



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
North Dakota Field Office
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Dickinson, North Dakota 58601-2619
www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas

In Reply Refer To:
NDM 109750

July 10, 2018

Dear Interested Party:

The North Dakota Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is requesting public input on a proposal to resolve a structural and agricultural trespass on BLM managed public land about 25 miles northwest of Killdeer, on about 13 acres in Township 148 North, Range 97 West, Section 33, Lots 3, 6 and 13. The case involves a single-lane ranch bridge built over the Little Missouri River, an access road, a water settling pond, and portions of two alfalfa fields.

The adjacent landowner built the 300-foot long, three-span, single-lane, pre-fabricated steel ranch bridge in 2014 to connect his two ranches, after receiving a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but wasn't aware that a BLM right-of-way was also required. The east side of the bridge is on private land. The west side of the bridge, and the 1,000-foot long unpaved access road, is situated on an isolated 76-acre tract of BLM-managed public land that is surrounded by private lands owned by the responsible party, and includes a stretch of the Little Missouri River. The adjacent landowner has since submitted a right-of-way application for the bridge, road, and pond.

The BLM intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze the effects of several alternatives for resolving the issue. The alternatives being considered are:

1. Take no action (leave the bridge, road, pond, and alfalfa fields on the land as-is). This would not achieve the project purpose, but the BLM will analyze the effects to serve as a baseline;
2. Remove the bridge, road, pond, and alfalfa fields and rehabilitate the public land to a condition similar to that of the surrounding public land;
3. Sell or exchange the affected public land to the adjacent landowner;
4. Authorize the bridge, road, and pond through rights-of-way, and the alfalfa fields through a lease; and
5. Authorize only the bridge and access road through a right-of-way, remove the pond and alfalfa fields, and rehabilitate the public land. In the event a right-of-way for the bridge and road are granted by the BLM, the site would still remain inaccessible to the public, via road, due to the lack of public roads to the site.

Preliminary issues identified for analysis include effects on the environment from removing and relocating the bridge to an area off public land.

We would appreciate your input on:

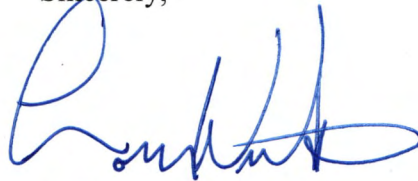
- Other actions that would meet the purpose of resolving the issue.
- Suggested changes to the alternatives.
- Other concerns over project impacts.
- Data/information the BLM should consider in making a reasoned decision.
- People or groups the BLM should contact about this project.
- Future actions by BLM or others that could have a cumulative effect together with the proposed action.

Written comments must be submitted by August 13, 2018 through BLM's ePlanning web page dedicated to this project at: <https://go.usa.gov/xQF89>. The NEPA number for this project is DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2018-0083-EA.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware 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 your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Your input will be considered as we develop the EA. There will be another chance for public comment once the EA is drafted.

Sincerely,



Loren C. Wickstrom
Field Manager

Enclosure (1)

- Location Map (1 pp)