

**For Immediate Release: September 28, 2007**  
**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**  
**Tim Foley UCR 970-244-3101**

### **Fire restrictions lifted for McInnis Canyons NCA**

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — Fire restrictions will be lifted tonight for all public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and located within the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA). The termination order is effective at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, September 29, 2007. Restrictions for all other public lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office were lifted about a month ago. Fire restrictions within the Colorado National Monument are permanent.

The decision to lift fire restrictions is based on a combination of evaluating moisture content of fuels such as sage brush, oak brush, pinyon-juniper and the weather service long-range forecast.

The public is always encouraged to use caution with fire. Some pockets of public lands have received less moisture, and the potential for fire can always exist in our arid desert climate. Call (970) 244-3000, or go to [http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2gjc](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc) for information on BLM fire restrictions.

**-BLM-**

**For Immediate Release on September 28, 2007**  
**Contact Mel Lloyd: (970) 244-3097**

### **Volunteers needed to help restore local public lands**

Montrose, Colo. – Join the Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office this year to celebrate National Public Lands Day! The event, which is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Saturday, October 6, 2007, gives everyone a chance to give back to the very lands they use for hiking, biking, four-wheeling, exploring, picnicking or just plain relaxing. This year volunteers are working with BLM to clean up a heavily used access point to public lands located off Highway 90, southwest of Montrose about 20 minutes.

“This is an area that has historically been used as a convenient and easy dumping area,” Field Manager Barb Sharrow said. “We’re trying to change this kind of illegal behavior on public lands, and these volunteers are helping us by removing the trash and debris, and restoring the area. They deserve a lot of recognition for sacrificing their Saturday to come out and clean up trash left behind by others.”

Volunteer crews will meet Saturday morning at the Montrose Public Lands Center, 2465 S. Townsend Ave. Members from three local clubs, the Western Slope 4 Wheelers, Thunder Mountain Wheelers, and the Uncompahgre Valley Trail Riders, are signed up to help. Join these and other volunteers by calling Ryan Mathis at (970) 240-5387 to register. For those planning to volunteer, wear eye protection, durable work clothes, gloves and a hat, and bring plenty of water, snacks, rain gear and sunscreen. Because it is hunting season, some “hunter orange” vests will be available for use, but if you have one, please bring that to wear as well. Lunch will be provided after project work is completed.

Dumping on public lands is a common problem, and BLM is constantly faced with properly disposing of everything from household trash to hazardous materials. Those who abuse your public lands need to

learn that it's not okay—ultimately, all of us pay through increased taxes. Those who witness any suspicious activity on public lands are encouraged to contact the local BLM field office at (970) 240-5300, or call 911.

**-BLM-**

**REVISED VERSION: For Immediate Release at 3:45 p.m., on September 28, 2007**  
**Contact: Mel Lloyd: (970) 244-3097**

### **BLM Grand Junction Accepting Comments on 27 Special Recreation Permits**

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office is accepting public comment on 27 Special Recreation Permit (SRP) applications through October 31, 2007. Four of these applications are new proposals, and all 27 SRP applications are available for review at 2815 H Road in Grand Junction. The BLM requires SRPs for commercial activities, as well as for competitive and organized group events on BLM public lands. The BLM uses a permit system as an essential tool to ensure sustainable and diverse recreational opportunities for all visitors.

“We are seeking comments from the public on such issues as compliance history, potential conflicts with other users, and health and safety,” SRP Administrator Mike Jones said. “Comments can also help us determine whether these SRPs effectively support Bureau objectives in recreation management and resource protection.”

SRPs support management objectives and are used for managing the economic aspects of recreation. Supporting local economies and providing quality recreation experiences for the public by making public lands available for these activities is integral to BLM’s management objectives. Not only does the BLM collect “fair value” on behalf of the public when any of these types of activities take place on public lands, but the Bureau also manages commercial recreation to protect the natural resources that make recreation on public lands desirable.

For more information on these SRP applications, or to find out whether or not your activity on public lands requires an SRP, contact Mike Jones at (970) 244-3044 or [mike\\_d\\_jones@blm.gov](mailto:mike_d_jones@blm.gov).

**-BLM-**

[Click here for a list of SRPs](#)

For Immediate Release: September 26, 2007  
Contact: Denise Adamic, BLM 303-239-3671  
Kevin Flynn, BLM 202-452-0306  
Janelle Smith, USFS 303-275-5359

### **Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service Commemorate 10th Anniversary of Abandoned Mine Cleanup Program**

SILVERTON, Colo. Sept. 26, 2007 — The Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service

today carried out commemorative activities to recognize 10 years of progress in cleaning up abandoned mines on Federal lands.

