

For Immediate Release July 29, 2008
Contact: Steven Hall, 303-239-3672

BLM awards Anvil Points clean-up contract

LAKESWOOD—The Bureau of Land Management has awarded a \$15,443,003.70 contract for the clean-up of the Anvil Points site, part of the Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 and 3, also known as the Roan Plateau. North Wind Inc. of Idaho Falls was awarded the contract.

The \$15.4 million contract will fund clean-up and safe storage of a spent oil shale pile at the former oil shale research site. The cleanup will remove a 300,000 cubic yard oil shale pile to a newly constructed oil shale repository.

The Anvil Points Fund was established by the 1997 Transfer Act, which transferred management of the Roan Plateau to the BLM. Royalties from past oil and gas development in the Roan Plateau funded the cleanup of the Anvil Points site.

“Awarding this contract is a key milestone for certification of the obligations contained in the 1997 Transfer Act,” said BLM Colorado State Director Sally Wisely. “Certification will ensure that the State of Colorado receives a share of future royalties and bonus bids as well as royalties from existing leases on the Roan Plateau.”

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July 17, 2008
Contacts: Randy Karstaedt,
U.S. Forest Service, 303-275-5374;
Jim Sample, BLM Colorado State Office, 303-239-3861

Fifteen lease parcels withdrawn from

August 14, 2008 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Golden, Colo., July 17, 2008 -- On July 16, 2008, the Bureau of Land Management Colorado (BLM), following a request from the U.S. Forest Service, issued an addendum to its June 9, 2008, oil and gas lease sale notice, withdrawing 15 lease parcels on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests that had been listed as available for competitive bid at the August 14, 2008 lease sale.

The withdrawn leases overlie the West Elk Coal Mine leases and eleven of the fifteen lease parcels are within an inventoried roadless area.

The withdrawal of these lease parcels from the August BLM oil and gas lease sale will not affect any current or planned coal mining operations at the West Elk Mine.

The Forest Service draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Colorado Roadless Rule is soon to be released for public review and comment. In order to provide for clear public understanding, review and comment on the draft Colorado Roadless Rule EIS, and to avoid any potential conflict with the final decisions that will be made in the Colorado Roadless Rule, the sale of the leases has been postponed.

The BLM and the U.S. Forest Service agree that providing for the capture and use of coal mine methane, using existing federal leasing authorities, is the right thing to do. After release of the final Colorado Roadless Rule EIS and development of the final regulations for the designation, protection and management of roadless areas in Colorado, the sale of these leases will be re-evaluated and/or re-offered in whatever manner is consistent with the final regulations.

The Forest Service determines where oil and gas leases will be allowed within the National Forest System. The BLM manages the nation's publicly-owned mineral estate, including the sale of federal mineral leases.

For the location of the remaining oil and gas lease parcels in the sale, see the following link:

(See detailed map of oil and gas lease parcels locations on the Roan.)

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**Contact: Jaime Gardner, Bureau of Land Management, (303) 239-3681
Christi Lightcap, Colorado Department of Agriculture, (303) 239-4190
For Immediate Release on July 16, 2008**

Beetle Release Targets Invasive Tamarisk

MONTROSE, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) continues to collaborate with staff from the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Palisade Insectary after first releasing *Diorhabda elongata deserticola* Chen, the tamarisk leaf beetle, in July 2007. Riparian sites, selected for release of the tiny beetle with a huge appetite for tamarisk leaves, have long since lost their native vegetation to decades-old growth of tamarisk. Through the efforts of these two agencies, waterways and riparian areas within the UFO may begin to look much as they did a century ago in just a few years.

BLM's UFO and the Palisade Insectary have released 34,000 beetles in the last two years, with two releases in last year and a "boost" at one of those sites as well as a new site this year. After the releases in 2007, tamarisk plants in the Bedrock area are now showing some defoliation and staff are working on establishment along the Gunnison River.

"By 2009, we expect to see large-scale defoliation of tamarisk at the release sites," Insectary Director Dan Bean, who has been involved with leaf beetle research for many years, said. "With *Diorhabda*, we can be hopeful that waterways and riparian areas throughout the West will once again be prime habitat for native willows and cottonwoods."

Last year's release of the beetle only occurred after years of research and interagency cooperation. The Palisade Insectary, operated by the Conservation Services Division of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, plays an important role in the release and monitoring of the insect, which underwent more pre-release testing than any other biological control agent in U.S. history. Experiments with beetle pheromone, the chemical released by beetles when they mate, are being conducted by Insectary staff at some release sites. The release tree is tagged with vials of beetle pheromone and a compound the tamarisk plant releases when it is under attack. The intent is to attract beetles to these trees, keeping them from dispersing.

