

# Land Use Plans/Major Projects

January 2014

## *NORTHWEST DISTRICT*

**BLM Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Amendment:** BLM Colorado is developing an 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 Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in December 2011 and scoping completed in March 2012. Draft RMP Amendment released Aug. 16, 2013. **Estimated Proposed RMP Completion Date:** Summer 2014. **Estimated ROD Release Date:** December 2014. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/wildlife/sage-grouse.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/wildlife/sage-grouse.html)

### *White River Field Office*

**White River Oil and Gas Development RMP Amendment/EIS:** The resource area covers 1,455,900 acres of BLM surface and 365,515 acres of subsurface mineral estate. The purpose of the amendment is to establish guidance, objectives, policies and management actions for potential expansion of oil and gas development. **Current Status:** Draft released Aug. 22, 2012; public comments were due Jan. 28, 2013. **Estimated Proposed RMP Release Date:** March 2013. **Website:** [www.co.blm.gov/wrra/WrOilGasRMPAmendment.html](http://www.co.blm.gov/wrra/WrOilGasRMPAmendment.html)

### *Grand Junction Field Office*

**Grand Junction RMP Revision:** The resource area covers 1.1 million acres of BLM surface and 1.45 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. **Current Status:** The Draft RMP was released Jan. 25, 2013. Public comments were due June 24, 2013 (after a 60-day extension was granted). **Estimated Proposed RMP Completion Date:** Summer 2014. **Estimated ROD Release Date:** Winter 2015. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html)

### *Colorado River Valley Field Office*

**Colorado River Valley RMP Revision:** The resource area covers nearly 567,600 acres of public land. The Colorado River Valley (formerly Glenwood Springs) and Kremmling field offices started this process by working jointly to simultaneously revise their RMPs in a single document. The combined document has since been divided into separate documents and each field office published an independent Draft RMP/Draft EIS to avoid confusion. However, some supporting analysis such as the wild and scenic suitability report remains combined and will be used in both revisions. **Current Status:** The Draft RMP/Draft EIS was released for public review on Sept. 16, 2011. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be delayed based on time needed to address the extensive public comments received. **Estimated Proposed RMP Completion Date:** February 2014. **Estimated ROD Release Date:** September 2014. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo/](http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo/)

**Roan Plateau RMP Amendment Supplement:** The planning area covers 73,602 acres in the Colorado River Valley Field Office. 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. **Current Status:** Scoping initiated on Jan. 25, 2013. **Estimated Draft RMP Completion Date:** January 2015.

**Website:** [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/land\\_use\\_planning/rmp/roan\\_plateau.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/rmp/roan_plateau.html)

### *Kremmling Field Office*

**Kremmling RMP Revision:** The resource area covers nearly 377,900 acres of public land. The Colorado River Valley (formerly Glenwood Springs) and Kremmling field offices started this process by working to simultaneously revise their RMPs in a single document. The combined document has since been divided to separate documents and each field office published an independent Draft RMP/Draft EIS to avoid confusion. However, some supporting analysis such as the wild and scenic suitability report remains combined and will be used in both revisions. **Current Status:** The Draft RMP/Draft EIS was released for public review on Sept. 16, 2011. **Estimated Proposed RMP Completion Date:** February 2014. **Estimated ROD Release Date:** September 2014. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo/](http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo/)

### *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:** The NOI was published on Aug. 3, 2010. The Draft RMP/EIS was released May 17, 2013. Public comments were due Sept. 23, 2013 (following a 30-day extension). **Estimated Proposed RMP Completion Date:** Summer 2014. **Estimated ROD Release Date:** Winter 2015. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca_rmp.html)

## ***SOUTHWEST DISTRICT***

### *Uncompahgre Field Office*

**Uncompahgre RMP Revision:** The resource area covers approximately 787,000 acres of BLM surface and 1.6 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 Draft RMP/EIS is currently under development. **Estimated Draft RMP Completion Date:** June 2014. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html)

### *Tres Rios Field Office*

**San Juan Land and Resource Management Plan:** The revised RMP covers 2.5 million acres of U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands in the San Juan National Forest and Tres Rios Field Office. Due to concerns with air and fluid minerals, a Supplemental Draft EIS was released to the public for review and comment on Aug. 26, 2011. Despite the transition from dual delegation, the RMP revision/EIS will remain BLM/USFS combined documents. **Current Status:** The Proposed RMP/Final EIS was published Sept. 20, 2013. **Estimated ROD Release Date:** March 2014. **Website:** [www.co.blm.gov/sjra/](http://www.co.blm.gov/sjra/)

## ***FRONT RANGE DISTRICT***

### *Royal Gorge Field Office*

**Royal Gorge RMP Revision:** The revised RMP 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 revision is in the initial stages of development. The BLM recently developed a Draft Preparation Plan. The NOI is tentatively scheduled for late FY 2014. **Estimated Draft RMP Completion Date:** FY 2015. **Website:** N/A.

### ***INTER-STATE RIGHTS OF WAY***

**Western Expansion Project II Pipeline:** Enterprise Gas Processors, LLC has constructed a 16-inch diameter natural gas pipeline in Uintah (UT), Rio Blanco (CO), Mesa (CO) and Grand (UT) counties. The proposed pipeline is adjacent to an existing natural gas pipeline for its entire length. The project traverses lands managed by the Vernal, White River, Grand Junction and Moab field offices. The project is analyzed in an EA. **Current Status:** Decision Record signed Sept. 12, 2012. Holder received the Notice to Proceed on Feb. 25, 2013. A pre-construction meeting with all the interested parties, including the BLM, was held on June 19, 2013. Construction and reclamation activities are almost complete. **Estimated completion date:** February 2014. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gifo/WEP\\_II.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gifo/WEP_II.html).

**Energy Gateway South Transmission Line:** Rocky Mountain Power proposes construction of a high-voltage overhead transmission line that would extend approximately 400 miles, depending on the route selected, 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 to improve transport capacity and transmission line efficiency. When completed, the project will transmit about 1,500 megawatts of electricity generated from renewable and thermal sources at planned facilities in Wyoming. Alternative routes identified so far would cross federal, state, tribal and private lands. Authorization of this proposal may result in the amendment of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and BLM land and resource management plans. **Current Status:** Notice of Intent published on April 1, 2011. Draft EIS is scheduled for public review in February 2014. **Estimated completion date:** Final EIS expected February 2015. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway\\_south.html](http://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 for the TransWest Express 600kV Project. 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. Scoping ended on April 4, 2011. Draft EIS published July 3, 2013. Public comment period ended on Sept. 30, 2013. **Estimated completion date:** Final EIS expected summer 2014. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/transwest.html](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/transwest.html)

**Zephyr Transmission Line:** Zephyr, a Duke American Transmission Company project, is a 725-900 mile, 600kV DC transmission project from Chugwater, WY to Eldorado Valley, NV. The BLM is the lead agency on this multi-agency project. **Current Status:** Applicant requested the project be put on hold December 2013. **Estimated completion date:** TBD.