

Appendix C

Scoping Meeting Displays and Presentation Materials



FACT SHEET: EIS for the Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the White River National Forest

What does this EIS address?

The Environmental Impact Statement for the Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the White River National Forest will analyze 65 existing leases issued since 1993 in the White River National Forest, including the 25 leases in the Thompson Divide area that were recently suspended through April 1, 2016.

Why are you doing this EIS?

In 2007, the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) ruled on a challenge of three leases in Pitkin County that BLM must either do its own environmental analysis or formally adopt the White River National Forest's 1993 Oil and Gas EIS for leasing on the White River National Forest.

Through the EIS, the BLM will conduct its own environmental analysis on 65 leases issued since the 1993 EIS to determine whether the leases should be voided, reaffirmed, modified with additional or different terms, or subject to additional mitigation measures for site-specific development proposals.

What is the timeframe of this EIS?

A draft EIS will be released for public comment once draft alternatives are complete, currently anticipated for summer 2015. A final EIS is anticipated in summer 2016.

How can I comment?

The public scoping period runs through May 16, 2014. Scoping comments 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. Four public scoping meetings will be held to help answer questions and accept public comments:

- April 15, Glenwood Springs Community Center, 4 to 7 p.m.
- April 16, Carbondale Town Hall, 4 to 7 p.m.
- April 17, Pitkin County Library in Aspen, 3 to 6 p.m.
- May 1, DeBeque Community Center, 4 to 7 p.m.

Scoping is the first opportunity for public involvement where BLM seeks to identify what issues and concerns the public would like to see addressed in the EIS. The most effective comments will be specific to the EIS rather than broad, unsupported statements.

What will the format of the public scoping meetings be?

The public meetings will be a combination of an open house and public hearing. The approximate schedule for each:

30 minutes -- open house, individual discussions

10 minutes -- overview presentation

20 minutes -- Q&A

45 minutes -- oral comment period

30 minutes -- open house

45 minutes -- oral comment period

How does this EIS differ from the Oil and Gas EIS the White River National Forest itself is developing?

The BLM EIS will analyze 65 *existing* oil and gas leases. The White River National Forest Oil and Gas EIS address *future* oil and gas leasing across the entire Forest. The BLM will incorporate into its EIS as much of the analysis from the Forest Service EIS as possible.

Why did you extend the suspensions for the 25 oil and gas leases in Thompson Divide?

These 25 leases are part of the 65 leases being addressed in the EIS. 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.

What does a suspension mean?

A leaseholder has 10 years to begin developing oil and gas or their lease expires. A suspension stops that 10-year clock, but also prevents the leaseholder from developing their lease while it is suspended.

Where can I find more information?

www.blm.gov/co/crvfo

April 15, 2014

Display Boards



Welcome

Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the White River National Forest EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Scoping Meeting Agenda

4:00-4:30 Sign in & Open House
4:30-4:40 Overview Presentation
4:40-5:00 Question and Answer
5:00-5:45 Oral Comment Period
5:45-6:15 Continue Open House
6:15-7:00 Oral Comment Period





Welcome

Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the White River National Forest EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Scoping Meeting Agenda

3:00-3:30 Sign in & Open House
3:30-3:40 Overview Presentation
3:40-4:00 Question and Answer
4:00-4:45 Oral Comment Period
4:45-5:15 Continue Open House
5:15-6:00 Oral Comment Period



Submit Your Comments

What is Scoping?

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS.

“Most important, NEPA documents must concentrate on the issues that are truly significant to the action in question, rather than amassing needless detail.” (40 CFR 1500.1(b))

What Comments are most Useful to BLM?

Comments that raise “significant issues” are the most helpful to BLM. An “issue” is a point of disagreement, debate, or dispute with a proposed action based on some anticipated environmental effect. An issue is more than just a position statement. An issue:

- has a cause and effect relationship with the proposed action or alternatives;
- is within the scope of the analysis;
- has not be decided by law, regulation, or previous decision; and
- is amenable to scientific analysis rather than conjecture.

“Significant issues” are those issues that are related to significant or potentially significant effects.

