because they looked at their scattered properties as a potential asset worth cultivating rather than a liability that needed to be unloaded.

4 As for the option of selling BLM lands to adjacent landowners, we strongly oppose this alternative for multiple reasons. First, it makes little sense to sell public lands to private interests when demand for public recreation along the Snake River already exceeds supply. As the DEIS states on page 67, "No other lands along the Snake River in Teton County provide the type of river access, close to town and residences, available on public lands in the planning area." Second, as evidenced by the Canyon Club fiasco in the Snake River Canyon below Hoback Junction, there exists the very real possibility that if the BLM sold its riverfront lands to private interests, they would be developed in a manner that damages irreplaceable ecological, recreational, and visual resources. Indeed, had the Forest Service acquired the Edgecomb property when it was up for sale a few years ago, the Canyon Club development never would have happened, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service never would have had to issue an incidental take permit allowing the killing of 18 federally-threatened bald eagles.

5 Finally, while it may be tempting to hand these parcels over to a non-governmental organization such as a land trust, we discourage this for two reasons. First, it is highly unlikely that a land trust would have the resources (i.e. staff and money) to manage these lands for recreational use, as this is not a primary objective of most land trusts. And second, because riverfront property around Jackson is so expensive, it would be nearly impossible for a land trust to acquire adjacent lands in order to establish a more contiguous public corridor. Having said that, if the BLM opts to transfer some of its parcels to non-governmental organizations or private interests, we believe that any qualifying lands must first have a conservation easement placed upon them.

Mining, Oil & Gas Development, and Salable Minerals

While we agree with the majority of the management actions described in the preferred alternative, we believe there is more the BLM can do to ensure that its lands continue to support healthy fish and wildlife populations and provide world-class recreational opportunities. To
6 begin with, we believe the BLM should close all of the surface lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area to mining, oil and gas development, and sand and gravel extraction. In particular, we feel very strongly that sand and gravel extraction should not be allowed in the active river channel, as would be permitted under the preferred alternative. Such activity would alter the Snake River's form and function, thus adversely impacting riparian vegetation and fish

and wildlife. If sand and gravel extraction is absolutely necessary to protect public infrastructure (e.g. bridges and levees), the RMP could make that exception.

Livestock Grazing

We also believe the preferred alternative does not go far enough to ensure that excessive livestock grazing does not degrade soils, vegetation, and other critical components of healthy
7 fish and wildlife habitat. Rather than allowing existing livestock grazing to continue at current levels, we recommend that grazing be reduced or eliminated on allotments where overgrazing has been documented to be a chronic problem. According to the DEIS, two out of the four current grazing allotments in the planning area – the Walton allotment and one of the Porter Estate allotments – have failed standard #4 of the BLM's Standards of Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management due to heavy grazing use and damage to the native shrub community. At the very least, the BLM needs to develop grazing management plans
8 for all of its existing grazing allotments. We concur with the recommendations in the preferred alternative that all parcels currently not leased for grazing should be closed to future applications, and existing grazing leases should be retired if and when the lessee's adjacent property is converted to uses other than grazing.

Off-Highway Vehicle Use

9 We concur with the preferred alternative's management objectives for OHV use – that it should be restricted to existing designated roads and trails – *except* where there are significant conflicts with non-motorized recreation. We share the BLM's concern that unauthorized trails are a growing problem. We therefore recommend that problem areas be clearly identified and targeted for vegetative restoration. We also concur with the management objective in the preferred alternative that would prohibit over-the-snow vehicles in the planning area.

Fish and Wildlife

We concur with most of the management objectives in the preferred alternative pertaining to the
10 protection of fish and wildlife. However, in order to optimize conditions for fish and wildlife, we believe that all surface lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area should be withdrawn from mining, oil and gas development, and extraction of salable minerals. We furthermore
11 12 believe that grazing impacts need to be reduced, OHV use should be limited to existing roads
13 and trails, and noxious weed control should exclude chemical treatment, especially along the Snake River, adjacent wetlands, and tributary streams. We also believe that the development of a
14 Recreation Area Management Plan could reduce or eliminate recreational activities that harm sensitive resources (i.e. nesting bald eagles).

