

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

[UT-050-1020-01; UTU-76188]

**Proposed Classification Decision,
State Indemnity Selection**

The Utah State School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration has filed a petition for classification and application to acquire the public lands, including the mineral estate, described below, under the provisions of Act of Congress of August 17, 1958 (72 Stat. 928) as amended, and the acts supplementary and amendatory thereto. This application has been assigned Serial Number UTU-76188.

The Bureau of Land Management will examine these lands for evidence of prior valid existing rights or other statutory constraints that would bar transfer. This proposed classification is pursuant to Title 43, CFR 2400; and Section 7 of the Act of June 28, 1934.

Information concerning these lands and the proposed transfer to the State of Utah may be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District Office, 150 East 900 North, Richfield, Utah 84701.

For a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed classification may present their views in writing to the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 324 South State Street, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155.

Any adverse comments will be evaluated by the State Director who will issue a notice of determination to proceed with, modify, or cancel the action. In the absence of any action by the State Director, this classification action will become the final determination of the Department of the Interior.

As provided by Title 43 CFR 2450.4(c), public hearing may be scheduled by the State Director if he determines that sufficient public interest exists to warrant the time and expense of a hearing.

The lands included in the proposed classification are located within Garfield County, Utah, and are described as follows:

Salt Lake Meridian, Utah

T. 36 S., R. 11 E.,
Section 15: All
Section 29: W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 37 S., R. 11 E.,
Section 5: All.

Containing 1480 acres.

Individuals and corporations holding valid leases, permits, and/or rights-of-way on the public lands described above have been or will be notified of the proposed classification. Rights-of-way granted by the Bureau of Land Management on the above lands will transfer with the land, the transfer document will be subject to the rights-of-way, or the rights-of-way may be reserved to the United States (see Section 508 of FLPMA). Oil and gas leases (geothermal, other leasing act minerals) will remain in effect under the terms and conditions of the lease. (Upon expiration or termination of the leases, or any authorized extensions thereof, such rights shall automatically vest in the State.)

State law and School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration procedures provide for the offering to holders of Bureau of Land Management grazing permits, licenses, or leases the first right to lease lands that are transferred to the State. This Classification notice constitutes official notice to holders of grazing use authorizations from the Bureau of Land Management that such authorizations will be terminated in part upon transfer of the land described above to the State of Utah.

For a period of 45 days from the date of first publication indicated below, persons asserting a claim to or interest in the described lands, other than holders of leases, permits, or rights-of-way may file such claim with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 324 South State Street, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155, with evidence that a copy thereof has been served on the State of Utah, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration.

Dated: July 2, 1998.

G. William Lamb,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 98-18388 Filed 7-9-98 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-M

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

[WY-040-06-1610-00]

Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Green River Resource Area, Rock Springs District, Wyoming, announces: (1) the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Green River

Resource Management Plan (RMP), (2) the approved Green River RMP, and (3) notice of off-road vehicle designations for the Green River Resource Area.

SUMMARY: The ROD identifies the selection and approval of the Green River RMP. The Green River RMP presents multiple use management prescriptions for about 3.6 million acres of public land surface and 3.7 million acres of Federal mineral estate, administered by the BLM, in portions of Sweetwater, Fremont, Lincoln, Uinta, and Sublette counties in southwest Wyoming.

The draft EIS for the Green River RMP was made available for public review and comment in November of 1992. Comments received on the draft EIS were considered in preparing the proposed Green River RMP and final EIS which was made available for public review and protest in May of 1996.

Management prescriptions are presented in the Green River RMP for all BLM-administered public land and resource uses and values found within the planning area, including the following: air quality, cultural resources, fire management, forests and woodlands, hazardous materials, lands and realty management, livestock grazing, minerals, off-road vehicles, outdoor recreation, special status species, vegetation, visual resources, watershed, wild horses, wildlife, and special management areas. Since wilderness values are addressed in other documents, the Green River RMP does not address them.

