

Notice of Public Scoping

The Bureau of Land Management Glenwood Springs Energy Office is initiating an environmental assessment (EA) of the Gibson Gulch Master Development Plan (GGMDP) for oil and gas development. The GGMDP, prepared by Bill Barrett Corporation and submitted to the BLM, proposes a 5-year program of oil and gas exploration and development on Federal leases located southeast of the town of New Castle, Colorado.

The plan proposes the development of up to 136 wells from up to 10 locations beginning in the fall of 2009. Associated with these developments would be the construction of up to 4.2 miles of new access roads and up to 4.3 miles of pipelines. Directional drilling technology would be used to drill the majority of the wells. 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 2,700 acres, of which 1,867 acres are characterized by Federal surface and mineral ownership, 40 acres are characterized by split estate (i.e., private surface and Federal mineral ownership), and 793 acres are characterized by private surface and mineral ownership. These lands are located within Sections 19-21, 28, 29, and 31-33, Township 6 South, Range 91 West, Sixth Principal Meridian. Primary access for the development activities would be County Roads 311 and 335.

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 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 September 18, 2009. Written comments and questions should be directed to the Glenwood Springs Field Office at 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652. Electronic comments may be submitted to gsfomail@co.blm.gov.

Copies of the GGMDP Proposed Action that further detail the proposed oil and gas development are available for review at the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, Colorado. Digital copies of the GGMDP proposal and project map are available at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gsf/GSFO_MasterPlansOfDevelopment.html