Ways to Provide Comments (or join the mailing list)

At this meeting:

Fill out a comment card

Email:

WRNFleases@blm.gov

Mail:

Previously Issued Oil and Gas
Leases in the White River National Forest
EIS
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado River Valley Field Office
Silt, CO 81652

For Project Updates:

<http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/crvfo.html>

****Comments must be received**

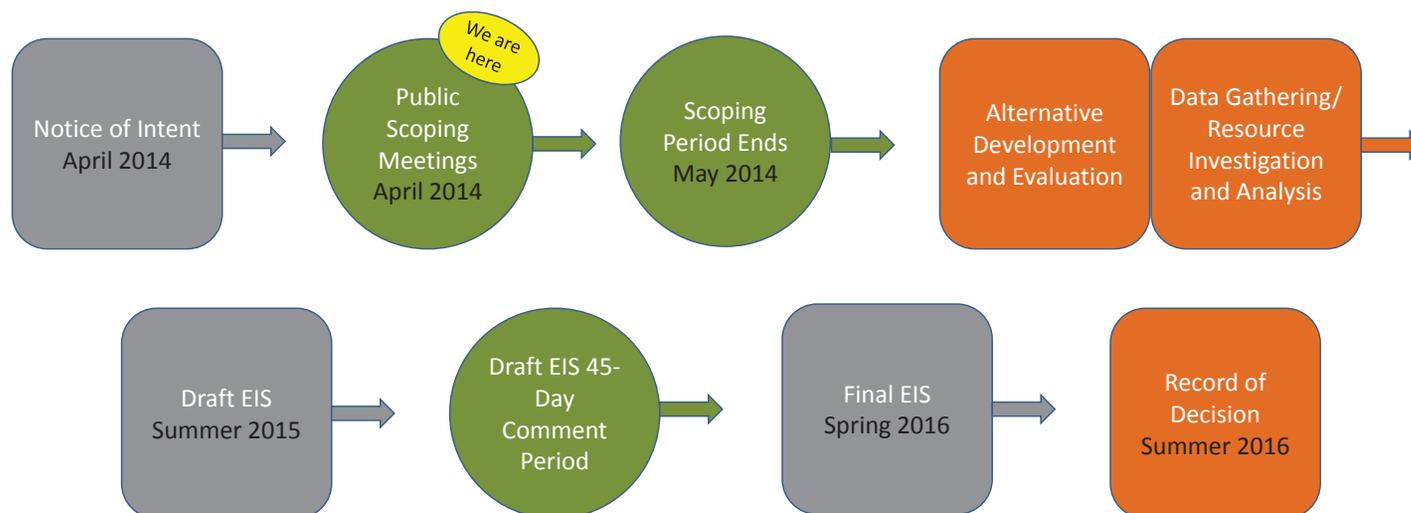


NEPA Process

What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An EIS is a document prepared to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An EIS is prepared to analyze and disclose the effects of proposed activities on the environment.

Environmental Impact Statement Process:





BLM's preliminary purpose for this federal leasing action is to:

- Revisit and/or reaffirm previous BLM decisions to issue 65 leases underlying White River National Forest (WRNF) lands. These leases were issued from 1995 to 2012 in conformance with the USFS's 1993 WRNF Oil and Gas Leasing EIS and ROD;
- Assess conformance with the decisions making these lands available for oil and gas leasing in the 1993 WRNF Oil and Gas Leasing EIS, as reaffirmed in the 2002 White River National Forest Plan;
- Support consistency with the USFS in managing oil and gas resources, as required by law and memorandums of understanding between the agencies; and
- Fulfill the federal government's policy to "foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of economically sound and stable industries, and in the orderly and economic development of domestic resources to help assure satisfaction of industrial, security, and environmental needs" (Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970) while continuing to sustain the land's productivity for other uses and capability to support biodiversity goals (Forest Service Minerals Program Policy).

BLM's preliminary need for this federal leasing action is to:

- Address the NEPA deficiency identified by the 2007 Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) ruling in Board of Commissioners of Pitkin County, 173 IBLA 173 (2007), that BLM must formally adopt NEPA analysis completed by WRNF or conduct a NEPA analysis of its own for issuance of oil and gas leases underlying WRNF lands;
- Support USFS mineral policy that puts responsibility on field units, with the known presence or potential presence of a mineral or energy resource, to foster and encourage the exploration, development, and production of the mineral or energy resource;
- Meet BLM's collaborative responsibility under the Reform Act to issue and manage oil and gas leases where the USFS has issued a land availability decision; and
- Meet domestic energy needs under the requirements of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 ("Reform Act"). BLM's responsibility under the MLA, as amended, is to promote the development of oil and gas on the public domain, and to ensure that deposits of oil and gas owned by the United States shall be subject to disposition through the land use planning process.

