

manage surface within the planning area. The closest non-BLM surface management unit to the Roan Plateau planning area is the White River National Forest to the northwest.

Major issues considered in the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS include fluid minerals management, social and economic impacts, riparian habitat management; and air, water, and ecological resources. Due to the limited size of the Planning Area and the supplemental nature of this analysis, regional mitigation and landscape level analysis are not specifically considered in this document; however, the BLM Colorado River Valley and White River field offices have considered them in their broader planning areas. The RMP also addresses decisions regarding Wild and Scenic Rivers, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), and lands with wilderness characteristics. Greater Sage-Grouse decisions proposed in the Amendment are consistent with the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Amendment Record of Decision.

The Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS focuses on evaluating new information and new issues raised since the BLM developed the 2006 Roan Plateau Final EIS. This includes an evaluation of four alternatives including the No Action Alternative (Alternative I). Alternative II is based on the Proposed Plan from the 2006 Roan RMP Amendment/Final EIS and includes updated decisions and analysis based on new information, including refined mapping, and issues raised during scoping. Alternative III is based on the "Community Alternative" raised during the original EIS process by Rock the Earth, and augmented with input from Supplemental EIS scoping comments. This alternative allows oil and gas leasing throughout the planning area, but limits surface disturbance on BLM lands above the rim (i.e., on top of the plateau). Wilderness characteristics would be managed for protection in this alternative, and all eligible rivers in the planning area would be determined to be suitable for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Target shooting would be prohibited within ¼ mile (610 acres) of a popular road that runs through an area designated as open to cross country off-highway vehicle travel in Alternative III. Alternative IV is the BLM's Preferred Alternative and is based on the terms of the Settlement Agreement. This alternative would allow for leasing at the base of the plateau (11,170 acres) and within several retained lease areas on the top of the plateau (1,830 acres), subject to development restrictions described in the Settlement Agreement. Specific management prescriptions

intended to protect lands with wilderness characteristics and Wild and Scenic Rivers are not proposed in this alternative as they were not addressed as part of the Settlement Agreement; however, they are analyzed within the range of alternatives for consideration. Other resource management decisions in this alternative would be similar to Alternative II.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.7–2(b), this notice announces a concurrent public comment period on the proposed ACECs, as the previous ACEC decisions are also being revisited consistent with the Court's remand. The BLM analyzed potential ACECs meeting the relevance and importance criteria within the range of alternatives. All three action alternatives analyze the designation of four ACECs to protect key fisheries, botanical/ecological resources, and visual resources. The ACECs overlay areas with management prescriptions that include No Surface Occupancy stipulations and other restrictions specific to these resources. The proposed ACECs include:

- East Fork Parachute Creek: 6,990 acres (Alternatives II, III), 7,110 acres (Alternative IV)
- Trapper/Northwater Creek: 6,290 acres (Alternatives II, III, and IV)
- Magpie Gulch: 4,710 acres (Alternatives II, III, and IV); and
- Anvil Points: 6,900 acres (Alternatives II, III, and IV).

Please note that public comments and all information submitted with such comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2.

**Ruth Welch,**

*BLM Colorado State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLCON04000 L16100000.DP000]

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the White River National Forest, CO

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO), Silt, Colorado, prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) reconsidering previous decisions to issue 65 leases on lands within the White River National Forest (WRNF).

**DATES:** To ensure comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the WRNF Draft EIS within 49 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will host four public meetings on the Draft EIS from 4 to 7 p.m., at the following locations:

- December 14, Glenwood Springs Community Center, 100 Wulfson Rd., Glenwood Springs, CO 81601.
- December 15, DeBeque Elementary School, 730 Minter Ave., De Beque, CO 81630.
- December 16, Roaring Fork High School, 2270 Hwy. 133, Carbondale, CO 81623.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments related to the Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the WRNF Draft EIS by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/crvfo.html>.
- **Email:** [WRNFlases@blm.gov](mailto:WRNFlases@blm.gov).
- **Fax:** 970–876–9090.
- **Mail:** BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office, Attn: WRNF Leases, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the CRVFO at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Greg Larson, Project Manager, at the address above, by telephone at 970–876–9000, or by email at [glarson@blm.gov](mailto:glarson@blm.gov). You may contact Mr. Larson to request to have your name added to our mailing list. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339

