



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office

2850 Youngfield Street

Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210

www.co.blm.gov

AUG 30 2012



In Reply Refer To:
1610 (CON05000)

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMPA/EIS) for the Bureau of Land Management Colorado (BLM) White River Field Office (WRFO). The BLM prepared this document in consultation with cooperating agencies, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, implementing regulations, the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), and other applicable law and policy.

The WRFO Planning Area consists of approximately 2.7 million acres of BLM, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, state, and private lands located in northwestern Colorado, primarily in Rio Blanco County, with additional tracts located in Garfield and Moffat counties. Within the WRFO Planning Area, the BLM administers about 1.5 million surface acres and 2.2 million acres of federal oil and gas minerals (subsurface) estate. The purpose of this Amendment to the 1997 White River Resource Management Plan (RMP) is to provide effective management direction for public lands administered by the WRFO, and direction that permits oil and gas exploration and development in excess of levels evaluated in the 1997 White River RMP.

The Oil and Gas Development Draft RMPA/EIS and supporting information are available on the WRFO website at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo.html>.

The BLM encourages the public to provide information and comments pertaining to the analysis presented in the Draft RMPA/EIS. We are particularly interested in feedback concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the proposed alternatives, the analysis of their respective management decisions, and any new information that would help the BLM as it develops the plan. In developing the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS, which is the next phase of the planning process, the decision maker may select various management decisions from each of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMPA/EIS for the purpose of creating a management strategy that best meets the needs of the resources and values in this area under the BLM multiple use and sustained yield mandate. As a member of the public, your timely comments on the Oil and Gas Development Draft RMPA/EIS will help formulate the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS. Comments will be accepted for ninety (90) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The BLM can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

Comments may be submitted electronically at: Colorado WROGEIS@blm.gov.

Comments may also be submitted by mail to:

Oil & Gas Draft RMPA/EIS Comments
Bureau of Land Management White River Field Office
220 East Market Street
Meeker, CO 81641

To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments in an electronic format.

Your review and comments on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. If you wish to submit comments on the Draft RMPA/EIS, we request that you make your comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies, and reference to a section or page number. Comments containing only opinion or preferences will be considered and included as part of the decision making process, although they will not receive a formal response from the BLM.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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.

Public meetings to provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and take public comments will be announced by local media, website, and/or public mailings at least 15 days in advance.

Copies of the Draft RMPA/EIS have been sent to affected Federal, state and local government agencies. Copies of the Draft RMPA/EIS are available for public inspection at the Meeker Public Library, Rifle Public Library, the Craig Public Library, and the Rangely Public Library. Copies are also available for public inspection at the following BLM locations:

Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215

Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 East Market Street
Meeker, CO 81641

Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

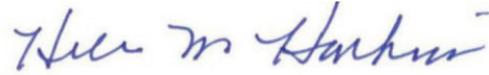
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625

Bureau of Land Management
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, CO 81652

Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
2103 East Park Avenue
Kremmling, CO 80459

Thank you for your continued interest in the Oil and Gas Development Draft RMPA/EIS. We appreciate the information and suggestions you contribute to the planning process. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Heather Sauls, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, telephone (970) 878-3855; address 220 East Market Street, Meeker, CO 81641; email hsauls@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen M. Hankins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Helen M. Hankins
State Director