



**U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153**



Press Release

For Release Immediately

Contact: Cathy Rodine (703) 440-1713

**Federal Government's Acquisition of Meadowood Farm
to be Discussed at Public Meeting**

The U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eastern States (ES) will prepare a Planning Analysis/Environmental Assessment (PA/EA) to look into management alternatives for 800+ acres of land on Mason Neck in Fairfax County, known as Meadowood Farm.

A Public Meeting is planned for Wednesday May 16 at the Gunston Elementary School to help identify issues relevant to the management of this property and to hear from the community about the potential impacts Federal ownership of this land could have on the people and resources of the Mason Neck area.

"We want to share our vision of Meadowood with the people who live in the Mason Neck community and get them involved in our planning process," said Gayle Gordon, BLM's Director for Eastern States, whose office would be responsible for management of the facility. Acquisition and management of Meadowood is consistent with the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, as amended, and will help achieve Presidential and Interior Department goals to protect and conserve public land and natural resources.

Public uses on Mason Neck include the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mason Neck State Park managed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Pohick Bay Regional Park managed by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. The 8,000-acre Mason Neck peninsula, approximately 18 miles south

- more -

ADD ONE - MEADOWOOD

of Washington, D.C., is also the site of Gunston Hall—historic home of George Mason IV, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights. Cooperative management of this rural area provides 5,000 acres for recreation while protecting natural resources. Habitat is provided for migratory and resident waterfowl, bald eagle nesting, feeding, and roosting, and enhancement of species diversity for a variety of wildlife, including blue heron, wood ducks, screech owls, bluebirds, and tree frogs.

The public and the media are invited to attend this meeting on Wednesday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at Gunston Elementary School, 10100 Gunston Road, Lorton, Virginia. If you cannot attend, you may submit written comments to the BLM at the following address until June 27, 2001:

BLM, Eastern States
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22153
FAX: (703) 440-1701
e-mail: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

The Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States is responsible for the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands spanning the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River, which includes approximately 25,000 acres of surface lands and 39 million acres of subsurface mineral estate.