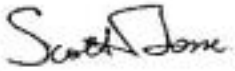
Recreation

15 As a rule, we strongly support the public's right to recreate along the Snake River, so long as it does not degrade the riparian corridor and the fish and wildlife that reside there. Apparently, however, recreational use along the Snake River between Moose and Wilson is already quite high and is likely to increase over time. It is for this reason that we urge the BLM to work with the local river recreation community to develop a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP). This plan could address such issues as overcrowding, day-use (e.g. picnicking), human waste disposal, and overnight camping.

Summary

In conclusion, we support the BLM's general direction in the draft Snake River RMP – which is to place a high priority on preserving fish and wildlife, low-impact recreation, and visual resources, and to prohibit activities such as mining, oil and gas development, and expanded grazing and OHV use that threaten to degrade those resources. However, we feel very strongly that these surface lands and accompanying federal mineral estate should stay in BLM ownership and not be transferred to a non-governmental organization or another federal agency. As stated earlier, transferring these lands to another federal agency does not resolve the issue of how to effectively manage scattered parcels of public land, and selling them to a local land trust, while certainly not the worst option, does not address the need to manage recreational use so it does not damage ecological and visual resources. It is for this reason that we endorse Alternative C – BLM Management for Preservation, with the few changes we suggested. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important planning process. Please do not hesitate to call me at (406) 556-2823 if you have any questions regarding our comments.

Sincerely,



Scott Bosse
Rivers Conservation Coordinator

	LAND USE OR RESOURCE	GYC ALTERNATIVE
	Land Ownership	Parcels should remain in BLM ownership. Any qualifying lands that are transferred to private ownership would be required to have a conservation easement placed on them prior to the transfer.
	Mineral Withdrawals	A long-term protective withdrawal would be pursued for all public lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims.
	Oil and Gas	The federal mineral estate throughout the entire planning area would be closed to leasing consideration for oil and gas.
	Other Leasable Minerals	Public lands and federal mineral estate would be closed to leasing consideration for phosphate, coal, sodium, and other leasible minerals.
	Salable Minerals (Sand and Gravel)	The extraction of sand and gravel would be prohibited on public lands and federal mineral estate throughout the planning area.
7	Livestock Grazing	Grazing Management Plans would be developed on current grazing allotments. All parcels not currently leased for livestock grazing would be closed to future applications.
7	Livestock Grazing, continued	Livestock grazing would be reduced or eliminated on allotments that have not met the BLM's Standards of Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing.
	Noxious Weeds	Control of noxious weeds may include biological, mechanical, or manual methods. Herbicides would not be permitted in the planning area.
12	Off-Highway Vehicle Management	Motorized used would be limited to existing designated roads and trails. Where OHV use has been shown to have caused resource damage, those roads and trails will be closed to OHVs. Over-the-snow vehicles would be prohibited.
	Fisheries	Projects that maintain or improve fisheries habitat as much as possible in a leveed system would be considered. Projects that adversely effect fisheries would be prohibited.

Wildlife	Where appropriate, measures to protect avian and other wildlife habitats would include seasonal restrictions on recreation and other disruptive activities.
16 Levees	Levees that are no longer needed would be removed and the adjacent floodplain habitat restored. Existing levees would be planted with native vegetation.
Visual Resource Management	Any transfers of public lands would require, where appropriate, the use of conservation easements to prohibit development and preserve scenic values. Any surface disturbing actions would be analyzed for impacts to visual values.
17 Public Rights-of-Way	Rights-of-way for public recreation would be pursued if necessary. No additional rights-of-way would be granted to private interests seeking to cross public lands.
Camping	Development of low-impact campgrounds could be considered.
Special Recreation Management Area	Public lands along the Snake and Gros Ventre rivers would be designated a Special Recreation Management Area to facilitate management of recreational activities such as floating, fishing, hiking, and commercial recreation activities.
Recreation Area Management Plan	A Recreation Area Management Plan would be prepared in order to provide for the management of public recreational use and the provision of services needed to maintain public health and safety, while protecting natural resources.
Special Project Area	The planning area would be designated a Special Project Area in order to allow federal Land and Water Conservation Fund purchases.

