



BLM Colorado Coal Overview

August 2015 – Colorado has seven producing coal mines (five underground and two surface operations) encompassing 60,000 acres.

Coal Lease Applications

Name	Mine	Acreage	Rcvd	Status
Oxbow Mining	Elk Creek	5,826	9/11/2014	Oxbow owns and mines coal in the D-seam at the Elk Creek Mine. Oxbow originally submitted an application to modify the existing leases to include the addition of the lower B-seam reserves. On Sept. 11, 2014, Oxbow submitted a lease by application (LBA) at the BLM's request. This mine is located in the Uncompahgre Field Office. On May 18, 2015, Oxbow requested for the BLM to pause processing the LBA until the United States Forest Service (Forest Service) completes the Colorado Roadless Rule remedy Supplemental EIS.
CAM-Colorado	Bookcliffs	14,098	9/12/2006	This action is on hold at the company's request. The BLM is analyzing an LBA through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) contracted to Edge Environmental to develop the document. The Grand Junction Field Office prepared a Notice of Intent that published on Jan. 17, 2014. Public scoping meetings occurred in February 2014.
New Elk Coal Co	New Elk	1,440	10/12/2007	This action is on hold at the company's request. The Environmental Assessment (EA) needs revisions to the air quality section based on comments from a public hearing in 2010. This mine is located in the Royal Gorge Field Office.
Blue Mountain Energy	Deserado	3,155	2/11/2011	The lease was issued on June 27, 2013, in the White River Field Office. WildEarth Guardians filed a suit in District Court against the BLM and the Office of Surface Mining in May 2014 citing a lack of adequate air quality analysis in the EA. The lawsuit is currently on hold for settlement negotiations.

Coal Lease Modifications

Name	Mine	Acreage	Rcvd	Status
Peabody	Twentymile	680	4/16/2014	Peabody requested to add coal from the Wolf Creek Coal Seam to their existing Foidel Creek Mine. The Little Snake Field Office prepared an EA that included a 30-day public review on April 3, 2015. Public comments are currently being reviewed and incorporated into the EA.
Oxbow Mining	Elk Creek	363	1/14/2013	The mine is idled and laid off most of their workforce. The mine is located in the Uncompahgre Field Office. The surface of the modification is managed by the Forest Service and is in a Colorado Roadless Area. The Forest Service is the lead agency on the EA with the BLM listed as a cooperating agency. The EA is complete and the Forest Service issued a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in December 2013. The lease modification is included in the North Fork Exception to the Colorado Roadless Rule. On May

				18, 2015, Oxbow requested the modification processing be put on hold until Forest Service completes the Colorado Roadless Rule remedy Supplemental EIS.
GCC Energy	King II	955	1/03/2011	The scoping process was completed and a contractor was selected. The Tres Rios Field office is working with the contractor to identify issues and prepare a draft EA. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe owns much of the surface acreage; however, it is not tribal trust land.
Colowyo Coal Co.	Colowyo	27	9/25/2014	The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) began an EA in 2013 to analyze a mine plan to expand the Colowyo Coal Mine in the Little Snake Field Office. In looking at alternatives to reduce impacts to Sage Grouse, a 27.84 acre parcel of BLM surface became a desirable location for mine spoils to be placed. After discussions with the BLM Colorado lands and minerals groups, we concluded that the lease modification process would be the most appropriate way to address this proposal. The NEPA analysis for this modification is being handled in the OSM's EA for the mine plan. The Colowyo mine (and the Trapper mine) are the subject of OSM litigation – this is unrelated to the modification pending with the BLM.
Mountain Coal	West Elk	800	1/16/2009	The BLM issued the lease modifications in March 2013. Subsequently, the BLM received an application for an exploration plan. This proposed exploration will take place inside the boundary of the federal lease, but outside the State permit boundary. The surface acres of the modifications are managed by the Forest Service and are in the Sunset Trail Colorado Roadless Area. Under the Forest Service Colorado Roadless Rule, temporary road-building is allowed in this area to support coal mining activities. The BLM and Forest Service prepared an EA to analyze the exploration plan, which was completed and approved on June 27, 2013. A civil action suit filed in Federal District Court resulted in a Sept. 11, 2014 Order that the exploration plan approval, the lease modification approvals, and the North Fork Exception to the Colorado Roadless Rule are vacated. The modifications were cancelled and the money paid was refunded. In February 2015, Mountain Coal notified the BLM that they wish to continue to pursue these lease modifications. The BLM is a cooperating agency in the Forest Service Roadless Rule EIS.
Mountain Coal	West Elk	921	1/16/2009	

Coal Exploration Licenses

Name	Mine	Acreage	Rcvd	Status
Texas and Oklahoma Coal Company		16,323	8/24/2012	Texas and Oklahoma Coal Company, LLC, filed a coal exploration license with the BLM for roughly 16,323 acres in the Royal Gorge Field Office. As part of the licensing process, BLM regulations require a company to announce an invitation to the public to participate in the coal exploration process prior to beginning any exploration activities. This invitation published in the <i>Federal Register</i> Jan. 24, 2013. The company needs to secure a landowner agreement.
GCC Energy	King II	4,846	5/16/2014	GCC Energy intends to drill up to 24 locations adjacent to their existing mine in the Tres Rios Field Office. A third-party contractor is currently drafting an EA to analyze the 24 locations. A Federal Register Notice of Invitation published Nov. 3, 2014. The BLM is reviewing the EA.