to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM developed this Draft EIS to address a NEPA defect identified by the IBLA related to the issuance of the oil and gas leases on WRNF lands from 1995 to 2004. In 2007, the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) ruled that before including WRNF parcels in an oil and gas lease sale, the BLM must either formally adopt NEPA analysis completed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) or conduct a NEPA analysis of its own (Board of Commissioners of Pitkin County, 173 IBLA 173 (2007)). The BLM has identified 65 existing leases with effective dates ranging from 1995 to 2012 that were leased by the BLM without adopting USFS NEPA or without the BLM preparing its own NEPA analysis. The most recent USFS decision to make these lands available for oil and gas leasing was analyzed in the 1993 WRNF Oil and Gas Leasing EIS, a decision that was reaffirmed in the 2002 WRNF Plan. Before offering and subsequently issuing the leases at issue in an oil and gas lease sale, the BLM obtained concurrence from the USFS; however, as noted above, it did not adopt the USFS's NEPA analysis or prepare its own. As a result, the BLM has determined additional actions need to be taken to correct this defect. Because the BLM has determined that the WRNF NEPA analysis conducted is no longer adequate, the BLM is conducting its own NEPA analysis through this EIS regarding previous decisions to lease WRNF lands for oil and gas development.

The BLM will determine whether these 65 leases should be cancelled, reaffirmed, or modified with additional or different terms. Under a separate effort, the WRNF updated its 1993 Oil and Gas Leasing EIS to address future oil and gas leasing availability. The USFS released the Final EIS and Draft Record of Decision in December 2014. The BLM incorporated as much of the new USFS NEPA analysis of future oil and gas leasing on WRNF lands as possible into its analysis of existing leases.

Five alternatives are considered in the BLM's Draft EIS. The No Action alternative reaffirms the lease stipulations in the 65 leases as they were issued; the BLM would take no action by continuing to administer the leases with their current stipulations.

Alternative 2 would address inconsistencies by adding stipulations identified in the 1993 WRNF EIS that were not attached to eight leases. Alternative 3 would modify the 65 leases to match the stipulations identified for future leasing in the 2014 USFS Final EIS Proposed Action. Alternative 4 is the BLM's Proposed Action. It would modify or cancel the 65 leases to match the stipulations and availability decision for future leasing identified in the 2014 USFS Draft Record of Decision. In areas the USFS identified as open to future leasing, lease stipulations would be modified; all or part of 25 existing leases in areas identified as closed to future leasing would be cancelled. Alternative 5 would cancel all 65 leases.

The BLM developed this range of alternatives to respond to public comments received during public scoping and input from cooperating agencies. The BLM held a public scoping period from April 1 to May 16, 2014, and received more than 32,000 public comments. The BLM held four public meetings during the scoping period. Since the end of the public scoping period, the BLM worked with cooperating agencies (including the EPA; USFS; the Colorado Department of Natural Resources including Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Garfield, Mesa, Pitkin, and Rio Blanco counties; the Town of Carbondale; the City of Glenwood Springs; the Town of New Castle; the Town of Parachute; the City of Rifle; and the town of Silt) to prepare the Draft EIS.

Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses and email addresses of persons who submit comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10.

**Ruth Welch,**

*BLM Colorado State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

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### Notice of Public Meeting, BLM Alaska Resource Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 as amended (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held December 1 and 2, 2015, at the Office of Aviation Services located at 4405 Lear Court, Anchorage, Alaska 99502-1032. The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. each day in training Room #109. The council will accept comments from the public on Tuesday, December 1, from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thom Jennings, RAC Coordinator, BLM Alaska State Office, 222 W. 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, AK 99513; [tjennings@blm.gov](mailto:tjennings@blm.gov); 907-271-3335. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 15-member council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Alaska. At this meeting, topics planned for discussion will include: Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A), placer mining reclamation at Jack Wade Creek, update on land transfer program, update on permitted oil production in the NPR-A, and other topics of interest to the RAC. A full agenda will be posted to the BLM Alaska RAC Web site ([www.blm.gov/ak/rac](http://www.blm.gov/ak/rac)) by November 20, 2015.

All meetings are open to the public. During the public comment period, depending upon the number of people wishing to comment, time for individual oral comments may be limited. Please