

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

**SCOPING/INFORMATION PACKAGE**

**Ross Point Recreation Area**

DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2016-0009-EA

June 15, 2016

**Introduction**

This information package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to develop 2.5 acres of BLM land at Ross Point into a developed day-use recreation site. Ross Point is located along the Spokane River in Kootenai County, in Post Falls, ID (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 and need for the project.

The BLM will also use this public participation opportunity to assist the agency in satisfying the public involvement requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). 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**

The project would occur on 2.5 acres of BLM land between the Spokane River and Maplewood Avenue in Post Falls, Idaho and is part of the BLM's Coeur d'Alene Lake Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). This parcel of Federal land at Ross Point was formerly an irrigation pumping station run by the Bureau of Reclamation and later became an undeveloped recreation site (primarily for swimming). The site receives most of its visits during late spring to early fall when weather is better for river activities. In 1994, the BLM removed the concrete pump house building and much of the associated piping and electrical lines. In February of 2000, the BLM disposed of additional debris (primarily broken concrete and rebar) and placed three truckloads of boulders along the shoreline to help reduce

bank erosion from boat wake and flood flows impacting the site. During the fall of 2015, more bank stabilization work was conducted along the river by adding additional boulders, logs, and vegetation.

Presently, there is a small delineated parking area that provides walk-in access to the Spokane River. There is a small beach on the river that is used for fishing and swimming. The current recreation infrastructure includes a kiosk and a picnic table near the water.

### **Purpose and Need for Action**

The Spokane River receives a high amount of use during the summer months with limited public access. The BLM Ross Point parcel provides public access to the river with limited recreation opportunities and few facilities. This undeveloped condition discourages many potential visitors.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide more opportunities for the public to access the river and enjoy recreating.

### **Preliminary Issues**

- *Soils: soil and sediment movement may be affected by site construction.*
- *Public Safety: site development could affect public safety e.g., traffic congestion, water use, etc.*
- *Recreation: site development could encourage unauthorized overnight camping.*
- *Fish: the constructed dock could adversely affect special status fish species (federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive) or their habitat.*
- *Vegetation: construction could result in loss of native vegetation and introduction of invasive species.*

### **Proposed Action and Preliminary Alternatives**

**Proposed Action (Alternative A):** The BLM is proposing to develop the site by adding paved parking, hardened concrete paths to the picnic areas, a flush building restroom, two shade structures, picnic tables, a small craft or fishing dock, and retaining walls along the slope near the river (see attached Conceptual Site Plan A).

The parking area would be approximately 0.5 acre providing for 33 parking spaces with two spaces ADA/ABA accessible. The parking area and entrance would be paved to help match the surrounding urban setting. There would be approximately one mile of hardened trails providing connectivity to the rest of the site. Nine picnic sites would be constructed with the majority of the sites located in the areas vegetated with ponderosa pine trees and wildflowers. A larger group picnic site with a shade structure (pavilion) would be built on the point overlooking the river that could accommodate larger groups. A second, smaller shade structure would be located near the river by the boat dock. The picnic sites could include normal picnicking amenities such as tables and grills.

Informational and educational kiosks would also be installed throughout the recreation area to discuss topics of interest e.g., the history of the site, public lands information, and outdoor ethic guidelines.

The small craft boat or fishing dock would be constructed in an “L” shape and located near the shade structure.

The point below the proposed group site is steep with constant erosion from the river. This area would continue to see work such as retaining walls, landscaping, and terracing to assist with erosion control. These erosion control methods would be conducted in a manner that would help improve the aesthetics of the site.

Construction, maintenance, and upkeep of the site would be conducted through a collaborative effort with the BLM and the City of Post Falls. This would be accomplished through a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

**Conceptual Site Plan B (Alternative B):** This alternative is similar to the Proposed Action, however extends the parking area to provide water access parking (3 stalls that are ADA/ABA accessible) near the small pavilion/water lookout.

**No Dock Alternative (Alternative C):** This alternative would be the same as the Proposed action, except no boat dock would be constructed.

**No Action Alternative (Alternative D):** To provide a baseline for the effects, the BLM would also analyze a No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, no new site developments would occur. There would be no MOU developed with the City of Post Falls to maintain the site.

### **Public Input Needed**

Comments are specifically requested on the proposed action, preliminary issues, and alternatives. Comments made on this proposal would be most helpful if they are received by **July 31, 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. Email comments to [BLM\\_ID\\_Ross\\_Point\\_Recsite@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_ID_Ross_Point_Recsite@blm.gov) or submit them via postal mail to the address in the letterhead. Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization.