The Green River RMP is a comprehensive multiple-use land use plan. It is a refinement of the preferred alternative presented in the draft EIS and the proposed RMP presented in the final EIS. While the intent and content of the Green River RMP are not different from the proposed RMP, comments from the public, review by BLM staff, and new information obtained since the distribution of the final EIS have prompted some wording clarifications in the RMP.

This **Federal Register** Notice serves as the notice for the off-road vehicle (ORV) designations for the Green River Resource Area as identified in the Green River RMP. The ORV designations are described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** in this notice.

This notice also serves to meet the criteria for public notification of linear or site rights-of-way within floodplains as required by BLM Manual 7221 except for those associated with perennial streams. The BLM will solicit public comment on site facilities or major

linear rights-of-way along perennial streams unless another agency (Federal, State, or local) already has solicited such comments.

ADDRESSES: Information on the Green River RMP may be obtained from the Green River Resource Area Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901, (307) 352-0256.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stan McKee, Green River Resource Area Manager, or Renée Dana, Green River RMP Team Leader, at the Rock Springs BLM District Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901, (307) 352-0256. Copies of the ROD and Green River RMP are available from the Green River Resource Area Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Eight protests were submitted during the 30-day protest period for the proposed Green River RMP. All of the protests were responded to and resolved by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Resolution of the protests required some minor corrections and wording clarification but did not result in changing any of the proposed Green River RMP decisions.

The Green River RMP provides the interim management direction for those BLM-administered public lands along waterways that were determined to meet the suitability factors for further consideration for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System (WSRS). Seven parcels of BLM-administered lands, along a total of about 9.7 miles of the Sweetwater River, have been found to meet the suitability factors to be given further consideration for inclusion in the WSRS. Tentative classifications of the various parcels include wild (about 5.8 miles), scenic (about 0.5 miles), and recreational (about 3.4 miles). The interim management of these parcels will continue until Congress decides to consider them further for possible inclusion in the WSRS.

The Green River RMP includes identification of the Federal coal lands in the Green River Resource Area that are acceptable for further leasing consideration.

The Green River RMP includes designations of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Seven prior ACEC designations are retained (or modified):

- Cedar Canyon ACEC (approximately 2,550 acres) with management priority and emphasis given to maintaining or enhancing important cultural, scenic, and wildlife habitat values.
- Greater Red Creek ACEC (approximately 131,890 acres—the original Red Creek ACEC of 55,880

acres was expanded to include the Currant Creek and Sage Creek drainages) with management priority and emphasis given to maintaining or enhancing fragile soils, Colorado River cutthroat trout, and water quality values.

- Greater Sand Dunes ACEC (approximately 38,650 acres) with management priority and emphasis given to maintaining or enhancing unique and unusual geological features associated with the sand dunes and Boars Tusk, and the diverse biological interrelationships supported by the sand dunes, especially the dependent plants and animals.
- Natural Corrals ACEC (approximately 1,276 acres) with management priority and emphasis given to maintaining or enhancing the unique and important cultural, historical, recreational, and geological values.
- Oregon Buttes ACEC (approximately 3,450 acres) with management priority and emphasis given to maintaining or enhancing the historic landmark, significant wildlife values, and the scenic integrity.
- Pine Springs ACEC (expanded from 90 acres to approximately 6,030 acres to include adjacent relevant and important values) with management priority and emphasis given to maintaining or enhancing the important cultural, historic, and prehistoric resource values.
- White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC (approximately 20 acres) with management priority and emphasis given to maintaining or enhancing the educational opportunities and important cultural, wildlife, scenic, and Native American values.

Three new areas are designated ACECs:

- South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC (approximately 53,780 acres) with management priority and emphasis given to maintaining or enhancing the visual and historical integrity of historic trails and their surrounding viewscape.
- Special Status (Candidate) Plants ACEC (four separate locations totalling approximately 900 acres) with management priority and emphasis given to maintaining or enhancing these species and their habitats.
- Steamboat Mountain ACEC (approximately 43,270 acres) with management priority and emphasis given to maintaining or enhancing the wildlife habitats and vegetation communities.