"The Insectary has taken on a huge workload for the UFO, monitoring these sites and bringing invaluable, in-depth experience to the project," said Uncompahgre Field Office Manager Barb Sharrow. "It is a great relationship we have going—good for both the Palisade Insectary and the BLM."

Looking beyond 2008, BLM staff is excited to begin planning for what happens next. Some successful release sites may be used as an Integrated Weed Management experiment. After the tamarisk beetles kill the tamarisk stands through constant defoliation, noxious weeds such as Russian knapweed, purple loosestrife and cheatgrass could invade the area. After effective treatment, the native seed bank should rebound to revegetate the restored areas.

For more information on 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.

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Contact:

Jaime Gardner, Public Affairs Specialist, (303) 239-3681

Mark Mackiewicz, National Project Manager, (435) 636-3616

July 9, 2008

BLM Releases Overland Pass Pipeline Project EA for Public Comment

The Bureau of Land Management is releasing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for public comment, for the proposed Overland Pass Pipeline Piceance Basin Lateral Natural Gas Liquids Project.

The proposed 152-mile natural gas liquids (NGL) pipeline project consists of construction, operation, and maintenance of a 14-inch diameter buried steel pipeline and related facilities that would originate southwest of Meeker, Colorado and terminate southeast of Wamsutter, Wyoming. Facilities would include a 2,000-foot, 6-inch diameter lateral facility connection pipeline, manual shut-off valves at regular intervals, pigging facilities, and two meter stations. The proposed pipeline would transport a total of 100,000 barrels of NGL per day. Approximately 96 percent of the proposed pipeline route would run parallel to existing pipelines, and/or other utility corridors.

CDs of the EA are available for review at the following BLM offices:

BLM White River Field Office
220 East Market Street
Meeker, CO 81641

BLM Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625

BLM Rawlins Field Office
1300 North Third
Rawlins, WY 82301

The EA is also available to download from the BLM website at:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/EA/overland_pipeline.html.

Copies of this EA have been sent to affected federal, state, and local government agencies, and to those individuals who previously requested copies.

If you are interested in providing comments on the environmental assessment, please submit written comments to:

Mr. Mark A. Mackiewicz, PMP, National Project Manager
125 South 600 West
Price, UT 84501

Or by e-mail to: Overland_comments@blm.gov

Comments must be received no later than August 13, 2008 to be considered.

Please note: before you include your name, address, phone number, e-mail address or any other personal information in your comments, be advised that your entire comment, including your contact information, is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be made available to the public.

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July 2, 2008

**Contact: Jaime Gardner,
Public Affairs Specialist, 303-239-3681**

Public comment period opens for the October Mine Site Reclamation

Grand Junction, Colo. - The Bureau of Land Management has opened a public comment period for a proposal to reclaim part of the abandoned October Mine Site, approximately 4 miles south of Gateway, Colo.

The BLM Grand Junction Field Office initiated an Environmental Assessment after receiving a proposal from Nuvemco LLC to remove a rock stockpile containing approximately 7,500 tons of low grade uranium and vanadium ore. Once the low grade ore stockpile is removed, the site will be reclaimed with an appropriate seed mix.

Under the current proposal, the ore would be loaded with one front-end loader into 21-ton semi-trucks and hauled to a processing mill in Blanding, Utah. Permits have been obtained from Mesa County to haul the ore on Mesa County roads 510 and Z 2.4 to Colorado Highway 141 for a period of approximately one month. It will take about 24 days to haul 15 loads per day to the mill.

Nuvemco is proposing to haul the ore at night Monday through Friday to avoid impacting recreation-related traffic on John Brown Canyon Road. They propose to begin loading and hauling between 10 p.m. and midnight. They would bring all of the haul trucks down at once with an escort vehicle by 2 a.m. or later, but before dawn to help avoid vehicle collisions with wildlife.

The haul trucks would be staged on County Road Z 2.4 before and after loading. The Mesa County permit would require all county roads used to be treated with magnesium-chloride for dust control. Nuvemco will submit an Emergency Spill Response Plan to BLM and the State of Colorado to describe what actions are proposed in the unlikely event of a haul truck accident resulting in a spill into surface water.

Detailed descriptions and maps of the proposed project site are available at the BLM Grand Junction Office, at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506, as well as on-line at www.blm.gov/co (select Grand Junction on the interactive map). Comments may be mailed to the above address or e-mailed to GJFO_webmail@blm.gov, and should be submitted by July 18th, 2008. For more information, contact Scott Gerwe at (970) 244-3077.

