*Red River/Bureau of Land Management talking points*

* The Federal government should know by now that Texans stand together — and the Texans who own property along the Red River should know that they won’t have to face the Federal government alone.
* **Land along rivers can change ownership as the river moves. The BLM will have to prove any claims they make on land in Texas in court. The BLM can not just claim ownership of any Red River land administratively.**
* **The BLM will have to conduct a very expensive survey of the 116 miles of riverbed before they can make any claims, and that could take years.**
* The General Land Office is asking the Bureau of Land Management to provide a map or a description of any land they think might be public domain. The BLM has yet to respond.
* The BLM’s proposed actions threaten settled law that dates back to the Louisiana Purchase. This is not something that Texans take lightly.
* Decisions on how land in Texas is managed should be made by Texans. That’s why the General Land Office has pledged to represent Texans and participate fully in the BLM’s development of a management plan of any federal lands in the state.
* **The Permanent School Fund has mineral rights and surface acreage in the area, and that’s why the General Land Office has a stake in how this gets resolved.**

* Geological factors affecting the dimensions of the river include avulsion and accretion. Avulsion is the rapid abandonment of a river channel and the formation of a new river channel. Accretion is the accumulation of material (such as sediment) to a landmass.
* The controversy over this boundary began when the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. Spain and the United States feuded over where Louisiana ended and New Spain (which included Texas) began.
* John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State and Don Luis de Onis, Spanish Minister, concluded the Adams-Onis treaty in 1819 defining the boundary between American Louisiana on the east and New Spain on the west, which, in part, established the Red River as the boundary between the two countries.
* In 1923 in Oklahoma vs. Texas, the U. S. Supreme Court determined that the gradient boundary of the south bank of the Red River – subject to the doctrine of accretion, erosion and avulsion – was the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma.
* The gradient boundary has been described as that part of the bed of the river kept practically bare of vegetation by the wash of the waters of the river.
* As recently as 2000, the U. S. Congress enacted legislation ratifying The Red River Boundary Compact, agreed to by Texas and Oklahoma, in which the vegetation line on the south bank of the river was established as the boundary for jurisdictional (law enforcement, administrative, taxation, etc) purposes only.

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