



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE
 2465 South Townsend
 Montrose, CO 81401
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html

In Reply Refer To:
 3160 (CO-S05) 2015-029EA

MAR 23 2015

Dear Interested Party,

The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM) and Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) are seeking public comment on a proposal to develop Federal subsurface fluid mineral estate. The BLM and GMUG are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) together in compliance with the requirements of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to disclose and analyze the environmental effects to the physical and natural resources which may result from implementing the proposed action.

The proposed action includes six Federal Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) submitted by two operators. Both operators have submitted three APDs each in order to produce natural gas from one or more portions of the following Federal fluid mineral leases: COC-08905, COC-13483, COC-13484, COC-42314, and COC-66716.

Development associated with five of the APDs would require construction of four new multi-well pads, installation of new pipelines, and construction/reconstruction of access roads. Development of one APD would be added to an existing well pad.

Operator	APD	Pad Name	Multi-well Pad	Legal Descriptions
Gunnison Energy LLC (GE)	Federal 11-90-8-H3	Henderson	New- sized to contain up to 4 wells ³	T.11S., R.90W., Sec. 8, SWSW, 6 th PM
	FeeFeeFederal 11-90-20-21-H1 ¹	Spadafora	New- sized to contain up to 4 wells ³	T.11S., R.90W., Sec. 20, NENW, 6th PM
	FeeFeeFederal 11-90-20-21-H2 ¹			
SG Interests I. Ltd (SG)	Federal 12-90-7-1	Allen	New- sized to contain up to 5 wells ⁴	T.12S., R.90W., Sec. 7, NENE, 6th PM
	Federal 11-90-9-3 ¹	11-90-9	New- sized to contain up to 5 wells ³	T.11S., R.90W., Sec. 9, SWNW, 6th PM
	Federal 11-90-15-2 ²	Aspen Leaf	Existing-sized to contain up to 8 wells ⁵	T.11S., R.90W., Sec. 15, SESW, 6th PM

¹-Will require construction of a new well pad and associated infrastructure and will share a single pad.

²-Will be drilled on an existing well pad with existing infrastructure in place.

³- Horizontal Mancos Shale (MCS) wells

⁴- One Coal Bed Methane (CBM) well and up to four horizontal MCS wells

⁵- Existing SG Aspen Leaf well pad has a vertical MCS well in production and all necessary infrastructure in place already and could have up to 7 more horizontal MCS wells

Roads used to access these five multi-well pads include CO State Highway 133, Gunnison County Road (CR) 265, National Forest System Road (NFSR) 265, NFSR 704, NFSR 704.4A NFSR 849, NFSR 851, and NFSR 851.1B (see attached map). These roads provide access to a variety of users for private land access, big game hunting, livestock grazing, outdoor recreation, and natural gas exploration and development activities.

On the five well pads (excluding the one existing well on the Aspen Leaf location), a combined total of 25 natural gas wells (1 CBM, 24 MCS) could be developed within the next five (5) years. Any of the 19 additional wells beyond the six proposed for this analysis could be submitted in the future via individual APDs from the operators.

Overall, the development of four new multi-well pads (15.5 acres of disturbance) and associated infrastructure (2.0 miles of pipelines (9.9 acres) and 3.55 miles of access roads construction or reconstruction (6.2 acres)) would require an initial surface disturbance of approximately 31.6 acres within the project area. After initial construction and interim reclamation of well pads and access roads, the long-term disturbance could be reduced by about half to approximately 10.8 acres and 100% of the 9.9 acres utilized for pipelines would undergo reclamation.

A variety of surface ownership is also involved with the proposed action which includes NFS lands, split-estate lands (private surface/Federal mineral) and FEE/FEE lands (private surface/private mineral). As such, the operators would have to obtain appropriate surface use and access authorizations from the affected surface owners.

Based on the proposed well locations and target formations, the potential availability of subsurface fluid minerals is consistent with the 2012 BLM Uncompahgre Field Office Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario.

Scoping provides the public the opportunity to comment on what issues and concerns they think should be addressed in the EA and alternatives associated with the proposed project. The agencies have identified economics, water quality, air quality, and wildlife effects as preliminary issues for inclusion in the analysis. Cumulative impacts will be analyzed and will include the nearby proposed Bull Mountain Unit 150 well project and other developments. The BLM and GMUG will be cooperating on this analysis, and the BLM's role, as the lead agency, will be related to actions associated with surface use of split-estate leases, the cumulative effects of project related Fee surface uses, and the environmental aspects of development of the subsurface Federal fluid mineral resources targeted by each well. The GMUG's role is related to surface actions associated with well pads, pipelines and roads on NFS lands. Electronic versions of this scoping notice, associated map, and project updates identified by number S050-2015-029EA, are available online at:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Information/nepa/ufo.html

Please mail your comments to: BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, Attn: Thane Stranathan, 2465 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO. 81401; or fax to 970-240-5368; or via email to: blm_co_ufo3160@blm.gov by **April 24, 2015**.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personally identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Thank you for your interest in the management of your public lands within the Uncompahgre Field Office and Paonia Ranger District.