Preliminary Purpose and Need

BLM's Decision to be Made

- 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 determination whether to modify leases would include identification stipulations should be attached to the leases for the purpose protecting other resources.
- The decision of whether forest system lands are available or unavailable for oil and gas leasing remains with the USFS, although the BLM retains the ultimate discretion whether to issue a lease (43 CFR 3101.7-2).
the BLM will only consider the currently leased parcels issued without BLM NEPA analysis (presently 65 parcels) and not future leasing availability.
- In addition, the BLM's EIS would not be directly tied to any pending or proposed Applications for Permit to Drill because of the USFS's authority to address the Surface Use Plan of Operations.





Preliminary Alternatives

Preliminary BLM Alternatives:

- 1) Reaffirm the leases (No Action)
- 2) Void the leases
- 3) Modify the leases with additional or different terms, or subject to additional mitigation measures for site-specific development proposals. Lease stipulations generally fall into 1 of the 3 following categories:
 - No Surface Occupancy Stipulation
 - Controlled Surface Use Stipulation
 - Timing Limitation Stipulation

Scoping and Alternatives:

Scoping comments may help identify alternatives to the BLM's preliminary alternatives, as well as refine the preliminary alternatives. ***BLM welcomes your comments and suggestions about additional alternatives to consider or specific details of the alternatives above.***





Preliminary Environmental Considerations

The BLM has identified the following preliminary issues:

- 1) The level of oil and gas leasing, drilling and production activity within the WRNF has increased dramatically since the 1993 Oil and Gas leasing Final EIS decision. The number of acres leased has nearly tripled since 1993. The increased level of oil and gas leasing, drilling and production activity indicates a need to **update the Reasonable Foreseeable Development scenario for and gas activities** on the WRNF lands.
- 2) **Oil and gas exploration and production technology have improved** since 1993. The BLM will consider and analyze these advancements in the impact analysis.
- 3) An increased level of oil and gas activity has created an **increased level of public interest in oil and gas related activities** on public lands.
- 4) Since 1993, the BLM has new information related to **air resources management**, including air quality modeling.
- 5) The BLM will address **lands in WRNF inventoried as Roadless areas** in the updated EIS.
- 6) The EIS will address changes since 1993 to BLM **sensitive species and to species listed threatened or endangered** under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Scoping and Alternatives:

Scoping comments may help identify additional issues, as well as refine these preliminary issues. **BLM welcomes your comments and suggestions.**



Presentation

EIS on Previously Issued Oil and Gas
Leases on the
White River National Fore
Scoping meetings
April 2014

