

For Immediate Release: January 31, 2008
Contact: John Dow BLM 719-269-8559
or 719-429-6589(cell)

BLM MAKES AVAILABLE "OVER THE RIVER" DESIGN PROPOSAL

CANON CITY, Colo. --- The Royal Gorge Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management has made available the Over the River design proposal at the Christo and Jeanne-Claude Over the River™ link on the BLM's website: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo.html. The 2000-page proposal seeks permission to create and display a public art project primarily on BLM land in the Arkansas River Valley between Canon City and Salida. Before any decision on the project is made, BLM will complete an Environmental Impact Statement as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

In June of 2006, BLM requested a detailed design proposal from the project proponent, including plans for engineering and construction as well as traffic, event, safety and exhibit removal. In response to this request, the artists submitted their Over the River Design and Planning Report in April 2007. The BLM has reviewed this proposal for completeness and met with the artists' team to discuss the necessary additional data BLM needs to move forward with conducting an EIS.

"The BLM is looking forward to receiving the necessary additional proposal information so that we can move ahead with the third party contracting for the Environmental Impact Statement," said Royal Gorge Field Office Manager Roy Masinton.

BLM continues to work with its cooperating agencies in reviewing the proposal and anticipates beginning the EIS this spring.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: January 31, 2008
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

Southwest Resource Advisory Council to meet

DOLORES, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management's Southwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet Friday, Feb. 8, at the Mancos/Dolores Field Office, located at 29211 Highway 184 south of Dolores.

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 RMP and Subgroup Briefings
- New Tools for Fighting Invasive Species/Vegetation Programmatic EIS

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, including this meeting's full agenda, go to http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Resources/racs.html.

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For Immediate Release: January 28, 2008

Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

Land managers revise temporary closures

GUNNISON, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management Gunnison Field Office implemented temporary closures on some public lands last week to motorized use in an effort to reduce disturbance to an already stressed population of deer, elk, big horn sheep, and pronghorn antelope. After receiving feedback from the Colorado Division of Wildlife and their volunteer staff in the field, BLM is revising the temporary closures to apply to all unauthorized human activity effective immediately. Closures will remain in effect until May 15, 2008, but may be taken off sooner if the conditions change significantly.

Agency staff and volunteers have seen higher than expected levels of non-motorized use in critical wintering area. The result is that big game herds are being stressed and pushed away from feeding areas. Any unnecessary movement by wildlife during such challenging conditions can threaten their survival by reducing the stored fat and nutrients they need to survive. The emergency feeding operations themselves have sparked the public's curiosity, resulting in an increased human presence at the feeding areas. These disturbances have prompted the need to revise temporary closures, along with the need to add several areas to the closure.

The following public lands are now closed to all human use (both motorized and non-motorized) with the exception of DOW, BLM and Forest Service staff and volunteers working directly with the game feeding operations:

- All public lands managed by the BLM and DOW lands north of Highway 50 and west of Gunnison between West Antelope Creek and West Elk Creek.
- All public lands north of Highway 50 and east of Gunnison.
- All public lands south of Highway 50, between Highway 114 and the Doyleville Cutoff.
- All public lands south of Highway 50 between Highway 114 and Six Mile Lane extending south to the Saguache county line.
- All public lands south of Highway 50 between South Beaver Creek and the Vulcan Road.
- All Forest Service lands in the Flat Top Mountain area between the Ohio Creek Road and Highway 135, and north to Big Alkali Lake.
- All Forest Service lands in the Almont Triangle area between Highway 135, the Taylor Canyon Road and the Jack's Cabin Cutoff.
- Other DOW lands outside these areas are closed as usual to protect wintering wildlife.

Within these areas the following roads will be maintained and remain open to vehicle traffic:
Subdivision roads such as North Elk Meadows, Castle Mountain, Sun Park, Cranor Acres, North Valley, Steuben Creek, Dos Rios, etc.

