

Oil and Gas Leasing Program

March 21, 2013

LEASING PROGRAM

Leasing reform allows the BLM to protect multiple resource values when BLM Colorado makes oil and gas leasing decisions that include meaningful public involvement.

During the last quarterly lease sale Feb. 14, the BLM Colorado State Office sold 111 parcels totaling 71,305 acres for \$2.1 million, including rentals and fees, at its quarterly oil and gas lease sale. The highest per-acre price was for an 80-acre parcel in Bent County that sold to Martin Oil and Gas, in Uniontown PA for \$300 per acre.

The next lease sale is slated for May 9, with five parcels totaling 5,577 acres. Three parcels totaling 2,245 acres are located in the Kremmling Field Office and two parcels totaling 3,332 acres are in the Kingman Field Office, Arizona. Maps of these parcels are posted online: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/oilandgas/oil_and_gas_lease/2013/may_2013_lease_sale.html.

All parcels nominated in the White River Field Office were deferred from the sale for further review due to National Park Service (NPS) concerns about proximity to the Dinosaur National Monument. The BLM is currently working with the NPS to address their comments.

For information on upcoming sales or public involvement opportunities for 2013 and 2014, please visit www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/oilandgas/oil_and_gas_lease.html.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

On Feb. 13, 2013, a federal court ruled in favor of the Citizens for a Healthy Community (CHC) and ordered BLM Colorado to release the identity of people or organizations who nominated lands for oil and gas leasing in the Uncompahgre Field Office. The BLM is required to comply within 30 days of the order; however, the BLM was granted a Motion for Stay through April 15, 2013.

In the interim, the BLM received five requests (three in the Colorado State Office, one in the Eastern States Office and one in the Utah State Office) and numerous phone calls to release the names of submitters of EOIs for proposed oil and gas parcels.

The BLM and the Office of the Solicitor (SOL) are reviewing the District Court's decision to evaluate whether to appeal.

