

For Immediate Release: Monday, June 25, 2007

Contact: Tom Gorey BLM 202-452-5137

Denise Adamic BLM 303-239-3671

BLM Seeks Bids for New Pasture Facilities In West to Care for and Maintain Wild Horses

As part of its responsibility to manage, protect, and control wild horses and burros, the Bureau of Land Management is soliciting bids for one or more new pasture facilities located west of the Mississippi River. Each pasture facility must be able to provide humane care for and maintain at least 1,000 wild horses – up to as many as 2,500 – over a one-year period, with an option under BLM contract for an additional four one-year extensions. The BLM needs additional space for wild horses placed in long-term holding facilities, all of which are currently located in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Details of the BLM's requirements have been posted in solicitation NARO70106, which is available at <http://www.fbo.gov>. Applicants must be registered at <http://www.ccr.gov> to be considered for a contract award. The solicitation ends September 5, 2007.

The BLM manages wild horses and burros as part of its overall multiple-use land management mission. Under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, the Bureau manages and protects these living symbols of the Western spirit while ensuring that population levels are in balance with other public rangeland resources and uses. To achieve this balance, the BLM must remove thousands of animals from the range each year to control the size of herds, which have virtually no predators and can double in population every four years. The free-roaming population of BLM-managed wild horses and burros (estimated as of February 28, 2006) is about 31,000, which exceeds by some 3,500 the number determined by the BLM to be the appropriate management level. Off the range, there are about 28,500 wild horses and burros cared for in either short-term (corral) or long-term (pasture) facilities. All animals in holding are protected by the BLM under the 1971 law.

After wild horses and burros are removed from the range, the Bureau works to place younger animals into private ownership through adoption. Since 1973, the BLM has placed more than 216,500 horses and burros into private care through adoption. Under a December 2004 amendment to the 1971 wild horse law, animals over 10 years old, as well as those passed over for adoption at least three times, are eligible for sale. Since that amendment took effect, the BLM has sold more than 2,500 horses and burros.

For more information about the BLM's management of wild horses and burros, please visit the BLM's national Home Page at www.blm.gov.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release : June 29, 2007

Contact: Heather Feeney BLM 202-452-5031

Brian Amme BLM 775-861-6645

Denise Adamic BLM 303-239-3671

BLM Releases Final EIS on Vegetation Treatment and Fuels Reduction on Western Public Lands

As part of ongoing efforts to combat the spread of invasive and noxious weeds and reduce fire-prone fuels on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management today released its Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) comprehensively analyzing the environmental effects of various methods for treating and managing vegetation. The Final PEIS will be available for public review and comment through July 30, 2007.

The PEIS presents detailed, national-level analysis of the risks of herbicide use to humans and sensitive species, as well as to other resources and activities. An accompanying programmatic environmental report (PER) evaluates additional treatment methods to reduce the risk of wildland fire by reducing highly flammable vegetation such as pinyon, juniper, and dead or downed woody materials. The two reports will guide field-level planning and projects using mechanical, manual and biological techniques to meet fuel-reduction goals under the National Fire Plan. Both documents are national in scope and contain supporting analysis and data.

“Noxious weeds and other invasive vegetation threaten the health and economic productivity of millions of acres of public land across the West,” said BLM Acting Director Jim Hughes. “Recent experience in New Mexico shows that the carefully planned use of herbicides combined with prescribed fire and mechanical treatments can restore land health in as little as one or two years.”

In 2006 on public lands in the Pecos District of New Mexico, 145,000 acres of BLM lands were treated under the Restore New Mexico project. Lands selected for one-time treatment with herbicide can now be maintained with prescribed fire. The Vegetation PEIS will support the Interior Department’s Healthy Lands Initiative to restore and conserve watersheds and habitats using similar techniques on BLM-managed lands elsewhere in the West.

The Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and the Final Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Report (PER) are available at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/veg_eis.html and in printed form and on CD-ROM from BLM field offices.

