February 7, 2022

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) San Luis Valley Field Office (SLVFO) is currently preparing a socioeconomic baseline report to update our understanding of the social and economic conditions and trends in the area and identify issues for BLM management consideration. The planning area for the SLVFO covers approximately 520,677 acres of federal surface and 621,000 acres of federal subsurface mineral estate administered by the BLM in primarily Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos, and Costilla Counties.

The BLM has identified you as a potential stakeholder with whom to discuss regional economic conditions, trends, and strategies. We believe that, given your local knowledge and understanding of important economic and social issues, your participation in the process will help us more fully characterize existing conditions that are relevant to BLM management.

We invite you to attend one of the upcoming virtual Economic Strategies Workshops:

- Workshop 1 – Tuesday, March 15 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Workshop 2 – Wednesday, March 16 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Content presented will be the same at each workshop. Both phone and internet participation options will be available. Spanish language translation is available during the March 16 meeting upon request. Workshop materials, both in English and Spanish, will be posted on www.virtualpublicmeeting.com/slvfo-socioecon-workshop at least three days in advance of the workshops. Printed copies will also be available at the field office. A summary of workshop information will also be made available for those who are unable to participate.

Issues to be discussed at the workshops include but are not limited to:

1) How social and economic conditions have changed in the past decades;
2) The current social and economic conditions in the planning area;
3) The current role of public lands and federal mineral resources in the local economy;
4) Visions for the future of the regional economy and for local communities, and the role of public lands and federal resources in this vision.

The information collected during these workshops will provide a foundation for socioeconomic analysis during revision of the SLVFO land use plan, a process that will begin in a few years.

Third-party neutral facilitators from Environmental Management and Planning Solutions Inc. (EMPSi) have been hired to facilitate the workshops. Representatives from the BLM will be in attendance, and EMPSi will document and summarize the information gained from workshops.
We hope that you will be able to participate in the workshops.

Please register at:
https://empsi.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rcOuupzwiG91DzpSvBgtEWAfW8NvCI
for the March 15th meeting (English only), or

https://empsi.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAudu-rpj4rEtxoXNNni Xm9abQigVSh09C
for the March 16th meeting (English and Spanish available),

**Please register by March 1st, 2022.** Both these links are also available on
www.virtualpublicmeeting.com/slvfo-socioecon-workshop

You may also contact Zoe Ghali at zoe.ghali@empsi.com, 303-495-5094 to indicate if you or a representative of your organization can participate. Please also reach out if you would like additional information.

We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

MELISSA
GARCIA
Melissa Garcia
Field Office Manager
San Luis Valley Field Office