



Grand County

Colorado

CONTACT:

Christine Travis, Grand County Communications Director

CTravis@co.grand.co.us

970-725-3136

Grand County Board of Commissioners Commends Approval of Blue Valley Land Exchange

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 17 — The Grand County Board of County Commissioners applauds the Bureau of Land Management’s decision to approve the Blue Valley Land Exchange. Today the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released its Notice of Decision approving the exchange, which will open more than 1,000 acres to the public for recreation activities, and will also provide better access to the Blue River and Green Mountain.

Included in the exchange is the creation of the Confluence Recreation Area at the intersection of the Blue and Colorado Rivers near Kremmling. This new recreation area, being developed at no cost to taxpayers, will include:

- More than two miles of walking trails;
- Two miles of new contiguous fishing access on the Blue River;
- New permanent takeouts and rest stops for river floaters, including a boat ramp;
- Significant river habitat enhancements to support a nearly one-mile long fishery of gold-medal quality;
- A large picnic area;
- Two new parking areas;
- Wheelchair-accessible fishing platforms, and more.

In addition to the Confluence Recreation Area, with the land exchange, upstream anglers gain walk-in access to more than one and a half miles of the Blue River in Green Mountain Canyon. Green and San Toy Mountains will also be preserved from any future development.

Blue Valley Ranch (BVR) is paying all costs associated with developing these new recreation areas and features, along with restoration of the Blue River in the Confluence Recreation Area. Also as part of the land exchange, BVR is establishing an endowment to pay for ongoing operation and maintenance expenses for the recreation improvements. Initial investments from the Ranch are expected to exceed \$2 million.

###