

Federal Register Briefing Paper

1. State Office

Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, Sacramento California

2. What is the title of this notice?

Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; California

3. What are the key issues raised by the underlying decision documents for this notice?

The notice of proposed withdrawal would temporarily segregate approximately 3,123 acres in Trinity County, California, from location and entry under the United States mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral or geothermal leasing laws. The purpose of the 2 year temporary segregation is to protect the cultural, recreational, and biological resources within the recreational segment of the Trinity River Wild and Scenic River while studies are completed to make a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary on a 20-year withdrawal.

4. Who are the primary users affected by or parties interested in the underlying decisions or actions? What are their concerns?

The primary users of the lands are the general public and recreational users. Recreation users along the river should not be affected by the proposal. There may be some concern from the mining community that the lands will no longer be open to mineral location under the United States mining laws. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will publish this notice in both the *Federal Register* and a newspaper of general circulation within the vicinity of the subject lands. The notice will invite comments from the public and offers the opportunity for the public to request a public meeting.

5. Is tribal consultation appropriate under E.O. 13175 or other authorities? Will the proposed action potentially impact tribes or tribal lands, or generate their interest? If so, what consultation or other communication/outreach are you planning?

The BLM will notify the appropriate tribes who may have interest in the proposed withdrawn lands. Local tribes have communicated their support of this proposal to enhance fisheries along the river.

6. Will this notice be controversial?

There is a potential for some local controversy from the mining community.

7. What will the underlying decision or action change? (Summarize changes to policy, management practices, allowable uses, differences between draft and final, etc.)

This decision will segregate the subject lands for a 2-year term while the BLM completes the necessary reports and recommendations for the Assistant Secretary's consideration to withdraw the lands for a 20-year period for the protection of resources.

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8. Will this notice need Communications Materials, e.g., a press release or a Communications Plan? If so, enclose these materials with the notice package submitted.

The BLM does not expect needing any additional communication materials beyond the *Federal Register* notice and publication in a newspaper having a general circulation in the vicinity of the lands involved.

9. What are the reasons for the timing of the notice and the consequence, if any, of delaying or canceling the release?

The Trinity River is in critical need of habitat protection. Existing and future rehabilitation projects continue to be threatened by impacts due to mining activities. This notice is the first step in the land withdrawal process after the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget approves the petition/application (43 CFR 2310.3-1), which requires the notice be published within 30 days of the submission of a withdrawal proposal. Once published, there is a 90-day comment period after which the BLM can begin analyzing impacts of the withdrawal.

10. How has this action been analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

A NEPA analysis will be conducted during the temporary 2 year segregation to establish a recommendation for the withdrawal.

11. Is there any additional pertinent, descriptive information that reviewers need to know or would increase understanding?

No, there is not.

12. List the names and positions of the people who have prepared, reviewed, and approved the notice and the underlying decisions and documents.

BLM Redding Field Office:
Field Office Manager

BLM Northern California District:
District Realty Specialist

13. Authorizing signature of State Office or Center Budget Officer, or Washington Office Resource Advisor certifying that the cost code on the Federal Register notice is accurate and valid. (LLCA920000.L14300000.ET0000;)

(signature)

(print name and date)