Comments on the Final PEIS and PER will be accepted only in writing and should be mailed to the following address, postmarked on or before July 31, 2007:

Mr. Brian Amme, Project Manager

Bureau of Land Management

P.O. Box 12000

Reno NV 89520-0006

Substantive comments will be used to develop the final decision action to implement the PEIS, as expressed in the Record of Decision (ROD) to be signed later this summer.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: June 27, 2007

Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

Motorized access to Devils Canyon area restricted during Fruita fireworks display

FRUITA, Colo. — The McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA) and Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO), in conjunction with the City of Fruita and Mesa County, are implementing an emergency temporary closure to motorized vehicles from 3 p.m., Tuesday, July 3, to 5 a.m., Wednesday, July 4, on the Dinosaur Hill and Kings View Roads located in the NCA and accessed off Highway 340, south of Fruita. Parking areas adjacent to these roads, including the popular Devils Canyon, Dinosaur Hill, and Pollock Bench Trailheads, are also covered in the closure.

“Concerns for public safety and natural resource protection during the Lower Valley Fire District fireworks display led to the decision to close the area to motorized traffic,” NCA Manager Paul Peck said. “Vegetation in the area is at flash point, and any source of ignition could easily start a fire and be a threat to the public.”

The City of Fruita and Mesa County are also implementing a temporary closure to motorized vehicles on their portions of these roads. The fireworks display is scheduled for Tuesday evening, July 3, at Snooks Bottom.

Both the GJFO and McInnis Canyons NCA are under Stage I fire restrictions. Please take additional precautions to prevent wildfires, such as clearing the brush around campfire rings, making sure campfires are "dead out" before leaving them, smoking only in cleared areas, and avoiding parking in tall, dry grass. Always carry a shovel and water with you to extinguish fires. Remember also that possessing or using fireworks on public lands is illegal year-round. Anyone found responsible for starting a wildland fire may be held liable for the cost of putting it out and/or damages caused by the fire, imprisonment or both.

Any person who violates this emergency temporary closure on public lands could be fined no more than \$100,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. For additional information about this BLM closure, contact Matt McGrath at (970) 244-3029. For additional information about the fireworks display, contact Ture Nycum, City of Fruita recreation director, at (970) 858-0360.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: June 25, 2007

Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

Using biological control to manage tamarisk

MONTROSE, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) and the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Palisade Insectary, are partnering to introduce *Diorhabda elongata deserticola* Chen, the tamarisk leaf beetle, to portions of southwestern Colorado in an effort to biologically control tamarisk. First released in Colorado in July 2005, the tiny beetle is showing promise in controlling tamarisk, or saltcedar, a non-native and invasive plant from southern Eurasia that was first introduced to the United States in the early 1900s as an exotic. The *Diorhabda*, which came from nurseries in Lovelock, Nevada, were released earlier this month at an undisclosed site along the Dolores River in western Montrose County. Authorities hope it will be only the first of several releases this summer at select sites in an effort to curb, if not eradicate, the pesky tree.

“We’ll begin monitoring the site in July and continue to do so for at least the next five years,” Insectary Director Dan Bean said. “We’re hopeful that *Diorhabda* will help us return our waterways and riparian areas back to prime habitat for native willows and cottonwoods throughout the West.” Bean has been involved with leaf beetle research for many years and also heads up the Biological Pest Control Program, which targets noxious weeds with its native predators. Bean and Insectary staff member Sonya Ortega are working closely with Lynae Rogers, weed program manager for UFO.

“The Insectary staff has become an extension of our staff, taking on monitoring these sites to help us ensure a successful project,” Rogers said. “Dan and his crew bring an in-depth knowledge and understanding to the project that result in a great relationship that’s good for both the Palisade Insectary and the BLM.”