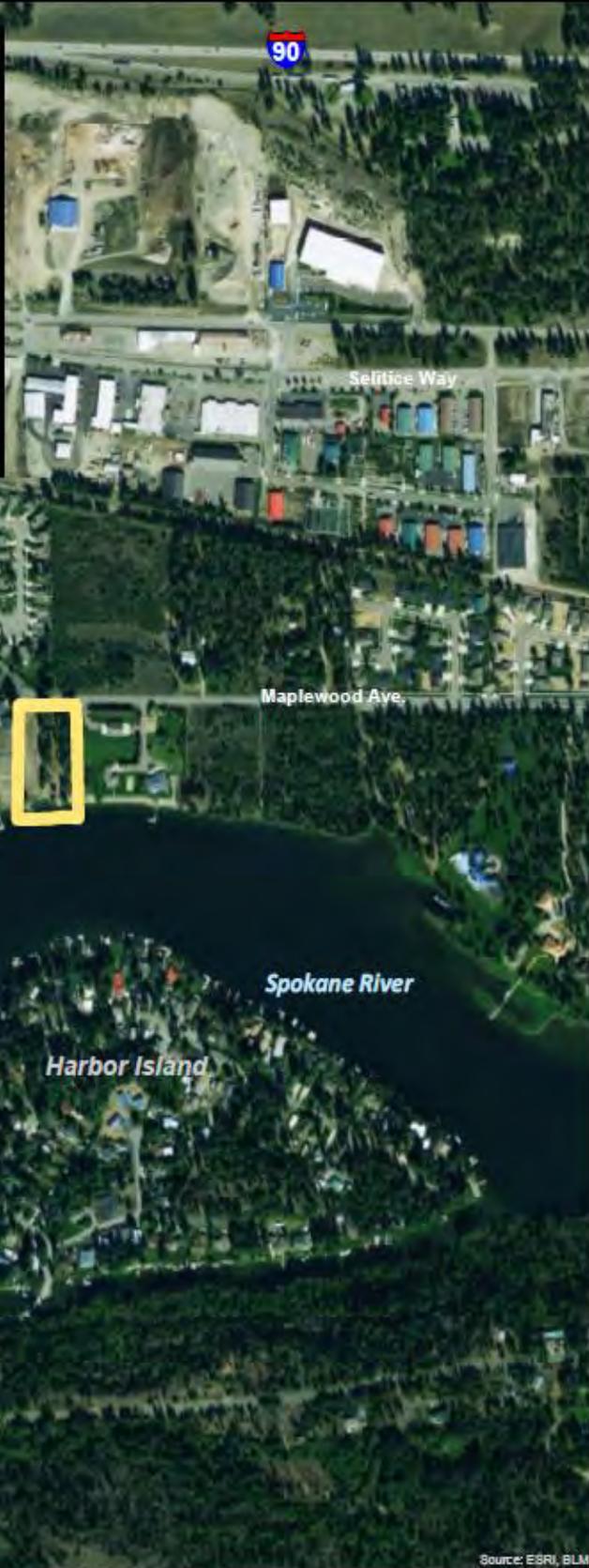
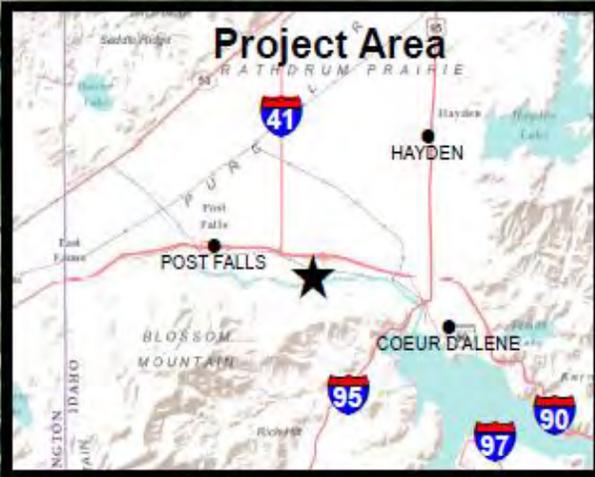
*Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold 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:

Mitchell Owens  
Outdoor Recreation Planner  
3815 N Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815  
208-769-5015

### **Attachments:**

1. Map of Ross Point Recreation Area
2. Proposed Action, Conceptual Site Plan A
3. Conceptual Site Plan B



 BLM Ross Point

Source: ESRI, BLM

Projection: UTM, Zone 11 North  
Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
May 25, 2016 Map Scale 1:8,000



This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.

## Attachment 2: Proposed Action Conceptual A



### Attachment 3: Conceptual Site Plan B



#### LEGEND

- ① ENTRY MONUMENT SIGN
- ② MAIN PARKING LOT - 34 STALLS\*+
- ③ WATER ACCESS PARKING (ADA ACCESS TO WATER) - 3 STALLS\*+
- ④ PICNIC AREA WITH GRILL - NO SHELTER (TYP.)
- ⑤ RESTROOM - ADA ACCESSIBLE
- ⑥ SMALL PAVILION - WATER LOOKOUT
- ⑦ LARGE GROUP PAVILION WITH GRILL - APPROX. 24 PEOPLE
- ⑧ ROCK RETAINING WALLS AND TERRACING FOR EROSION CONTROL
- ⑨ BEACH AREA
- ⑩ TURF GRASS AREA
- ⑪ CONCRETE PATHWAY (TYP.)\*\*+
- ⑫ GRAVEL PATHWAY (TYP.)\*\*+
- ⑬ RAIL FENCE
- ⑭ DOCK - ADA ACCESSIBLE
- ⑮ INTERPRETIVE SIGNS/KIOSKS (TYP.)
- ⑯ ACCESS GATE
- ⑰ CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AREA

\* NOTE: WHEEL STOPS SHALL BE PLACED ON THE WEST SIDE OF MAIN PARKING LOT. EAST SIDES OF PARKING AREAS SHALL BE PAVED AGAINST DEEP EDGE SIDEWALK.

\*\* NOTE: ALL PATHWAYS SHALL BE ADA ACCESSIBLE EXCEPT GRAVEL PATHWAYS THROUGH STEEP RETAINING WALL AREA.

+ NOTE: ALL PAVED AREAS WILL HAVE ADJACENT SWALE TREATMENTS TO CATCH AND DIRECT STORM WATER RUNOFF.