



FACT SHEET: White River RMP Oil and Gas Development Amendment Overview

What is the White River Oil and Gas Development Amendment?

The Bureau of Land Management's White River Field Office has released a Proposed Oil and Gas Development Amendment to its 1997 Resource Management Plan (RMP), the over-arching land-use plan that guides management within the field office.

What does the Plan Amendment do?

The Proposed RMP Amendment and associated Environmental Impact Statement provides an updated analysis addressing several changes from what was anticipated in the 1997 RMP, specifically at an anticipated increase in oil and gas development, a change to multi-well pads, and development focus in the Piceance Basin. The Proposed RMP Amendment details measures to mitigate associated impacts, including state-of-the-art emission controls and an innovative approach to allowing year-round drilling while maintaining undeveloped wildlife habitat.

Does this plan authorize a certain number of wells or development?

The Proposed RMP Amendment does not authorize oil and gas development or a specific number of wells, both of which would be done through site-specific planning. The Proposed RMP Amendment analyzes the impacts associated with potential development of 15,040 wells on 1,100 well pads, which is the maximum number of wells projected over 20 years under this alternative.

What is an RMP Amendment?

An RMP is the over-arching land use plan that guides specific BLM decisions on the ground. RMPs are typically in place for two decades, but they are not static documents. During their approximate 20-year span, the BLM can amend these plans as needed to address specific areas, such as oil and gas development in this case. A plan amendment looks at a single, specific aspect or issue in a field office RMP. The scope of an amendment is narrow.

What is not considered under this Amendment?

While the plan analyzes a range of potential oil and gas wells, well pads and associated disturbance, it does not approve any of these activities or provide a cap to the number of wells developed. Reasonable estimates of these activities are made to evaluate potential impacts. It does not revisit all the decisions in the 1997 RMP.

What are the potential economic benefits to northwestern Colorado of oil and gas development detailed in this plan?

The Proposed RMP Amendment projects a net increase of up to 5,340 jobs by 2030, including both direct and indirect (secondary) oil and gas employment. Wells drilled over more than 20 years would produce up to 7.5 trillion cubic feet of gas – enough to heat 7.5 million homes for 15 years.