

BLM Uncompahgre Field Office

Draft Resource Management Plan/ DEIS

Public Comment

I am opposed to oil and gas leasing on public lands in the North Fork Valley, which is one of the most beautiful and fertile places in the world. I am opposed to leasing because it has the potential to lead to loss of the clean air and abundant clean fresh water that have made this area Colorado's largest concentration of organic farms, and to cause significant harm to human health and a local economy based on recreation, hunting, tourism, and agriculture. I oppose the BLM's Preferred Alternative, as it relates to oil and gas development, in the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Uncompahgre Field Office in Southwest Colorado. I am opposed to leasing for oil and gas development in this area because:

Poor and inadequate analysis.

- BLM did not consider the uniqueness of the North Fork Valley. The Gold Medal fishing, prized big-game hunting, and award-winning fruits, vegetables, and wines can all be harmed by air pollution or surface or ground water contamination that are inevitably associated with oil and gas extraction.
- The North Fork valley has the highest concentration of organic farms in Colorado. Neither Chapter 2 (Affected Environment) nor Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences) acknowledge the existence of this rare, unique and unrivaled agricultural area containing numerous vineyards, orchards and vegetable growing operations. Analyzing the effects of drilling and all the associated risks to this agricultural area must be addressed in detail.
- BLM did not consider a reasonable no-leasing alternative for the North Fork Valley.
- BLM relies on a 2012 Foreseeable Development Scenario report, which is based on an analysis of conventional oil and gas development from 2004.
- BLM did not analyze the impacts of hydraulic fracturing and multi-drilling technologies.
- BLM did not analyze the cumulative impacts of unregulated gas gathering pipelines.
- BLM did not consider the impact of extreme weather causing flooding, mudslides and geological instability, which can compromise the integrity of pipelines and result in leaks and potential explosions.
- BLM did not analyze the impact of permanently removing water from the hydrologic cycle.
- BLM did not analyze injection wells and the potential for earthquakes and contamination of aquifers.
- BLM did not conduct a human health impact assessment.
- BLM did not consider that, by their own modeling, ozone levels already exceed the EPA threshold of 70ppb in certain areas.
- BLM did not consider community source water protection plans.
- The BLM did not adequately consider the impact of industrial oil and gas operations, air pollution and water contamination on the health of wildlife animals, nor the impact on the hunting and fishing economy. Oil and gas development in the NFV will fragment the wildlife habitat and negatively impact the big game population. It will also result in increased sedimentation impacting the fish population.
- BLM did not consider the impacts on hunting due to changes in wildlife migration and reproduction habits.
- BLM did not consider the decreased recreational value of BLM lands from industrial oil and gas activities.

In addition,

- It is an inappropriate use of public lands.** It would open almost every acre of public lands in the region to leasing (865,970 acres or 94.5% of total oil, gas, and mineral acreage), and specifically in sensitive air, water and foodsheds. The Preferred Alternative is a roadmap to industrializing this economically and ecologically unique area with gas wells, pipelines, storage tanks, condensate tanks, wastewater pits, sand trucks, water tanks, and more.
- The potential for human, animal and environmental damage is too high.**
 - Development would contaminate soils, water, and air, and impair human health, including increases in respiratory, endocrine, immune, and cardiovascular disease.

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- Development of the leases would destroy local investments and resources required in transitioning the economy to one based on agro-tourism, recreation, renewable energy, agriculture, and organic/clean food.
- Climate change impact.** Development would contribute to increased greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts on community resources, including agriculture and wildlife.

I am: [Please check all that apply]

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> An organic farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> A Republican | <input type="checkbox"/> A hotel/recreation business owner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A conventional farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> A Democrat | <input type="checkbox"/> A tourist/Visitor to Delta County/NFV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A rancher | <input type="checkbox"/> An Independent | <input type="checkbox"/> Interested/impacted citizen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A resident | <input type="checkbox"/> A homeowner | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A consumer of NFV/Delta County produce and meat and poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> A food business owner | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> A scientist/geologist | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> A Realtor | |

Additional Comments: _____

Signed,

 Print Name

 Date

 Signature

 Email Address

 Street Address, City, State, Zip code

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