

Bull Mountain Master Development Plan Environmental Impact Statement

April 2013

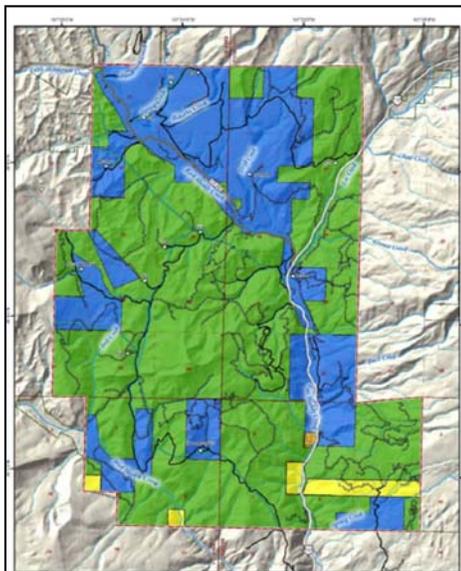
BLM

This newsletter initiates the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) effort to keep the public updated on the Bull Mountain Master Development Plan (MDP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

With publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register (<https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-07751>), the BLM began work on the Bull Mountain MDP EIS. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations require site-specific analysis of the project area before exploration or development can occur. The Bull Mountain MDP proposes 146 natural gas wells and 4 water disposal wells, and associated well pads, access roads, water pipelines, screw compressors, and overhead electric lines on federal and private mineral leases within the Bull Mountain Unit approximately 30 miles northeast of the town of Paonia.

Project Background

This project was initially analyzed in the Bull Mountain Unit Master Development Plan Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA was a concise public document that served to provide evidence and



analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS or a Finding of No Significant Impact (40 CFR 1508.9). In this case, the BLM determined that an EIS is necessary due to projected air quality impacts. To facilitate the

preparation of the EIS, pertinent information from the EA will be integrated into the analysis, including the purpose and need, proposed action and alternatives, descriptions of the affected environment, and the effects analysis. This information will be updated and expanded in the EIS as necessary to fully analyze potential effects resulting from the proposed MDP.

Issues to be Analysed

Based on information from the EA scoping period and comment analysis, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues to be analysed in the EIS:

Air quality: How will harmful emissions and dust from construction, drilling, and operations be monitored and controlled?

Socio-economics: How will development and operation of project infrastructure affect the rural character and lifestyle, and tourism and scenic values? What are the economic impacts of the project?

Water quality and supply: How will hydraulic fracturing and reinjection of produced water affect the short-term and long-term quality and supply of water for agricultural and residential use? What are the potential hazards from drilling and production?

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Wildlife Species: What are the potential impacts on species identified as threatened, endangered, or of concern to state and federal agencies?

Wildlife and wildlife habitat: How will construction and ongoing use of access roads affect wildlife habitat utilization and connectivity within and adjacent to the Unit?

Recreation and Visual Resources: How will the project affect access to and quality of recreation and visual resources?

Transportation: How will increased traffic and resulting impacts on road conditions, maintenance, and safety be addressed? How will new pipeline and access road corridors be minimized?



Submitting Comments

The BLM will accept and consider public comments to guide the development of the EIS and resulting decision. All previous comments from the public submitted on the EA will be considered in the EIS. You may also submit comments for Bull Mountain MDP EIS by any of the following methods:

Email: bullmtneis@blm.gov

Fax: 970-240-5368

Mail: 2465 South Townsend Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401
Attn: Bull Mountain MDP EIS

For Further Information Contact:

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If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list, please submit your e-mail address to bullmtneis@blm.gov

Project Schedule

NOI published - April 3, 2013

Draft EIS - January 2014

Final EIS - August 2014

ROD - November 2014

*Stay up to date with the Bull Mountain
MDP EIS website!*

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



*Acting as contracted agent for the Bureau of Land Management

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