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Contact : Tim Foley, BLM Fire Division Chief, 970 244-3101
Richard Acree, Mesa County Fire Marshal, 970 244-3900
For Immediate Release, July 2, 2008

Fire restrictions begin for BLM Grand Junction, Mesa County

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – The Mesa County Sheriff and the Bureau of Land Management are working together to put into effect fire restrictions beginning on Wednesday, July 2. The Stage 1 restrictions will extend through all public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Field Office and all private lands in Mesa County. These Fire Prevention Orders are being issued as a result of increased fire danger due to high temperatures and low humidity. Hot, dry weather patterns are expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

Stage I Fire Restrictions mean that there is no open burning allowed and campfires on Public Lands are restricted to campfire grates provided by the BLM. If hot and dry conditions persist, however, fire officials may progress into the more stringent Stage II restrictions.

Federal and county agencies are collaborating to produce a more effective fire prevention effort, and the cooperation of everyone involved, including the public, is crucial to the success in preventing wildfire.

“These restrictions are key in keeping human caused wildland fire to a minimum this season,” said Tim Foley, BLM Fire Division Chief. “We really appreciate the public’s help.”

According to Mesa County Fire Marshal, Richard Acree, “There can be serious consequences to anyone who chooses to disregard fire restrictions. These hot and dry temperatures are making wildfires increasingly dangerous. It is absolutely necessary to take the proper measures to ensure both firefighter and public safety.”

Fire restrictions are not being put in place on the Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre National Forests at this time.

The procession and use of fireworks are banned on all public lands, including all National Forests in Colorado.

Violations may result in fines amounting up to \$100,000, reimbursement of firefighting costs, and possible imprisonment.

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Contact:

Jaime Gardner, Public Affairs Specialist, 303-239-3681

Kimberly Miller, Visitor Information Assistant, 970-947-2866

July 2, 2008

Fire restrictions begin today for Glenwood Springs BLM
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLO. – Fire restrictions on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management's Glenwood Springs Field Office begin July 2.

With temperatures increasing and vegetation drying, fire danger at elevations below 8,000 is increasing.

BLM will be enforcing temporary restrictions of:

campfires only allowed within designated fire grates in developed campgrounds (fire pans are not acceptable)

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

no fireworks on federal lands

The same restrictions are in effect for lands administered by the BLM Grand Junction Field Office.

Garfield and Mesa counties have also enacted fire bans.

The Glenwood Springs Field Office includes BLM lands within Eagle and Garfield counties as well as a small amount of land within Pitkin County and southern Routt County.

The White River National Forest is not enacting fire restrictions at this time due to its higher elevation and lower fire danger. Forest officials remind visitors, however, that fire danger is always present and urge visitors to be careful with fire.

Restrictions will be in place until further notice. Violation of federal fire restrictions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$100,000 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months or both.

For more information about fire restrictions in these areas, log on to
http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/ or call (970) 947-2800.

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Contact: David Boyd,

Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 947-2832

June 23, 2008

BLM seeks public comment on well-development proposal near Parachute

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLO. – The Bureau of Land Management Glenwood Springs Energy Office is seeking public comment on an oil and gas exploration and development proposal nine miles east of Parachute, Colo.

Williams Production RMT Company has submitted a Master Development Plan to BLM for the Spruce Creek area south of Interstate 70. The plan details Williams' proposal to develop 58 new wells from one existing and three proposed well pads over the next three to four years for the 688-acre area, which includes 486 acres of BLM-managed lands. The proposal also includes constructing 4,200 feet of new roads and installing 9,163 feet of buried pipeline.

The Glenwood Springs Energy Office requires operators to submit Master Development Plans so that a broad evaluation of plans and impacts can be completed, and environmental impacts and appropriate measures to mitigate these impacts can be identified.

Before BLM completes an Environmental Assessment on this master plan, it wants to hear any specific issues, concerns and comments the public would like to see addressed through the assessment. Comments will be most helpful if received by July 23, 2008.

Written comments and questions should be directed to the Glenwood Springs Energy Office at 2425 S. Grand Ave., Suite 101, Glenwood Springs, Colo. 81601. Electronic comments may be submitted to

gsfomail@co.blm.gov. Copies of the Master Development Plan further detailing the proposed oil and gas development are available for review at the BLM Glenwood Springs Energy Office. Digital copies of the plan and project map are available at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gsf/GSFO_MasterPlansOfDevelopment.html

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For Immediate Release: June 17, 2008
Contact: Jaime Gardner, 303-239-3681
Fran Ackley, 719-269-8511

BLM offers mustangs & burros for adoption

Montrose, CO — The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will offer 35 mustangs and burros for adoption Saturday, June 28 at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. This includes 30 mustangs under the age of five years, including some that have been halter or saddle trained, and a few burros.

