



BLM NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • Washington, D.C., Office • 1849 C Street N.W. • Washington, D.C.

Bureau of Land Management
For immediate release: August 22, 2012

Contact: David Boyd, (970) 876-9008
Megan Crandall, (202) 912-7411

BLM Proposes Plan Amendment to Guide Expanded Oil and Gas Development in Northwestern Colorado

Washington, D.C. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today released the draft White River Resource Management Plan Oil and Gas Amendment, which will help guide oil and gas development in northwestern Colorado’s Piceance Basin over the next 20 years.

The BLM is seeking public comment on the draft plan amendment that analyzes four alternatives on potential oil and gas development and proposes appropriate mitigation measures on the 1.7 million acres of federal leasable minerals administered by the BLM’s White River Field Office, which includes Rio Blanco County, southern Moffat County, and a small part of northern Garfield County.

“As part of the Obama Administration’s all-of-the-above energy strategy, we are working to expand safe and responsible oil and gas exploration and production,” said Mike Pool, Acting BLM Director. “We know that energy production is a major economic engine for Colorado, and we worked with our partners to craft a wide range of possible alternatives for public review and comment. This draft plan amendment considers a number of development scenarios and suggests environmental protections that will ensure that oil and gas activities are conducted in appropriate areas using best practices.”

In 2012, oil and gas development in Colorado supported thousands of jobs and boosted the American economy by approximately \$9.5 billion. Over the next 20 years, oil and gas activities in this area of the Piceance Basin could produce 878 billion cubic feet of natural gas annually and create as many as 8,000 new jobs in northwestern Colorado.

The majority of acreage within the White River Field Office is already leased for oil and gas development. The draft plan amendment considers a range of development alternatives from 4,603 new wells on 550 new well pads to 21,200 new wells on 2,556 new well pads. The draft plan amendment also proposes a number of possible mitigation measures to minimize impacts to wildlife and other sensitive resources.

The BLM will host four public open houses to answer questions and provide an opportunity to submit written comments on this Draft RMP Amendment. The public can submit comments between 4-7 p.m. at the following locations:

- Sept. 24, Meeker, Colorado: Rio Blanco County Fairgrounds, 779 Sulphur Creek Road



BLM NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • Washington, D.C., Office • 1849 C Street N.W. • Washington, D.C.

- Sept 25, Rangely, Colorado: Colorado Northwestern Community College, Rangely Campus, Weiss Building, 500 Kennedy Drive
- Sept. 26, Silt, Colorado: BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road
- Sept. 27, Grand Junction, Colorado: Clarion Inn, 755 Horizon Drive

The BLM encourages the public to actively participate in the resource management planning process by submitting comments on the proposed plan amendment. The BLM will accept public comments through Dec. 14, 2012. The BLM will then consider the public comments as it develops a final proposed alternative. A final decision is expected in April 2014.

To read the draft plan amendment and see how to submit comments click [here](#).

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

###