Antelope Hills Road (CR 17)

Rifle Range Road (CR 18)

Woods Gulch Road (CR 44)

Doyleville Cutoff (CR 45)
Lost Canyon Road (CR 743) to the end of plowing
Mill Creek Road (CR 727) to the ski parking lot
McCabe Lane to the Moncrief Ranch headquarters
Gold Basin Road (CR 38)
Wylie Lane (CR 818) to the closure gate
Waunita Hot Springs Road (CR 887)

The following roads have been designated as access routes that will remain open to allow snowmobile traffic to reach private land parcels and recreation opportunities above critical wildlife winter range:

Rainbow Lake Road (CR 724) to the FS boundary
Lost Canyon Road (CR 743) from the end of plowing to the FS boundary
North Parlin Flats Road (CR 60) to the FS boundary
Vulcan Road (CR 31)
Six Mile Lane (CR 42)

Here are some recommendations for enjoying the abundant snow pack in the Gunnison Basin without stressing wildlife:

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing – Mill Creek, Pitkin and Quartz Creek area, Lottis Creek Trail and Union Park Road in the Taylor Canyon area, Cement Creek Drainage, Carbon Creek Road, Old Monarch Pass, all the regular skiing areas around Crested Butte, the Airport Road with 3 miles of groomed trails (dogs okay on road but not allowed in pastures), Van Tuyl trail (no dogs allowed) and Hartman Rocks, which has 16 miles of groomed trails not affected by the wildlife closure.

Snowmobiling – The Taylor Park area, Pitkin and Quartz Creek area, Kebler Pass area, all the regular snowmobiling areas around Crested Butte, Ohio Pass, Marshall Pass, Alpine Plateau, the Lake City Continental Divide Snowmobile Trails (80 miles of groomed routes), Black Mesa area via the Crystal Creek Road, Waunita/Black Sage Pass/ Whitepine area, Rainbow Lake Road on FS lands, upper Gold Basin area. The Hartman Rocks ski trails are not great for snowmobiling but are open to that use – please do not drive on the set ski track on the side of the groomed trails.

Dog Sledding – Taylor Park area, Pitkin and Quartz Creek area.

Dog Walking near Gunnison – Highway 50 Frontage Road, Antelope Hills Road, Rifle Range Road, Airport Road (no dogs in pastures), Hartman Rocks base area, McCabe Lane entrance to Hartman Rocks, Gold Basin Road.

If you see animals, please do not stress them. If they are running away from you, then you are too close. There are only a few places the animals can find food during a severe winter, and there are several places you can recreate without threatening their survival. We appreciate your cooperation with this effort to preserve the Basin's wildlife populations. And please, control your dogs and take them where allowed!

The BLM's Resource Management Plan specifically provides for the ability to establish emergency closures to protect wintering big game during years of unusually heavy snowfall.

A map depicting these closures is available at the BLM/Forest Service office at 216 N. Colorado Street and at the Division of Wildlife office at 300 W. New York Avenue. For additional information, call (970) 641-0471.

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Editor's Note: Revised map available upon request.

For Immediate Release: January 25, 2008

Contact: Heather Feeney (202) 452-5031, Steven Hall (303)239-3672

BLM Sets Public Meetings on Draft Oil Shale and Tar Sands Planning Document

The Bureau of Land Management has scheduled a series of open house public meetings to provide additional information on the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendments and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS) for oil shale and tar sands resources in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. The Draft PEIS was published on December 21, 2007, and is open for public comment through March 20, 2008.

Each open house meeting will feature stations staffed by resource specialists around the meeting room. Those attending the meeting will be able to visit stations of interest and get information on how particular analyses were developed, what impacts or potential impacts and mitigation were identified, and ask any questions of the resource specialists and agency representatives present.

Open houses will be held in the following locations:

February 11, 2008 Cheyenne, Wyoming 2-4 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm
Holiday Inn – Big Horn Room
204 West Fox Farm Road, Cheyenne

February 12, 2008 Denver, Colorado 2-4 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm
Sheraton Denver-West Hotel and Conference Center
360 Union Boulevard, Lakewood

February 13, 2008 Rifle, Colorado 2-4 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm
Garfield County Fairgrounds
1001 Railroad Avenue, Rifle

February 14, 2008 Meeker, Colorado 6:30-8:30 pm
Mountain Valley Bank
400 Main Street, Meeker

February 25, 2008 Salt Lake City, Utah 2-4 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm
BLM Salt Lake Field Office
2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City

February 26, 2008 Price, Utah 6:30-8:30 pm
Holiday Inn
838 Westwood Boulevard, Price

February 27, 2008 Vernal, Utah 6:30-8:30 pm
Western Park Convention Center

302 East 200 South, Vernal

February 28, 2008 Rock Springs, Wyoming 6:30-8:30 pm
BLM Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191-North, Rock Springs

The Preferred Alternative in the Draft PEIS would amend BLM land-use plans to allocate approximately 1.9 million acres of public lands in Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming for potential commercial oil shale development and approximately 430,000 acres in Utah for tar sands. Between 305,000 and 1.5 million acres of BLM-managed lands would be excluded from oil shale leasing under the alternatives presented in the Draft PEIS.