In Silverton, Colorado, BLM and Forest Service officials joined representatives of community groups, local and state governments, and other Federal agencies to mark the 10th anniversary of pilot projects launched in the Upper Animas River watershed in Colorado and the Boulder River watershed in Montana. Activities included a review of accomplishments, tours of cleanup sites, and a look at technical advances for future efforts.

“The historic mining of hardrock minerals such as gold, lead, copper, silver, and uranium was a powerful incentive for exploration and settlement of the American West,” said Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell. “Mineral development often provided the economic base on which many remote communities were established. But when ore bodies were mined out and miners left to find other new deposits, they often left behind a legacy of abandoned mines, safety hazards, and contaminated land and water.”

“Cleaning up these sites is an ambitious goal, and we can’t do it alone,” said BLM Director Jim Caswell. “If we’re going to continue our progress, we’ll need public support and cooperation from local landowners. We’ll also need strong partnerships with state and local agencies, the mining industry, and local volunteer groups, such as the Animas River Watershed Group. Today we take note of what we’ve accomplished together over the last 10 years, and we look forward to further progress in the years ahead.”

In the mid-1990s, recognizing the threats to water quality and public health, the BLM and Forest Service – as well as other Federal agencies (including the U.S Geological Survey and Environmental Protection Agency) – developed a watershed-based approach for cleaning up abandoned mines. Since that time, with the support of state agencies and local watershed groups, along with funding by Congress, the BLM and Forest Service have cleaned up hundreds of mine sites and eliminated thousands of safety hazards at abandoned mines. A publication describing those accomplishments, titled *Abandoned Mine Lands, A Decade of Progress Reclaiming Hardrock Mines*, plus additional information about the Silverton event can be accessed at [www.blm.gov/aml](http://www.blm.gov/aml) and [www.fs.fed.us/geology/aml-index.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/geology/aml-index.htm). Silverton was chosen for the location of the commemorative event because it is in the Animas River watershed, site of one of the first watershed-based abandoned mine cleanups in the West.

Abandoned Mine Program Leaders George Stone (BLM) and Tom Buchta (Forest Service) point out that some 47,000 abandoned mine sites have been identified on more than 450 million acres of Federal land managed by the BLM and the Forest Service. About 20 percent to 30 percent of these mines have dangerous human safety hazards, such as open mine shafts and adits (mine passages), as well as explosives and toxic chemicals. As many as 10 percent may be causing damage to soil and water resources by releasing heavy metals, acidity, and radioactivity from underground and open pit mines, waste rock, and mill tailings facilities.

The BLM is an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior; the Forest Service is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**-BLM-**

**For Immediate Release: September 24, 2007**

**Contact:Melodie Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097  
Denise Adamic BLM 303-239-3671**

### **BLM's National Public Lands Day Event a Success**

Grand Junction — Over the low hum of I-70, the tink-tink-tink of shovels and pulaskis could be heard Saturday and Sunday on the Trail through Time where over 80 volunteers chipped in to celebrate National Public Lands Day (NPLD). NPLD is a nationwide effort to raise attention and environmental awareness about the country's various public lands.

The Bureau of Land Management, the Museum of Western Colorado, Williams Energy, Friends of McInnis Canyons, and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) sponsored the two-day event. Volunteers from across the state arrived Friday evening and spent the weekend camping out, getting to know their fellow volunteers and enjoying the early fall weather.

“We had a great weekend,” said Matt McGrath, Recreation Planner, McInnis Canyons NCA. “With everyone's hard work we completed almost a half mile of new trail, where we rerouted the original trail, and rehabbed the rest of the one-and-a-half-mile loop.”

VOC provided food, tools and trail construction and rehab guidance. Paleontologists from the Museum of Western Colorado visited with trail crews about the area's 140 million year old history. The Trail through Time, in Rabbit Valley, is the southeastern tip of the Dinosaur Diamond, which extends southwest to Moab, Utah; north to Vernal, Utah; and west to Price, Utah. The Rabbit Valley area is filled with fossilized dinosaur and plant material.

Last year, VOC and BLM worked together on another NPLD event on Rabbit's Ear Mesa. The project turned a three-mile trail into a seven-mile loop. BLM looks forward to continuing the NPLD tradition with VOC next year and has already applied to host a 2008 VOC project on Mack Ridge.

