

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

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§ 2920.3 Bureau of Land Management initiated land use proposals.

Where, as a result of the land use planning process, the desirability of allowing use of the public lands or providing increased service to the public from such use of the public lands is demonstrated, the authorized officer may identify a use for the public land and notify the public that proposals for utilizing the land through a lease, permit or easement will be considered.

§ 2920.4 Notice of realty action.

(a) A notice of realty action indicating the availability of public lands for non-Federal uses through lease, permit or easement shall be issued, published and sent to parties of interest by the authorized officer, including, but not limited to, adjoining land owners and current or past land users, when a determination has been made that such public lands are available for a particular use either through the submission of a public initiated proposal or through the land use planning process.

(b) The notice shall include the use proposed for the public lands and shall notify the public that applications for a lease, permit or easement shall be considered. The notice shall specify the form of negotiation, whether by competitive or non-competitive bidding, under which the land use authorization shall be issued. A notice of realty action is not a specific action implementing a resource management plan or amendment.

(c) The notice of realty action shall be published once in the FEDERAL REGISTER and once a week for 3 weeks thereafter in a newspaper of general circulation in the vicinity of the public lands included in the land use proposal.

(d) An application submitted before a notice of realty action is published shall not be processed and shall be returned to the person who submitted it. Return of an application shall not be subject to appeal or protest.

§ 2920.5 Application procedure.

§ 2920.5-1 Filing of applications for land use authorizations.

(a) Only after publication of a notice of realty action shall an application for

a land use authorization be filed with the Bureau of Land Management office having jurisdiction over the public lands covered by the application.

(b) The filing of an application gives no right to use the public lands.

§ 2920.5-2 Application content.

(a) Applications for land use authorizations shall include a reference to the notice of realty action under which the application is filed and a description of the proposed land use in sufficient detail to enable the authorized officer to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed land use, the impacts, if any, on the environment, the public or other benefits from the land use, the approximate cost of the proposed land use, any threat to the public health and safety posed by the proposed use and whether the proposed use is, in the opinion of the applicant, in conformance with the Bureau of Land Management plans, programs and policies for the public lands covered by the proposed use. The description shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Details of the proposed uses and activities;

(2) A description of all facilities for which authorization is sought, access needs and special types of easements that may be needed;

(3) A map of sufficient scale to allow all of the required information to be legible and a legal description of primary and alternative project locations; and

(4) A schedule for construction of any facilities.

(b) Additional information:

(1) After review of the project description, the authorized officer may require the applicant(s) to fund or to perform additional studies or submit additional environmental data, or both, so as to enable the Bureau of Land Management to prepare an environmental analysis in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); and comply with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470); The Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469 *et seq.*); Executive Order 11593, "Protection and

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Enhancement of the Cultural Environment” of May 13, 1971 (36 FR 8921); “Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties” (36 CFR part 300); and other laws and regulations as applicable.

(2) An application for the use of public lands may require additional private, State, local or other Federal agency licenses, permits, easements, certificates or other approval documents. The authorized officer may require the applicant to furnish such documents, or proof of application for such documents, as part of the application.

(3) The authorized officer may require evidence that the applicant has, or prior to commencement of construction will have, the technical and financial capability to construct, operate, maintain and terminate the authorized land use.

(c) The application shall include the name and legal mailing address of the applicant.

(d) *Business Associations.* If the applicant is other than an individual, the application shall include the name and address of an agent authorized to receive notice of actions pertaining to the application.

(e) *Federal departments and agencies.* Federal departments and agencies are not qualified to hold land use authorizations under this authority.

(f) If any of the information required in this section has already been submitted as part of a land use proposal submitted under § 2920.2 of this title, the application need only refer to that proposal by filing date, office and case number. The applicant shall certify that there have been no changes in any of the information.

§ 2920.5-3 Application review.

Every application shall be reviewed to determine if it conforms to the notice of realty action. If the application does not meet the requirements of this subpart, the application may be denied, and the applicant shall be so advised in writing, with an explanation.

§ 2920.5-4 Competitive or non-competitive bids.

(a) *Competitive.* Land use authorizations may be offered on a competitive basis if, in the judgment of the author-

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ized officer, a competitive interest exists or if no equities, such as prior use of the lands, warrant non-competitive land use authorization. Land use authorizations shall be awarded on the basis of the public benefit to be provided, the financial and technical capability of the bidder to undertake the project and the bid offered. A bid at less than fair market value shall not be considered. Each bidder shall submit information required by the notice of realty action.

(b) *Non-competitive.* Land use authorizations may be offered on a negotiated, non-competitive basis, when, in the judgement of the authorized officer equities, such as prior use of the lands, exist, no competitive interest exists or where competitive bidding would represent unfair competitive and economic disadvantage to the originator of the unique land use concept. The non-competitive bid shall not be for less than fair market value.

§ 2920.5-5 Application processing.

(a) After review of applications filed, the authorized officer shall select one application for further processing in accordance with the notice of realty action. The authorized officer shall provide public notice of the selection of an applicant and notify the selected applicant, in writing, of the selection. All other applications shall be rejected and returned to the applicants.

(b) The selected land use applicant shall submit any additional information that the authorized officer considers necessary to process the land use authorization.

§ 2920.6 Reimbursement of costs.

(a) When two or more applications are submitted for a land use authorization, each applicant shall be liable for the identifiable costs of processing his (or her) application. Where the costs of processing two or more applications cannot be readily identified with particular applications, all applicants shall be liable for such costs, to be divided equally among them.

(b) The selected land use applicant shall reimburse the United States for reasonable administrative and other costs incurred by the United States in