

For Immediate Release: March 28, 2007

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 947-2832

Joe Stout, Kremmling Planning and Environmental Coordinator, (970) 724-3003

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study results available for Glenwood and Kremmling Field Offices
Glenwood Springs, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management today released the results of its Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study for the Glenwood and Kremmling field offices.

The study details which river and stream segments occurring on BLM lands within the two field offices meet the criteria to be eligible for federal Wild and Scenic River designation.

The study, prepared in advance of the two field offices revising their Resource Management Plans, evaluated 244 river and stream segments and found 27 were eligible, including seven segments of the Colorado River. The study is available at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo>

“This eligibility study gives us a list of the river and stream segments within our management boundaries with regionally or nationally significant values,” said Glenwood Springs Field Manager Jamie Connell. “We will now use this information to conduct a suitability study to determine whether a stream segment would make a worthy addition to the national Wild and Scenic Rivers system.”

This next step – the suitability study – will analyze current and future uses of the eligible stream segments with close coordination from a variety of stakeholders. The suitability study will be included in the Resource Management Plan revisions, which will analyze a range of possible alternatives. BLM may or may not actively recommend suitable segments for Wild and Scenic River designation, based on input from stakeholders and the public.

“It’s important to remember that Congress, not BLM, actually makes the decision about including segments in the Wild and Scenic River System,” said Acting Field Office Manager Peter McFadden.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968 to preserve selected rivers or sections in their free-flowing condition to protect “the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.” To be eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, a river or stream segment must possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable values,” have sufficient water quality to support those values, and be free-flowing.

River segments determined to be eligible are afforded interim protective management under BLM authorities until a suitability study is completed. The Resource Management Plan revision process and suitability analysis is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009.

Public involvement in the suitability study will continue through the Resource Management Plan revision process. More information about this process is available at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo>

The Cache La Poudre River is the only river in Colorado with segments currently included in the Wild and Scenic River system. For more information on Wild and Scenic Rivers, visit <http://www.nps.gov/rivers/>

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: March 23, 2007

Contact: Jaime Gardner 303-239-3681

or Melodie Lloyd 970-244-3097

BLM Resource Advisory Council Nominations Due April 2

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking nominations to fill upcoming vacancies on three Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) in Colorado. Nominations are being accepted through April 2, 2007, to fill the positions of several members whose terms of appointment will expire this August.

The councils provide advice and recommendations to BLM on the use and management of 8.4 million acres of public lands in the state. In 1995, BLM established councils in Colorado representing three geographic areas: Northwest, Southwest, and Front Range. The RACs enable citizens to have a meaningful say in how public lands are managed. Members give advice to BLM on the broad array of resource, social, and economic issues that confront land managers and local communities.

Colorado State Director Sally Wisely appreciates the contributions made by current and previous members. "RAC members represent a broad array of backgrounds, interests, and experience," said Wisely. "With BLM's diverse responsibilities, RAC members have opportunities to advise us on challenging and complex issues."

The councils operate on principles of collaboration and consensus. Members are sought who are committed to working together with other interests for the long term benefit of public lands and the people who enjoy and rely on them. "I can't emphasize enough what effective partners the Colorado RACs have been in helping resolve public land issues that affect the quality of life throughout the State," Wisely said.

Council members must be residents of Colorado. Each year, one-third of the membership is up for renewal or replacement. Terms are for three years. Each council consists of 15 members, selectively balanced and representative of three general interest groups:

Group 1 - holders of federal grazing permits/leases; representatives of mining, timber, off-road vehicle use, and commercial recreation;

Group 2 - representatives of recognized national or regional environmental or resource conservation organizations; archeological and historical interests; wild horse and burro groups; and dispersed recreational activities;

Group 3 - State, county, or local elected officials; employees of State agencies responsible for management of natural resources, land or water; representatives of Indian tribes; academicians involved in natural sciences, and the public at large.

Colorado's Northwest RAC, Southwest RAC, and Front Range RAC have vacancies in all three categories.

Qualifications for RAC membership are based on the nominee's:

- education, training, or experience to give informed, objective advice on an industry, discipline, or interest;
- experience or knowledge of the geographical area the council serves;
- demonstrated commitment to collaboration in seeking solutions to resource management issues.

BLM provides training on resource science and management issues to all council members. Members serve without monetary compensations, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses.

