

News Release

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Emerald Mountain withdrawn from mineral entry

CRAIG, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management last week formally withdrew the recently acquired Emerald Mountain Special Recreation Management Area near Steamboat Springs from mineral entry.

The May 27, 2009 Federal Notice includes the announcement of the withdrawal of the 4,139-acre recreation area from all appropriations including the United States mining laws and the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, for a period of 20 years. This will allow BLM to protect the scenic, recreation, water quality and wildlife habitat values of the Emerald Mountain SRMA. The 20-year withdrawal can be renewed indefinitely.

“The withdrawal order, approved by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, completes a key commitment that was made as part of the Emerald Mountain Resource Management Plan amendment,” said BLM Little Snake Field Manager John Husband, whose office manages the parcel. “Last week’s Federal Register Notice makes the withdrawal official, and is one more step to ensure the area will be managed for multiple-use with a recreation and wildlife focus.”

The public gained access to the 4,138-acre Emerald Mountain parcel in February 2007 after BLM formally closed on a land exchange that brought the parcel under its management. For the past two years, mineral entry on the parcel has been under a temporary withdrawal.

Last week’s Federal Register Notice is available at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-12307.htm>

For more information about Emerald Mountain, visit <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/lisfo.html> or call the BLM Little Snake Field Office at 970-826-5000.

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