“It's not too late to help on your public lands,” said McGrath. “The BLM has several more volunteer projects going on this fall and we can always use an extra hand.”

For more information about this and other volunteer opportunities in the Grand Junction area contact Matt McGrath at the Grand Junction BLM Office at 970-244-3029 or [Matthew\\_McGrath@blm.gov](mailto:Matthew_McGrath@blm.gov) To learn more about VOC visit [www.voc.org](http://www.voc.org)

Editor's Note: Photos may be obtained from Melodie Lloyd (970-244-3097) or Matt McGrath (970-244-3029).

**-BLM-**

**For Immediate Release:September 24, 2007  
Contact: Jaime Gardner, 303-589-2795**

### **Secretary Kempthorne Announces New Appointments to BLM Resource Advisory Councils**

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced today the appointment of 15 new members to Colorado's three citizen-based Resource Advisory Councils (RACs), which advise the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues.

“The BLM's Resource Advisory Councils are excellent examples of a collaborative approach to public

land management and conservation,” said Secretary Kempthorne. “I welcome our new RAC members, commend them for their willingness to serve, and look forward to their counsel as we work together to improve the health and productivity of the public lands.”

The BLM’s RACs, composed of citizens chosen for their expertise in natural resource issues, help the Bureau carry out its stewardship of 258 million acres of public lands. The Bureau, which manages more land than any other Federal agency, has 24 RACs across the West, where most BLM-managed land is located. Each RAC consists of 12 to 15 members with an interest in public land management, such as ranchers, conservationists, outdoor recreationists, Tribal officials, state and local government officials, academics, and others.

BLM Director Jim Caswell said, “RAC members come from a variety of backgrounds and bring a wide range of perspectives to each of our councils. This diversity results in a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to manage the public lands for multiple uses.” The BLM, an agency of the Department of the Interior, is responsible for managing these various uses – such as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production – while conserving the land’s natural, historical, and cultural resources.

Below are the newly appointed members of Colorado RACs, and the interests they represent. Information about upcoming RAC meetings will be announced as soon as it becomes available.

Front Range RAC:

James Coleman Reappointment, Federal Grazing Permittee  
Donna Murphy Reappointment, Environmental Interests  
Frank Yaeger Reappointment, Dispersed Recreation  
Louis McKay New member, Elected Official  
Michael Bush Reappointment, Public-at-Large

Northwest RAC:

T. Wright Dickinson Reappointment, Federal Grazing Permittee  
Pat Kennedy Reappointment, Dispersed Recreation  
Michael Perry New member, Archaeological/Historical Interests  
Jeff Comstock Reappointment, Public-at-Large  
Landel Weddle New member, Elected Official

Southwest RAC:

James Young New member, Federal Grazing Permittee  
Jevin R. Croteau New member, Energy/Minerals  
Andrea Robinsong Reappointment, Environmental Interests  
Alan Staehle Reappointment, Public-at-Large  
William M. Ela New member, Public-at-Large

**-BLM-**

**For Immediate Release: September 24, 2007**

**Contact: Jaime Gardner, 303-239-3681**

## BLM Opens Ridge Trail on Emerald Mountain

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is pleased to announce that Phase 1 of the Ridge Trail is open for recreational use. The Ridge trail is located in the newly acquired Emerald Mountain Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) near Steamboat Springs.

Ridge Trail will provide opportunities for strenuous, challenging mountain biking, Nordic skiing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and other recreational activities. Development of the Ridge trail is a part of the implementation of BLM's Recreation Area Management Plan for Emerald Mountain which was approved on June 15, 2007.

"We are pleased to open this trail as part of our first step in the management of Emerald Mountain. This effort was shared with our partners and we have had nothing but a positive and productive relationship" said John Husband, Field Manager of the BLM Little Snake Field Office in Craig. "We ask all users to enjoy this great opportunity and respect the resources and others that might be using this newly developed trail."

Design of the Ridge Trail has been a joint effort between the Bureau of Land Management, City of Steamboat Springs Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services Department, Emerald Mountain Partnership, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and Routt County Riders.

Driving access to Ridge Trail is located approximately 1.1 miles on Cow Creek Road (County Road 45) off of County Road 33, or by non-motorized access on the Blackmere Drive Trail, located approximately 3 miles from the Ridge Trail trailhead.

The area is open to day use and non-motorized vehicle use with no overnight camping allowed. Zone 2 is closed to mechanized travel.