Members are expected to attend RAC meetings called by the designated federal officer. Meetings usually occur no more often than every other month. Location of the meetings can vary throughout the state, and may include tours. Meetings will normally be held Monday through Friday, and may last more than one day.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Letters of reference from the interests or organizations the nominee wishes to represent must accompany the nomination form. In addition, each nominee must submit a completed Background Information Nomination Form and should have a demonstrated commitment to collaborative resource decision-making.

The nomination period will close on April 2, 2007, as announced in the Federal Register on February 15.

For additional information, please contact:

BLM Northwest RAC, Attention: David Boyd, e-mail david_boyd@blm.gov

50629 Hwy 6 & 24, Glenwood Springs, CO 816011 (Phone 970.947.2832)

BLM Southwest RAC, Attention: Melodie Lloyd, e-mail melodie_lloyd@blm.gov

2815 H Rd., Grand Junction, CO 81506 (Phone 970.244.3097)

BLM Front Range RAC, Attention: Ken Smith, e-mail ken_smith@co.blm.gov

3170 E. Main St., Canon City, CO 81212 (Phone 719.269.8553)

BLM Colorado State Office, Attention: Jaime Gardner, e-mail jaime_gardner@blm.gov

2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215 (Phone 303.239.3681)

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: March 20, 2007

Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

BLM Uncompahgre seeks public input on travel management

MONTROSE, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) is holding three public scoping meetings in the coming days as it initiates a Travel Management Plan. Public

scoping is intended to provide information about the project and is the first opportunity to gather public comment.

The public is invited to stop by anytime from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the dates and locations below to view a presentation and visit with BLM specialists. Your written scoping comments will assist BLM in identifying issues and concerns to be considered during the environmental review process.

Date Location Address

Tuesday, March 27 Montrose, Hampton Inn 1980 N. Townsend Avenue

Thursday, March 29 Delta, Delta-Montrose Technical College 1765 Highway 50

Wednesday, April 11 Naturita, Community Center 411 W 2nd Avenue

“Public involvement is essential to our planning process,” said Barb Sharrow, Uncompahgre Field Manager. “Public scoping helps BLM develop a more effective travel plan.”

The UFO proposes to change the existing “Open” designation to “Limited to Existing” for motorized use within the entire field office, excluding the North Delta OHV Open Area as well as designated open areas within the planning boundary of the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area. Additionally, a transportation system of designated roads and trails is being proposed within the Dry Creek area, which is defined by the USDA Forest Service boundary on the west, private land on the east, 25 Mesa Road on the north, and Dave Wood Road on the south. Travel planning in this area addresses all modes of travel including motorized, mechanized, equestrian and hiking routes. The entire planning area encompasses approximately 578,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands located in Delta, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, Mesa, and Gunnison counties.

The BLM Uncompahgre Field Office will accept public scoping comments through April 30, 2007. Planning documents may be reviewed at the Uncompahgre Field Office or on-line at www.co.blm.gov/ubra. For further information or to have your name added to a mailing list, contact Outdoor Recreation Planner Julie Stotler, at (970) 240-5310.

-BLM-

Uncompahgre Field Office Travel Management Plan - Q & As

What is a Travel Management Plan?

A Travel Management Plan (TMP) provides the framework for managing travel on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. This TMP will guide travel on approximately 578,000 acres administered by the Uncompahgre Field Office in Montrose, Gunnison, Delta, Ouray, Mesa, and San Miguel counties.

Why is BLM conducting a Travel Management Plan?

The current land-use planning documents allow “open” or cross-country travel for motorized and mechanized use throughout the entire Field Office, with a few exceptions. The growing popularity and increased use on BLM public lands in this area require that travel designations change. Inappropriate off-route travel and resource damage is endangering public land resources in the Dry Creek Area. Amending travel from open to designated in this area will affect all modes of travel.

What is the Scoping Process?

Scoping is a collaborative public involvement process in which BLM asks the public and other agencies to identify planning issues to be addressed in the planning process. The scoping process began with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on March 7, 2007. Scoping comments will be used in drafting the Proposed Preferred Alternative (PPA) and the TMP. There will be an opportunity for public comment on the PPA, and when the Draft TMP is completed, it will be released for a 30-day public comment period.

What are planning issues and criteria?

Travel planning issues are disputes or controversies about existing and potential travel designations, levels of resource use, determinations of appropriate routes, special designations (i.e. Special Recreation Management Areas or Open Areas), and related management practices.