The beetle, by feeding exclusively on tamarisk, has the potential to become an effective natural control for the tamarisk plant. Without the beetle, tamarisk in the New World have flourished, crowding out native species, threatening them with extinction and impacting water supplies as the thirsty tamarisk choke river bottoms, stream beds and riparian areas in nearly every state west of the Mississippi River.

One appeal of the beetle is cost effectiveness. Manually removing tamarisk stands can cost \$1,500 to \$3,000 per acre. By comparison, the tamarisk leaf beetle offers treatment of tamarisk stands for less than \$10 per acre. It is hoped that the beetle will spread to other tamarisk stands and become a permanent check to the invading plant.

The beetle is also a natural fit to the West because of a similar latitude and climate as that of Eurasia. The beetle has limited effectiveness south of the 38th parallel because the beetle requires 14 or more hours of sunlight or it goes into hibernation. Work continues in the Old World to find *Diorhabda* insects that will be effective south of the 38th parallel.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has played a key role in the development of Colorado’s

tamarisk leaf beetle program. All Colorado sites have been selected on the basis of their suitability for rapid population growth of the beetle and for being in areas removed from insecticides that could impact a new population of insects. The Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management at Colorado State University manages the release sites in Colorado. The Insectary at Palisade, Colorado, operated by the Conservation Services Division of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, plays an important role in the release and monitoring of the insect.

For information about the UFO tamarisk project, contact Lynae Rogers at (970) 240-1068. To learn more about the Palisade Insectary programs, contact Dan Bean at (970) 464-7916.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: June 15, 2007
Contact: Denise Adamic BLM 303-239-3671
Chris Paolino BLM 202-208-6416

Local governments to receive PILT funds

WASHINGTON—Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne today announced that more than \$232.1 million will be distributed in 2007 to local governments whose jurisdictions contain tax-exempt federal lands. In Colorado, this equates to \$17.3 million in Payment in Lieu of Taxes funds to 55 counties.

"This year's appropriation was able to maintain the level of PILT funding achieved last year, the highest funding level in history," Kempthorne said. "We are getting these funds to local governments in a timely manner, by June 15, to help the counties plan their annual budgets. We recognize the importance of these communities in helping to support federal lands and this money will help pay for essential services, such as firefighting and emergency response and to help improve school, water, and road systems."

The Interior Department collects revenues of \$4 billion annually from commercial activities on federal lands, such as oil and gas leasing, livestock grazing and timber harvesting. A portion of these revenues are shared with states and counties in the form of revenue-sharing payments with the balance deposited in the U.S. Treasury, which in turn pays for a broad array of federal activities, including payments to counties.

PILT payments may be used for any governmental purpose, and have been used to help improve local school, water, and road systems. Payment eligibility is reserved for local governments (usually counties) that provide services such as those related to public safety, environment, housing, social services and transportation, and that contain nontaxable federal lands.

Payments under PILT are made for federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA Forest Service, Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation water projects, and some military installations.

As a result of increases in Forest Service timber payments, reductions in PILT entitlement land, a decrease in the prorating percentage and expiration of section 6904/5 payments, the total 2007 PILT payments to 37 states will be slightly lower than the 2006 payments. The following listing shows a county-by-county breakdown of how PILT payments will be paid to counties within Colorado:

County	Total Payment Acres
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Alamosa County	\$95,373 69,571
Arapahoe County	\$6,543 4,613
Archuleta County	\$529,492 438,797
Baca County	\$269,725 205,519
Bent County	\$26,935 21,386
Boulder County	\$220,450 164,780
Chaffee County	\$730,803 511,991
Clear Creek County	\$106,392 170,812
Conejos County	\$609,120 499,008
Costilla County	\$1,245 887
Crowley County	\$5,851 4,055
Custer County	\$233,125 174,155
Delta County	\$231,636 405,106
Dolores County	\$84,704 422,282
Douglas County	\$202,279 145,838
Eagle County	\$891,765 848,738
El Paso County	\$141,992 105,020
Fremont County	\$642,699 454,658
Garfield County	\$1,078,087 1,187,973
Gilpin County	\$47,938 41,995
Grand County	\$458,557 801,615
Gunnison County	\$329,003 1,640,208
Hinsdale County	\$74,056 676,499
Huerfano County	\$217,527 207,687
Jackson County	\$103,454 515,757
Jefferson County	\$143,579 104,850
Kiowa County	\$6,485 9,087
La Plata County	\$552,890 436,373
Lake County	\$253,797 188,376
Larimer County	\$1,088,378 809,192
Las Animas County	\$234,170 310,222