The complete Draft PEIS is available in electronic form (PDF) on the project Website, <http://ostseis.anl.gov>. Paper and CD-ROM copies of the Draft are also available at the BLM State Offices in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming; and BLM Field Offices in Vernal, Price, Richfield, and Monticello, Utah; Meeker, Glenwood Springs, and Grand Junction, Colorado; and Kemmerer, Rawlins, and Rock Springs, Wyoming. The Website is enabled to take comments electronically, and written comments may be mailed to: BLM Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources Draft Programmatic EIS Comments, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Argonne IL 60439.

The BLM previously issued six 160-acre leases for oil shale projects on public lands in Colorado and Utah under its research development and demonstration (RD&D) program. Information available from these projects is included in the PEIS and was considered during development of the alternatives presented in the Draft. For additional information on the BLM's efforts to develop Federal oil shale and tar sands resources, visit http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/oilshale_2.html.

- BLM -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 24, 2008
CONTACT: Jaime Gardner, BLM (303) 239-3681
Janelle Smith, Forest Service (303) 275-5359

FR Notice of Availability
<http://corridoreis.anl.gov>

**PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT ON DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY CORRIDORS ON
FEDERAL LANDS**

The Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service will host public hearings on Thursday, January 31 to gather comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) proposing to designate energy corridors on federal lands in the West.

The hearing in Denver will be held at the Holiday Inn Select, 455 S. Colorado Blvd., 80246 and will include two sessions, one from 2 to 5 p.m. and another from 6 to 8 p.m. Representatives from the three agencies will be present at each session to hear comments from those attending. In most cases, comments being made at the hearings will be available in real-time Webcasts and for later on-demand replay. Information on Webcasts is available on the project Web site <http://corridoreis.anl.gov>. If you

attend in person, please note that hearings will begin promptly at the start time.

The Draft PEIS is available for review at libraries and BLM and Forest Service field offices in the 11 western states, at the agencies' Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and in electronic form (PDF) online at the project Web site <http://corridoreis.anl.gov> . You may register in advance to provide oral comments at one of the hearings on the Web site or you may register onsite the day of the hearing.

As directed by Congress in Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy and the Interior are proposing to designate corridors on Federal land for locating future oil, natural gas and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure in the West. These corridors would be the agency-preferred locations where pipelines and transmission lines may be sited and built in the future.

Designating such corridors would improve inter-agency coordination in reviewing and approving energy transport projects proposed for Federal lands, and reduce environmental effects and conflicts with other uses of Federal lands. Individual projects proposed for these corridors would undergo further, project-specific environmental analysis before being granted permits or rights-of-way.

The public may also submit comments in written form to this mailing address: Westwide Corridor DEIS; Argonne National Laboratory; 9700 S. Cass Ave., Bldg. 900, Mail Stop 4; Argonne, IL 60439. Written comments also may be faxed (toll free) to 1-866-542-5904 or submitted electronically using the email form on the project Web site <http://corridoreis.anl.gov> . All comments must be received by February 14, 2008 to receive full consideration.

Written comments and those submitted orally at public hearings will be given equal weight when revising the Draft PEIS into a final document. The Records of Decision on the Final PEIS will amend relevant land use plans for lands managed by the BLM and the Forest Service.

Hearing facilities are wheelchair accessible. Please call (202) 586-1056 if you need other accommodations in order to attend the hearing.

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For Immediate Release: January 23, 2008

Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

Wildlife feeding prompts closures

GUNNISON, Colo. — In an effort to reduce disturbance to an already stressed population of deer, elk, big horn sheep, and pronghorn antelope, the Bureau of Land Management Gunnison Field Office is cooperating with Gunnison County and the Colorado Division of Wildlife by closing certain public lands this winter in the Gunnison Basin to motorized use. Most of the affected public lands lie north of Highway 50 in Gunnison County, but some closures to public lands apply in Saguache County as well. The temporary closures, which are effective immediately and end on April 30, have been prompted by the emergency feeding operations initiated by CDOW last week.

“While we can’t control the weather, we can control human disturbance,” Field Manager Kenny

McDaniel said. “We feel these temporary closures to motorized use are necessary to avoid increasing the stress these animals are already dealing with.” The Gunnison Resource Area Approved Resource Management Plan specifically provides for winter closures to protect wintering big game when necessary.