Pedestrian gates are located at the Ridge Trail trailhead and at the south end of Cow Creek Road to the Emerald Mountain SRMA.

For more information, please contact Gina Robison, BLM, at 970-826-5083.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: September 20, 2007**

**Contact: Heather Feeney 202-452-5031**

**Sharon Kipping 202-452-7753**

**Denise Adamic 303-239-3671**

### **Nominations Open for Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board**

The Bureau of Land Management is requesting public nominations to fill three vacancies on the national Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. The categories to be filled represent Wild Horse and Burro Advocacy, Veterinarian Medicine and General Public Interest. The Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advises federal managers for the BLM (an agency of the Interior Department) and the Forest Service (an agency of the Department of Agriculture) on the management, protection, and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands administered by those agencies.

The nine members on the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board represent a balance of interests. Each member has knowledge or special expertise that qualifies him or her to provide advice in the following categories: wild horse and burro advocacy, wild horse and burro research, veterinarian medicine,

natural resources management, humane advocacy, wildlife management, livestock management, and the general public interest. Members must also have demonstrated the ability to analyze and interpret data and information, evaluate programs, identify problems, work with collaboration to seek solutions, and formulate and recommend corrective actions.

Advisory Board members serve three-year terms, on a staggered-term basis, with one-third of the Advisory Board subject to appointment each year.

Any individual or organization may nominate one or more persons to serve on the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. Individuals may also nominate themselves. In accordance with Section 7 of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, federal and state government employees are not eligible to serve on the Board.

The Board meets at least two times a year and the BLM Director may call additional meetings when necessary. Members serve without salary, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses according to government travel regulations.

The BLM is accepting nomination letters plus resumes that include the nominee's name, address, profession, relevant biographic data, references, endorsements, specific category of interest, and explanation of qualification to represent their designated constituency or category of interest. Nominations should be sent to the National Wild Horse and Burro Program, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520-0006, and Attn: Ramona Delorme; Phone 775 861-6583 or fax 775 861-6618. All nomination letters should be submitted by November 1, 2007.

The 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act mandates the protection, management, and control of wild horses and burros to ensure a healthy, viable, free-roaming herd population within the limits of available public land resources. The Act authorizes the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service to manage wild horses and burros that roam public lands in the West. The agencies gather excess animals and offer them to the general public for adoption.

The BLM 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 BLM, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, 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 BLM of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

**-BLM-**

**For Immediate Release: September 19, 2007**  
**Contact: Denise Adamic BLM 303-239-3671**  
**Kevin Flynn BLM 202-452-0363**

**News Advisory: Ten-Year Anniversary Event for BLM and Forest Service Abandoned Mine Lands Programs**

WHAT: The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are hosting an event to highlight successes in reclamation of abandoned mine lands on Federal public lands over the past decade.

WHEN: 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 26, 2007

WHERE: Kendall Mountain Community Center, 14th and Animas Streets, Silverton, Colorado

BACKGROUND: The Bureau of Land Management, an agency of the Interior Department, and the Forest Service, an agency of the Agriculture Department, are marking the 10th anniversary of the development of pilot projects to reclaim streams and sites affected by abandoned mines. These projects have resulted in removing physical and environmental hazards on public lands in the Western United States. In the Animas River watershed of San Juan County, Colorado, for example, partners have completed more than 50 cleanup projects for a fraction of the cost of a typical Superfund mining cleanup.

REGISTRATION: Ali Morse at [morseali@yahoo.com](mailto:morseali@yahoo.com) or 970-903-1701. For more information on the event or to find out about accommodations, please visit: <http://www.silvertoncolorado.com/index.asp?DocumnetID=174>

**-BLM-**

For Immediate Release: September 19, 2007

Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

### **Meeting postponed**

Grand Junction, Colo. — The McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA) Advisory Council meeting scheduled for this Thursday, September 20, has been postponed pending final approval of the Council Charter in Washington, DC.

A new meeting date will then be announced. For additional information, please contact Paul Peck at (970) 244-3049.

**-BLM-**

For Immediate Release: September 18, 2007

Contact: Arden Anderson BLM 970-642-4454

Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

### **BLM hosts project at Hartman Rocks to celebrate National Public Lands Day**

GUNNISON, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management Gunnison Field Office will host a National Public Lands Day project at Hartman Rocks on Saturday, September 29. This annual workday is not only part of a national event to recognize the important role that public lands play in our lives, but it also gives the public an opportunity to assist in the care of their public lands. These lands belong to everyone—your help is needed to take care of them!