Lincoln County	\$2,981 2,066
Mesa County	\$1,255,414 1,554,531
Mineral County	\$90,223 524,228
Moffat County	\$431,032 1,671,738
Montezuma County	\$287,295 472,476
Montrose County	\$1,277,559 976,751
Morgan County	\$3,169 3,221
Otero County	\$242,200 181,442
Ouray County	\$209,016 159,300
Park County	\$853,783 712,832
Pitkin County	\$536,195 566,486
Prowers County	\$0 430
Pueblo County	\$88,057 63,536
Rio Blanco County	\$300,537 1,498,289
Rio Grande County	\$428,651 335,526
Routt County	\$587,881 665,659
Saguache County	\$465,483 1,340,318
San Juan County	\$43,078 214,757
San Miguel County	\$191,178 490,081
Sedgwick County	\$0 273
Summit County	\$176,047 315,025
Teller County	\$223,878 162,071
Washington County	\$159 795
Weld County	\$39,604 197,440
Yuma County	\$1,499 7,470
Total	\$17,352,969 23,693,791

- BLM -

For Immediate Release: June 15, 2007
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

McInnis Canyons Advisory Council to meet

Grand Junction, Colo. — The McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA) Advisory Council will hold a meeting at 4 p.m., on Thursday, June 21, at the Mesa County Administration Building, 544 Rood Avenue, in Grand Junction. The meeting will be held in the multipurpose room.

Agenda topics for the June 21 meeting include:

- National Landscape Conservation System—overview of NLCS Managers Conference
- Colorado NLCS Strategy
- Knowles Fire and fire restrictions
- NCA manager updates
- Advisory Council field trip schedule

All meetings are open to the public. For additional information, please contact Paul Peck at (970) 244-3049.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: June 15, 2007

Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

BLM Uncompahgre and local counties collaborate to offer new online tool

MONTROSE, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office; Delta, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties; along with the SouthWest Data Center, Inc., have collaborated to bring a new online tool to the public. When you access <http://www.southwestdata.org/projects/dip/interagency.htm> and select your county of interest, you'll be taking advantage of a vast amount of information from several different governmental agencies right at your fingertips. By simply expanding a topic listed in the legend and then checking a data box, one can learn about everything from federal mineral ownership to county zoning to public schools.

“BLM has been working with the counties for months to find a way to get information—in an efficient and convenient way—to the public on land status related to oil and gas leasing,” said Barb Sharrow, field manager of the Uncompahgre Field Office. “I’m excited because I think we’ve found it through the online data viewers.” Sharrow approached the SouthWest Data Center and surrounding counties in summer 2006 about working together to provide valuable data, that the public both wants and needs, online. This project provides BLM oil and gas lease data, stipulations regarding oil and gas leasing, mineral ownership status, as well as shows parcels nominated for BLM’s current quarterly lease sale—all information specific to much of southwestern Colorado.

“Information vital to the citizens of Montrose County does not stop at political boundaries,” Phyllis Snider, GIS coordinator for Montrose County, said. “Our goal in working with SouthWest Data Center on the information integration project is to provide the citizens of this county with a wealth of useful information that is easily accessible and regional in scope.”

Michael Elden, GIS and IT manager for Ouray County, added, “It has been our goal to supply as much information as possible to the county and citizens at large. The data viewer is one more invaluable tool

that allows people to zero in on the specific information that satisfies their needs.”

