United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522

DECISION RECORD

Riggins Shooting Range Land Conveyance
DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2015-0006-EA

1. Background

Section 3007 of the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Authorization Act requires that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) convey a 36-acre parcel of federal land to Idaho County (the County). This parcel is located approximately one mile north of Riggins, Idaho (see Map 1 in Appendix A of the enclosed environmental assessment (EA)). The Act specifies that the land shall be used only as a shooting range or for other public purposes. It also specifies that the County shall agree to release and indemnify the U.S. from any claims or liabilities from past uses of the land and to accept such reasonable terms and conditions as the Secretary [of the Interior – delegated to the BLM] determines necessary. In addition the law states that, if the land ceases to be used for a public purpose, then it would revert to federal ownership at the discretion of the Secretary [of the Interior].

2. Decision

It is my decision to convey the 36-acre parcel of federal land, depicted in Map 1 of Appendix A of the enclosed EA, to Idaho County. Conveyance will be subject to the reservations, conditions, and limitations specified in the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Authorization Act (see enclosed text from this act) and:

- No portion of the land will, under any circumstances, revert to federal ownership.
- The County will be made aware of the potential hazards from the landfill and lead resulting from use of the shooting range. The BLM will also recommend that the integrity of the landfill cover be protected. No excavation should be allowed over the landfill, including water wells. In addition, no enclosed structures should be placed over the landfill unless testing is performed for methane gas.
- The mineral estate will remain in federal ownership.
- Other terms and conditions specified in Appendix B (of the EA). The exact language and format, when finalized, may not be identical to the language contained in the Appendix B. However, the intent of each reserved right or interest will not substantially change and will be included in the final Patent issued to Idaho County.

Prior to conveyance to the County, the BLM will reserve a public access easement (exclusive road easement) along the existing road through the parcel to preserve access to

adjoining BLM-administered public lands (see Map 1 in Appendix A of the EA). The road within this easement is designated as open to all motorized vehicles year-round.

The BLM will reserve a separate easement along the historical trail located at the southern end of the shooting range road (depicted on the Map 2 in Appendix A of the EA). The purpose of this second reservation is to give the BLM absolute control over the historic trail to prevent future damage or obliteration, and to provide non-motorized access to BLM land south of the conveyance parcel. The trail is designated as closed to all motorized vehicles year-round and open to non-motorized travel (e.g. foot or horse).

In addition, the BLM will grant a right-of-way to the County for access to the conveyed parcel from U.S. Highway 95, subject to standard terms and conditions (see Appendix C of the EA). The road within this right-of-way is designated as open to all motorized vehicles year-round.

This decision does not address the grazing lease associated with the conveyed property. I will address that in a separate decision.

3. Authority

Authorities for this decision are specified in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 as Amended and the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Authorization Act.

4. Rationale

This decision is in compliance with the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Authorization Act. The reservations, conditions, and limitations meet this act's specification for BLM discretion and are necessary to retain public access to BLM-administered public lands, and to grant access to the conveyed parcel for the County, as identified in the purpose and need for the EA. In addition, this decision will not result in significant impacts to the human environment, as described in the enclosed Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI).

5. Public Involvement

The BLM prepared information about this action and made it available to the public in May 2015. The BLM notified interested parties and distributed a news release informing the public that the information was available, and invited comments from May 4 to June 15, 2015. We received four comment letters which helped identify the issues for analysis in the EA, and were considered in this decision.

6. Coordination and Consultation

The BLM consulted with the Nez Perce Tribe and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office while preparing this EA. The Tribe identified a concern about protection of the historical trail. The BLM addressed this issue by proposing the BLM easement to reserve federal ownership of the trail. The State Historic Preservation Office did not identify any concerns.

7. Protest and Appeal

This decision constitutes my final decision. Any party that is adversely affected by it may appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with the regulations

contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. A notice of appeal must be filed in this office (see address in the letter head) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The Notice of appeal must be sent certified mail. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision is in error in a statement of reasons. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300-QC, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days of filing the notice of appeal with the authorized officer. Any request for stay of this decision, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.21, must be filed with your notice of appeal.

/s/ Robbin Boyce for 7/1/15

Will Runnoe Date
Field Manager

Enclosures:
1) Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2015-0006-EA
2) Finding of No Significant Impacts