

Phase IV Transcript

This is phase IV withdrawals, public land order approval and publication.

Now that the NEPA documentation has been completed and recommendations made, you are ready to finalize a proposed public land order package for submission to the Assistant Secretary. The State Director's Memorandum is a brief summary of the proposed withdrawal with recommendations for the Assistant Secretary of Interior to withdraw the lands for the purposes noted in the application. Documents enclosed with the State Director's Memorandum and written using the active voice will include:

1. A draft Public Land Order.
2. The Secretary's Information Memorandum, formally known as a Briefing Paper.
3. A draft transmittal memorandum from the BLM Director to the Asst. Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.
4. Legal Land Description Review required by WO Policy - Legal descriptions written according to the brochure Specifications for Descriptions of Tracts of Land for Use in Land Orders and Proclamations.
5. NEPA documentation and any supporting documents.
6. Copy of the Federal Register Notice of Withdrawal Application.
7. Copy of District Office or U.S. Forest Service Office letter requesting the Public Land Order
8. Copy of approved application.
9. Photos – These are recent photos highlighting the proposed uses of the Withdrawal and the critical values needing protection. (Hint: you should include people if referring to recreational sites or the sites the public uses)
10. Maps: Vicinity Map, Topographical map, Quads, or map that delineate the boundaries and provides a great view for the reviewers and signers.

Examples of these documents may be found in the tool box.

Now that the proposed withdrawal package has been completed and it can be forwarded to the national withdrawals coordinator to be processed through the Washington office and the Department of Interior. Depending on the complexity of the proposed withdrawal, processing and finalizing the public land order through the Department of Interior may take anywhere from 30 days to six months. Once the Assistant Secretary has signed the public land order it is given an order number by the department then sent through the Washington Office Regulatory Affairs group for publication. The public land order generally becomes effective on the date of publication. Following publication, the state office withdrawal lead will notify the applicant that withdrawal has been signed and addition to notifying all interested parties. The withdrawal lead will update the LRU2000 serial register page. Following publication, the state office withdrawal lead will notify the applicant that the withdrawal has been signed in addition to notifying all interested parties. The withdrawal lead will update the LRU2000 serial register page following the data standards for withdrawals and request the title records folks to update the master title plats and the historical indexes.

Over the 4 withdrawal sessions I addressed the BLM and Department Legal Authorities, Regulations, and Policies for making administrative withdrawals. I walked us through the steps on how to apply for a new withdrawal with examples that can be found in your tool box. I briefly addressed NEPA requirements and all of the supporting documents required by 43 CFR 2310.3-2(b). And finally, I covered the requirements for submitting a draft Public Land Order for the Assistant Secretary's final decision. This includes the steps necessary to publish the Public Land Order and document all Bureau of Land Management Records.

Now to test your proficiency -