“The primary purpose of this project is to integrate data across jurisdictional boundaries for emergency services and disaster mitigation planning,” said Eric Svensen, with the City of Montrose and president of the SouthWest Data Center. “But as you can see, once the infrastructure is in place, the application can be extended to provide a much wider range of public service.” The Southwest Data Center is a nonprofit organization with member participants that include Delta, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties.

The public can research information on the data viewers in the convenience of their own home, and then contact the appropriate county or federal specialists to answer further questions. Links to the data viewers can also be found at www.co.blm.gov/ubra, www.deltacounty.com, www.co.montrose.co.us, www.ouraycountyco.gov, and www.sanmiguelcounty.org. For information on BLM public lands or federal minerals found in the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, call (970) 240-5300.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: June 13, 2007

Contact: Jim Sample, 303-239-3861, BLM Colorado Public Affairs

Joe Walsh, 202-205-1134, Forest Service Press Office

Jack G. Peterson, 208-373-4048, National Project Manager

BLM to Facilitate Renewable Energy Development on Federal Lands

WASHINGTON – In response to the increased national demand for clean renewable energy, the Bureau of Land Management today announced it will prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) analyzing areas with high potential for geothermal energy development.

According to a notice published in today’s Federal Register, the PEIS will examine the environmental impacts of boosting geothermal leasing in areas with high potential for near-term exploration and development of geothermal resources. If deemed appropriate by the PEIS, the BLM will amend the land use plans in those areas to allow for expanded leasing.

“The BLM is sitting on the largest supply of geothermal energy in this country, and it is time to launch an aggressive program to develop those resources,” said BLM Acting Director Jim Hughes. “This proceeding will help us determine which areas to concentrate our geothermal leasing efforts on.”

The PEIS will focus on areas with high geothermal potential in 11 western states and Alaska. These areas will include those identified by the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey, as well as by the public and other stakeholders. The entire west is being considered, including areas in northwestern Nevada, northeastern California, and the Raft River Basin in Oregon.

“The Forest Service looks forward to working in concert with BLM on these geothermal projects,” said Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell. “Enhancing our nation’s energy needs through safe and clean energy is an important focus of the Department of Agriculture and a proper use of our public lands.”

The PEIS will also analyze the steps necessary to facilitate the processing of the approximately 100

geothermal lease applications that were pending as of January 1, 2005, as mandated by the Energy Policy of Act of 2005. The law stipulated that 90% of these applications must be issued, rejected, or otherwise disposed of by August 8, 2010.

Publication of the notice of intent launches a 60-day period in which the public can comment on the PEIS. Input is being sought on which areas with high geothermal potential should be examined, as well as definition and refinement of the development alternatives that will be proposed in the draft EIS. Public meetings in which interested parties can comment on the proceeding will be held in 10 western cities.

Geothermal resources, such as steam and hot water, are used directly to heat buildings and in greenhouses and aquaculture, and indirectly to generate electric power. Geothermal energy accounts for 17 percent of the electricity generated from renewable sources in the U.S. Half of the nation's geothermal energy production occurs on federal land, much of it in California and Nevada, and 90% of the potential resources are located on public lands as well. Other states with geothermal activity include Oregon, Utah, Idaho and New Mexico.

Geothermal leasing is permitted on Interior and other federal lands that are designated for this type of development. The BLM currently administers about 420 geothermal leases; 55 of those are producing geothermal energy, including 34 power plants. The BLM has been expediting the application process for geothermal leases, issuing 291 leases since 2001, compared to 25 leases from 1996-2001.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: June 13, 2007
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097,
or Tim Foley UCR 970-244-3101

Portion of Colorado River corridor included in area fire restrictions

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.— Fire restrictions take effect at 12:01 a.m., on Friday, June 15, 2007, for public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management located within the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA). The affected area lies within the jurisdiction of the West Zone of the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit stationed in Grand Junction. Mesa County lands and other public lands managed by the BLM are not impacted by these restrictions. Fire Prevention Orders were signed earlier in the week by NCA Manager Paul Peck.

