DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MAY 2 4 2011

CEMP-CR

Mr. John Beck
Chief Branch of Lands and Realty
BLM COSO
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215-7093

Dear Mr. Beck:

The Department of the Army is requesting the Bureau of Land Management extend the withdrawal of 147,204.3 aggregate acres of surface and mineral rights located at the Fort Carson-Pinon Canyon Military Reservation. The original withdrawal was accomplished by Public Law 104-201, Subtitle A (Fort Carson-Pinon Canyon Military Lands Withdrawal Act) which withdrew the lands as published in the Federal Register.

The lands identified in the Application for Extension will continue to be used for military maneuvering, training, weapons firing and for other defense related purposes. No new or alternative uses are planned. The Army's unencumbered use of these lands is critical to National Defense and the War on terrorism.

The application for extension is supported by Exhibits A through E, attached to and made a part thereof.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lon Larson, Chief, Real Estate Division, at (402) 995-2818.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Whiteford
Director of Real Estate

WITHDRAWAL REVIEW
AND REQUEST FOR EXTENSION
Pub. L. 104-201
FORT CARSON-PINON CANYON MILITARY RESERVATION
COLORADO

INTRODUCTION

The U. S. Army requests extension of a 15 year withdrawal created by the Fort Carson-Pinon Canyon Military Lands Withdrawal Act, (Public Law 104-201) of 23 September, 1996 (110 Stat 2807), secs. 2901 to 2912, which withdrew from all forms of appropriation under the public lands laws, including the mining laws, the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, and the mineral material disposal laws, 3,133.02 acres of public lands and 11,415.16 acres of federally owned mineral interests associated with land the Army controls at Fort Carson Base at Colorado Springs, and 2,517.12 acres of public lands and 130,139 acres of federally reserved minerals associated with land the Army controls at its Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) in Las Animas County, Colorado. The lands are withdrawn (1) for military maneuvering, training and weapons firing; and (2) for other defense related purposes.

Due to the critical need to maintain these lands for exclusive military use without conflict or interruption, it is requested that a Notice of Application and Extension of Withdrawal in accordance with Public Law 104-201 be published and continue the segregative effect of the existing withdrawal, to prevent any third party use, entry, location or intrusion on these lands.

The lands are subject to prior mineral reservations in favor of the United States and managed by the Department of Interior, by and through the Bureau of Land Management.

Information specified and needed for this withdrawal review and renewal is set forth in the following numbered paragraphs:

APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF WITHDRAWAL

1. Name and address of the withdrawing agency is the Department of the Army, by and through the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chief, Real Estate Division, Omaha District, Ste 9000, 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. (Point of Contact: William Miller, Realty Specialist 402 995-2835)

2. In accordance with the specific directive from the Department of the Army and the using installation, the undersigned is empowered to act on behalf of the head of the applicant agency in connection with all matters pertaining to this withdrawal review and extension. All communications in this matter should be directed to the Chief, Real Estate Division, Omaha District or his Point of Contact at the address above.

3. The mineral interests withdrawn from all forms of appropriations under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, and the minerals materials disposal laws, are subject to the management of the Secretary of Interior, acting by and through the Bureau of Land Management.

4. It is intended that the lands be withdrawn from all forms of appropriations under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, and the minerals materials disposal laws as set forth in Public Law 104-201 dated 23 September 1996.

5. a. Lands involved in this application are the same lands withdrawn by virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Pub. L. 104-201 of 1996, with BLM Serial Number C-124534, approximately 147,204.3 acres.

b. The legal land description of the lands involved is attached hereto, as Exhibit A.

The areas aggregate 147,204.3 acres are located in El Paso, Pueblo, Fremont, and Las Animas Counties, Colorado.

6. This application for extension does not seek additional lands beyond the existing withdrawal that would overlap any other withdrawals. Department of the Army has acquired surface estate on lands noted as withdrawn for mineral rights only.