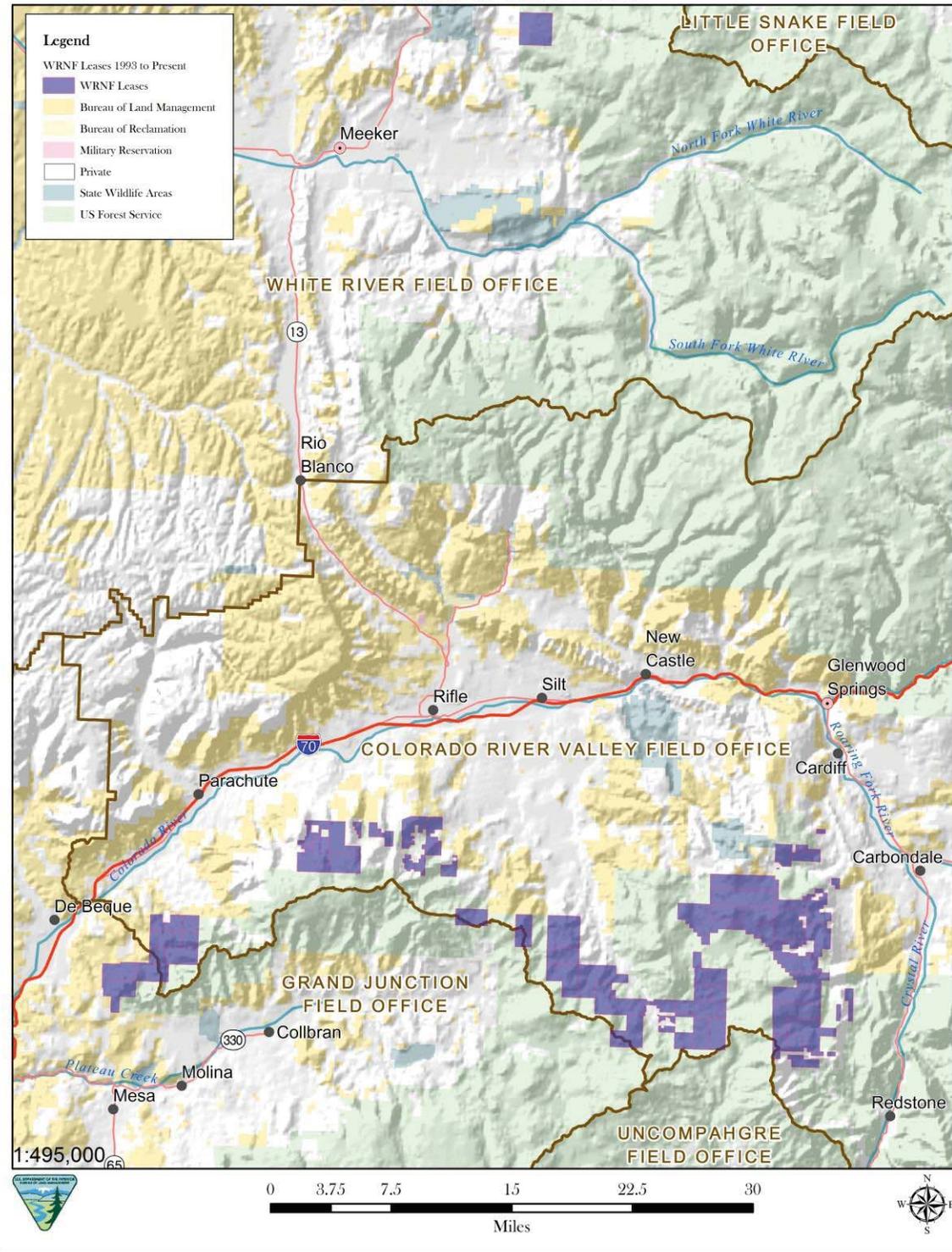
Remainder of meeting

- 10 minutes – presentation
- 20 minutes – Q&A
- 45 minutes – oral comments
- 30 minutes – open house
- 45 minutes – oral comments

What we are doing

- EIS analyzing 65 existing leases issued since 1993 on the White River National For
- Final result will be a Record of Decision
 - Keep leases as they currently are
 - Modify existing leases
 - Cancel existing leases

Current Oil and Gas Leases Issued in the White River National Forest from 1993 to the Present



Schedule

- Scoping period – now
- Draft alternatives
- Public comment on draft – Summer 2015
- Final EIS – Summer 2016

Scoping period

- Identify issues to address in the EIS
- Most effective comments will be specific rather than broad statements
- Focus on specific issues you want to see addressed by BLM
- Additional information or alternatives

What this EIS does not addr

- ***Future leasing.***
 - White River National Forest is currently r their Oil and Gas EIS. Final expected later
- **Drilling/development proposals.**
 - Forest Service would take lead on drilling proposals, including specific routes, loca
 - Forest Service waiting for results of BLM EIS

What EIS does not address

- Policy decisions outside scope of this
- Lease suspensions
- Leases issued before 1993

Why is BLM conducting the EIS?

- Forest Service determines which of its lands are available for oil and gas leasing (BLM manages the leases)
- Forest Service 1993 EIS made lands available
 - Decisions carried forward in 2002 Forest Plan
 - Most leased '95-2004
- 2007 IBLA decision
 - BLM did not formally adopt Forest Service
do our own

Issues already identified

- Changes in oil and gas since 1993
 - More development
 - Different technologies
- New air quality analyses available
- Endangered species updates since 1993
- Roadless Rule new since 1993

Effective Scoping Commmen

- What issues do you want to see BLM addr in this EIS?
- Do you have information you want BLM t consider?
- Do you have suggested alternatives?

Providing comments

- Oral comments taken at public meetings
- Written comments taken at public mee
- Provide written comments through Ma

Common questions

- How important are public comments?
- How important are local comments?
- Do you have the authority to cancel leases?
- Why not just cancel the leases?