"Jan Momchilovich"
<jemwyoming@hotmail.com>

04/15/03 08:13 AM
Please respond to jems

To: pinedale_wymail@blm.gov
cc:
Subject: 1073 Acres of Land Along Snake River

Please do not sell the 1073 acres of land along the Snake River for private access. Please use the public access option for this acreage. We need to protect the Snake River and keep it in as pristine a state as possible for all to enjoy.

Thanks,

Jan Momchilovich | P.O. Box 2092 | Jackson, WY 83001

Wildlife Management Institute

Len H. Carpenter, Field Representative
4015 Cheney Drive • Fort Collins, Colorado 80526
Phone (970) 223-1099 • Fax (970) 204-9198

ROLLIN D. SPARROWE
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RICHARD E. McCABE
Vice-President

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April 14, 2003

Snake River RMP Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, WY 82941

Dear Team Leader:

I am the Southwest Field Representative for the Wildlife Management Institute. The Institute is a private, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization founded in 1911 and dedicated to the restoration, conservation, and sound management of natural resources, especially wildlife in North America. Following are my comments on the Draft EIS on the proposed Snake River Resource Management Plan.

First, it is good that the Bureau is updating this plan. It is important that land use plans be current and address pressing issues like land development, special management designations, resource accessibility, and special status species management. It is also necessary that RMPs be based on the latest federal laws, regulations, standards, guidelines, and policies.

It is recognized that the Snake River planning area is somewhat unique among Bureau lands. The isolated and relatively small public parcels pose special management challenges and opportunities. However, these lands are valuable parts of the public domain and should be retained and managed under public ownership.

This plan presents a wide choice of alternatives to address the planning issues and the reader can easily determine basic characteristics of each alternative. The planning team is to be acknowledged for their efforts.

The location and position of these lands along the Snake River in the Jackson Hole area dictate that these properties are very valuable for many uses. Since most of these parcels are riparian lands, they are important to a wide variety of important wildlife species. This is exemplified in

the document (page 75) where it is stated, "The wildlife resources are dependent on a functioning environment, which provides all of the elements for survival in the proper balance and the riparian system is considered the most valuable." A further example of the importance of these habitats is the information (page 81) that discloses from 1982-88, 6 bald eagle pairs located on the Snake River between Moose and the South Park bridge produced 50 young, or 41 percent of the total production in the Snake River corridor. These number alone demonstrate importance of these habitats to wildlife.

1 The Institute does not agree that the Preferred Alternative is the best choice for future management of these lands. The Preferred Alternative proposes to transfer these lands to another public land management agency or to private non-profit land preservation entities within the next 15 years. The main reason we do not support this alternative is that the proposed RMP does not identify any specific agencies or organizations for this transfer. Given the nature of the lands, the management challenges, and the high dollar value it seems unlikely another public agency will be forthcoming. It is possible that a non-profit organization might be able to assume ownership, but the Institute has long argued that the public domain lands should remain in public ownership.

The threat posed to all open lands in the Jackson Hole area, from home development and gravel development, fully justifies keeping these lands in public ownership and protected from surface disturbances. Consequently, we suggest that the best alternative would be either Alternative E or Alternative C.

2 We prefer alternative E because of its provisions to limit options for disposal or exchange of the public land parcels. Recreation would be managed through a fee permit system for commercial outfitters and mineral extraction would be limited in favor of protecting wildlife habitats, watersheds, and the quality of the recreational experience. Livestock grazing would be maintained in areas where it is currently occurring, with elimination of fall grazing and the provision that grazing leases would be lost if the leaseholder's adjacent private lands were converted to a use other than grazing. This should help maintain more of the "rural" landscape as well as protect valuable wildlife habitats.