7. The withdrawal is to be renewed and continued to prevent adverse entry under the mining laws and to provide for the continued uninterrupted use of the lands as a needed land resource of the Fort Carson-Pinon Canyon Military Reservation. The land is used for military maneuvers, training, weapon firing and other defense related activities. It is an active range area. If not closed to entry and possible location, applicants under the mining laws could file or request entry on the subject areas to explore, prospect and potentially file mining claims whether unpatented or potentially ripening into patents under the mining laws (30 U.S.C. ch 2). The mere opportunity to file such claims would pose a direct conflict with the continued, full use of the surface of these lands in support of the Department of the Army, and in the interest of homeland defense, and the war on terrorism.

8. It is intended that the withdrawn mineral interests in and under the lands described in Exhibit A are withdrawn from all forms of appropriations under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, and the minerals materials disposal laws, but specifically including, but not limited to, settlement, location, or entry under the mining laws, any use under the mineral leasing laws, and any disposal under the mineral material disposal laws, immediately and for a segregative period until the new withdrawal order is published and put into effect.

9. Third party temporary land use (non military) PCMS
DACA45-2-08-6017 Easement – Electric overhead power line.
DACA45-2-85-6057 Easement – Cathodic Protection Ground bed, and Natural gas line.

DACA45-2-86-6068 Easement – Underground telephone cable.
DACA45-4-83-6064 Permit – DOT air route surveillance radar site and access road.
Third Party temporary land use (non military) Fort Carson
DACA45-2-86-6167 Easement – 85' transmission tower and electric power line.
All of the third party uses are static in nature, with very little human involvement or presence. They also are located in areas that do not interfere with mission goals.

10. A withdrawal extension is more appropriate than a right-of-way or cooperative agreement for the subject lands because it secures segregated use, and prohibits entry location or claims under mining laws, the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, and the minerals materials disposal laws. These are all items required for long term management, and protection of the Army's critical mission that supports the National Defense.

11. The extension term of 15 years mirrors the term of the withdrawal as provided in P.L. 104-201.

12. There are no alternative lands or sites available. The withdrawal lands both surface and minerals create a secure contiguous land mass required for the training missions of Fort Carson military assembly.

13. The withdrawal extension will not entail any change in land use, nor any change or additional use of water or groundwater to implement a continuance of the land withdrawal. If anything, the continuance of the withdrawal order will act to conserve and preserve the existing use of natural resources including land and water, since no alteration in land use would result.

14. The withdrawal shall continue to give the Secretary of the Army authority to utilize sand, gravel, or similar minerals or mineral material resources from the lands herein withdrawn when the use of such resources is required for construction needs of Fort Carson Reservation or Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

15. Records relating to this application for extension may be examined by interested persons at the same address as identified in Item 1 above. Any person who wishes to examine the records may do so by making an appointment and complying with the required security procedures.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE APPLICATION:

Exhibit A. Legal Descriptions, of surface and mineral rights lands to be withdrawn.
Exhibit B. PCMS Map depicting both surface and mineral right withdrawal.
Exhibit C. Fort Carson Map Depicting both surface and mineral right withdrawal.
Exhibit D. General Location Map of PCMS and Fort Carson.
Exhibit E. ELECTRONIC DISC contents;

Doc 1: Explanation of Other Documents.
Doc 2: Federal Register Notice of Availability of Draft EIS PCMS.
Doc 3: Federal Register Notice of Availability of Draft EIS Fort Carson.

Doc 4: Withdrawal Page extraction from PCMS DEIS.
Doc 5: Withdrawal Page extraction from Fort Carson DEIS.
Doc 6: Sample of Public Meeting Notice.
Doc 7: Prep package for Public Meetings, with Exec. Summary of DEIS.
Doc 8, 9, and 10: Transcripts of Public Meetings.
Doc 11: Email from public about withdrawals, with Internal Explanation.
Doc 12: Final EIS, PCMS
Doc 13: Final EIS, Fort Carson