Scoping also involves the introduction of preliminary planning criteria to the public for comment. Planning criteria guide development of the plan by helping to define the decision space or sideboards of the planning process. The planning criteria will help us develop a reasonable range of alternatives that are tailored to the issues identified in the scoping process by the public and BLM.

How can I comment?

Scoping comments will be most helpful if BLM receives them by April 30, 2007. The public may submit written comments to the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, ATTN: Travel Management, 2465 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; by fax to (970) 240-5368; or by e-mail to cotmpufo@blm.gov. Planning documents may be reviewed at the Uncompahgre Field Office or on-line at www.co.blm.gov/ubra. For further information or to have your name added to a mailing list, contact Outdoor Recreation Planner Julie Stotler, at (970) 240-5310. The mailing list will be used to notify people about the progress of the planning effort as well as additional opportunities for public involvement and comment. The scoping meetings in Montrose, Delta, and Naturita will focus on travel management issues pertaining to lands managed by the Uncompahgre Field Office.

Will my comments be made public?

Public comments received will be available for public review at the Uncompahgre Field Office and on the website. Individuals may request confidentiality with respect to their name, address and phone number by clearly stating in the first line of their comments: "CONFIDENTIALITY REQUESTED."

For Immediate Release: March 19, 2007

Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

BLM conducting pre-plan activities for Gateway area

Grand Junction, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office is gearing up to develop a management plan for public lands it administers in the Gateway area. With the development of the Gateway Canyons Resort, Gateway is becoming a destination point, and public lands are sure to be discovered and explored along the way. The plan will address scenic landscapes; preservation and interpretation important to heritage tourism; energy development; and recreation,

including trails and climbing routes. The plan will cover approximately 198,000 acres of public lands in southwestern Mesa County.

“I’m excited about the opportunity to develop a proactive management plan,” Field Manager Catherine Robertson said. “This management plan will help ensure that BLM is prepared with sustainable recreation opportunities for the Gateway area.”

BLM is presently considering a proposal to develop a 10-mile hiking and mountain bike trail in Lumsden and Gateway Canyons. Management of the area is presently guided by the Grand Junction Resource Area Resource Management Plan. An Environmental Assessment is being developed, with a spring 2007 decision anticipated. If approved, construction on the trail would begin shortly thereafter to help meet the growing demands for recreation opportunities on those public lands near the Town of Gateway. As part of the proposal, Gateway Canyons Resort, who recently adopted The Palisade Wilderness Study Area, would provide a public trailhead and parking on resort grounds.

“This really is a win-win proposal. BLM knows that resort guests will want to explore public lands adjacent to the resort,” Outdoor Recreation Planner Ken Straley said. “It will also provide a great hike-bike opportunity for folks coming from Grand Junction or Delta for the day.”

BLM has much to accomplish prior to the plan’s kick-off. Hundreds of routes exist as a result of the area’s rich mining heritage, and a complete route inventory, important to the planning process, will be conducted this field season. In addition, BLM has partnered with Arizona State University and Mesa State College for the purpose of conducting a recreation study to obtain information on recreation preferences in the Gateway area. Focus groups, and onsite and mail-back visitor surveys will be used to gather information, and because many visitors to the Gateway area stop at the resort, it will provide the best opportunities for visitor contact. BLM encourages those contacted to take a few moments to answer questions from the student surveyors and to mail back their completed survey forms. The research will help BLM better understand the benefits that the public associates with the Gateway area

“It’s a privilege for those of us at Gateway Canyons Resort to work among the spectacular natural resources surrounding the Town of Gateway,” John Williams said. “We realize the impact our presence may bring to the area, and we’re approaching this knowing that the benefits of a management plan can enrich not only our customers’ resort experience but also the lives of many others who visit and live in the area.

The resort is also partnering with the BLM to educate its clientele and staff on responsible outdoor ethics in canyon country. The public scoping comment period for the plan is expected sometime in 2008. For further information, contact Ken Straley at (970) 244-3031.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: March 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, March 22, 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 March 22 meeting include:

- NCA manager updates
- River corridor management
- Rabbit Valley camping

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

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: March 9, 2007

Contact: Jaime Gardner 303-239-3681

or Jim Sample 303-239-3861

BLM May 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, May 10, 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 May lease sale includes 81 parcels covering 53,508 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.co.blm.gov/oilandgas/leasinfo.htm>.

Approximately 34 parcels totaling 14,927 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

In addition, there are 30 parcels totaling 17,023 acres located on U.S. Forest Service jurisdictions in Pawnee and Comanche National Grasslands. None of these parcels are located within Forest Service Roadless Areas.