Why were lease suspensions appr

- Ursa Resources 7 leases
 - Development proposal in 2009
 - Unitization request in 2012
- SG Interests 18 leases
 - Unitization request in 2011
 - Development proposals in 2012

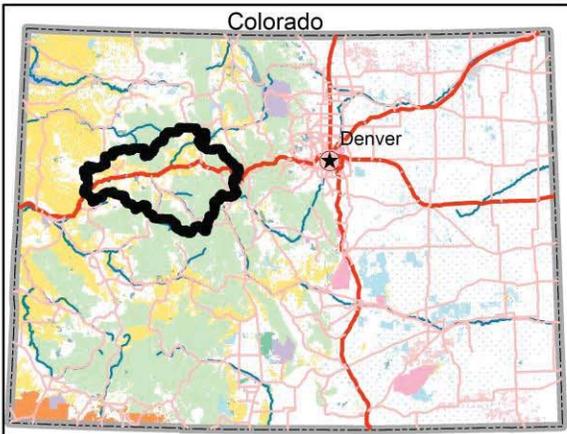
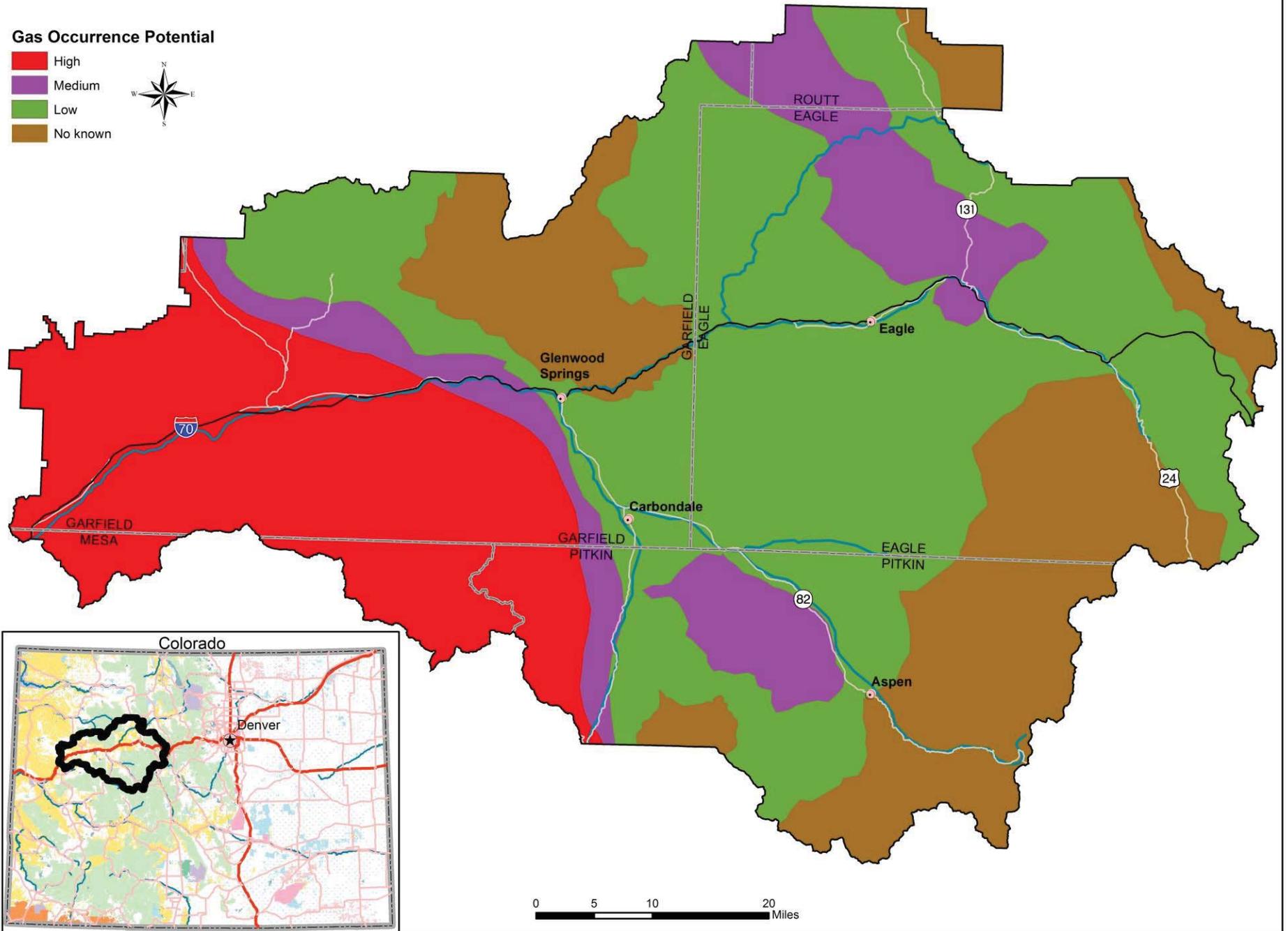
Why was the area leased (particularly Thompson Divide)?

