

Appendix B

Scoping Advertising

News Release 1



Bureau of Land Management 2300 River Frontage Road • Silt, Colorado 81652

BLM COLORADO RIVER VALLEY NEWS

NEW RELEASE

April 1, 2014

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 876-9008
Steve Hall, Director of Communications, (303) 239-3672

BLM Colorado Launches Public Scoping and Environmental Analysis on Existing Oil and Gas Leases in the White River National Forest

25 Lease Suspensions Extended in Thompson Divide

SILT, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado River Valley Field Office today announced that it is beginning a 30-day public scoping period as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze 65 existing oil and gas leases on the White River National Forest. The BLM is initiating an EIS to address National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) deficiencies identified by the Interior Board of Land Appeals for the 65 existing leases.

A “scoping period” gives the public a chance to tell the BLM what issues and concerns they think should be addressed in an EIS before the BLM begins drafting the document.

“Scoping comments that are specific to this area and these existing leases will be the most effective as we draft the alternatives we will analyze in the EIS,” said BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office Manager Steve Bennett. “Public involvement is a critical piece of this analysis and we will consider a wide range of alternatives, which will be made available for public review and comment when drafted.”

The BLM expects to release a draft of the EIS and alternatives for public review in early 2015. As a result of this EIS, the BLM could cancel the existing leases, modify the terms and conditions of the leases, or keep the existing terms and conditions of leases in place. The existing leases are entirely on land managed by the White River National Forest.

The BLM is conducting this EIS to address deficiencies in the existing environmental analyses for these leases. While the U.S. Forest Service determines which of its lands are available for oil and gas leasing and had the lead on the environmental analysis for those decisions, the BLM must either formally adopt the Forest Service analysis or perform its own analysis. The BLM did not formally adopt the Forest Service analysis and is performing its own analysis of these 65 leases through this EIS.

The BLM has also extended the lease suspensions through April 1, 2016, for 18 leases held by SG Interests and seven held by Ursa Resources Group in the Thompson Divide area west of Carbondale because these leases are included in the EIS. Both companies have pending development proposals that will not be analyzed by the Forest Service and BLM until this EIS is completed. Continuing the suspension of the leases prevents any development activity and pauses the 10-year deadline leaseholders have to begin developing their leases.

One of the circumstances in which a lease suspension is normally warranted occurs when the leaseholder is awaiting a decision from the BLM or other surface management agency, such as this EIS. Additionally, both SG Interests and Ursa have pending development and unitization proposals. The first development proposal for the Ursa leases was submitted in 2009, followed by a request to unitize its seven leases in 2012. SG Interests first submitted a proposal to unitize its leases in 2011, followed by development proposals in 2012. The BLM and the U.S. Forest Service will not take action on the development proposals for these leases until this EIS is complete.

The EIS allows for a robust public involvement process, which begins with the scoping period announced today. Public meetings to answer questions and accept written public comment will be scheduled.

Additional information about the EIS scoping period is available at:
<http://www.blm.gov/co/crvfo>.

Scoping comments need to be received by May 6, 2014 and may be emailed to WRNFlases@blm.gov; faxed to 970-876-9090; or mailed to Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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News Release 2



NEW RELEASE

April 11, 2014

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 876-9008
Steve Hall, Director of Communications, (303) 239-3672

BLM schedules additional public meeting for oil and gas EIS, extends public scoping period

SILT, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management has scheduled a fourth public scoping meeting for the Environmental Impact Statement analyzing 65 existing oil and gas leases on the White River National Forest and extended the public scoping period until May 16.

The fourth meeting will be held at the DeBeque Community Center May 1 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., in addition to the previously scheduled meetings April 15 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Glenwood Springs Community Center, April 16 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Carbondale Town Hall, and April 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Pitkin County Library in Aspen.

The format of the meetings will include opportunities for the public to provide written or oral comments, ask BLM and Forest Service specialists questions one-on-one, or ask questions during a formal question and answer session.

“Our goal is to provide the public opportunities to have their questions answered and to provide specific, effective comments,” said Steve Bennett, field manager for the Colorado River Valley Field Office in Silt.

The three-hour meetings will be divided as follows: The first 30 minutes will be an open house, followed by a 10-minute presentation and 20 minutes of formal Q&A. A 45-minute period for oral comments will begin an hour into the meeting, followed by a 30-minute continuation of the open house and concluding with a second 45-minute oral comment period.

To ensure as many people as possible can be heard during these meetings, oral comments will be limited to two minutes. More detailed comments can be submitted in writing.

The BLM is initiating an EIS to address National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) deficiencies identified by the Interior Board of Land Appeals for the 65 existing leases.

A “scoping period” gives the public a chance to tell the BLM what issues and concerns they think should be addressed in an EIS before the BLM begins drafting the document.

The BLM expects to release a draft of the EIS and alternatives for public review in early 2015. As a result of this EIS, the BLM could cancel the existing leases, modify the terms and conditions of the leases, or keep the existing terms and conditions of leases in place. The existing leases are entirely on land managed by the White River National Forest.

The BLM is conducting this EIS to address deficiencies in the existing environmental analyses for these leases. While the U.S. Forest Service determines which of its lands are available for oil and gas leasing and had the lead on the environmental analysis for those decisions, the BLM must either formally adopt the Forest Service analysis or perform its own analysis. The BLM did not formally adopt the Forest Service analysis and is performing its own analysis of these 65 leases through this EIS.

The EIS allows for a robust public involvement process, which begins with the scoping period announced April 1.

Additional information about the EIS scoping period is available at:
<http://www.blm.gov/co/crvfo>.

