

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[OR-050-1220-00; GP9-0053]

Notice of Planning Update for the John Day River Management Plan and Potential Related Amendments to the Two Rivers and John Day Resource Management Plans**AGENCY:** Prineville District, Central Oregon Resource Area.**ACTION:** Notice of Present Status regarding development of a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan for the Wild and Scenic John Day River and related Resource Management Plans.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the State of Oregon, Prineville District, Central Oregon Resource Area, is revising the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan for the Wild and Scenic John Day River Plan which will further amend sections of the Two Rivers and John Day Resource Management Plan. Reference may be made to the original Notice of Intent, **Federal Register**, Vol. 56, No. 234, December 5, 1991, page 63742.

The original Plan completion schedule is revised as a result of a litigated settlement concerning a suit against the BLM.

DATES: The previously announced public scoping period was concluded on October 30, 1997. The revised draft river management plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) was previously scheduled for a 90 day public review period in the early summer of 1998; however, this date has been changed to April of 1999. The proposed river plan, related RMP amendments, and final EIS are now expected to be available for public review during November of 1999. Any additional opportunities for public review and comment will be announced through the **Federal Register**, direct mailings to known interested parties, and announcements in Prineville's newspaper, the Central Oregonian, John Day's newspaper, the Blue Mountain Eagle, and Condon's newspaper, the Condon Times.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR RELATED DOCUMENTS CONTACT: Dan Wood, Project Manager, Prineville District BLM, PO Box 550, Prineville, Oregon 97754 (Telephone 541-416-6751, FAX 541-416-6798). Anyone interested in participating during the public review process of this planning effort may request to be added to the mailing list. Individuals should specify if they wish

to have their names and addresses withheld from public access under the privacy provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Copies of the two existing approved plans (as amended) are available, upon request at this location.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau of Land Management is developing a Revised Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public lands along the John Day River system in Oregon. The John Day River watershed encompasses all or portions of eleven counties, six of which would be directly affected by the proposed plan. The development of the Plan is accomplished through a partnership consisting of the BLM, the State of Oregon, The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the John Day River Coalition of Counties which consist of Gilliam, Grant, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler Counties. Progress of the Plan is reviewed monthly by a Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Sub-Group, created expressly for this purpose, which comments back to the BLM and Partners developing the Plan.

The planning and analysis process will comply with the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Wild and Scenic River Act (as amended) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The resulting decisions are expected to satisfy the requirements of the 1989 Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, amend relevant portions of the Two Rivers and John Day Resource Management Plans (both within and outside the river corridors) and address relevant issues from ongoing litigation concerning the John Day River Plan. The federally designated Wild and Scenic segments of the John Day River managed by the Bureau include 147 miles of the John Day River mainstem from Service Creek to Tumwater Falls and 47 miles of the South Fork of the John Day River from the Malheur National Forest boundary to Smokey Creek. The 54 mile federally designated Wild and Scenic segment of the North Fork of the John Day River is managed by the Umatilla National Forest under a previously prepared and approved plan.

The revised draft plan and EIS will analyze public lands managed by the Bureau along the John Day River segments which are federally designated as Wild and Scenic and segments which are not so designated, some of which may be potentially suitable for designation as additional components of the National Wild and Scenic River

System. Special emphasis will be given to management strategies that protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values for which the Bureau managed segments were designated. These outstandingly remarkable values are scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historic and cultural. Other values identified as significant are botanical, ecological, paleontological, and archeological resources. Planning and analysis issues will include management, protection and enhancement of the identified river related values, plus any related Bureau authorized activities or resource uses such as, but not limited to, livestock grazing, irrigated agriculture, road and facility construction and maintenance, noxious weed control, streambank stability and stabilization, acquisition and management of additional lands within the river corridor and attainment of State of Oregon approved water quality standards.

Preliminary future management strategies (alternatives) to be addressed are (1) Baseline/ Current Use, Development and Management (No Action), (2) Maximum Enhancement of Natural Values With Minimal Development, (3) Required Protection and System Restoration and Moderate Use and Development, (4) Increased Use and Development to Enhance Local Economic Activity and Developed recreation Consistent with River Resource Protection and (5) A Preferred Alternative (to be developed from elements of the other alternatives with public input). Any decisions which are inconsistent with the current Two Rivers or John Day RMPs would result in amendments to the applicable plans as a result of the Oregon State Director approval of the Record of Decision. A team of interdisciplinary specialists, whose backgrounds are in the resources to be affected, will be involved in the review and development of the description of the affected environment, development of alternatives and impact analysis. Disciplines to be represented on the team preparing the plan amendment and EIS include, but are not limited to: archeology, anthropology, economics, lands and minerals, recreation, forestry, fisheries, hydrology, botanical, soils wildlife, geology and hazardous materials.