- Forest Service decision made the lands a
- Industry nomination
- Forest Service concurred with offering the lands for lease
- Interest in the area for many decades

Gas Occurrence Potential in the Colorado River Valley Field Office

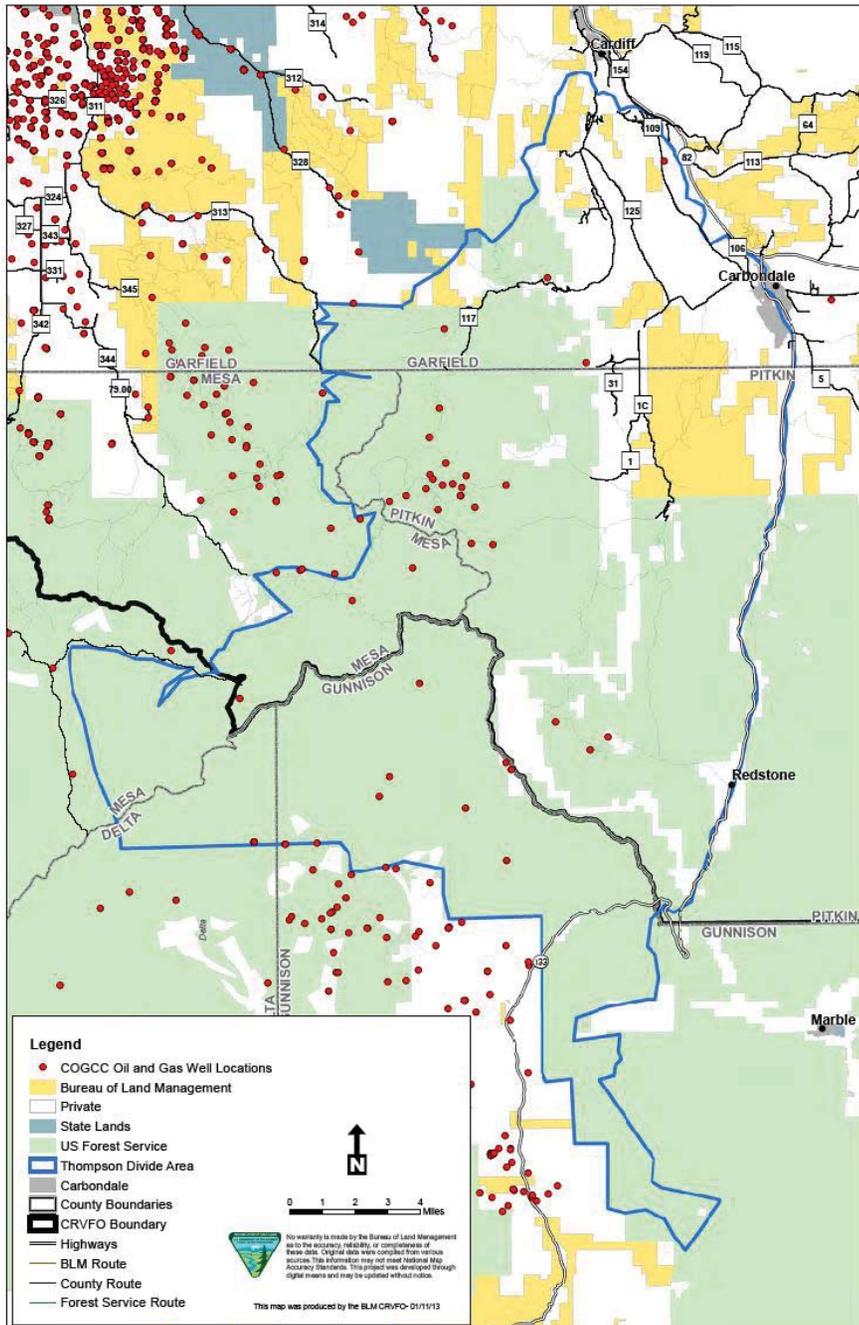
Gas Occurrence Potential

- High
- Medium
- Low