“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; stipulations also can 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.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: March 9, 2007

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 947-2832

Joe Stout, Kremmling Planning and Environmental Coordinator, (970) 724-3003

Brian Hopkins, Glenwood Springs Community Planner, (970) 947-2840

BLM seeks public input on Glenwood/Kremmling plan revisions
Six open house meetings to be held in April

Glenwood Springs, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public input as it begins revising its Resource Management Plans for the Glenwood and Kremmling field offices.

The Resource Management Plans will provide overall management direction for the next two decades for the 567,000-acre Glenwood Springs Field Office and the 378,000-acre Kremmling Field Office. The revisions are necessary because the demands on these public lands have increased and become more varied since the original plans were completed in 1984. The two RMP revisions are being conducted under a single planning effort and single Environmental Impact Statement.

In this first opportunity for public comment, called “scoping,” BLM is asking the public to help identify issues to be addressed in the plan revisions, as well as offer potential solutions. BLM will use the information it receives during scoping as it prepares the Draft RMP revisions and associated Draft EIS.

“Scoping is a chance for BLM and the public to listen and learn from each other,” said Jamie Connell, Glenwood Springs Field Manager.

BLM is hosting six open house scoping meetings to share information and accept public comment. The public is invited to stop by anytime from 4 to 7 p.m. at the dates and locations below to discuss the revisions with BLM specialists and provide written scoping comments.

Date	Town	Address
April 10	Rifle	Rifle Fire Protection District - Station 1 1850 Railroad Ave.
April 10	Granby	Granby Community Center 129 3rd St.
April 11	Carbondale	Town of Carbondale - Community Room #2 511 Colorado Ave.
April 11	Kremmling	CSU Extention Hall 210 11th Street
April 12	Gypsum	Town Hall - Council Chambers 50 Lundgren Blvd.
April 12	Walden	Wattenburg Center 686 County Road 42

“Public involvement is critical to the success of these planning efforts, and we encourage anyone interested to participate,” said Peter McFadden, acting Kremmling Field Office Manager.

Specifically during this scoping period, BLM is seeking ideas about the uses of these public lands, possible protection measures, and recommendations on special designations such as potential special recreation management areas or areas of critical environmental concern. The public may also comment

on the preliminary planning criteria, which help guide the planning process.

BLM will accept public scoping comments through May 2, 2007. For further information or to have your name added to a mailing list, contact Joe Stout, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (970) 724-3003, or log on to <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo>

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: March 8, 2007

Contact: Mel Lloyd 970-244-3097

Notice of Intent initiated for BLM Travel Management Plan

MONTROSE, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) has kicked off a travel planning effort to amend the Uncompahgre Basin and their portion of the San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plans. A 45-day public scoping comment period is intended to provide information about the project and to gather input from the public in identifying issues and concerns to be considered during the environmental review process, which is anticipated to take about 18 months. Travel Management is becoming an important tool to public land managers as more people make public lands their choice destination.

“The BLM will be working closely with interested publics throughout this planning process, with ample opportunities for everyone’s involvement,” Field Manager Barb Sharrow said. “It’s important that we get the word out now that changes are necessary to protect resources that are seeing increased use.”

The UFO proposes to change the existing “Open” designation to “Limited to Existing” for motorized and mechanized use within the entire field office, excluding the North Delta OHV Open Area as well as designated open areas within the planning boundary of the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area. Additionally, a transportation system of designated roads and trails is being proposed within the Dry Creek area, which is defined by the USDA Forest Service boundary on the west, private land on the east, 25 Mesa Road on the north, and Dave Wood Road on the south. Travel planning in this area addresses all modes of travel including motorized, mechanized, equestrian and hiking routes. The entire planning area encompasses approximately 578,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands located in Delta, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, Mesa, and Gunnison Counties.

“If we don’t act now, the places we enjoy recreating in could be negatively impacted for decades to come,” added Outdoor Recreation Planner Julie Stotler. “The public counts on BLM to protect their public lands for the use of future generations.”

Three open houses are scheduled during the public scoping comment period:

Montrose—Hampton Inn, 3 p.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday, March 27

Delta—Delta-Montrose Technical College (VoTech), 3 p.m.-8 p.m., Thursday, March 29

Naturita—Community Center, 3 p.m.-8 p.m., Wednesday, April 11

The public may also submit written comments to the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, ATTN: Travel Management, 2465 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; by fax to (970) 240-5368; or by

e-mail to cotmpufo@blm.gov. Planning documents may be reviewed at the Uncompahgre Field Office or on-line at www.co.blm.gov/ubra. For additional information, contact Outdoor Recreation Planner Julie Stotler at (970) 240-5310.