The management actions for each ACEC include conditional requirements for surface disturbing activities and other land uses such as limitations on oil and gas and coal exploration and development activities, geophysical exploration, right-of-way construction, and vehicular travel. Portions of the ACECs may be closed to future locatable mineral exploration and development subject to valid existing rights. The level of these vary in each ACEC.

Six areas are designated Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs):

- The Greater Sand Dunes (about 38,650 acres).
- The Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express National Historic Trails (about 125 miles).
- The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (about 24 miles).
- The Green River (about 4,048 acres).
- The Wind River Front (about 261,080 acres).

The remainder of the BLM-administered public lands in the Green River Resource Area are designated an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA).

Five backcountry byways are also designated: the Tri-Territory Loop, the Lander Road, Red Desert, Fort LaCleda Loop, and the Firehole-Little Mountain Loop.

Management of wilderness values is not addressed in the Green River RMP. The twelve wilderness study areas (WSAs) within the Green River Resource Area are addressed in the "Rock Springs District Wilderness Final EIS," September 1990, and the "Adobe Town-Ferris Mountains Wilderness Final EIS," December 1987.

The Green River RMP includes the following Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) designations: areas open to off-road vehicular use, areas with use limitations (i.e., limited to seasonal use, limited to existing roads and trails, and limited to designated roads and trails), and areas closed to vehicular use. (Note: The areas designated as limited seasonally and limited to designated roads and trails, overlap one another as do the areas designated as limited seasonally and limited to existing roads and trails.) Maps of the ORV designations are on file in the Green River Resource Area Office.

Specific designations are as follows:

- A. Open Designation (approximately 10,500 acres). Vehicle travel is permitted both on and off roads in the eastern portion of the Greater Sand Dunes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (about 10,500 acres).

Vehicle use is confined to the active sand dunes within the 10,500 acres.

B. Limited Designations:

1. Motorized vehicle travel is limited to existing roads and trails except during certain periods of the year when areas may be closed to all vehicles (approximately 1,627,955 acres). Acres may not total because of overlap.

a. Big game crucial winter ranges (about 1,500,000 acres) are limited through seasonal closures (November 15–April 30 as needed) to reduce stress on wintering animals. Closure to over-the-snow vehicles will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

b. Deer parturition areas (about 40,880 acres) are limited through seasonal closures (May 1 to June 30 as needed) to reduce stress on deer.

c. Elk calving areas (about 85,830 acres) are limited through seasonal closures (to be decided by biologist—May 1 to June 30 as needed) to reduce stress on elk.

d. Moose calving areas (about 410 acres) are limited through seasonal closures (to be decided by biologist—May 1 to June 30 as needed) to reduce stress on moose.

e. Raptor nesting areas (about 835 acres) are limited through seasonal closures (February 1 through July 31 as needed) to protect nesting raptors.

f. Steamboat Mountain (about 15,981 acres) is limited through seasonal closures (to be determined, but usually between May 1 and June 30) to protect wildlife values (big game birthing areas are of particular concern).

2. Motorized vehicle travel is limited to designated roads and trails only on approximately 1,006,336 acres. Vehicle use in these areas will be managed the same as under the existing roads and trails designation until the designation is implemented on the ground (i.e., until the designated roads are identified and signs or notices are put in place). Acres may not total because of overlap.

a. Adobe Town-Haystacks (about 54,000 acres) to protect fragile and highly erodible soils.

b. Cedar Canyon ACEC (about 2,550 acres) to protect wildlife and cultural values (includes over-the-snow vehicles).

c. Dug Springs Stage Station (about 10 acres) to protect historic values.

d. Greater Red Creek ACEC (about 123,870 acres) (includes the Currant Creek and Sage Creek watersheds, and remainder of Red Creek watershed) to protect watershed values.

e. An area adjacent to the Green River city limits (about 4,500 acres within a 2-

mile radius around the city limits) to reduce impacts from ORV freeplay.

f. LaBarge Bluff Petroglyphs (about 100 acres within ½ mile surrounding the petroglyphs) to protect cultural values.

g. LaCledde Stage Station (about 10 acres) to protect historic values.

