



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

High Desert District
Pinedale Field Office
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In Reply Refer To:
2800 (WYD01)

JUL 22 2016

Steve Ashworth, Director
Teton County/Jackson Parks and Recreation Department
PO Box 811
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Dear Mr. Ashworth:

Thank you for contacting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pinedale Field Office concerning the disposition of the Snake River BLM land parcels. The Snake River Resource Management Plan (RMP) is one of two RMPs providing management direction for the BLM Pinedale Field Office and covers the land parcels in question. The intent of the Snake River RMP is to dispose of remnant parcels of land managed by the Pinedale Field Office, but still provide for open space. Efforts to dispose of the parcels via the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act and/or a Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) land sale **have been pursued where appropriate**. BLM understands that Teton County, Wyoming is the one remaining entity interested in all remaining parcels identified for disposal in the Snake River RMP/Record of Decision (ROD).

The R&PP Act authorizes the sale or lease of public lands for recreational or public purposes. Only the amount of land required for efficient operation of the project (e.g. schools, landfills, parks, municipal facilities, etc.) should be described in an applicant's development plan and also applied for. **Lands applied for must be needed for a specific project that serves a specific need.** The R&PP Act is **not intended to be used to preserve open space. This conflicts with the management direction for parcel disposal in the Snake River RMP/ROD.**

FLPMA Section 203 requires that the sale of public lands shall be made at a price not less than fair market value. A FLPMA sale is a no conditions attached transaction; therefore, we cannot require a conservation easement be placed on a parcel of land before or after the patent. This also conflicts with the management direction for parcel disposal in the Snake River RMP/ROD.

So although patent through the R&PP Act or disposal through a FLPMA sale are both available to transfer ownership of the Snake River parcels to Teton County, **they are in contradiction with the management objective of the Snake River RMP/ROD.** The R&PP Act is not entirely applicable because it is not intended to be used to preserve open space and a FLPMA sale has

limited applicability because the fair market value of the public parcels is likely too high for the one remaining interested entity.

Since the ROD for the Snake River RMP was signed, the following actions have been completed:

- One land parcel was patented to Teton County under the R&PP Act, for expansion of the Teton County landfill in June 2008.
- Two unintentional occupancy trespasses were resolved via FLPMA sales in April 2014. The two parcels consist of 0.82 acres and 0.13 acres.
- One un-manageable parcel has been sold via FLPMA sale to the adjacent land owner in February 2014.

As all land parcels that can be disposed of via the R&PP Act and FLPMA sales have been processed, the Pinedale Field Office has exhausted available options for additional parcel disposal.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 307-367-5302.

Sincerely,



Caleb M. Hiner
Field Manager