

A reasonable range of alternatives will be formulated. In addition to the proposed action, two alternatives have been identified for analysis. The No Action alternative will analyze continuation of the existing event with paid population of 70,000 and up to 10,000 volunteers and paid staff. The No Event alternative will analyze not having the event in the Black Rock-High Rock National Conservation Area. Additional alternatives may be determined. The EIS will assess the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of BRC's proposal as well as any recommended mitigation.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary key issues:

- With the increase in participants, both the Pershing and Washoe County Sheriff offices may express concerns over public health and safety, and deputy staffing. Associated with this is the question of how the BLM will enforce applicable federal, state and local laws;

- With the increase in participants, increased amounts of airborne dust may be created, with associated air quality impacts;

- Surrounding communities and the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation may express concerns on the amount of solid waste (trash and refuse) generated by participants and how it will be disposed as participants depart the event;

- A variety of groups may want to know how BLM will monitor the event to insure that there is no unnecessary or undue degradation of federal land, and that the BLM receives appropriate financial compensation and cost recovery under the law; and

- With the increase in participants, both the Nevada Department of Transportation and County of Washoe may raise concerns with traffic and load capacity issues on public roads that access the event.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA scoping process to help fulfill the public involvement process under the NHPA as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and the NHPA.

The BLM will consult with Native American tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with

Executive Order 13175, Secretarial Order 3317 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including but not limited to impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State and local agencies and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by BRC's proposal are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7.

**Mark E. Hall,**

*Field Manager, Black Rock Field Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[12X.LLAK942000.L54200000.FR0000.LVDIL12L0550; AA094268]

#### Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest for Lands Underlying the Taku River in Alaska

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The State of Alaska has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (RDI) from the United States in those lands underlying the Taku River located in southeast Alaska. The State of Alaska asserts that the Taku River was navigable and unreserved at the time of Alaska Statehood in 1959.

**DATES:** The BLM must receive all comments to this action on or before September 18, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by mail or email on the State of Alaska's application for an RDI or on the BLM draft "Summary Report on Federal Interest in Lands underlying the Taku River in Alaska." To file comments by mail, send to RDI Program Manager

(AK-942), Division of Lands and Cadastral, BLM Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513. To submit comments by email, send to [anichols@blm.gov](mailto:anichols@blm.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Angie Nichols, RDI Program Manager, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513; 907-271-3359; [anichols@blm.gov](mailto:anichols@blm.gov); or visit the BLM Recordable Disclaimer of Interest website at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/RDI/southeast>.

People who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay System (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or a question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 14, 2017, the State of Alaska filed an application (AA-94268) for an RDI pursuant to Section 315 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the regulations contained in 43 CFR 1864 for the lands underlying the Taku River in Alaska. The State asserts that this river was navigable at the time of Alaska Statehood. As such, the State contends that ownership of the lands underlying the Taku River automatically passed from the United States to the State of Alaska in 1959 at the time of Statehood under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Alaska Statehood Act, and other title navigability law.

Section 315 of FLPMA authorizes the BLM to issue an RDI when it determines that a record interest of the United States in lands has terminated by law or is otherwise invalid, and a disclaimer would help remove a cloud on title to such lands.

The State's application is for an RDI for all submerged lands between the ordinary high water mark of the left and right banks of the Taku River, beginning at the 60-foot boundary reserve within sections 10, 11, and 14; township 38 south; range 71 east; Copper River Meridian, Alaska; to the extent of tidal influence, regardless of location. The State listed the Taku River's coverage on the USGS 1:63,360 series topographic map Taku River B-6, (1951, minor revisions 1971); Taku River C-6 (1995); Taku River C-5, (1960) and Juneau B-1 quadrangles. The precise location may be within other townships due to the ambulatory nature of these water bodies.

The RDI is a legal document through which the BLM disclaims the United States' interest in or ownership of specified lands, but the disclaimer does not grant, convey, transfer, or renounce any title or interest in the lands, nor does it release any tax, judgment, or lien. This Notice of Application for a RDI is to inform the public of the pending application and the State of Alaska's supporting evidence, as well as to provide the opportunity to comment or provide additional information to the BLM.

The BLM will not make a final decision on the merits of the State's application before September 18, 2018.

During this 90-day period, interested parties may comment on the State's application, AA-94268, and supporting evidence. Interested parties may also comment on the BLM's draft "Summary Report on Federal Interest in Lands underlying the Taku River in Alaska" for the State's application for the RDI, which is available on the BLM's RDI website (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above).

Copies of the State application, supporting evidence, the BLM Draft Summary Report, and comments, including names and street addresses of commenters, will be available in Anchorage for public review at the BLM Alaska State Office, Public Information Center (Public Room), Fitzgerald Federal Building, 222 West 8th Avenue, Monday through Friday, during regular business hours 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personally identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personally identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If the BLM determines the State's evidence, and any additional information the agency receives concerning the State's application, are sufficient to find a favorable determination, and neither the records nor a valid objection discloses a reason not to disclaim, the BLM may decide to approve the application for the RDI.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 1864.2

**Erika L. Reed,**

*Deputy State Director, Division of Lands and Cadastral, Alaska.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**[LLWO250000.18XL1109AF.L12200000.PMO 000; OMB Control Number 1004-0165]**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Cave Management; Cave Nominations and Confidential Information**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), are proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 20, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments on this information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget's Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior by email at [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov); or via facsimile to (202) 395-5806. Please provide a copy of your comments to the BLM at U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW, Room 2134LM, Washington, DC 20240, Attention: Jean Sonneman; or by email to [jesonnem@blm.gov](mailto:jesonnem@blm.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 1004-0165 in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Jonathan Jasper by email at [jjasper@blm.gov](mailto:jjasper@blm.gov), or by telephone at 435-688-3264. You may also view the ICR at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. A **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day public comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on January 16, 2018 (83 FR 2180). The comment

period closed on March 19, 2018. On April 12, 2018, 24 days after the comment period closed, the BLM received one comment via email. The comment referred specifically to the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments.

Except for the mention of the OMB control number in the title of the comment, the comment did not mention the information collection, and the BLM has taken no action to revise the information collection in response to the comment. The BLM Information Collection Clearance Officer has forwarded the comments to the appropriate BLM staff for consideration.

We are again soliciting comments on the ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is the collection necessary to the proper functions of the BLM; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the BLM enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the BLM minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Abstract:** Land-management agencies within the Department of the Interior use the information in order to comply with the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act (FCRPA), 16 U.S.C. 4301 through 4310 and the Department's regulations at 43 CFR part 37. The FRCPA requires these agencies to identify and protect "significant" caves on Federal lands within their respective jurisdictions, and allows agencies to disclose to the public the location of significant caves only in limited circumstances. However, the FRCPA and BLM regulations also authorize certain individuals, organizations, and governmental agencies to request confidential cave information.

Previously, the activities in this control number were not separated into collections from individuals, from the private sector, and from state, local, and