



# BLM Resource Advisory Councils

Partners Across The West



July 1, 2008

Dear Mr. Walter:

I am writing on behalf of the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and its Subcommittee for the White River Field Office (WRFO) Oil and Gas Resource Management Plan Amendment.

Meaningful public involvement has been an emphasis of the RAC for many years. Based on feedback from members of the subcommittee and the RAC liaisons to the subcommittee, the RAC unanimously expresses its concern that the Subcommittee for the White River Field Office RMP Amendment has not had adequate opportunity for meaningful involvement in the drafting of alternatives for the RMP Amendment.

The RAC wants this subcommittee to have the opportunity to ensure the range of alternatives for the Draft RMP Amendment adequately addresses the viewpoints of subcommittee's diverse members. It is the hope of the RAC that the White River Subcommittee is given the opportunity for the same high level of participation in drafting the range of alternatives as found in our other two current RMP subcommittees.

Barb Blackstun, Assistant Field Manager for the White River Field Office, informed the RAC at its May 22, 2008, meeting that the final version of the draft alternatives will not be completed by your contractor until July. The RAC acknowledges the WRFO has hosted sessions with the RAC Subcommittee and gathered their individual input. We do encourage that input being incorporated into the Draft Alternatives. However, that input was provided by individual members and not as a subcommittee recommendation. Given that a window still exists for our subcommittee to have meaningful input on the draft alternatives, we strongly urge you to meet with the subcommittee and encourage them to develop a joint recommendation of their views on the range of alternatives before the July deadline. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to continuing to work through this challenging process with you.

Sincerely,



Dave Cesark, Chair RAC