“We’ve already experienced a devastating wildfire on the river, where one of our few major cottonwood galleries was destroyed,” said NCA Manager Paul Peck. “The hot temperatures, lack of moisture and cured cheatgrass have combined to create a dangerous situation for allowing campfires.”

NCA officials will be enforcing temporary restrictions that include:

- Only campfires within fire grates provided for in developed campgrounds are allowed
- No smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or in a barren area free of vegetation
- No use of explosive materials
- No welding or operation of an acetylene or other similar torch with open flame
- No operation of any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed

and in working order

These are Stage 1 fire restrictions. If hot and dry conditions persist, fire officials may move into Stage 2 restrictions which would mean no campfires, even in developed campgrounds.

Restrictions will be in place until further notice. Applicable authorities provided under Title 43 USC, Section 1733 and under 43 CFR 9212. Violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$100,000 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months or both (18 USC 3571). For additional information, contact Park Ranger Troy Schnurr at (970) 244-3032.

Bureau of Land Management, Glenwood Springs Field Office
50629 Hwys. 6 & 24, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Tel 970-947-2800 • Fax 970-947-2829
www.blm.gov

For Immediate Release: June 8, 2007

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, Northwest Colorado, (970) 319-4130

Jaime Gardner, Public Affairs Specialist, Colorado State Office, (303)-589-2795

Vaughn Whatley, Public Affairs Specialist, Colorado State Office, (303) 239-3766

BLM announces first Record of Decision on Roan Plateau Plan

GLENWOOD SPRINGS – The Bureau of Land Management today announced the availability of the first of two Records of Decision for managing the Roan Plateau.

This first Record of Decision covers about 70 percent of the 73,602 acres in the Roan Plateau planning area. The Record of Decision provides critical protections for fish and wildlife habitat, plants, special places, viewsheds, and traditional recreation and other uses of the plateau. The Decision also allows for very restricted and limited energy development that would require using the latest directional drilling techniques.

The first Record of Decision does not include decisions regarding the 21,034 acres of the planning area proposed as "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern," or ACECs, in the Proposed Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment, which was released in Sept. 2006. A second Record of Decision will address these areas following a 60-day public comment period specific to proposed ACECs.

The Decision is the result of a highly collaborative public planning process that began in 2000, with the first public scoping period.

"We developed this plan with significant help and time from our cooperating agencies, which include the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Garfield and Rio Blanco counties, the town of Parachute, and the cities of Glenwood Springs and Rifle," said Glenwood Springs BLM Field Manager Jamie Connell. "The innovative approach we are taking for tightly controlled energy development on top of the plateau comes from a proposal submitted by the Colorado Department of Natural Resources."

The Decision follows clear direction Congress gave BLM in 1997, when the lands of the Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 and 3 on top and below the Roan Plateau were transferred from the Department of Energy to BLM. The transfer legislation instructed BLM to develop a multiple-use resource

management plan for the area and enter into leases for the exploration, development and production of petroleum on these transferred lands "as soon as practicable." This included the top of the Roan Plateau.

This first Record of Decision authorizes an innovative, highly restrictive approach to oil and gas development. Development on top of the Plateau will be conducted in a staged, ridge-by-ridge approach, with well pads no closer than ½ miles apart. Surface disturbance

on top is limited to approximately one percent of the total acres at any one time. This highly restrictive approach still allows more than 90 percent of the federal natural gas in the planning area to be recovered.

BLM received 42 protest submissions during the 30-day public protest period that followed the September 2006 release of the Proposed Roan Plan. As part of one protest resolution, BLM is holding a 60-day public comment period limited to the 21,034 acres of ACECs proposed in the Roan Plan. A second Record of Decision specific to the ACECs will be issued following analysis of the public comments.