The project will be focused on improving and rerouting single-track trails at Hartman Rocks. This heavily used recreation area, located southwest of Gunnison, is popular with mountain bikers, motorcyclists, hikers, rock climbers and many others. Volunteers should meet at the Base Area for Hartman's at 9 a.m., on Saturday, September 29. From there we will orient volunteers and then carpool

to the work area. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants and sturdy footwear that will keep them safe while doing trail work. In addition they should bring work gloves if possible, water, sunscreen and a jacket or raingear in case the weather gets stormy. The BLM will provide supervision, tools, lunch and t-shirts for the participants. Volunteers can expect to be off the trail by mid-afternoon. For further information, contact Arden Anderson at (970) 642-4454 or go to <http://www.publiclandsday.org/involved/colorado.htm>. We hope you can join us!

**-BLM-**

For Immediate Release: September 14, 2007  
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

### **Southwest Resource Advisory Council to meet**

RIDGWAY, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management’s Southwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet Friday, September 21, at the Ouray County 4-H Event Center, located at 22739 Highway 550 in Ridgway.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to adjourn at 4 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, with a public comment period scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Agenda topics include:

- Field manager updates
- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan
- Uncompahgre Field Office Travel Management Plan
- Dolores River Wild & Scenic River Inventory
- Current Oil and Gas Activity
- Healthy Lands Initiative Update

The Southwest RAC is one of three advisory councils to BLM Colorado. Composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, individuals serving in each RAC represent a broad range of public land interests, ranging from environmental to local government to commercial activity. For more information on Colorado RACs, go to [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Resources/racs.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Resources/racs.html).

**-BLM-**

For Immediate Release: September 12, 2007  
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

### **Good homes sought for Little Book Cliffs wild horses**

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.—Following a wild horse gather on the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management, about 50 of those horses will be available for adoption on Saturday, September 22, at the Mesa County Sheriff’s Posse Grounds located at 25 and F½ Roads in Grand Junction. No burros will be available for adoption as previously promoted.

Minimum adoption fee is \$125 per animal, and bidding is from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Horses may be viewed from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Friday evening, September 21, at the same location. Applicants must be

at least 18 years old and provide adopted animals with a corral at least 400 sq. ft. (20 x 20) in size with 6 ft. high fences constructed of pole, pipe or plank, as well as a shelter for protection from severe weather. Individuals interested in adopting a horse should contact the BLM to initiate the adoption procedure and ensure their holding facilities meet BLM requirements.

The Friends of the Mustangs, who are BLM volunteers, are holding an exhibition at the Sheriff's Posse Grounds during Friday night's viewing. Riders will demonstrate the potential of wild horses, as well as Parelli Natural Horsemanship Techniques.

The public should note that gather activities in the coming days will impact access to the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range. Access to all areas of the range will be temporarily closed from 12:01 a.m., Saturday, September 15 through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, September 20.

The BLM manages the Little Book Cliffs herd to ensure a balance between horse numbers and rangeland health guided by the established Appropriate Management Level, or the number of horses that can thrive on the range while maintaining healthy forage. Rangeland health is determined by vegetative monitoring studies, and the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range can sustain a healthy herd of up to 150 horses. For further information about BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program, go to [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov) and select "Wild Horses & Burros" under "Programs." For local information, contact Jim Dollerschell, BLM rangeland management specialist, at (970) 244-3016.

**-BLM-**

For Immediate Release: September 11, 2007  
Contact: Jaime Gardner 303-239-3681  
Jack Placchi 303-239-3832

### **BLM Announces Statewide Special Recreation Permit Application Fee**

The Bureau of Land Management has announced that a consistent statewide application fee will be implemented for all Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) the agency issues. BLM Colorado manages over 800 SRPs annually. Through commercially permitted services, BLM provides a variety of recreation opportunities, including: big game hunting, fishing, float boating, hiking, biking, horse and jeep tours, hot air ballooning, and paragliding, among others. BLM also provides opportunities for organized group activities such as jamborees and weddings, and special events such as fund raisers, races, and endurance rides.

Special Recreation Permits are required for a variety of recreation activities on public land, including commercial activities, competitive events, certain organized group activities, and in some designated special areas. All new permits will be subject to a non-refundable \$100 application and transfer fee, or \$50 for renewal of a permit, following the public comment period which ends on November 13, 2007. There will be no fee for annual operating authorizations, and this fee does not affect commercial annual use fees, which remain at 3 percent of gross revenue, or \$90, whichever is greater.

