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BLM Colorado Accomplishments • 2014

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ROAN SETTLEMENT

BLM Colorado announced a settlement agreement on the Roan Plateau near Rifle. The settlement protects wildlife habitat and support opportunities for outdoor recreation, while also encouraging natural gas development. The settlement cancels 17 of the 19 oil and gas leases issued on the plateau in 2008 and refunds approximately \$47.6 million in bonus bids and annual rental payments.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS and WILDERNESS

BLM Colorado was very active in promoting the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act through outreach and on social media. The BLM also participated in about a dozen events celebrating the anniversary in local communities throughout the state.

NEW ENERGY FRONTIER

BLM Colorado developed the Colorado Air Resources Management Modeling Study to support our understanding and management of regional air quality impacts.

BLM Colorado offered 31 parcels for sale and issued 29 oil and natural gas leases totaling 13,326 acres, which garnered \$719,101 in bonus bids. BLM Colorado also leased a 1,790-acre parcel to develop coal for a total bonus bid of nearly \$2.9 million. The State Of Colorado received \$169 million for all royalties, rents and bonus bid payments tied to federal minerals.

BLM Colorado completed 100 percent of the high-risk production and environmental inspections and strengthened our partnership with the State of Colorado to increase inspection capabilities of oil and gas operations.

YOUTH and PARTNERSHIPS

BLM Colorado supported veteran and youth corps crews for a total of nearly 2,000 hours of work and put more than 150 youth corps members to work on a variety of projects, including trails, recreation, wildlife improvements, weed removal, cultural restoration and landscape restoration.

POST FIRE RESTORATION/FUELS TREATMENTS

BLM Colorado fire personnel completed fuels treatments on more than 8,300 acres of public lands including roughly 1,850 acres associated with sage grouse habitat.

WILD HORSE AND BURRO

The Wild Horse and Burro program found adoption homes for 168 animals and continued to work with US Border Patrol on training and adopting animals for use on the southern U.S. Border. The Northwest District administered fertility treatments to more than 100 mares in the Sand Wash and Little Book Cliffs herds. The Southwest District administered fertility treatments to 23 mares in the Spring Creek herd.

EMPLOYEES

BLM Colorado passed the 2014 Compliance Assessment. This is the second year in a row BLM Colorado had 100 percent of its organizational units rated in good condition.

BLM Colorado initiated a partnership with the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to support employment opportunities for people with disabilities.





Front Range District

The Royal Gorge Field Office helped celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Gold Belt National Scenic and Historic Byway as well as the 25th anniversary of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.

The Royal Gorge Field Office commemorated the expansion of the Garden Park Fossil Area National Natural Landmark designation. Garden Park is an internationally significant fossil locality that protects fossils on 3,209 acres of public lands.

The San Luis Valley Field Office expanded the boundary of the Blanca Wetlands Area of Critical Environmental Concern to support ecological needs through increased connectivity. Blanca Wetlands is nationally recognized for unique shorebird species and water birds.

Northwest District

The Northwest District consolidated oil and gas functions – including environmental review, permitting and inspections into two field offices, the Colorado River Valley and the White River. The Little Snake Field Office now manages the Northwest District coal program.

The Environmental Impact Statement on the 65 Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases on the White River National Forest public scoping meetings were highly effective in hearing and documenting public input. Nearly 800 people attended four public meetings in DeBeque, Aspen, Glenwood Springs and Carbondale. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated in fall 2015.

The Proposed Resource Management Plan Revisions/Final Environmental Impact Statements for both the Colorado River Valley and Kremmling field offices were completed and released in spring 2014. These RMP revisions will guide management within both field offices for the next two decades. The final Records of Decision are slated for early 2015.

More than 600 people attended a public event in Glenwood Springs July 6 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the tragic South Canyon Fire on Storm King Mountain. Approximately 300 family members of the 14 firefighters killed on Storm King hiked the mountain and gathered for commemoration ceremonies in Glenwood Springs.

Southwest District

BLM is conveying about four acres of public lands through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to the City of Durango to construct a storm water treatment facility. The East 32nd Street parcel would enable the City of Durango to filter oils and other toxins found in the storm water before discharging it into the Animas River. The Gunnison Field Office relocated after a fire destroyed their old facility, transitioning from largely paper to largely electronic files as part of the relocation.

The Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Resource Management Plan Amendment will designate the area as a Special Recreation Management Area, allowing for increased recreation use through dispersed campsites, a trials riding area, a rock crawling area, an off-highway vehicle play area, groomed ski trails and much more.

The Gunnison and Tres Rios field offices celebrated the Animas Forks Dedication and Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway 25th Anniversary.