

BLUE VALLEY LAND EXCHANGE

Overview: The proposal would privatize the last remaining three public parcels along a 15-mile stretch of the Blue River, a gold medal trout stream. In exchange, there are potential alternate access points with a public access easement on the river, a proposed river park near Kremmling and perhaps a hiking access near Green Mountain Reservoir. 1,489 acres of BLM-managed land would be conveyed from Federal ownership to the Blue Valley Ranch in exchange for 1,832 acres of non-Federal lands.

See these useful links:

[Federal Register](#) for legal notices.

[BLM website](#) for all BLM published materials.

[Newspaper Article](#) discussing the proposal.

CWPL Concerns: The heart of CWPL's concerns about this proposal is whether the public will maintain as much, as convenient, and as valuable access and ownership as the public currently has to approach, fish, and float the Blue River, a gold-medal trout stream. The agreements in the Binding Land Exchange agreement are contingent on future actions by the BLM and the proponent, creating uncertainty about whether the proposed recreation improvements will benefit the public in the long run, and whether these improvements can make up for the loss of the current public parcels, some of which have cultural and archeological significance.

Federal Agency: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kremmling Field Office

Proponent: Blue Valley Ranch

Location: In Grand and Summit Counties, near Kremmling

Federal Land to be Conveyed to Proponent: Nine parcels comprising 1,489 acres of BLM-managed land would be conveyed from Federal ownership to the Blue Valley Ranch.

Non-federal Land to be Acquired by Public: Nine parcels comprising 1,832 acres of non-Federal lands.

STATUS and TIMELINE

Prior to August 3, 2024: CWPL is filing its Statement of Reasons for the appeal to IBLA

July 3, 2024: IBLA denied Stay of Execution citing a lack of "immediate and irreparable harm" as the harm "will be remedied if CWPL prevails on appeal and the exchange is set aside."

June 3, 2024: CWPL filed Notice of Appeal and Petition for Stay to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA)

May 3, 2024: BLM dismissed all public protests

March 2, 2023, CWPL and others submitted protests to the Decision Notice.

January 16, 2023, BLM issued a Decision Notice approving the BVR Land Exchange.

2021-2023: The public awaited BLM's response to COWPL and others' comments and the Final Decision on the Land Exchange.

August 2, 2021: COWPL [submitted comments](#) on the BLM's Final Environmental Impact Statement.

July 2, 2021: The BLM issued the Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange Final Environmental Statement (dated April 2021).

October 10, 2019: COWPL submitted [further comments](#). These include appraisal comments.

Date 2019: COWPL received the missing FOIA information, including appraisals of [valuations of federal](#) and [non-federal](#) land proposed for exchange, and a refund for our attorney fees!

November 2018: COWPL filed a complaint regarding the FOIA request for the Appraisals and other information previously requested and not received.

June 22, 2018: COWPL submitted comments on the Draft [Environmental Impact Statement](#).

June 2018: COWPL filed a FOIA request for additional information and the Appraisals

May 11, 2018: BLM issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement with a 45-day public comment period.

June 2016: COWPL submitted Scoping Comments.

April 2016: BLM opened the Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange Public Scoping period.

Background: In 1998 the BLM and Galloway, Inc. (owner of BVR) completed the Eagle Pass Ranch Land Exchange. In 2001, BVR approached the BLM to discuss a second land exchange. Over the next several years, BVR and the BLM collaboratively developed the current proposed land exchange. In June 2005, the BLM issued its Notice of Exchange Proposal for the Blue Valley Ranch Land Exchange and initiated the required environmental analysis and appraisal processes. The exchange process was placed on-hold in 2006 pending completion of the BLM KFO 2015 Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (2015 RMP). The exchange process was subsequently revived.