The four proposed ACECs, which will be addressed in this second Record of Decision, help lay the framework for the Proposed Plan's innovative approach to oil and gas development. Virtually all of the 21,034 acres of proposed ACECs would be managed under no surface occupancy stipulations, which means no surface disturbance. When the proposed ACECs are taken with the additional 17,336 acres stipulated no surface occupancy in today's Decision, more than 50 percent of the planning area would be stipulated no surface occupancy to create wildlife seclusion areas, protect Colorado River cutthroat trout and water resources, and protect scenic views.

In reviewing the protests, BLM found that the proposed ACECs were not adequately described in the November 2004 Federal Register Notice announcing the availability of the Draft Plan, as required under BLM regulations. Today's Federal Register Notice provides additional detail and announces the public comment period specific to the proposed ACECs.

"The Draft and Proposed plans both clearly detailed the boundaries and purposes of the proposed ACECs, and we received numerous comments about the ACECs. However, the Federal Register Notice announcing the availability of the Draft Plan did not provide the detail required by BLM regulations," Connell said.

BLM's Preferred Alternative in the November 2004 Draft Plan proposed two ACECs totaling 11,529 acres. Based on public and local government comments on that Draft, BLM nearly doubled the acres of proposed ACECs in the September 2006 Proposed Plan. This included adding two ACECs below the rim of the plateau, which brought the total acres of proposed ACECs to 21,034.

More information about the proposed ACECs, copies of the Record of Decision, Proposed Plan and additional information can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/roanplateau> or the Glenwood Springs Field Office, 50629 Hwy 6 & 24, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601.

All comments on the proposed ACEC designations must be in writing and sent to: Bureau of Land Management, Glenwood Springs Field Office, 50629 Hwy 6 and 24, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601.

Comments must be received by Aug. 10, 2007.

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For Immediate Release: June 7, 2007
Contact: Jaime Gardner 303-589-2795
Jim Sample 303-239-3861

BLM August Oil and Gas Lease Sale Information Available

DENVER – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado today announced that information on its quarterly oil and gas lease sale, to be held on Thursday, August 9, 2007, is now available. In response to public requests that oil and gas lease sale information be made available as soon as possible, the BLM is posting the sale notice for 60 days, rather than the 45 days required by law.

The BLM's August lease sale includes 109 parcels covering 86,599 acres. Lease sale information can be obtained at each of the Bureau's field offices, as well as the Information Center at the Colorado State Office located in Lakewood. Additionally, an electronic copy has been posted on the BLM's state website at: http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/oilandgas/leasing.html.

Approximately 75 parcels totaling 43,471 acres in the lease sale involve split-estate lands where a private entity owns the surface rights and the federal government owns the subsurface mineral rights. Information about split-estate issues can be found on BLM Colorado's website at: http://www.co.blm.gov/oilandgas/oilgas.htm#split_estate

“While energy development on Colorado's federal lands continue to play an important part in meeting our nation's energy needs, our focus is on smart planning and working with industry to use best practices to reduce environmental impacts on public and private lands,” said BLM Colorado Deputy State Director Lynn Rust.

National BLM policy requires all protests filed on nominated parcels must include the specific serial number/parcel number being protested and must be received by the BLM either by mail, hand delivery, or fax by 4:00 p.m. at least 15 calendar days prior to the lease sale to be considered. If a protest is filed by fax, it must be sent to 303-239-3799. This policy allows the Bureau to review protests in advance of the sale, allow for an appropriate announcement of protests at the sale, and attempt to meet the statutory deadline for issuing leases. While these protested parcels may still be offered, bidders are notified that no lease will be issued until the protests are resolved.