Scoping comments need to be received by May 16, 2014 and may be emailed to WRNFlases@blm.gov; faxed to 970-876-9090; or mailed to Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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Interested Party Letters



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Rd.
Silt, Colorado 81652

IN REPLY REFER TO:

(CON040) 3100

DATE

Certified No. 7012 2210 0001 5070 3045

Return Receipt Requested

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is writing to inform you of an upcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) action that might affect leases with in your County on the White River National Forest (WRNF). A "Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the White River National Forest" was published in the Federal Register on (DATE) and can be found online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/>

In compliance with the NEPA, the BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to undertake an analysis addressing previous decisions to issue 65 leases underlying WRNF lands. In 2007, the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) ruled that, the BLM should have either formally adopted NEPA analysis completed by the U.S. Forest Service or conducted its own analysis before including forest parcels in an oil and gas lease sale (see Board of Commissioners of Pitkin County, 173 IBLA 173 (2007)). The BLM has determined that information and circumstances have changed since the WRNF analysis was conducted in 1993. Therefore, the BLM cannot adopt the WRNF analysis and is conducting its own environmental analysis regarding these previous decisions to lease WRNF lands for oil and gas development. The BLM will determine whether these 65 leases should be voided, reaffirmed, modified with additional or different terms, or subject to additional mitigation measures for site-specific development proposals.

The BLM's EIS is not directly tied to any pending or proposed Applications for Permit to Drill because of the U.S. Forest Service's authority to address the NEPA on the Surface Use Plan of Operations.

There are Leases with in your County that may be affected by this action. The 65 leases that will be addressed in the EIS are:

COC 58677	COC 58835	COC 58836	COC 58837	COC 58838	COC 58839
COC 58840	COC 58841	COC 59630	COC 61121	COC 66687	COC 66688
COC 66689	COC 66690	COC 66691	COC 66692	COC 66693	COC 66694
COC 66695	COC 66696	COC 66697	COC 66698	COC 66699	COC 66700

COC 66701	COC 66702	COC 66706	COC 66707	COC 66708	COC 66709
COC 66710	COC 66711	COC 66712	COC 66723	COC 66724	COC 66727
COC 66728	COC 66729	COC 66730	COC 66731	COC 66732	COC 66733
COC 66908	COC 66909	COC 66913	COC 66915	COC 66916	COC 66917
COC 66918	COC 66920	COC 66926	COC 66948	COC 67147	COC 67150
COC 67542	COC 67543	COC 67544	COC 70013	COC 70014	COC 70015
COC 70016	COC 70361	COC 72157	COC 75070	COC 76123	

Additional information is available at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/crvfo>.

Scoping comments need to be received by **INSERT DATE** and may be emailed to WRNFleases@blm.gov; faxed to 970-876-9090; or mailed to Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652. If you have any questions, please call Steve Ficklin at 970-876-9006 or myself at 970-876-9002.

Sincerely,

Steve Bennett
Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652

IN REPLY REFER TO
(CON040) 3100

DATE

Certified No. **7012 2210 0001 5070 3045**
Return Receipt Requested

Dear Operator:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is writing to inform you of an upcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) action that might affect your leases on the White River National Forest (WRNF). A "Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the White River National Forest" was published in the Federal Register on **(DATE)** and can be found online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/>

In compliance with the NEPA, the BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to undertake an analysis addressing previous decisions to issue 65 leases underlying WRNF lands. In 2007, the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) ruled that, the BLM should have either formally adopted NEPA analysis completed by the U.S. Forest Service or conducted its own analysis before including forest parcels in an oil and gas lease sale (see Board of Commissioners of Pitkin County, 173 IBLA 173 (2007)). The BLM has determined that information and circumstances have changed since the WRNF analysis was conducted in 1993. Therefore, the BLM cannot adopt the WRNF lease analysis and is conducting its own environmental analysis regarding these previous decisions to lease WRNF lands for oil and gas development. The BLM will determine whether these 65 leases should be voided, reaffirmed, modified with additional or different terms, or subject to additional mitigation measures for site-specific development proposals.

The BLM's EIS is not directly tied to any pending or proposed Applications for Permit to Drill because of the U.S. Forest Service's authority to address the NEPA on the Surface Use Plan of Operations.

Your company has leases that may be affected by this action. The 65 leases that will be addressed in the EIS are:

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COC 70016 COC 70361 COC 72157 COC 75070 COC 76123

Additional information is available at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/crvfo>.

Scoping comments need to be received by **INSERT DATE** and may be emailed to WRNFleas@blm.gov; faxed to 970-876-9090; or mailed to Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652. If you have any questions, please call Steve Ficklin at 970-876-9006 or myself at 970-876-9002.

Sincerely,

Steve Bennett
Field Manager

DRAFT



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652
(970) 876-9000

In Reply Refer to:
(CON040) 3100

April 1, 2014

Certified No. 7013 2630 0000 2732 7571

Return Receipt Requested

Tribe Name/Address

Tribal Contact:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is writing to inform you of an upcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) action that might affect leases on the White River National Forest (WRNF). A "Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the White River National Forest" will be published in the Federal Register on April 2, 2014 and can be found online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/>

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The CRVFO of the Bureau of Land Management would like to extend an offer for government to government consultation concerning analysis for this EIS.

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The 65 leases that will be addressed in the EIS are:

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Additional information is available at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/crvfo>.

Public scoping meetings have been scheduled for:

April 15, Glenwood Springs Community Center, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

April 16, Carbondale Town Hall, 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

April 17, Pitkin County Library Aspen, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

All comments must be received prior to May 6, 2014 and may be emailed to WRNFleases@blm.gov; faxed to 970-876-9090; or mailed to Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652. If you have any questions, please call Steve Ficklin at 970-876-9006 or myself at 970-876-9002.

Sincerely,

Steve Bennett
Field Manager