Areas closed to motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles, are:

- North of Highway 50 between Dillon Mesa and West Antelope Creek
- North of Highway 50 from east of Gunnison to the Forest boundary east of Doyleville
- South of Highway 50, east of Highway 114, north of Camp Kettle Gulch, and west of Razor Creek

While the temporary closures apply to motorized use only, those accessing public lands by other means are asked to avoid disturbing wildlife. There are some exceptions to closures: BLM Road 3103 is a designated route within the closure area that is open to motorized use as seasonal conditions allow. Any federal, state, or local officers acting within the scope of their duties may access these areas, as well as those holding a special use permit or right-of-way. Some restrictions apply for these permittees, and motorized use is limited to the routes specifically identified in the special use permit or right-of-way.

These closures may overlap with seasonal route closures historically implemented in mid-March for the protection of Gunnison sage grouse leks. For additional information on these temporary closures, contact Russell Japuntich at (970) 642-4442.

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Editor’s Note: Map available upon request.

For Immediate Release: January 18, 2008
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

BLM Grand Junction invites comments on pipeline project

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) has received a right-of-way application from EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) to construct a 22-mile natural gas pipeline in the Collbran and Plateau Valley area. There will be several opportunities for public input, beginning today with a 30-day public scoping comment period intended to identify issues and concerns, and provide BLM valuable information about the project for consideration during the environmental review process. Encana’s proposed 30-inch diameter pipeline would transport up to 650 million standard cubic feet per day of field grade natural gas for further processing and delivery to market. Approximately 93 percent of the proposed pipeline would be located at the edge of existing pipeline or road corridors, and would begin on Hayes Mesa in the Anderson Gulch area approximately five miles west of Collbran.

“EnCana’s proposed pipeline route and alternative cross private lands as well as federal lands managed by the Grand Junction and Glenwood Springs Field Offices, and White River National Forest,” Natural Resource Specialist Christina Stark said. “It’s important for the public to share any concerns and identify additional issues that will assist the BLM in developing alternatives.” The GJFO has been designated the lead office and will be preparing an Environmental Assessment under the National

Environmental Policy Act.

The proposed pipeline route primarily lies south of the Colorado River and I-70, north of the Grand Mesa, and east of Colorado State Highway 65. Encana's proposed route would follow V Road, continue down Samson Mesa, and terminate at EnCana's Orchard Unit compressor site located near I-70, approximately six miles northeast of De Beque.

The public may submit written comments to the BLM Grand Junction Field Office, ATTN: Collbran Pipeline Project, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; by fax to (970) 244-3083; or by e-mail to GJFO_webmail@blm.gov. A project map is available for review at the Grand Junction Field Office or on-line at www.blm.gov/co (select Grand Junction from the map). For BLM to best utilize public comments, please submit substantive comments, which are most helpful in the BLM's planning process, by February 18, 2008. Completion of the Environmental Assessment and a Decision Record are anticipated this summer. For additional information, please contact Christina Stark at (970) 244-3022.

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Editor's Note: Project map available upon request.

For Immediate Release, January 17, 2008

For More Information Contact: Mel Lloyd at (970) 244-3097

Energy industry collaborating with West Slope firefighters

RIFLE, Colo. — Energy industry safety officials met last month in Rifle with firefighters from Garfield County Fire Protection Districts, Garfield County Sheriff's Office, as well as Federal firefighters to discuss safety issues related to wildfires in the oil and gas fields of western Colorado. Local fires from the 2007 fire season were reviewed in an effort to look at how suppression operations could be improved in oil and gas fields while providing for the safety of the public, energy workers and firefighters. The energy industry is working closely with firefighters to improve operations.

"We have had several fires that have occurred in and around gas field operations," Doug Paul of the Upper Colorado River (UCR) Interagency Fire Management Unit said. "With the energy activity, homes and other structures we have involved, these fires have been very complex for firefighters to manage."

This was the third such meeting, and regular meetings are planned into the future with a training session scheduled for mid-March. The energy industry and firefighting organizations are developing training programs to be used for the 2008 fire season. Firefighters will get an orientation to gas field operations and safety procedures to follow when fighting fires in or near oil and gas fields. Likewise, oil and gas workers will receive a safety orientation on wildfires.

"The purpose of this exercise is not to train these folks to be firefighters," Paul said. "We want to give them the tools to properly report a fire, secure their facilities, evacuate safely and communicate with firefighters."