Rust noted that BLM will review each parcel that receives a protest before a lease will be issued. “We take seriously the concerns of the local community and incorporate their comments into our planning process,” Rust said. “As we follow our mandate to manage for multiple uses – including recreation, conservation and energy development – it is important that we continue to work with our neighbors for the benefit of Colorado citizens.”

Parties interested in receiving regular notification of oil and gas lease sales are encouraged to contact the State Office Public Room at 303-239-3600. For \$5 each quarterly sale, and \$5 for each sale result, the Bureau will automatically send those citizens who have registered a copy of the lease sale notification. A minimum of \$50 is required to establish an account – called a declining debit account –

and will guarantee a copy of the sale notification before each quarterly sale, as well as the sale results.

Notice documents may also be obtained by calling the Public Room up to 60 days before the sale and requesting a copy of the sale notice be sent to you. There is a \$5 charge for the sale notice. Sale results can be requested approximately one week after the sale for an additional \$5. BLM Colorado holds oil and gas lease sales the second Thursday of February, May, August, and November.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and the 1987 Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act authorize leasing of Federal oil and gas resources. The 1987 law, which amended the Mineral Leasing Act, requires each BLM state office to conduct oil and gas lease sales on at least a quarterly basis.

“Of the total acreage managed by the BLM, less than one percent experiences surface disturbance from oil and gas activity,” said Rust. “To minimize such impacts on the land, the Bureau analyzes the potential environmental effects from exploration and development before offering any leases for sale.” All leases come with stipulations (general requirements) on oil and gas activities to protect the environment; leases can also include specific restrictions, such as limits on seasons when drilling can occur and restrictions on surface occupancy by oil and gas operators.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages over 8.3 million acres of public lands in Colorado. These lands are managed for a multitude of uses including, but not limited to, recreation, mining, wildlife habitat and livestock grazing. BLM oversees more than 27 million subsurface acres for mineral development in the state.

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Contact: Jim Sample BLM 303-239-3861

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BLM Recreation Planner Receives National River Management Award

The River Management Society (RMS) recently presented its Outstanding Contribution Award to Bunny Sterin, Lead Recreation Planner in the Kremmling Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office.

The RMS is the nation’s only professional society for river managers. Sterin was lauded for her continued commitment and grass-roots leadership for RMS in Alaska, Oregon, Idaho and Colorado over the past 10 years. Sterin received the award at the Biennial Interagency River Managers Workshop in Missoula, Montana, on May 22, 2007.

“The RMS family shares a passion for resource stewardship, sound river management, and overall zest for life. Bunny Sterin represents all of this. It’s been an honor to share this passion for rivers and the RMS with this inspiring woman,” said Tim MacCartney, representative of Trout Unlimited and the National Park Service.

Sterin also was praised by Jim Hughes, Acting Director of the BLM. Hughes said that in addition to her river and hydrology experience, Sterin “gave freely of her time and expertise. Her service and passion for the Colorado River have been manifested by her interaction with other river administrators and the

boating public.”

Sterin’s responsibilities include managing oversight and planning on the Upper Colorado River, the largest BLM-managed river program in Colorado. Her program oversees 60 river outfitters and guides, and provides annual services for 30,000 commercial river user clients, as well as 13,000 private river users. She also conducts oversight and recreation planning for an extensive uplands program, where 34 outfitter guides provide services for big game hunting and horseback riding services.

“It is an honor to be nationally recognized for something I truly enjoy,” said Sterin. “I would not have received this award without the efforts of many other dedicated members of the River Management Society who work hard to promote and develop the profession of river management.” Sterin is a 24-year federal government employee, including 22 years with BLM and assignments with the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service.

The BLM oversees 8.3 million acres of public lands in Colorado, including 10,000 acres of riparian-wetland habitat that border 4,300 miles of streams. An agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM manages more U.S. land -- 258 million surface acres -- than any other federal agency.

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Editor's Note: A digital file with jpeg photo of Bunny Sterin is also available by e-mail. Contact David Boyd at David_Boyd@blm.gov.