

Public Notice

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Glenwood Springs Energy Office is initiating an environmental assessment (EA) of the Doghead Mountain Geographic Area Plan (GAP) for natural gas exploration and development. The GAP, prepared by Williams Production RMT Company ("Williams") and submitted to the BLM, proposes a 4-year program of oil and gas exploration and development on Federal leases located just south and east of Morrisania Mesa near Parachute, Colorado.

The plan describes the development of up to 82 new wells from up to seven proposed and three existing pads between 2007 and 2010. The plan proposes a phased sequence of development where conventional directional drilling rigs would conduct exploration operations to determine where development and production is feasible. Once determined, development of the project area would occur through the use of simultaneous drilling, completing, and producing operations using efficiency drilling rig technology.

Associated with these developments would be the construction of approximately 4.9 miles of new access roads and the upgrading of up to 1.8 miles of existing roads. The installation and/or upgrading of 4.3 miles of pipelines are also proposed. The enclosed map shows the location of the proposed and existing well pads and the planned access roads and pipelines.

The area proposed for development encompasses approximately 2,120 acres of public, split estate, and private lands. These lands are located within Sections 1, 2, 12, 13, and 14, Township 7 South, Range 95 West, Sixth Principal Meridian. Primary access for the development activities would be County Roads 301 (Morrisania Mesa Road), 302 (Underwood Road), and 309 (Rulison-Parachute Road).

As part of the development plan, Williams is proposing to enhance big game habitat within the planning area by removing encroaching juniper trees and reducing decadent sagebrush stands and thick oak scrub in a series of 9 treatment areas, totaling approximately 108 acres. Once these treatments occur, the areas would be seeded with a mixture of sagebrush, grasses, and forbs. The goal of the treatment plan is to develop a multi-age sagebrush community and to increase the diversity and abundance of native grasses and forbs.

The BLM will prepare an EA to disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the development plan and a No Action alternative. As a starting point in the assessment, the BLM would like to solicit input on the issues that will be considered in the preparation of the EA. At this time, you are encouraged to provide any comments, concerns, or issues that you may have with regard to the proposed development plan.

To best facilitate BLM's review and use of comments during the EA process, comments must be received by July 22, 2007. Written comments and questions should be directed to the Glenwood Springs Energy Office at 2425 S. Grand Ave., Suite 101, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601. Electronic comments may be submitted to gsfomail@co.blm.gov.

Copies of the GAP that further detail the proposed oil and gas development are available for review at the BLM Glenwood Springs Energy Office, 2425 S. Grand Ave., Suite 101, Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Digital copies of the GAP proposal and project map are available at <http://www.co.blm.gov/gsra/Doghead.htm>.