"The oil and gas industry has tremendous resources to offer firefighters, but they do not have the

personnel with the training, equipment and experience to fight fires directly,” Mike Morgan with the Rifle Fire Protection District said. “The last thing we want is injuries or loss of life in trying to put out a fire. Industry workers can provide a critical support function for fire suppression.”

“We are tying our safety network to the firefighting Incident Command System to ensure that we can protect the public, our employees, as well as firefighters,” John Flahie with Encana said.

For more information about the Interagency Fire Program, go to www.nifc.gov. Contact Doug Paul at (970) 244-3106 if you are interested in upcoming meetings, or if you would like more information on the training program.

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For Immediate Release: January 16, 2008
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

BLM seeking seasonal employees now

MONTROSE, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) are now seeking seasonal employees for the 2008 field season. Current vacancy announcements can be found online at www.usajobs.opm.gov, where applications can also be submitted electronically. The BLM, an agency of the Department of the Interior responsible for the management of our nation’s public lands, has non-fire seasonal opportunities for work in such program areas as recreation, range management, archaeology, and biology. Entry-level technician and park ranger positions in these program areas are needed this spring in the Montrose area, with start dates in April and May. Seasonal staff bolsters BLM’s workforce during the summer months and enables the agency to accomplish required trail maintenance, field surveys and assessments, and visitor outreach, just to name a few.

“We depend heavily on our summer workforce, which is usually made up of local students and those who have wintertime commitments but are free during the summer to take on another job,” Field Manager Barb Sharrow said. “It can be hard work and make for some long days, but you won’t find a better work setting or more satisfying job than working to improve and protect your public lands.”

To review and apply for open vacancy announcements with the BLM, go to www.usajobs.opm.gov. In the boxes under “Search Jobs,” enter the following:

- What: type in a key word and/or the job of interest to you
- Where: type in “Western U.S.,” For example: Recreation Technician, Western U.S.
- Click on the “Search” button

Several jobs will appear; select the job you are interested in and apply online. In the application itself, you can indicate up to seven different locations where you are interested in working. Montrose must be indicated in order for our local BLM field office to consider you as an applicant. The following are potential opportunities: park ranger (river patrol, fee collection), recreation technician (off-highway vehicles, fee collector, maintenance), biology technician (plants, wildlife), range technician (weeds, general), archaeology technician, and forestry technician.

Applicants must be 18 years of age, hold a valid driver's license, and pass a security clearance. For additional information, contact Linda Nelson, at (970) 240-5343, at UFO in Montrose, or go to www.usajobs.opm.gov.

The Uncompahgre Field Office is responsible for the management and stewardship of more than 900,000 acres of public lands in southwestern Colorado. The varied landscapes, ranging from red rock deserts to pinyon-juniper woodlands to river terrain, provide a wealth of resources and opportunities for public use and enjoyment. The 62,844-acre Gunnison Gorge NCA encompasses diverse landscapes including dramatic and unusual adobe badland formations, sprawling sagebrush flats, rugged oak brush and pinyon-juniper covered slopes, and colorful canyons surrounding the spectacular Gunnison Gorge river canyon. The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, at nearly 18,000 acres, is famous for technical (Class III-IV) and remote rafting and kayaking experiences, and outstanding Gold Medal trout fishing. For more information on the UFO and Gunnison Gorge NCA, visit www.blm.gov/co.

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For Immediate Release: January 15, 2008
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

Settlement reached in 2005 Mee Canyon Fire

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — On May 27, 2005, conditions were tinder dry with the start of another busy holiday weekend in western Colorado. That same day, interagency firefighters responded to a wildfire near the mouth of Mee Canyon, located in the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness of the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA). When finally controlled, the Mee Canyon Fire had consumed 58 acres along the Ruby-Horsethief Section of the Colorado River. A Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination Team identified an escaped campfire as the cause.

On December 31, 2007, the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Colorado, on behalf of the BLM, reached a civil settlement agreement with Richard and Tracie Hulbert of Fairplay, Colorado. The United States alleges that the Hulbert's campfire escaped and ignited the wildfire, forcing them and other campers to flee the area. The Hulberts denied any liability and responsibility for starting the fire but agreed to pay the United States \$45,000 for reimbursement of suppression and rehabilitation costs associated with the fire to avoid the risk of litigation.

“Valuable wildlife habitat, including a large cottonwood gallery, and popular campsites were destroyed as a result of the blaze,” said Tim Foley, West Zone Fire Management Officer with the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit. “It's important to know that members of the public are responsible for their campfires.”

