

Results from the meeting March 13, 2024 with the Bureau of Land Management concerning the Bureau of Reclamation and their proposed disposal of properties for this discussion will be called Muddy Ridge.

Attending this meeting;

John Elliot- Area Manager Lander BLM

Darci Anacker-Assistant Field Manager Lander BLM

Rich Pengetzer- Muddy Ridge Resident and President of the Midvale Irrigation District

Mike Jones-Vice Chairman Fremont County Commissioners

Larry Allen-Chairman Fremont County Commissioners

The following notes are from information that was presented during the meeting with the above mentioned attendees. I apologize ahead of time for my secretarial skills in note taking and typing skills.

The Bureau of Reclamation ( BOR) has submitted their request to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) notice of their intent to Dispose of said properties in the Muddy Ridge area. BOR has yet to complete the final paperwork to complete their request. This final paperwork is for the BOR to do an environmental assessment of the properties in the Muddy Ridge area owned by the BOR. In this assessment it will identify illegal dump sites and areas of concern. Along with this assessment, Cleanup and associated costs will be identified. We can only estimate the time line for the assessment and potential cleanup, the assessment could take 90 days or more, after that depending on the extent of the cleanup, that is uncertain.

After the environmental assessment is complete, the BOR will file a notice in the Federal Register. A public comment period will be advertised and the hope is that public notice will be between 60-90 days.

Following the public comment period, a suitability report will be completed and handed off to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) , Solicitors (attorneys) for their review.

The attorneys for the BLM will give their legal opinion what can be done with the property within Muddy Ridge.

Along with the attorneys review they will be assisted by the BLM real estate department to identify roads, easements, maintenance agreement, legal descriptions etc... In that sustainability report the attorneys will decide where the process move on to from that point, BLM takes ownership or they decline and it moves to another agency within the Department of Interior.

Once the legal opinions are completed, the public opinions are reviewed and recorded, the time then will come for meetings with BLM and cooperators to discuss the possibilities if Alternatives. An alternative is a tool to use to identify the different options that the BLM will consider once they take over the management and ownership of the Muddy Ridge area.

There may or may not be alternatives following the meetings with the cooperators. The following is what I see is on the timeline or order of events. These are my thoughts only and what I have experienced.

With the meetings concluded with the cooperators, the BLM will publicize their intent concerning the Muddy Ridge properties.

Following that publication yet another public comment period will follow, and public meetings will be held to inform the public of their intentions.

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This is a lengthy process and will take considerable time.

After this entire process is completed, the BLM may choose to not take ownership and responsibility of these lands. We can only encourage the BLM to step up and protect our community.

During this process we will encourage the state to become involved and possibly negotiate ownership of this property.

When this was originally started by the BOR in the mid 90's there was a tremendous amount of public comment and a good part of determination to put this on the back burner and try again sometime at a later date.

Mike Jones has been in contact with the BLM state office and has requested a timeline of events so we can notify all citizens, legislatures federal and state to get involved and made aware of these expected timelines and processes.

I will continue to stay in touch with our federal and state legislatures and I will reach out to the Wyoming Game and Fish to recruit them in our concerns.

The Wyoming Stock Growers want to help and lobby for us as well and I along with Colter Jordan will continue to keep them informed.

Sorry that this is so lengthy, but I felt that we had an open and honest meeting with the BLM. Thanks to Rich Pengetzer for bringing his concerns and others to the table.