



Minerals Topics

Objective:

To identify management actions necessary to facilitate oil and gas development in the planning area while protecting other resources.

Additionally, through the Mancos-Gallup RMPA/environmental impact statement (EIS), the BLM is seeking to present a fully informed, thorough, and complete analysis of the potential temporary and permanent direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of management actions in the Farmington Mancos-Gallup RMPA on leasable, locatable, and salable mineral management.

Background Information

Minerals are classified into three main categories: leasable, locatable, and salable. Federal leasable minerals in the planning area include oil and gas (fluid) and coal (solid). These minerals are governed by the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, which authorized specific federal minerals to be disposed of through a leasing system. Locatable minerals beneath federal lands can be located and claimed under the Mining Act of 1872. In general, locatable minerals include uranium, gold, silver, gem minerals, and other hardrock minerals. Salable minerals in the planning area include sand and gravel and humate. Federal salable minerals are sold or permitted by the BLM under the Mineral Materials Sale Act of 1947.

Through the land-use planning process, the BLM can make allocation decisions for fluid minerals. In some parts of the planning area, lease stipulations may restrict fluid mineral development in order to protect other sensitive resources. Other areas may be closed to fluid mineral leasing altogether. Decisions in this RMPA to prohibit or restrict fluid mineral activities through closures and lease stipulations would not affect existing leases.



The BLM can also apply conditions of approval to fluid mineral drilling permits in order to protect other resources. This RMPA may outline conditions of approval to be applied in portions of the planning area, including areas that are already leased.

Planning Issues

- How should the BLM manage mineral development to address impacts on other resources given the change in projected oil and gas activity in the planning area?

Tell Us What You Think!

If you have input on these topics, please share it with us in a scoping comment.

1. Are there additional minerals topics that should be covered in the EIS?
2. How should oil and gas development in the planning area be managed?
3. Are there sensitive areas where fluid mineral activity should be prohibited or restricted?
4. Can you recommend sources of information that can be used?

Please submit your comments or information via email to **BLM_NM_FFO_RMP@blm.gov**