-BLM-

Editor's Note: Map of subject areas available upon request.

For Immediate Release: March 7, 2007

Contact: Heather Feeney (202) 452-5031

or Jaime Gardner (303) 589-2795

Final Update of Federal Oil and Gas Regulations Will Improve Energy Development on Public Lands
In a move that will enhance the nation's energy independence and security, the Bureau of Land Management today published final revised regulations governing oil and gas activity on the public lands. The rule published in today's Federal Register updates the set of regulations known as Onshore Oil and Gas Order Number 1. The Order establishes the requirements that companies must meet to obtain approval for oil and gas exploration and development on all Federal and Indian lands (except those of the Osage Tribe).

"Updating Onshore Order Number 1 reflects the BLM's continuing commitment to managing the public lands for multiple uses while also protecting the health and diversity of the resources they hold," said Acting BLM Director Jim Hughes. "The revised Order will advance the goal of the President's National Energy Policy as reaffirmed in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 – developing the abundant energy supplies on public lands in an environmentally sound manner."

The revised Order includes updates required by the Energy Policy Act, the 1987 Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act, legal opinions, court cases, and changes in policy and procedure issued since the Order was last updated in October 1983. Major changes involve procedures for processing Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs), the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in lease development, and regulations and procedures for operating in split estate situations, where privately owned surface overlies Federally owned minerals.

The revised Order contains a clear definition of a "complete" APD package that puts into regulation the definition already commonly used in many BLM Field Offices. It also codifies the current BLM practice requiring a joint onsite inspection by the BLM, the FS (if appropriate), and the operator before an APD is considered complete. In addition, the latest version of the Order ensures that APD processing will occur according to the timeframes contained in Section 366 of the Energy Policy Act.

The Final Rule encourages operators to use environmental Best Management Practices when developing their APDs, as is current BLM policy. The updated Order further clarifies that BMPs may be included as Conditions of Approval in drilling permits. Because a number of conditions, regulations, policies, procedures, and requirements have changed in the 20 years since the last revision, the Final Rule also reorganizes the Order so that permit processing requirements and timeframes are now found in one section.

Regulations and procedures used when operating in split estate situations are also clarified in the Final Rule, which requires operators to make good faith efforts to reach surface access agreements with private surface owners. Where a good faith effort fails and no surface agreement can be reached, the

revised Order provides for the posting of a bond to protect against damages to the surface as allowed in the statute that reserved the mineral rights to the Federal government.

In addition, the Final Rule provides opportunities for private surface owners to participate in onsite inspection meetings. This provision responds to comments gathered from some surface owners during a series of listening sessions on split estate issues, held in four Western cities and Washington D.C. in 2006. The revised Order also clarifies that split estate lands where the surface is in Indian ownership will be subject to the same provisions as situations where the surface is privately owned.

The revised Order also incorporates a 1988 opinion by the Department of Interior Solicitor that on split estate lands, the BLM shall comply with cultural and endangered species regulations in essentially the same way it does when the surface is Federally owned. A more recent Solicitor's opinion, from 2004, allows clarification in the updated rule that the BLM has authority to require additional bonding for off-lease facilities that are necessary to develop a lease, such as impoundments for water produced from coalbed natural gas wells.

The Final Rule as published today was effective April 6, 2007.

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 land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation.

Federal Register Notice

– BLM –

For Immediate Release: March 6, 2007
Contacts: Kent Walter BLM 970-878-3800
or Aaron Grimes BLM 970-878-3801

BLM's White River Field Office to Move

BLM's White River Field Office (WRFO) in Meeker, Colorado, will move to a new location at 220 E. Market Street, Meeker, CO 81641, effective March 12, 2007. Limited public service will be available during the week of March 12, with full services expected to be resumed by March 19th. The WRFO's last day of full service at its old location will be Thursday, March 8.

The U.S. Forest Service office for Blanco Ranger District (BRD) will move to the same new address. Blanco Ranger District expects to offer public service at the new location beginning March 26, 2007. Following the move, both offices will share the same operating hours, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Because of the move, WRFO's phone service will be interrupted starting Friday, March 9th with phone service resuming on Monday, March 12th. Its main phone number will remain the same during and after the move, (970)878-3800. During the 2-3 days of interrupted phone service, callers who need to reach the White River Office are asked to contact the BLM Little Snake Field Office in Craig at

(970)826-5000 and leave a message.