- No known

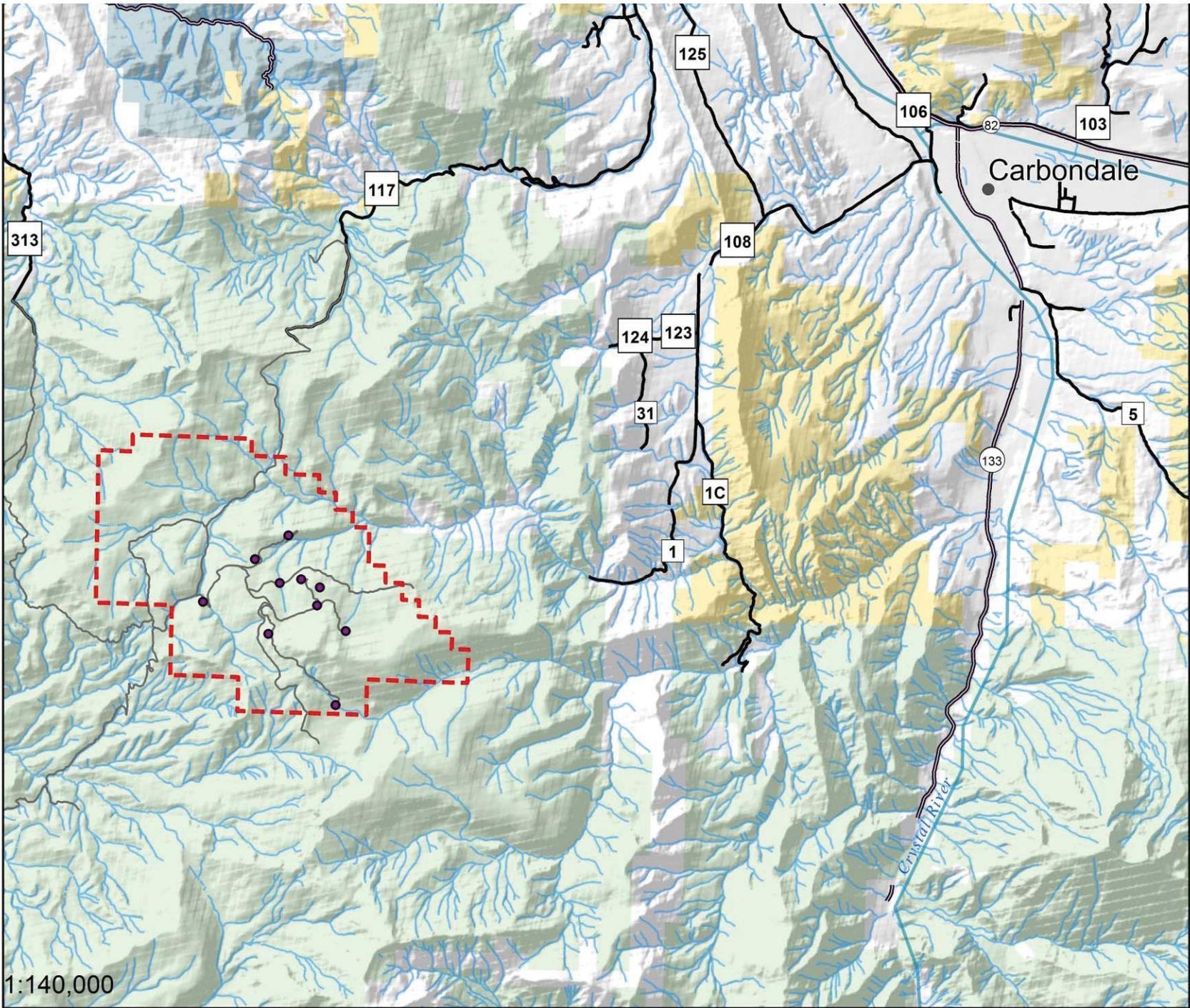


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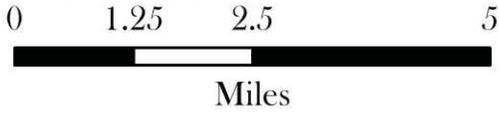
Historic Wells in Thompson Divide



- First well in Thompson Divide 1947
- 34 wells have been since 1947
- 31 found gas, 16 produced gas
- Only 1 currently producing