"This fee will put dollars spent on processing permits back into field offices for on the ground work such as law enforcement, seasonal employees, or site improvements," says BLM State Director Sally Wisely.

The public, and private outfitters, will benefit from the fee through increased law enforcement capabilities, additional funds for signing and interpretive education, and a greater presence by BLM staff in the field to control illegal operations on public lands. The average cost to existing permit holders will be \$10 per year, since most permits are renewed every five years.

A Supplementary Rule was published in the Federal Register on September 10, 2007, detailing these administrative changes. These changes are authorized under the Federal Land Management and Policy Act.

The Bureau of Land Management oversees 8.3 million acres of public land and 27 million acres of federal subsurface mineral estate in Colorado.

**-BLM**

For Immediate Release: September 11, 2007  
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

### **Public scoping begins on Whirlwind Mine proposal**

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.— The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) has opened the public scoping review process for a proposed uranium mine operation on public lands located west of Gateway, Colorado. Energy Fuels Resources, with its U.S. headquarters in Lakewood, Colorado, has submitted a proposal to reopen two reclaimed underground mines, the Urantah Decline and Packrat Mine. The mines, located on unpatented claims in both Mesa County, Colorado, and Grand County, Utah, would be combined into one operation called the Whirlwind Mine.

“By law, the operator is currently allowed to conduct underground bulk sampling within the existing mine features,” said David Lehmann, supervisory minerals lead for the BLM. “The BLM has determined, however, that an environmental assessment is required before ore extraction at the proposed Whirlwind Mine could begin full-scale production.”

An environmental assessment (EA) is in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of the required NEPA process, public involvement is an essential component. The public is encouraged to participate by being involved with project scoping and by providing their written comments concerning the project. The public should plan to attend a public scoping meeting, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., on Friday, September 28, at the Gateway Community Center, in Gateway. The mine Plan of Operations has been made available for public review at the GJFO, and the permit application required by the Division of Reclamation, Minerals & Safety for the project has been filed with the Mesa County Recorder’s Office. Informational materials on the proposed project are available for mailing to all interested parties. These materials will soon be available for review online at the GJFO web site at <http://www.co.blm.gov/gjra/gjra.html>. BLM’s decision on the proposed project is anticipated in first quarter 2008.

Written comments may be submitted at the public scoping meeting or may be mailed to BLM, attn: Karmen King, c/o Gault Group Inc., 36 W. Main Street, Cortez, Colorado 81321. The public may also e-mail comments to [kking@aquatox.us](mailto:kking@aquatox.us). Public comments, which will be considered by the BLM as part of the EA process, need to be received by October 14, 2007. For further information, please contact BLM’s David Lehmann at (970) 244-3021 or Scott Gerwe at (970) 244-3077. To be added to

the project mailing list, please contact Karmen King at (970) 565-1222.

**-BLM-**

**For Immediate Release: September 10, 2007**

**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

Media Advisory: Wild horse gather scheduled for Little Book Cliffs

**WHAT:** A media day has been scheduled to allow for interview and photo opportunities, as the Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office begins to remove approximately 75 horses from the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range.

**WHEN:** 6:15 a.m. – 12 p.m., Saturday, September 15, 2007. Contact Mel Lloyd by COB September 12 to reserve your slot and obtain details. Access to the area will be temporarily closed September 15 – 20.

**WHERE:** Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range, located north of Grand Junction.

**BACKGROUND:** The BLM manages the Little Book Cliffs herd to ensure a balance between horse numbers and rangeland health guided by the established Appropriate Management Level, or the number of horses that can thrive on the range while maintaining a healthy plant community. Rangeland health is determined by vegetative monitoring studies. An increase in horse numbers has created the need for this gather to ensure adequate forage for sustaining a healthy herd of up to 150 horses.

**-BLM-**

**For Immediate Release: September 7, 2007**

**Contact: Jaime Gardner 303-589-2795**

**Denise Adamic 303-239-3671**

BLM November 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, November 8, 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 November lease sale includes 177 parcels covering 189,733 acres, including 84 parcels involving split-estate lands, where a private entity owns the surface rights and the federal government owns the subsurface mineral rights.

“While energy development on Colorado’s federal lands continue to play an important role 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 of the parcel being protested and must be received by the BLM either by mail, hand delivery, or fax by 4:00 p.m. on October 24, 2007 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 protests are resolved.

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. BLM Colorado holds oil and gas lease sales on the second Thursday of February, May, August, and November. 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.