h. Monument Valley (about 69,940 acres) to protect paleontological resource values and watershed values.

i. Natural Corrals ACEC (about 1,300 acres) to protect cultural, historic, and geologic resource values.

j. North and South Table Mountains (about 1,280 acres) to protect cultural and wildlife values.

k. Parting of the Ways (about 40 acres) to protect historical values.

l. Pine Mountain (about 64,200 acres) to protect watershed values.

m. Red Desert (about 245,480 acres) to protect scenic resource values.

n. South Pass (about 33,700 acres) to protect cultural values.

o. Steamboat Mountain ACEC (about 43,270 acres) to protect wildlife values.

p. Steep slopes of White Mountain (about 68,640 acres) to protect watershed and visual values.

q. Sugarloaf Basin (about 85,880 acres) to protect watershed values.

r. Sugarloaf Petroglyphs (about 350 acres within ½ mile radius) to protect cultural values.

s. Tolar Petroglyphs (about 310 acres within ½ mile radius) to protect cultural values.

t. White Mountain Petroglyphs ACEC (about 480 acres within ½ mile surrounding the petroglyphs) to protect cultural values.

u. Wind River Front Special Recreation Management area (about 260,580 acres) to protect the nearby Class I airshed, scenic, watershed, and wildlife values; recreation use; and riparian and vegetation resources.

3. Motorized vehicle travel is limited to existing roads and trails on approximately 2,436,595 acres. Acres may not total because of overlap.

a. General Green River Resource Area (about 2,436,595 acres) to reduce resource damage.

b. Greater Sand Dunes ACEC (Eastern Portion) (about 5,810 acres of stabilized dunes) to protect resource values.

c. Pine Springs ACEC (about 730 acres outside the WSA and original 90-acre site) to protect resource values.

d. Riparian areas (about 8,730 acres) to protect riparian and watershed values. During muddy conditions, vehicle travel may be limited to protect soil and watershed values.

C. Closed Designations (approximately 181,570 acres). Acres may not total because of overlap.

1. The following areas are closed to vehicle use.

a. Crookston Ranch (about 40 acres) in the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC to protect cultural and historic site.

b. Dry Sandy Swales (about 20 acres) to protect integrity of setting and soils.

c. Road around Boars Tusk and the Boars Tusk (about 90 acres) to preserve its value as a geologic feature.

d. LaBarge Bluffs Petroglyphs (about 20 acres) to protect cultural values.

e. Natural Corrals National Register of Historic Places site (about 20 acres and the trail [about ½ mile] to the spring) to protect wildlife and cultural values.

f. Oregon Buttes (about 3,450 acres) to protect historic, wildlife, and scenic resource values, and adjacent WSA values.

g. Pine Springs (about 5,390 acres within the Pine Springs ACEC) to protect cultural, historic, and prehistoric resource values.

h. Prehistoric Quarry site (about 160 acres) to protect cultural values.

i. Special Status Plant Species (about 3,610 acres) to protect plant populations.

j. Sugarloaf Petroglyph site (about 20 acres) to protect cultural values.

k. Tolar Petroglyph site (about 20 acres) to protect cultural values.

l. Wilderness Study Areas (to protect naturalness, solitude, and opportunities for unconfined recreation):

Buffalo Hump: 10,300 acres

South Pinnacles: 10,800 acres

Sand Dunes: 27,109 acres

Alkali Basin-East Sand Dunes: 12,800 acres

Alkali Draw: 16,990 acres

Red Lake: 9,515 acres

Honeycomb Buttes: 41,188 acres

Oregon Buttes: 5,700 acres

Whitehorse Creek: 4,002 acres

Devils Playground-Twin Buttes: 23,841 acres

Red Creek Badlands: 8,020 acres

Parties who are interested in and who wish to be involved in future activity planning and implementation of management actions that may involve or affect the resource values addressed in the Green River RMP are requested to identify themselves. Please contact the Green River Resource Area Office at the above address and request to be placed on a future contact list for activity planning and implementation activities concerning the Green River RMP.

Dated: July 2, 1998.

Alan R. Pierson,
State Director.

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