

Notice of Public Scoping

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Glenwood Springs Field Office (GSFO) is initiating an environmental assessment (EA) of the West Mamm Master Development Plan (WMMDP) for oil and gas development. The WMMDP, prepared by Laramie Energy II, LLC (LEII) and submitted to the BLM, proposes a 5- to 6-year program of oil and gas exploration and development on private lands and Federal leases located in the West Mamm Creek Area south of Rifle, Colorado.

The WMMDP proposes the development of up to 71 Federal wells and 24 private wells from up to three proposed and two existing pads on private land beginning in the summer of 2010. The Federal wells would be drilled directionally into adjacent Federal oil and gas leases. In addition to approximately 0.06 mile of new access road to be constructed on private land, access to the project would utilize an existing access road that crosses Federal land administered by the White River National Forest (WRNF) as well as private land that is not legally accessible to the public. New pipelines would be buried along the 0.06 mile of new road to tie into an existing natural gas pipeline owned and operated by LEII. 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 983 acres, of which 660 acres are characterized by Federal surface underlain by Federal minerals, 82 acres of split-estate land (private surface underlain by Federal minerals), and 241 acres of Fee land (private surface underlain by private minerals) in Section 29 of Township 7 South, Range 93 West, and Sections 5 and 32 of Township 8 South, Range 93 West, Sixth Principal Meridian. Primary access for the development activities would be County Road (CR) 319 and Forest Service Road (FSR) 818.

The BLM will prepare an EA to disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the development plan and a no action alternative (denial of portions of the plan involving Federal authorizations). As a starting point in the EA, the BLM is soliciting input on the issues that will be considered in the preparation of the EA. At this time, the public is encouraged to provide any comments, concerns, or issues they 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 February 20, 2010. Written comments and questions should be directed to the Glenwood Springs Field Office at 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, Colorado 81652. Electronic comments may be submitted to gsfomail@co.blm.gov.

Copies of the proposed action for the WMMDP, which provides additional details on the proposed oil and gas development, are available for review at the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office. Digital copies of the WMMDP proposal action, including a project map, are available online (http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gsfo/GSFO_MasterPlansOfDevelopment.html).