

SCOPING/INFORMATION PACKAGE

Partridge Creek Bridge Repair

Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office

DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2016-0005-EA

Introduction

This information package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to repair and maintain a bridge over Partridge Creek, east of Riggins, Idaho (see attached map). Federal actions such as this one must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this report is to inform interested and affected parties of the proposal and to solicit comments to assist with the NEPA review of the proposal. Analysis of the proposal is ongoing, and will be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA). Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that meet the purpose of and need for the project.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will also use this public participation opportunity under the NEPA to assist the agency in satisfying the public involvement requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Background

During the course of bridge inspections conducted by BLM engineers, maintenance and repair needs were noted for the Partridge Creek Bridge. As a result of these maintenance needs, a three ton load limit for the bridge was implemented. The existing bridge is located on a BLM road easement across private land accessing BLM lands in the Partridge Creek drainage (see attached map). The bridge is currently used primarily by BLM, State of Idaho Department of Lands, and private landowners to access lands and implement management in the Partridge Creek area. Scouring has occurred under one of the bridge abutments making it unsafe for large vehicles and at risk for additional scouring which would jeopardize the bridge integrity.

Purpose and Need for Action

The need for the action is to maintain existing transportation infrastructure and provide for safe motorized use.

The purpose of the action is to provide a safe crossing over Partridge Creek and to comply with direction found in the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved on December 21, 2009 to maintain transportation facilities.

Preliminary Issues

- 1) How will the proposed action affect water quality, aquatic habitats, and special status fish?
- 2) How will the proposed action affect wildlife habitats and special status wildlife species?
- 3) Will the proposed action result in the introduction or spread of invasive species or noxious weeds?
- 4) Will the proposed action affect archeological sites or Traditional Cultural Properties?

Proposed Action and Preliminary Alternatives

The proposed action is to conduct repairs during low flow periods preferably, winter 2015-2016, but if necessary summer 2016. Work activities would include construction of a coffer dam to isolate the work area, a concrete pour to stabilize the abutment, and placement of riprap along the bridge abutment and slightly upstream to protect the structure from high flow events.

The no action alternative would be to leave the bridge in its current condition and implement no repairs.

Public Input Needed

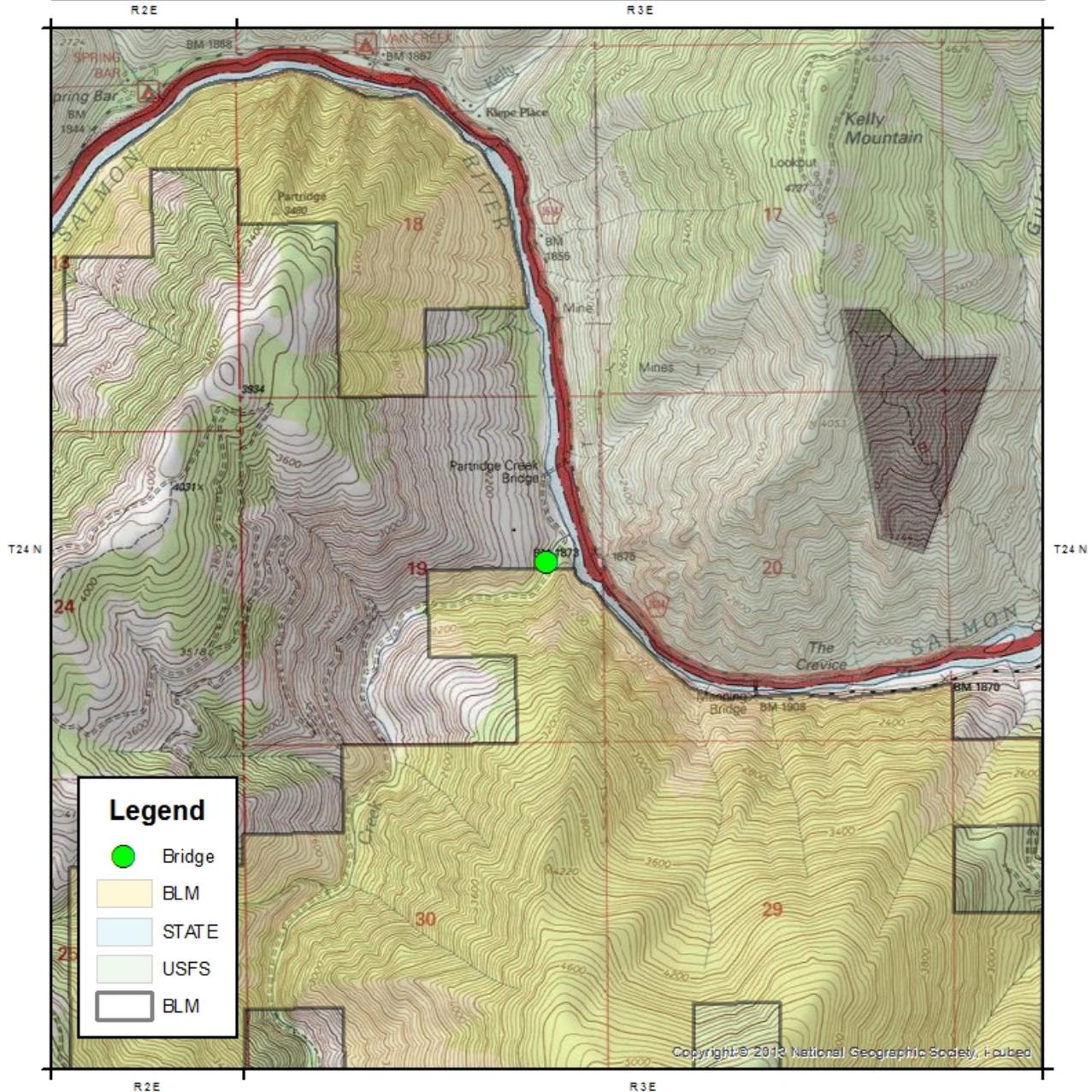
Comments are specifically requested on the proposed action, preliminary issues, and alternative. Comments made on this proposal would be most helpful if they are received by January 8, 2016 and are directly relevant to the proposal and project area. The BLM will not reject public feedback outside established public involvement timeframes; however, these comments may be considered secondary to comments received in a timely manner and may only be assessed to determine if they identify concerns that would substantially alter the assumptions, proposal, design, or analysis presented in the EA. Comments sent electronically should be sent to blm_id_partridgecreekbridge@blm.gov with the title of this project in the subject line. Written comments may be sent to the primary contact listed below. Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization.

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.

The primary contact for this project is Craig Johnson, Wildlife/Fisheries Biologist, Cottonwood Field Office, 1 Butte Drive, Cottonwood, Idaho 83522, Phone (208) 962-3688.

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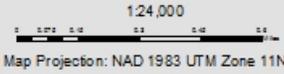
Legend

- Bridge
- BLM
- STATE
- USFS
- BLM



The surface management status ("land ownership") should be used as a general guide only. Official land records, located at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other offices, should be checked for up-to-date information concerning any specific tract of land.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. The following cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office Webmaster at 208-373-4000.



Map Created: 11/19/2015