

**Petition/Application for Proposed Withdrawal
Trinity Wild and Scenic River
Trinity County, California**

Items required by CFR 2310.1-2(c) for a withdrawal petition/application:

(1) Name of Applicant:

Bureau of Land Management
Redding Field Office
355 Hemsted Drive
Redding, California 96002

(2) Non-Interior Delegation of Authority:

Not applicable.

(3) Consent of Head of Non-Interior Agency:

Not applicable.

(4) Type of Withdrawal:

This petition/application is for the making of a new withdrawal of public lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights. The lands would remain open to mineral and geothermal leasing and the Materials Act of 1947.

(5) Legal Description:

Legal description of the lands proposed for withdrawal is included in Exhibit A.

(6) Legal description of Overlapping Withdrawals:

A description of overlapping withdrawals is included in Exhibit B.

(7) Purpose of the Withdrawal:

Trinity River is noted as a recreational component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and remained open to location and entry under the United States mining laws. The 1992 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Redding Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RRMP-EIS) evaluated the Trinity River between Lewiston and North Fork for designation as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). No ACEC designation was pursued in 1992 because Trinity River lands were “recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry” (RRMP-EIS Appendix C-8)).

Withdrawal of public lands within the Trinity River management area was further identified in the BLM Redding Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP) that was approved on July 27, 1993.

Withdrawal of these lands will support the following resource condition objectives as addressed in the RMP:

- Enhance recreation opportunities related to use of the Trinity River and associated tributaries. Examples include fishing, boating, and camping.
- Maintain scenic quality of the river corridor. This includes forest management practices consistent with BLM Visual Resource Management Class II guidelines.
- Protect and enhance the riparian habitats of endangered fish and wildlife populations. Fishery habitat located within the Trinity River corridor includes the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho and Chinook salmon, Steelhead, and Pacific Lamprey. Riparian areas along the Trinity River also provide habitat for terrestrial species such as the Western Pond Turtle, Foothill Yellow Legged Frog, Pacific Fisher, Northern Spotted Owl, Bald Eagle, and a variety of migratory songbirds.
- Protect key cultural resources including, but not limited to, Montana Cabin, Indian Creek Townsite, as well as resources within the vicinity of Rush Creek, Salt Flat, Steiner Flat, and Deadwood Creek.

Withdrawal of the above areas from mineral entry supports further interagency collaboration to enhance riparian habitats, protect cultural resources, provide recreational opportunities, and manage visual resources along the Trinity River. It will further the protection of resource objectives that have been established in the RMP and those that have been cooperatively established through interactions with the Trinity River Restoration Program, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Yurok Tribe, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, California Department of Water Resources, California Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, BLM and other interested parties.

Mineral extraction activities interfere and alter stream bed/floodplain restoration work. The ongoing collaborative efforts as stated above to restore, stabilize, protect, and enhance critical resources are threatened by continued mining activities.

(8) Extent of Segregation:

All of the public lands applied for are to be withheld from location and entry under the United States mining laws, but not disposal of mineral materials under the Materials Act of 1947, or leasing under the mineral or geothermal leasing laws. The BLM requests the

maximum 2 year temporary segregation, allowed by 43 CFR 2310.2(a), to complete necessary studies and make a final recommendation on the withdrawal.

(9) Land Uses Permitted:

The BLM authorized officer may issue temporary land use authorizations during the period of temporary segregation including leases, licenses, permits, rights-of-way, and disposal of mineral or vegetative resources other than those uses prohibited under the mining laws.

(10) Analysis of Alternatives:

The use of a right-of-way, interagency, or a cooperative agreement would not adequately constrain mineral location and surface entry which could adversely affect ongoing management activities, existing and planned capital improvements, and could result in land use conflicts as well as irretrievable loss of natural and cultural resources.

Additionally, the 43 CFR 3809 surface management regulations would not afford adequate resource protection because the regulations do not totally preclude mineral exploration and mining activities.

(11) Duration of the Withdrawal:

The duration of the withdrawal requested is 20 years. At the end of this period, a reevaluation will be made concerning the desirability and justification of extending the withdrawal.

(12) Alternative Sites:

There are no suitable alternative sites as the lands described are the area of interest in need of protection.

(13) Water Requirements:

No water rights will be needed to fulfill the purpose of this withdrawal.

(14) Location of Records:

Bureau of Land Management
Redding Field Office
355 Hemsted Drive
Redding, California 96002

(15) Preliminary Mineral Identification:

A BLM mineral report addressing adjoining private lands along this section of the Trinity River indicates there is a high potential for the occurrence of placer gold and associated platinum group elements in the river alluvium. There is a moderate to high potential for commercial placer gold development. These alluvial gravel deposits, including the placer tailings, also have a moderate potential for development as sources of mineral materials. There are no other significant mineral occurrences or development potentials.