Registration for the adoption will be from 5-8 p.m. on June 27 and from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. on June 28. The silent bid adoption will take place on June 28 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., with a minimum bid for untrained animals of \$125. Opportunities for viewing will be concurrent with registration times. Mustangs and burros that are not adopted during the silent bidding will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The mustangs offered for adoption will be from herds in Colorado and Wyoming, while the burros are

from herds in California or Arizona. BLM mustangs are known for their trainability and unique coloring, which includes gray, buckskin, palomino, appaloosa, roan, and pinto. All of these animals are certified healthy, have been de-wormed, vaccinated (including West Nile), and come with a complete set of health care records.

Adopters must be at least 18 years old, have the ability and financial means to care for a mustang or burro, and have corrals that meet BLM specifications: Fully grown horses must be kept in a corral with a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet by 20 feet) per animal that is surrounded by a six-foot pipe or board fence. Five-foot fences are allowed for trained horses and those less than 18 months of age. Four-and-one-half-foot fences are required for all burros. Wire fencing is not allowed because it endangers the animals. Animals cannot be released into large pastures until they can be approached, handled, haltered, and led.

Mustangs and burros are well known for their inherent traits of intelligence, loyalty, stamina, sure-footedness, and soundness. Throughout the 37-year BLM Wild Horse and Burro program, adopted mustangs and burros have found their way into the hearts of thousands of recreational riders and show arenas in both Western and English specialties, dressage competition, and endurance rides, as well as ranch work.

Please contact the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office at 719-269-8539 for an adoption application, or go to www.blm.gov/co and click on the Wild Horse & Burro link at the bottom of the page, for more information.

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For immediate release
David Boyd 970-947-2832
Jim Sample 303-239-3861
Steven Hall 303-239-3672
June 9, 2008

BLM Announces August 14 Oil and Gas Lease Sale; Roan Parcels Included

DENVER – The Bureau of Land Management Colorado today announced that it will offer to lease for oil and gas development 46 parcels totaling approximately 73,552 acres at its quarterly oil and gas lease sale on August 14, 2008.

The sale will include 55,186 acres in 31 parcels in the Roan Plateau Planning Area. All include strict stipulations to protect the area's streams, wildlife habitat and landscape views. Leases on top of the Plateau will require a single federal unit and phased, ridge-by-ridge development, in which only one operator conducts operations on behalf of all lessees. This allows BLM to exert tight control over oil and gas development, while consolidating infrastructure like roads, power lines and pipelines. Leasing in this area, also known as the Naval Oil Shale Reserves, is at the direction of Congress.

(See detailed map of oil and gas lease parcels locations on the Roan.)

The remaining 15 parcels cover 18,366 acres on Forest Service lands in the Grand Mesa,

Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. The parcels overlie existing Federal coal leases, including the West Elk Mine. The Forest Service and BLM worked collaboratively on stipulations that will provide for mine safety and other protective measures, including the capture and use of methane gas that will be vented from the wells, which is necessary for the safe operation of the coal mine.

BLM acts as the leasing agent for mineral rights on all federal lands. The decision to make Forest Service lands available for lease is made by the Forest Service, with the BLM managing the sale of the leases.

The lease sale will offer parcels in two counties: Garfield with 55,186 acres, and Gunnison with 18,366 acres.

“Of the total acreage managed by the BLM, less than one percent experiences surface disturbance from oil and gas activity,” said Acting BLM Colorado Deputy State Director for Energy, Lands and Minerals Duane Spencer. “The Bureau analyzes the potential environmental effects from exploration and development before offering any leases for sale. Leases are only offered in areas where a land use plan, developed with input from the public, has authorized leasing to take place.”

The federal government has paid \$2.39 billion in mineral royalties, bonus payments and rental fees to Colorado since 1922. In 2007, the state received \$123 million in federal mineral payments.

Statewide, BLM accounts for about 13 percent of new oil and gas leasing activity. In 2007, the state of Colorado processed 6,386 applications for drilling permits, with 827 on federal lands or federal mineral holdings. The remaining wells are on state-owned or private lands.

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 online at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/oilandgas/leasing.html, at each of the Bureau’s field offices, and the Public Room at the Colorado State Office in Lakewood.

National BLM policy requires that 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., July 30, 2008. If a protest is filed by fax, it must be sent to 303-239-3799. 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 where there is interest to do so.

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

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