

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: Keith Berger, BLM Royal Gorge Field Office, 719-269-8500

SUBJECT: Browns Canyon Mineral Withdrawal

I. INTRODUCTION

Locators of five placer claims in the Brown's Canyon area were notified in early 2013 of BLM's intention to hold a hearing to evaluate and weigh the benefits of mining against the possible interference mining could cause with other uses of the land. Public Law 359 allows such a hearing to occur when placer mining activity is proposed in power site reservations. The decision to hold a hearing was based on BLM's determination that placer mining operations could substantially interfere with other uses of the land included within the placer claim footprints. At this time, no hearing date has been set.

II. BACKGROUND

The Brown's Canyon area along the river, including the subject placer claim locations, was previously withdrawn from the Mining Law and was proposed for a new withdrawal in April 2013 to protect scenic, historic, geologic, recreation, primitive and other natural environmental values. When the application for this withdrawal was published in the Federal Register, a segregation of the minerals from location and entry under the mining laws went into effect, meaning that mining claims cannot currently be located in this area. The subject placer claims were located after the original withdrawal inadvertently expired prior to the proposed withdrawal being published in the Federal Register. The values identified in the proposed withdrawal include what BLM has identified as the other land uses that would be substantially impacted by placer mining activity.