The public is invited to visit the new WRFO office after March 19th. A joint open house reception will be announced at a later date.

Questions about the WRFO BLM move should be directed to Aaron Grimes, Visitor Information Assistant, at (970) 878-3801.

Complete new address and phone numbers:

Bureau of Land Management

White River Field Office

220 E. Market Street

Meeker, CO 81641

Phone (970) 878-3800

FAX (970) 878-3805

www.co.blm.gov/wrra.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: March 5, 2007

Contact: Mel Lloyd 970-244-3097

Volunteers recognized by BLM Grand Junction

Grand Junction, Colo.—A ceremony to recognize outstanding volunteers will be held at the Grand Junction Field Office at noon, today. Volunteers will be honored who have supported the many programs in the Grand Junction Field Office during 2006. These dedicated volunteers have been a key part of the 430 volunteers who contributed 24,495 hours of service, valued at \$444,340, to the Grand Junction Field Office during this past year. This is a significant contribution to the community and our public land resources. Volunteer support allows the BLM to achieve so much more than is capable with staff members alone.

Volunteers greatly enhance the BLM's ability to take care of the public lands. Although there has been a decline nationwide in volunteerism over the past decade, the GJFO has steadily grown its volunteer Corp. "There are many reasons why people volunteer, but two reasons stand out to me," Field Manager Catherine Robertson said. "The first is that the public is realizing more and more that the public lands belong to them, and they need to help take care of them. The other reason sometimes heard by BLM staff is that the recreation users who enjoy the public lands want to give something back!"

The Grand Junction Field Office has had great success recruiting and working with more than 40 partner organizations on a wide array of projects. The partners being recognized for 2006 are the Friends of the Mustangs, Hilltop Experimental Learning Project and "J. Evans & Friends," who have adopted the 27¼ shooting range. A number of individual volunteers who have provided exceptional support to the BLM will also be recognized.

BLM will recognize each volunteer with an appreciation certificate and small gift followed by light refreshments.

-BLM-

Editor's Note: Photos/interview opportunities at noon today at the BLM Grand Junction FO, 2815 H Rd.!

For Immediate Release: March 5, 2007
Contact: Denise Adamic BLM 303-239-3671
or Fran Ackley BLM 719-269-8511

BLM offers Mustangs to good homes at Rocky Mountain Horse Expo

"Gunner" a yearling mustang colt is looking for a good home and the Bureau of Land Management hopes to find him one through its free drawing on March 11 at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in Denver. The colt, a rare grulla (mouse colored) was born on the Wyoming range last spring. He has been weaned and gentled at the Colorado Wild Horse Inmate Program (WHIP) in Canon City, CO.

"Gunner has quite the personality and is nothing short of likable," said Fran Ackley, Program Lead for the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program in Colorado. "He has been in training from the beginning and is very personable as a result."

Those interested in participating in the drawing for Gunner must be approved adopters and can do so by filling out an adoption application prior to entering the drawing. Adoption qualifications and applications can be found at www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov. Drawing entries will be accepted at the BLM booth in the Horse Barn on March 9, 10 and until 11:30 a.m. on March 11. The drawing takes place March 11 at noon and the winner must be present to win. The winner can take Gunner home that day or arrange to pick him up on March 16 either in Wheatland, WY or in Canon City, CO.

Gunner won't be the only horse looking for a new family at the Expo. The BLM will also offer four mustangs for adoption. Two of the horses were saddled trained at the WHIP in Canon City, and the third horse was saddle trained by BLM horse trainer Steve Mantle. A rare, gentled curly-haired mustang will also be offered for adoption, and all of these mustangs can be found near the BLM booth in the Horse Barn at the Expo.

The Rocky Mountain Horse Expo takes place at the National Western Complex in Denver, located just off of I-70 east of Denver. The BLM will have an information booth in the Horse Barn where Gunner will also be located.

"The BLM Wild Horse and Burro program has been participating in the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo for nearly 10 years," said Ackley. "We like participating in the Expo because it is a strictly horse-focused event, and is usually well attended by a great variety of horse enthusiasts."

For more information about this event, other opportunities to adopt a wild horse or burro and to see photos of the mustangs available for adoption go to www.cijvp.com or call 719.269.8539.

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