

# Land Use Plans/Major Projects

March 5, 2011

## *NORTHWEST DISTRICT*

### Little Snake Field Office

**Little Snake Final Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** The resource area covers 1.3 million acres of surface area under federal ownership and 1.1 million acres of federal mineral estate. **Record of Decision (ROD) Release Date:** October 14, 2011. **Website:** [www.co.blm.gov/lspa/rmp/index.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/lspa/rmp/index.htm)

### White River Field Office

**White River Oil and Gas Development RMP Amendment/EIS:** The resource area covers 1,455,900 acres of BLM surface and 365,515 acres of subsurface mineral estate. The purpose of the amendment is to establish guidance, objectives, policies and management actions for expanded oil and gas development. **Current Status:** Project delayed due to a new emissions inventory that incorporates air quality data into impact analysis. **Estimated Draft Release Date:** Fall 2012. **Website:** [www.co.blm.gov/wrra/WrOilGasRMPAmendment.html](http://www.co.blm.gov/wrra/WrOilGasRMPAmendment.html)

### Grand Junction Field Office

**Grand Junction RMP Revision:** The resource area covers 1.1 million acres of BLM surface and 1.45 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. **Current Status:** The field office is working on the environmental analysis for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS. **Estimated Draft Completion Date:** September 2012. **Estimated Completion Date:** Fiscal year (FY) 2013. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html)

**Red Cliff Mine EIS:** The proposed Red Cliff Mine is located approximately 11 miles north of the towns of Mack and Loma, Colorado, and 1.5 miles east of Colorado State Highway 139. Cam Mining, LLC, is proposing a new portal and associated facilities to extract low-sulfur coal from current federal coal leases. The leasing area will include several potential new federal leases and a small amount of private coal. **Current Status:** The BLM initiated a draft revision in August 2010. **Estimated Completion Date:** The project is temporarily delayed pending additional information from the proponent. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/rmp/co/redcliffmine/index.htm](http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/redcliffmine/index.htm)

### Colorado River Valley Field Office

**Colorado River Valley RMP Revision/Draft EIS:** The resource area covers nearly 567,600 acres of public land. The Colorado River Valley (formerly Glenwood Springs) and Kremmling field offices started this process by working jointly to simultaneously revise their RMPs in a single document. The combined document has since been divided into separate documents and each field office published an independent Draft RMP/Draft EIS to avoid confusion. However, some supporting analysis such as the wild and scenic suitability report remains combined and used in both revisions. **Current Status:** The Draft RMP/Draft EIS was released for public review on September 16, 2011. **Estimated Completion Date:** Proposed Plan FY 2012; ROD FY 2013. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo/](http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo/)

### Kremmling Field Office



**Kremmling RMP Revision/Draft EIS:** The resource area covers nearly 377,900 acres of public land. The Colorado River Valley (formerly Glenwood Springs) and Kremmling field offices started this process by working jointly to simultaneously revise their RMPs in a single document. The combined document has since been divided in to separate documents and each field office published an independent Draft RMP/Draft EIS to avoid confusion. However, some supporting analysis such as the wild and scenic suitability report remains combined and used in both revisions. **Current Status:** The Draft RMP/Draft EIS was released for public review on September 16, 2011. **Estimated Completion Date:** Proposed Plan FY 2012; ROD FY 2013. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo/](http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo/)

### **Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA)**

**Dominguez-Escalante NCA RMP:** Congress established the NCA as a unit within the National Landscape Conservation System in April 2009. The NCA encompasses 209,610 acres and is jointly administered by the BLM's Grand Junction and Uncompahgre field offices. **Current Status:** The Notice of Intent was published on August 3, 2010. The NCA public scoping report was completed in February 2011. The Draft RMP and Draft EIS are currently under development. **Estimated Draft Completion Date:** September 2012. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca_rmp.html)

