



# NEWS RELEASE

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## BLM Seeks Input on Natural Gas Development Proposal Near Whitewater

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.** – The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction and Uncompahgre field offices are seeking public input on a proposal to develop oil and natural gas resources near Whitewater. Fram Operating, LLC has submitted the proposed Whitewater Unit Master Development Plan for oil and gas development in the Whitewater Unit.

A proposed Master Development Plan was submitted in 2008 by Aspen Operating but not approved, since the leases were sold to Fram. Since then, Fram has revised the Master Development Plan.

The BLM is seeking public comment as it begins an environmental assessment of the proposal.

The Whitewater Unit consists of approximately 90,400 acres 15 miles southeast of Grand Junction and eight miles northwest of Delta, in Mesa and Delta counties. It includes nearly 65,000 acres of BLM-managed public land, nearly 20,000 acres of private land, and about 6,000 acres of split estate (private surface with federally owned minerals underneath).

The Master Development Plan proposes up to 492 wells on 46 proposed and nine existing well pads beginning in 2011. Included is construction of up to 15 miles of new roads, upgrading of up to 48 miles of existing two-track roads, and maintenance of about 23 miles of existing roads. About 90 miles of gas gathering pipelines and water lines would be installed along the roads. The proposal also includes construction of up to one additional compressor site in addition to the two existing compressor stations. Directional drilling technology would be used to drill the majority of the wells, minimizing surface disturbance from new roads and pads.

To best facilitate BLM's review and use of comments during the EA process, comments should be provided by May 5, 2010.

Written comments and questions should be directed to the Grand Junction Field Office at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506. Comments may also be submitted via email at [gjfo\\_webmail@blm.gov](mailto:gjfo_webmail@blm.gov).

Copies of Fram's Master Development Plan are available for review at the BLM Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, in Grand Junction and the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, 2465 S. Townsend Avenue, in Montrose. Digital copies of Fram's proposal and a project map are available at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html> and <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html>. For more information, contact Julia Christiansen at 970-244-3093.

## BLM ##

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