3 Alternative C is also workable and is characterized as the resource protection alternative. Access by motorized vehicles would be limited as would level of river floating. In cases where lands might be removed from public ownership and use, they would be protected from development through the use of conservation easements. This alternative would also close all federal mineral estate in the planning area to mineral extraction. Our only concern is the devolution of public lands is possible in this alternative.

Primarily because of the uncertainty of another public land management agency stepping forward to receive these lands, we urge the Bureau to strongly consider changing their preferred alternative to either Alternative C or Alternative B. The extreme threat to open spaces and wildlife habitats in the Jackson Hole area requires that all existing public lands be retained in public ownership and managed under multiple use policies.

Thanks for the opportunity for comment. Please continue to inform us of future decisions on the Snake River Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Len H. Carpenter

Len H. Carpenter

"Hanlon, John"
<John.Hanlon@sothebys.com>

04/21/03 11:38 AM

To: "pinedale_wymail@blm.gov" <pinedale_wymail@blm.gov>
cc:
Subject: BLM lands - disposal

Dear BLM,
My comments regarding the disposal of lands along the Snake river follow:

I am a long time river user - 20 years- for fishing, scenic floating, and whitewater. I consider the Snake to be a very important part of Jackson Hole. It struck me as odd that I was not aware of all the BLM lands and now that I see a map of it I realize that some of it is so useful for boat ramps and access, but much of it is in odd parcels, is river bottom (cobblestone), unproductive land, or encompassed by other property with no reasonable public use or access.

I would encourage you to avoid taking a blanket approach such as dumping the acreage totally to the Forest svc. or other entity. What makes sense is to make the best use of it. In some cases this may mean turning parcels with important river access points over to the county, parcels abutting forest service could go to them and parcels with little public value could be sold by competitive bid to adjacent land owners. There are some odd parcels with strange shapes that seem to have marginal value and largely encompassed by private land. These could be sold for appraised value to that encompassing land owner. The money from these sales could be placed into a perpetual trust with interest supporting (in part) the BLM's many other needs.

While this varied approach takes a little more time, the revenues collected and knowledge that it was done right for each parcel more than justify the time involved.

John G. Hanlon
P.O. Box 3583
Jackson, WY.
83001

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Associate
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Dianne Davison
Office Manager

18 April 2003

Snake River RMP Team Leader
Pinedale Field Office
Box 768
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Re: Snake River RMP

Dear Sir:

Responding to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Snake River Resource Management Plan, the following is offered.

1 It would seem that Alternate D would be the best choice for these lands as there are ample public land management agencies in Teton County that could handle this assignment including the U. S. Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, County of Teton, Town of Jackson, National Park Service, ad. inf.

2 There is no reason for the Bureau of Land Management to be involved in managing these lands with the added expense of another Federal Agency.

Very sincerely yours,

SURVEYOR SCHERBEL, LTD.

Paul N. Scherbel

Paul N. Scherbel
President

PNS:my

April 18, 2003

Snake River RMP Team Leader:

I hope it's not too late for comments from the public re the 1,073 riparian acres along the Snake River (I live in R.I. after living 27 yrs. in Jackson - and receive the newspaper very late)

I very strongly believe this land needs to stay in public ownership with public access to the Snake. Land is so precious, don't let this acreage (for the public) go to commercial use.

Sincerely,
Marjorie S Hunt
Marjorie S Hunt

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Kellie Roadifer
Snake River RMP Team Leader
BLM
Pinedale Field Office
PO Box 768
Pinedale, WY 82941

April 23, 2003

Dear Kellie Roadifer,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS for theSnake River RMP. I value the habitat that the Snake River provides for fish and wildlife. I value the view of the river where it is still unobstructed by development. This river is at risk of development.

1 Please do your best to maintain the lands along the river in public ownership. Instead of disposing of this land and therefore allow it to be developed, because we both know the development pressures are huge, try to consolidate the land under the stewardship of the BLM. You could do this by deeming this special area a Special Projects Area.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The future of the Snake River flood plain is in your hands.

Sincerely, Georgie W. Stanley

Georgie Stanley

Georgie Stanley
1029 S. 200 W.
Victor ID 83455

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