## ***SOUTHWEST DISTRICT***

### **Uncompahgre Field Office**

**Uncompahgre RMP Revision:** The resource area covers approximately 787,000 acres of BLM surface and 1.6 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. In December 2009, draft Wild and Scenic River eligibility determinations were released for public comment. **Current Status:** The Notice of Intent published in February 2010. The Final Eligibility Report for Wild and Scenic Rivers was released June 24, 2010. The Wild and Scenic Suitability comment period closed August 16, 2010. **Estimated Draft Completion Date:** FY 2013. **Estimated Completion Date:** FY 2014. **Website:** [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html)

### **Gunnison Field Office**

**Gunnison RMP Amendment:** The field office completed an environmental assessment (EA) to amend the existing Gunnison RMP and the Programmatic EIS to address geothermal leasing in the Gunnison Basin. The RMP amendment was necessary due to new information regarding the presence of Gunnison sage-grouse habitat that was not analyzed in the existing RMP. **Current Status:** The Decision Record was signed in March 2011. The Decision was protested. Protest responses were posted in July 2011. **Estimated Completion Date:** The EA and RMP Amendment are complete. Geothermal parcels are expected to be offered in the February 2012 lease sale. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gfo/geothermal\\_lease\\_nomination.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gfo/geothermal_lease_nomination.html)

### **Tres Rios Field Office**

**San Juan Land and Resource Management Plan:** The revised RMP covers 2.5 million acres of U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands in the San Juan National Forest and Tres Rios Field Office. **Current Status:** Due to concerns with air and fluid minerals, a Supplemental Draft EIS was released to the public for review and comment August 26, 2011. Despite the transition from dual delegation, the RMP revision/EIS will remain BLM/USFS combined documents. **Estimated Completion Date:** Fall 2012. **Website:** [www.co.blm.gov/sjra/](http://www.co.blm.gov/sjra/)

## ***FRONT RANGE DISTRICT***

### **Royal Gorge Field Office**

**Over the River (OTR) EIS:** OTR is a temporary work of art proposed on BLM lands by artists Christo and Jean-Claude. The artists, via the OTR Corporation, applied for a land use permit within the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. The proposal is being analyzed through an EIS under a third-party contract agreement. **Current Status:** Preliminary Draft EIS was published July 16, 2010. Public comment period ended September 14, 2010. The Final EIS was published July 29, 2011. **Completion Date:** The ROD was published November 8, 2011. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo/planning/otr.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo/planning/otr.html)

## ***WASHINGTON OFFICE***

**Solar Energy Development Programmatic EIS:** The U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program, and the BLM are preparing a Solar Energy Development Programmatic EIS to assess environmental impacts associated with developing and implementing environmentally responsible, utility-scale solar energy development in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah. **Current Status:** The Draft Programmatic EIS was released for public comment on December 17, 2010. The public comment period was extended to May 2, 2011. **Estimated Completion Date:** Final PEIS expected summer 2012 and Record of Decision within 60 days of the Final PEIS. **Website:** <http://solareis.anl.gov/eis/who/index.cfm>

**Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS:** As the result of a legal settlement agreement reached in February 2011 between the Department of Interior and several plaintiffs, the national BLM office is preparing a new Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS. The new Programmatic EIS will reevaluate the land use plan allocation decisions made in the 2008 ROD and associated Programmatic EIS to consider which lands should be open to future leasing for oil shale and tar sands resources. The planning area for the oil shale resource is the Piceance and Washakie Basins in Colorado, the Uintah Basin in Utah, and the Green River and Washakie Basins in Wyoming. The Programmatic EIS will analyze amending the following RMPs in Colorado: White River RMP, Grand Junction RMP and the Glenwood Springs RMP. **NEPA Status:** The Notice of Intent was published on April 14, 2011. **Scoping:** Ended May 16, 2011. **Current Status:** Scoping comments are being evaluated and the Draft Programmatic EIS is under development. **Estimated Completion Date:** Draft Programmatic EIS will be available on February 3, 2012. Record of Decision expected in December 2012. **Website:** [www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/oilshale\\_2.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/oilshale_2.html)

**BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy:** The BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy will provide a planning framework and structure for transparent, interagency collaboration that focuses on developing long-term greater sage-grouse conservation and habitat restoration. Through this strategy the BLM will be developing and incorporating consistent, effective regulatory mechanisms (conservation measures) into BLM RMPs across the range of the greater sage-grouse. Greater sage-grouse habitat covers 70 BLM land use planning units in 11 Western States; including five in Colorado, all located in the BLM Colorado Northwest District. **NEPA Status:** Notice of Intent published in fall 2011. **Scoping:** Expected completion by February 7, 2012. **Current Status:** Establishing interagency management, technical and interdisciplinary teams. BLM Internal Interim and Planning Guidance Issued December 2011. **Estimated Completion Date:** All affected RODs and RMP amendments will be completed before May 30, 2014. **Website:** [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/wildlife/sage-grouse.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/wildlife/sage-grouse.html).

## ***INTER-STATE RIGHTS OF WAY***

**Western Expansion Project II Pipeline:** Enterprise Gas Processors, LLC is proposing to construct a 16-inch diameter natural gas pipeline located in Uintah (UT), Rio Blanco (CO), Mesa (CO) and Grand (UT) counties. The proposed pipeline would be located adjacent to an existing natural gas pipeline for its entire length. The project traverses lands managed by the Vernal, White River, Grand Junction and Moab Field Offices. The project will be analyzed in an EA. **NEPA Status:** Received proposed action from proponent. Contractor is now drafting EA. **Scoping:** Ended August 5, 2011. The BLM received five scoping comments. **Current Status:** Biological surveys are almost complete. Cultural surveys are underway, but not complete. Wetland delineation surveys are underway. **Estimated completion date:** July 2012. **Web site:** Pending.

**Energy Gateway South Transmission Line:** Rocky Mountain Power proposes construction of a high-voltage overhead transmission line that would extend approximately 400 miles, depending on the route selected, from south-central Wyoming to central Utah, potentially crossing northwestern Colorado. The transmission line would begin near Medicine Bow, in Carbon County, Wyoming, at the planned Aeolus Substation, extending south and west to the planned Clover Substation, near Mona, in Juab County, Utah. The project would also include two series compensation stations, about 200 acres in size, at two separate points between the planned Aeolus and Clover Substations to improve transport capacity and transmission line efficiency. When completed, the project would transmit about 1,500 megawatts of electricity generated from renewable and thermal sources at planned facilities in Wyoming. Alternative routes identified so far would cross federal, state, tribal and private lands. Authorization of this proposal may result in the amendment of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and BLM land and RMPs. **NEPA Status:** Notice of Intent published on April 1, 2011. **Scoping:** Ended on June 30, 2011. **Current Status:** Draft EIS currently being drafted. **Estimated completion date:** Final EIS expected late 2012. **Web site:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway\\_south.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway_south.html).

**TransWest Express Transmission Line:** TransWest Express, LLC, has filed an application for a right-of-way to construct and operate a 600kV overhead direct current transmission line to cross public and private lands for the TransWest Express 600kV Project. The extra high voltage line is designed to carry renewable power generated in Wyoming to the Desert Southwest. The project begins in south-central Wyoming, crosses northwestern Colorado, crosses Utah diagonally from northeast to southwest and ends south of Las Vegas at the Marketplace hub in the Eldorado Valley area (near Boulder City, Nevada). Western Area Power Administration plans to partially fund the project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and will be the joint lead agency for the NEPA process. The project is expected to provide 3,000 megawatts of capacity by 2015. **NEPA Status:** Notice of Intent was published on January 4, 2011. **Scoping:** Ended on April 4, 2011. **Current Status:** Draft EIS is being drafted. **Estimated Completion Date:** Final EIS expected late 2012. **Web site:** <http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/transwest.html>