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. 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.

The BLM manages over 8.3 million acres of public lands in Colorado. These lands are managed for a multitude of uses including recreation, mining, wildlife habitat and livestock grazing. The BLM oversees more than 27 million subsurface acres for mineral development in the state.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: September 6, 2007**  
**Contact: Melodie Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**  
**Denise Adamic BLM 303-239-3671**

BLM Hosts National Public Lands Day Event at the Trail Through Time

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – This National Public Lands Day you can join the Bureau of Land Management, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and Williams Production in restoring the Trail Through Time September 15 and 16 - volunteers are needed!

The Grand Junction BLM office will celebrate this year’s festivities by preserving the Trail Through Time in Rabbit Valley where fossilized dinosaur bones and prehistoric plants can be found. This event is sure to be memorable for rock hounds, dinosaur fans, and the whole family.

“National Public Lands Day helps educate Americans about environmental and natural resource issues,” said Matt McGrath, outdoor recreation planner for McInnis Canyons. “National Public Lands Day is also a great way to build relationships between communities, natural resource managers and the people who enjoy these areas.”

National Public Lands Day is the largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. In 2006, over 100,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants from public lands across the country. Estimates suggest that each 100,000 volunteers who participate in NPLD represent an additional \$1.8 million worth of labor for American lands.

Volunteers who participate in an NPLD earn a free one-day pass redeemable at public land sites managed by the BLM, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“If you plan to volunteer, wear durable work clothes, gloves and a hat, and bring plenty of water, snacks and sunscreen,” said McGrath. “We’re in for a fun day of fulfilling work!”

Visit [voutdoors.org](http://voutdoors.org) and enter the keyword “McInnis” to get more information about the Trail Through Time project and to register. Contact Matt McGrath at (970) 244-3029 for additional information.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: September 6, 2007**

**Contact: Mel Lloyd 970-244-3097**

#### Volunteers needed for single-track trail project

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management is partnering with the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition Foundation (COHVCO Foundation) and Bicycle Colorado in seeking approximately 25 volunteers for Saturday-Sunday, September 22-23, 2007. Help is needed for one or both days in designing and laying out 27 miles of single-track trail. Volunteers from the motorized, mountain biking and hiking user groups are sought. The project, located in UnawEEP Canyon off Snyder Flats Road in the Bangs Canyon Recreation Area south of Whitewater, is situated in spectacular country noted for its salmon-colored slick rock cliffs and dense juniper forests. This new shared-use trail system will be managed by BLM for use by mountain bike, hiking and motorcycle enthusiasts.

“This project begins to implement the vision that the public embraced during the planning process for the Bangs Canyon area,” said Field Manager Catherine Robertson. “It’s a community-based initiative bringing those who use public lands together to make things happen on-the-ground.”

Volunteers will assemble into five teams of three to five people for the weekend-long project. Each team will flag a section of trail using GPS technology, following design criteria and trail management objectives developed in the 2006 Bangs Canyon Implementation Environmental Assessment. The goal is to have teams composed of motorcyclists, mountain bikers and GPS technicians, but members of other user groups are welcome to sign up as well. To ensure public safety during the fall season, the work weekend has been scheduled to avoid hunting season.

Join in this unique experience, or get additional information, by contacting Pat Kennedy at (970) 241-9737, Roy Joseph at (970) 241-6250 or Jim Cooper at (970) 244-3047. Volunteers may also get more information about the project and register by visiting <http://voutdoors.org/> and entering the keywords "Bangs Canyon."

-BLM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 5, 2007**

### Anniversary Celebration Planned Abandoned Mine Lands Program

The public is invited to attend a two-day celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service Abandoned Mine Lands Program in Silverton, Colorado. The event will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, September 26 and 27, 2007, at the Kendall Mountain Community Center.

The Abandoned Mine Lands Program is a multi-agency effort funded by Congress to accomplish reclamation of abandoned mines and affected watersheds on public lands through partnerships between federal and state agencies, local communities, and organizations.

Wednesday's agenda includes discussions by federal and state agencies, the Animas River Stakeholders Group, and San Juan County Historical Society. Other topics covered on Wednesday include technical advances in mine reclamation, highlights of other similar programs, and a tour of the Lackawanna Mill. The evening barbeque dinner and award ceremony will feature entertainment by the Silverton Brass Band. Thursday's agenda focuses on tours of reclaimed sites, including the Brooklyn Mine, May Day dump, Elk Tunnel, Gladstone, Eureka, Animas Forks, as well as the Lark, Joe and John, and Forest Queen mines.