As always, please familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations in place for your chosen destination point—they can and often do vary from one area to another. Visitors are reminded that the use of fire pans is required in the McInnis Canyons NCA. For additional information on your Colorado public lands, visit www.blm.gov/co. For information on boating in the McInnis Canyons NCA, go to www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/mcnca/recreation/boating.html or contact Park Ranger Troy Schnurr at (970) 244-3032.

-BLM-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 9, 2008

CONTACT: Mel Lloyd, BLM (970) 244-3097

David Boyd, BLM (970) 947-2832

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**PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT ON DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY CORRIDORS ON
FEDERAL LANDS**

The Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service will host a public hearing on Tuesday, January 15, to gather comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) proposing to designate energy corridors on Federal lands in the West.

The hearing in Grand Junction, Colorado, will be held at the Courtyard Marriott, 765 Horizon Drive, and will include two sessions, one from 2 to 5 p.m. and another from 6 to 8 p.m. Representatives from the three agencies will be present at each session to hear comments from those attending. In most cases, comments being made at the hearings will be available in real-time Webcasts and for later on-demand replay. Information on Webcasts is available on the project Web site <http://corridoreis.anl.gov>. A second hearing in Colorado will be held in Denver on Thursday, January 31, at the Holiday Inn Select Denver Cherry Creek, located at 455 S. Colorado Boulevard.

The Draft PEIS is available for review at libraries and BLM and Forest Service field offices in the 11 western states, at the agencies' Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and in electronic form (PDF) online at the project Web site <http://corridoreis.anl.gov>. You may register in advance to provide oral comments at one of the hearings on the Web site or you may register onsite the day of the hearing.

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Hearing facilities are wheelchair accessible. Please call (202) 586-1056 if you need other accommodations in order to attend the hearing.

-BLM-

**Contact(s): Lee Ann Loupe,
Forest Service Public Affairs Specialist, 970.874.6717
David Boyd, BLM Public Affairs Specialist, 970.947.2832**

Bull Mountain Pipeline Decision Released

Glenwood Springs, CO., (January 8, 2008) – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service announced the release of the Record of Decision (ROD) authorizing the 25.5-mile Bull Mountain Pipeline in western Colorado. This decision is in “full force and effect” as of today. On November 16, 2007, the final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Bull Mountain Pipeline was released for public review.

“The Forest Service took the lead in developing the EIS for the project because the majority of the pipeline right-of-way crosses national forest lands” explained Jamie Connell, Glenwood Springs Field Office Manager. “However, when proposed rights-of-way cross lands administered by more than one federal agency, the BLM is by regulation the lead agency that issues the decision, with concurrence of the other affected agencies.”

The BLM and the Forest Service agree that the selected alternative is the most appropriate course of action because it results in fewer environmental impacts and long term effects to the land than the other action alternatives detailed in the FEIS; It disturbs the fewest acres; it installs the fewest miles of pipeline; and it involves the fewest miles of road construction. It also minimizes the negative effects to soils, wetlands, road corridors, and it meets the visual quality and air quality objectives for the area. Additionally, the restoration requirements in the decision specify re-vegetation of the post construction pipeline corridor to similar conditions for the existing Ragged Mountain pipeline corridor.

The Bull Mountain FEIS and ROD will be posted on the following Forest Service and BLM websites: www.co.blm.gov/gsra/gshome.htm, www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/projects/, or www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug/policy/. CD copies are also available upon request from the BLM Glenwood Field Office, and/or the White River or Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, Forest Supervisor’s Offices in Glenwood and Delta, respectively.

-BLM-

**For release: Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008
Contacts: Tom Gorey 202-452-5137
Tim Spisak 202-452-5061**

At Direction of Congress, BLM Will Start Collection of \$4,000 Processing Fee For Each New Oil and Gas Drilling Permit Application

The Fiscal Year 2008 omnibus appropriations bill – signed into law by President Bush on December 26 – requires that the Bureau of Land Management charge a \$4,000 processing fee for each new oil and gas drilling permit application, known as an Application for Permit to Drill (APD). Prior to enactment of the omnibus bill, there was no charge for processing APDs. The money generated by these fees is not new revenue, but rather a reimbursement to the U.S. Treasury for the estimated cost of processing new APDs for the duration of Fiscal Year 2008.

To carry out this congressional directive, the BLM has developed interim guidance for its field offices regarding the collection and handling of the new fees, which took effect December 26. Final guidance will be developed over the next several weeks.

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 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.

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