



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho State Office
1387 South Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709-1657



MAY 05 2015

In Reply Refer To:
IDI-36306
2200

Mr. Tom Schultz, Director
Idaho Department of Lands
300 N. 6th Street, Suite 103
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. Schultz:

I want to reiterate the Idaho Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) commitment to continue working with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to complete the Owyhee Land Exchange. The land exchange process began in December 2008, with the signing of a Land Exchange Agreement that had been negotiated between our two staffs. Since that time, considerable BLM staff time and funding has been expended to complete the following processing steps:

- June 2012 - Notice of Exchange Proposal was published in local newspapers.
- June and July 2012 - Official notices were sent out to BLM grazing permittees.
- Spring 2013 - Staff met with individual grazing permittees to discuss specific concerns.
- June 2013 - Public Water Reserve withdrawals were revoked.
- July 2013 - Cadastral Survey Plats were completed.
- July 2013 - Special Status Plant Inventory Report was completed.
- April 2014 - Environmental Site Assessment (HazMat Report) for both the BLM and State land was completed.
- December 2014 - Cultural Resource Inventory Report was completed.
- April 2015 State Historic Preservation Office Concurrence letter was received.
- April 2015 - Mineral Potential Report for both the BLM and State land was completed.
- April 2015 - Environmental Assessment was drafted and will be finalized upon completion of appraisal, adjustment of acreage to equalize values and Chapter 4 (effects analysis).

Processing steps yet to be completed include:

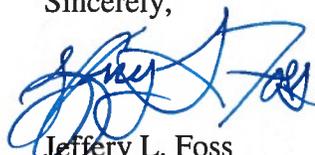
- Amend the Agreement to Initiate to reflect current list of BLM and State lands to be included in the exchange.
- Development of a satisfactory Statement of Work defining the scope of appraisal for the BLM and State lands.
- Appraisals of the BLM and State land.
- Final acreage adjustments to ensure an equal fair market value exchange.

- Completion of the Environmental Assessment based on the acreage adjustments and effects analysis.
- Processing of grazing permit extension/renewals to allow continuation of grazing following title transfer.
- Drafting of the Notice of Decision (NOD) for review by the Idaho Land Board and the BLM Washington Office.
- Publication of the approved NOD in local newspapers, which will initiate a 45-day public comment period.

Throughout the remaining steps in the exchange process, the BLM will work closely with our Department of the Interior - Office of Valuation Services, and your staff on valuation of the Federal and State exchange parcels, and continue ongoing consultation and/or coordination with grazing permittees, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Owyhee County Commissioners, Owyhee Initiative Inc., and any other parties that show an interest in this land exchange.

I want to thank you and the members of the Land Board for the State's ongoing support and remind you that we look forward to IDL's continued cooperation in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Jeffery L. Foss
Acting State Director

cc:

Bob Brammer, Idaho Department of Lands
Kurt Houston, Idaho Department of Lands
Jim Fincher, Branch Chief, ID-933
Aimee Betts, Boise District, Acting District Manager
Mike Courtney, Twin Falls, District Manager
Michelle Ryerson, Field Manager, Marsing FO
Tanya Thrift, Field Manager, Bruneau FO
Elliot Traher, Field Manager, Jarbidge FO
John Sullivan, Boise District