

Land Use Plans/Major Projects

August 2015

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

2015 Accomplishments

Colorado River Valley RMP Revision: ROD released July 8, 2015

Kremmling RMP Revision: ROD released July 8, 2015

Grand Junction RMP Revision: ROD released Aug. 21, 2015

White River Oil and Gas Development RMP Amendment/EIS: ROD released Aug. 21, 2015

BLM Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Amendment: BLM Colorado is developing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendment covering five field offices in the Northwest District. The amendment and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will analyze a range of alternative management strategies for long-term Greater Sage-Grouse conservation and habitat restoration. This will include examining an alternative addressing the recommendations of the National Technical Team, a community alternative and a sub-regional alternative. **Current Status:** The Propose RMP Amendment/ Final EIS published May 28, 2015. **Estimated ROD Release Date:** September 2015.

Website: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/wildlife/sage-grouse.html

Colorado River Valley Field Office

Roan Plateau RMP Amendment Supplement: The planning area covers 73,602 acres in the Colorado River Valley and White River field offices. On Jan. 25, 2013, the BLM announced it would begin a supplemental EIS for the Roan Plateau RMP Amendment to address concerns raised in the June 2012 District Court decision. The BLM received close to 24,000 comment submissions. The field office is currently reviewing those comments and beginning the process of developing alternatives. One of the alternatives analyzed will be the recent settlement agreement. **Current Status:** The scoping period ended in March 2013. **Estimated Draft RMPA Supplement Completion Date:** Fall 2015. **Estimated Proposed RMP Release Date:** September 2016. **Estimated ROD Release Date:** January 2017.

Website: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/rmp/roan_plateau.html

White River National Forest Previously Issued Leases EIS: The Colorado River Valley Field Office is preparing an EIS regarding previously issued oil and gas leases in the White River National Forest. The BLM is conducting this EIS to address deficiencies in the existing environmental analyses for these leases. Preliminary alternatives include a range of management actions including voiding the leases, modifying the leases or reaffirming the existing leases. **Current Status:** The NOI published April 2, 2014 and the scoping period ended in May 2014. **Estimated Draft EIS Completion Date:** November 2015.

Website: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/crvfo/existing_leases_on.html

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA)

Dominguez-Escalante NCA RMP: Congress established the NCA as a unit within the National Landscape Conservation System in April 2009. The NCA encompasses 209,610 acres and is jointly administered by the BLM's Grand Junction and Uncompahgre field offices. **Current Status:** Draft RMP/EIS published May 17, 2013. The public comment period ended Sept. 23, 2013. **Estimated Proposed RMP Completion Date:** October 2015. **Estimated ROD Release Date:** January 2016.

Website: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca_rmp.html

BLM

Colorado State Office



SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

2015 Accomplishments

San Juan Land and Resource Management Plan: ROD released Feb. 27, 2015

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Amendment

BLM Colorado is developing an RMP amendment covering eleven RMPs across Colorado and Utah. The amendment and associated EIS will analyze a range of alternative management strategies and conservation measures for long-term Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat management consistent with National BLM policy. **Current Status:** The NOI published June 27, 2014, and the scoping period ended in August 2014. **Estimated Draft RMP Completion Date:** January 2016.

Website: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/wildlife/sage-grouse/GUSG.html

Uncompahgre Field Office

Uncompahgre RMP Revision: The resource area covers approximately 675,800 acres of BLM surface and 2.2 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. In December 2009, draft Wild and Scenic River eligibility determinations were released for public comment. **Current Status:** The NOI published in February 2010. The North Fork Alternative and Analysis is included in the draft.

Estimated Draft RMP Completion Date: October 2015.

Website: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html

FRONT RANGE DISTRICT

Royal Gorge Field Office

Eastern Colorado RMP Revision: The RMP covering the Royal Gorge Field Office will address approximately 688,000 acres of BLM-managed public surface and approximately 2,915,000 acres of federal mineral estate. It will also combine two existing RMPs (North East and Royal Gorge).

Current Status: The NOI published June 1, 2015. The scoping period ended July 31, 2015.

Estimated Draft RMP Completion Date: FY 2017. **Website:** <http://on.doi.gov/1HVULcA>

INTER-STATE RIGHTS OF WAY

Energy Gateway South Transmission Line: Rocky Mountain Power proposes to construct a high-voltage, overhead transmission line that would extend up to approximately 425 miles from south-central Wyoming to central Utah, crossing northwestern Colorado. The transmission line would begin near Medicine Bow, in Carbon County, Wyoming, at the planned Aeolus Substation, extending south and west to the planned Clover Substation, near Mona, in Juab County, Utah. The project would also include two series compensation stations, about 200 acres in size, at two separate points between the planned Aeolus and Clover substations. When completed, the project will transmit about 1,500 megawatts of electricity generated from renewable and thermal sources at planned facilities in Wyoming.

Authorization of this proposal may result in the amendment of U.S. Forest Service and BLM land and resource management plans. **Current Status:** Notice of Intent published on April 1, 2011. The public comment period for the Draft EIS ended May 22, 2014. **Estimated completion date:** Final EIS expected fall 2015 and the Record of Decision December 2015.

Website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway_south.html.

TransWest Express Transmission Line: TransWest Express, LLC, filed an application for a right-of-way to construct and operate a 600kV overhead direct current transmission line to cross public and private lands that would extend approximately 725 miles. The extra high-voltage line is designed to carry renewable power generated in Wyoming to the Desert Southwest. The project begins in south-

central Wyoming, crosses northwestern Colorado, crosses Utah diagonally from northeast to southwest and ends south of Las Vegas at the Marketplace hub in the Eldorado Valley area (near Boulder City, Nevada). Western Area Power Administration plans to partially fund the project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and will be the joint lead agency for the NEPA process. The project plans to provide 3,000 megawatts of capacity by 2015. **Current Status:** Notice of Intent was published on Jan. 4, 2011. Draft EIS published July 3, 2013 and the Final EIS published April 30, 2015. **Estimated completion date:** the Record of Decision is expected fall of 2015.

Website: www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/transwest.html