Sincerely,



Barbara Sharrow
BLM Uncompahgre Field Manager



BLM

Uncompahgre Field Office

SCOPING MAP

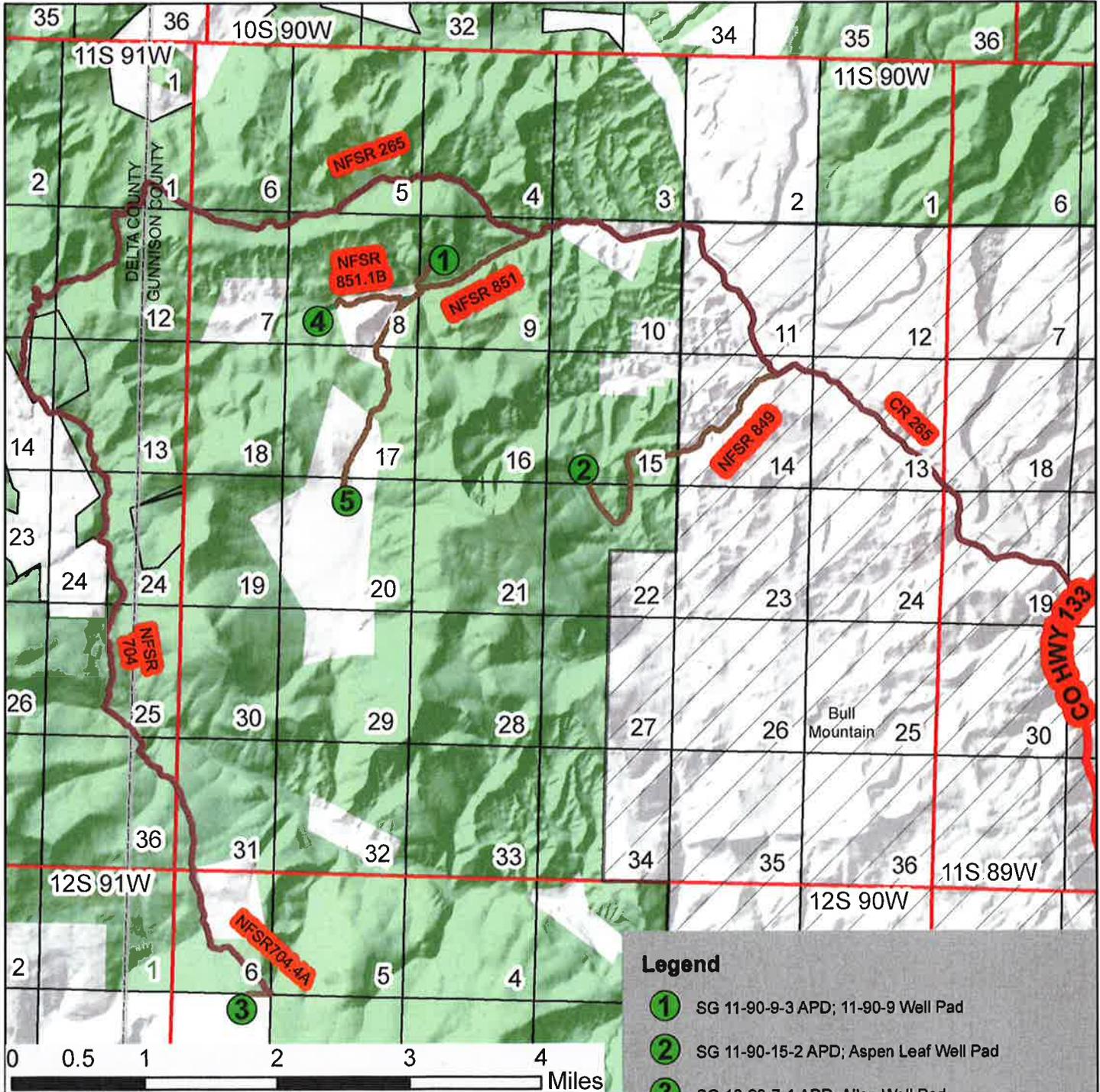
Dual Operator

25 Federal Well-5 Pad Project



GMUG NF

Paonia Ranger District

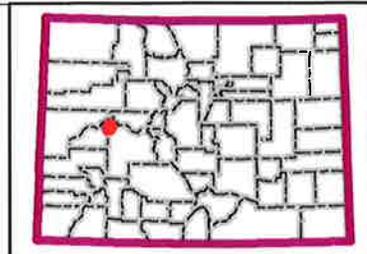


Legend

- ① SG 11-90-9-3 APD; 11-90-9 Well Pad
- ② SG 11-90-15-2 APD; Aspen Leaf Well Pad
- ③ SG 12-90-7-1 APD; Allen Well Pad
- ④ GE 11-90-8-H3 APD; Henderson Well Pad
- ⑤ GE 11-90-20-21-H1 & H2 APDs; Spadafora Well Pad
- PRI
- USFS
- ACCESS ROADS
- ▨ Bull Mountain Unit



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



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