



Leasable Minerals



Coal

Coal – Coal was first mined in Boulder County in 1859, and it has been a part of Colorado’s mining industry for more than 150 years. Coal also played an important role in American history, particularly in Colorado, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During that time labor unrest was very common, occurring in mining communities as clashes between settling ethnic groups, union strikes against mine owners, and massacres of mine workers and their families. Today, coal serves as the “base-load” fuel source for the world’s most fundamental commodity: electricity. In 2011, Colorado was ranked 9th in U.S. coal production, and provided the fuel to generate about 68 percent of the state’s electricity needs. Currently, Colorado produces a substantial amount of the highest quality and cleanest burning coal in the nation, due to its high BTU (energy content) and low sulfur content. There are eight major coal regions in Colorado; three on the western slope, three on the eastern slope, and two in the central part of the state. Currently, there are more than ten active mines throughout the state, mostly from the Uinta and Green River coal regions in northwest Colorado.

Other uses for coal include: residential heating, steel production, paper manufacturing, filtration, pharmaceuticals, and carbon fiber production.



Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
Canon City, CO
(719) 269-8500