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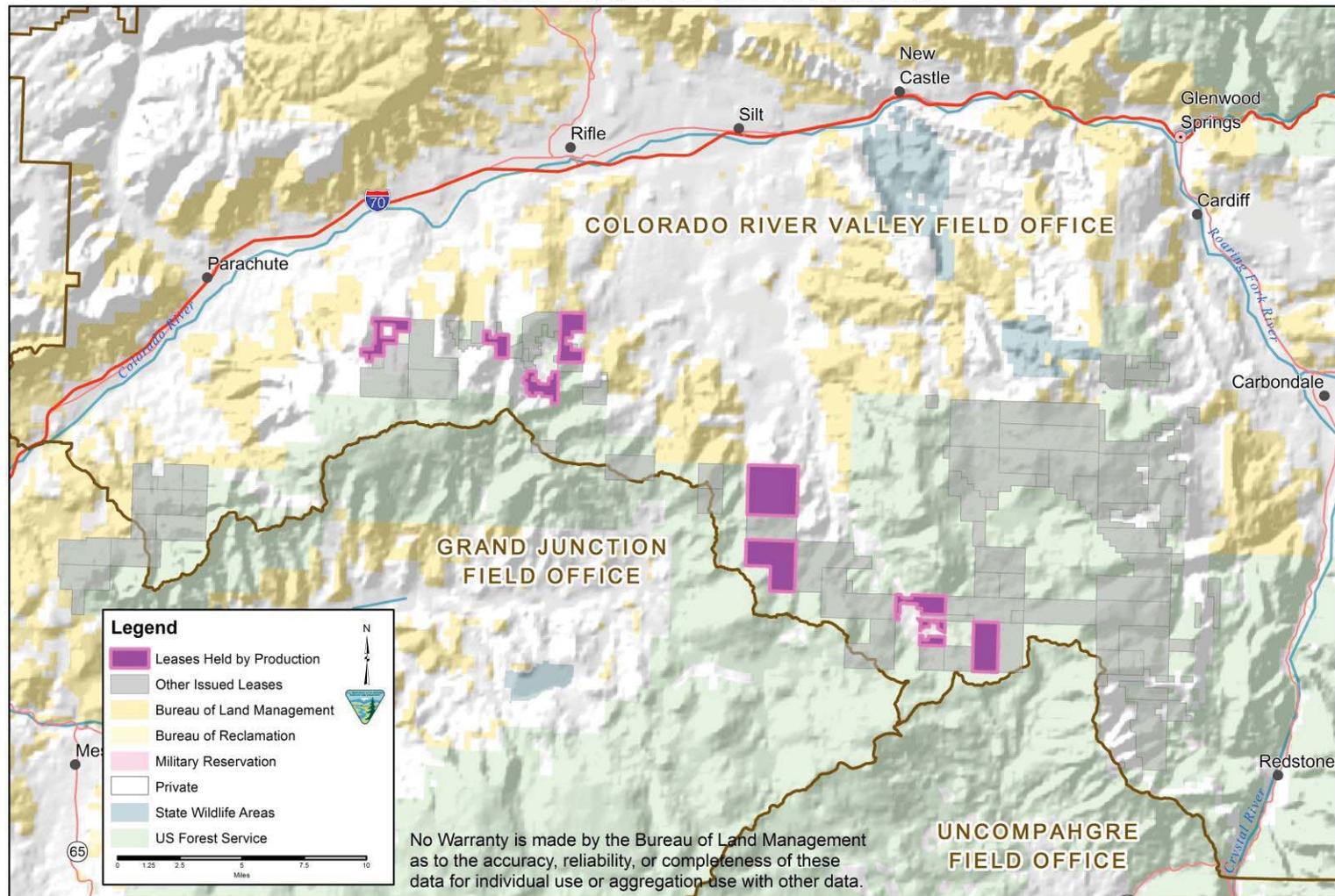


How will BLM incorporate the new Forest Service EIS decisions?

- BLM EIS will use as much of the Forest analysis as possible
- BLM could include an alternative for the 65 *current* leases that mirrors the Forest decision for *future* leases

Are any of the 65 leases producing?

Current Oil and Gas Leases Issued in the White River National Forest from 1993 to the Present



More Info

www.blm.gov/co/crvfo

Q&A

- 20 minutes
- Comment period follows

Oral Comment Period

- We want this to be as fair as possible to everyone involved
- Ground rules:
 - Two minutes per person
 - No giving your time to someone else
 - Not an interactive session—testimony only
 - Please be respectful, especially of other speakers
 - Please refrain from reacting to speakers (applause, shouts)

Comment Form