The event is free of charge to the first 100 people to register. For more information, or to register, call or email Ali Morse at 970-903-1701 or [morseali@yahoo.com](mailto:morseali@yahoo.com).

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: September 5, 2007**

**Contact: Heather Feeney BLM 202-452-5031**

**Jim Sample BLM 303-239-3861**

### BLM Updates Mineral Cost-Recovery Fee Schedule

The Bureau of Land Management published final regulations today regarding the adjustment of fees charged to recover costs for processing documents related to mineral operations on public lands. The fees, which are being adjusted to account for inflation, cover costs for such actions as lease applications, certain exploration permits, name changes, and corporate mergers, as well as lease consolidations, transfers, and reinstatements. Consistent with the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the fees do not cover Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs) or Geothermal Permits to Drill.

"These fees support a fair return to the American taxpayer by helping the BLM cover its costs for doing

business,” said Mike Nedd, the BLM’s Assistant Director for Minerals, Realty, and Resource Protection.

The BLM implemented a broader cost-recovery fee schedule for mineral program activities with a November 2005 rulemaking. The 2005 rule states that fixed fees for document processing will be evaluated each year and updated as necessary to account for inflation, using a mathematical formula by which businesses nationwide commonly adjust charges for services. The agency aims to implement the updated fee schedule at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2008, which starts on October 1, 2007. The fees will continue to be evaluated annually. A full schedule of mineral program fees is available online at: [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/oil\\_and\\_gas/lease\\_fees.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/oil_and_gas/lease_fees.html)

The BLM is authorized to charge cost-recovery fees under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Independent Offices Appropriations Act of 1952. The President’s Office of Management and Budget has also directed Federal agencies to recover their costs for services that benefit identifiable recipients beyond the public at large. In addition, the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General found that the BLM needed to do more to recover its document-processing costs. The BLM charges fees to recover costs in a number of other programs, including outdoor recreation and rights-of-way.

The BLM 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 BLM, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The Bureau’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. The BLM accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: September 4, 2007**

**Contact: Tom Gorey BLM 202- 452-5137**

**Denise Adamic BLM 303-239-3671**

### BLM Announces Purchases of Western Land Parcels with High Conservation Values

The Bureau of Land Management announced today that it and three other Federal land-management agencies are in the process of acquiring 19 parcels of land in seven Western states with \$18 million from a special land conservation fund.

The fund, established by Congress under a law passed in 2000, authorizes the purchase of private “inholdings” from willing sellers in the Western states whose acreage is surrounded by or located next to certain lands under the management of the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

“The \$18 million to be used for these land purchases will bring into public ownership 19 properties with extraordinary natural, scenic, recreational, or historical values,” said Deputy Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett. “These purchases promote conservation while helping ensure efficient and effective public lands management.”

The already completed or pending land purchases, the first of their kind to occur under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) of 2000, are funded from already completed Federal land sales. Under this law, the BLM is authorized to sell fragmented or isolated parcels of public land that are difficult to manage, as well as lands that may have residential or commercial value, and then use the proceeds to support land-conservation purposes.

“The benefits of this sale-authority law are clear,” said Scarlett, who noted that FLTFA is set to expire in 2010. “I urge Congress to support this Administration’s proposal to extend the law from 2010 to 2018 so that more Americans may benefit from these type of land acquisitions.”

Of the 19 land parcels already or to be purchased, which comprise about 9,000 acres, the BLM would be acquiring 10 parcels covering 3,200 acres at a combined cost of about \$10 million. The Forest Service, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service would be buying the other nine parcels, which comprise 5,800 acres, at a combined cost of about \$8 million. The properties already or to be purchased by the BLM include parcels located next to or within such areas as the North Platte River Special Recreation Management Area in Wyoming; the La Cienega Area of Critical Environmental Concern/El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail in New Mexico; the Idaho Snake River Area of Critical Environmental Concern; and the Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard Area of Critical Environmental Concern in California.

The 15 other parcels to be acquired are located within National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, National Monuments, National Wild and Scenic River corridors, National Historic Trail corridors, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. In addition to those specific areas noted above in California, New Mexico, and Wyoming, the remaining 15 properties are located in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, and Oregon. All of the remaining parcels to be purchased are at various stages of negotiation with private landowners, and, because of privacy concerns, cannot be further identified until the acquisitions have been completed.

The BLM, National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service are part of the U.S. Department of the Interior; the Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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