The Prineville District's Two Rivers (1986) and John Day (1985, 1995) Resource Management Plans (RMPs) currently provide general management for the river corridors and known river related values as well as overall land resource use allocations and resource protection or enhancement. Although it is anticipated that the final decisions for

river management considered through this analysis could be in full conformance with the applicable RMPs, it is possible that portions of some actions under some alternatives may not be in full conformance with the approved RMPs, as required by 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sub-part 1610.5-3, "Conformity and Implementation". The environmental analysis and public and interagency review process anticipated for this analysis are expected to fully comply with the Bureaus regulations for land use planning, including land use plan amendments, public involvement and coordination with other Federal agencies, State and local governments and Indian tribes, (43 CFR 1610.2, 1610.3 and 1610.5-5). This will allow the analysis to consider river corridor and value strategies which are inconsistent with the current direction or substantially affect other resource uses and allocations in one or more of the subject approved RMPs. Any approved decisions which amend the applicable plans will be incorporated into the plans and become part of the permanent planning record. Any refinements or clarifications of management direction, priority of river resource allocations and use of final river corridor boundaries will be incorporated into the applicable plans and documented through published plan maintenance reports, as provided under 43 CFR 1610.5-4. Copies of the two existing approved plans (as amended) will be available in the same locations as the other elements of the supporting record, as noted elsewhere in this notice.

The decisions made through this analysis are expected to be implemented in a series of actions over a period of several years. Although the intent is to implement the final river plan within approximately two years of the approval of the decision(s), some residual actions or independent resource use actions which are in conformance with the analysis and decisions and associated approved RMPs may occur over a period of ten or more years. In effect, this analysis will serve both to facilitate the immediate need for a comprehensive river plan and some immediate changes in resource use or resource allocations or vegetation remediation or recreational facility projects and it will also provide for future long-term actions that fall under the programmatic nature of this analysis dealing with "desired future conditions". Future site developments, land use allocation changes and projects would be subject to appropriate environmental analyses,

public and interagency reviews and will be reported in the applicable District periodic planning update reports which are distributed to known interested parties.

Dated: December 18, 1998.

James L. Hancock,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-34711 Filed 12-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-020-09-1430-01; AZA-29339]

Notice of Realty Action: Modified Competitive Sale of Public Lands in Maricopa County, Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action, Modified Competitive Sale.

SUMMARY: The following public lands in Maricopa County, Arizona have been found suitable for a modified competitive sale under Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2750; 43 U.S.C. 1713) at not less than the estimated fair market value of \$36,400. The land will not be offered for sale for at least 60 days after the date of this notice.

Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona

T. 6 N., R. 4 W.,

Sec. 14, lot 1.

Consisting of 16.52 acres.

The land described above is hereby segregated from appropriation under the public land laws including the mining laws, pending disposition of this action 270 days from the date of publication of this notice, whichever occurs first.

This land will be offered by sealed bid only to the adjacent private landowners due to the lack of legal access. All bids must be submitted to the Phoenix Field Office, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2015 West Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027, by no later than 4:00 p.m. MST. March 1, 1999. Sealed bid forms and envelopes will be provided to all prospective bidders prior to the sale. Bids must be for not less than the appraised value specified above. Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, postal money order, bank draft, or cashier's check made payable to the USDI, Bureau of Land Management, for not less than 10 percent of the amount bid.

A successful bid for a parcel will qualify the prospective purchaser to

make application for conveyance of those mineral interests offered under the authority of section 209(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2757; 43 U.S.C. 1719). A nonrefundable fee of \$50 will be required from the prospective purchaser for purchase of the mineral interests. Those mineral interests to be conveyed simultaneously with the sale of the land have been determined to have no known mineral value.

Federal law requires that bidders must be U.S. citizens and 18 years of age or older. Proof of citizenship shall accompany the bid. If two or more valid bids of the same amount are received, the determination of which is to be considered the highest bid shall be by supplemental oral bidding. The remainder of the full price bid shall be paid within 180 days of the date of the sale. Failure to pay the full price within the 180 days shall disqualify the apparent high bidder and cause the bid deposit to be forfeited to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The conveyance document, when issued, will contain certain reservations to the United States and will be subject to any existing rights-of-way and any other valid existing rights. Detailed information concerning this sale is available for review at the Phoenix Field Office, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2015 West Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027, (602) 580-5500.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments to the Field Manager, Phoenix Field Office, at the above address. In the absence of timely objections, this proposal shall become the final determination of the Department of the Interior.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

Michael A. Taylor,

Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-34579 Filed 12-30-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-933-1430-00; IDI-32648]

Application Relinquished Opening of Land in a Proposed Withdrawal; Idaho

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The temporary 2-year segregation of a proposed withdrawal of