BLM RELEASES EA ON THE BULL MOUNTAIN UNIT

The BLM Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) has completed a draft of Environment Assessment (EA) which analyzes the effects of potentially drilling 146 natural gas wells on 4 existing and active well pads and 32 proposed new well pads, and 4 water disposal wells on 1 existing and 4 new pads at the Bull Mountain Unit. The draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) fails to take into account numerous negative environmental impacts on the North Fork Valley.

SAMPLE LETTER TO BLM

BLM Uncompahgre Field Office
ATTN: 3160 BMMDP
2465 S Townsend Ave
Montrose CO 81401
OR via email to: coufo-oil-gas@blm.gov

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

Please accept my comments on the preliminary EA and the draft FONSI regarding the Bull Mountain Unit. (“I am a resident of…”, or “My family has farmed/ranched in this area for ___ years”, or “I work in the ___ business.”)

I request that the BLM place a moratorium on all oil and gas development in the Bull Mountain Unit until the revised RMP and an EIS are complete.

The 1989 Resource Management Plan did not analyze the impacts of horizontal fracking, the pace of oil and gas development, or the current economic activities in the North Fork Valley. As a result, BLM must analyze these impacts in their NEPA analysis.

The 10 fold increase in gas wells at the Bull Mountain Unit will have significant impacts upon:

1. Risks to irrigation water fed by the Muddy River and flows to the Paonia Reservoir that supports the agriculture of hundreds of farms and ranches in the North Fork Valley.
2. Increased air pollution that would negatively affect the Class I air quality of the Black Canyon National Park and many wilderness areas in the vicinity of the project, as well as the air quality for residents of the North Fork Valley who live downwind to the Bull Mountain Unit.
3. Increased dust, increased risk of accidents, and congestion to the residents of the North Fork Valley.

Citizens for a Healthy Community, P.O. Box 291, Hotchkiss, Colorado 81419
On the web at: www.citizensforahealthycommunity.org
BLM must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to sufficiently analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of this project.

The EA fails to take into account the cumulative impacts of this project, other foreseeable oil and gas development in the region, and from coal mining. The cumulative impacts to air and water quality, as well as impacts to socio-economic factors in the North Fork Valley must be analyzed under a single EIS.

Moreover, negative impacts to farmlands and ranches located in the North Fork Valley are unacceptable and must be fully analyzed prior to leasing.

The requested must include an analysis of the socio-economic impacts to the North Fork Valley, which was not done in the EA. (Provide BLM with your personal story about how your own interests and or livelihood depend upon maintaining the health of our community.)

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration,

(Your Name & Address)

It is also very important to send a copy of your letter to:

- Senator Michael Bennet—Submit your comments electronically by using the form found at: http://bennet.senate.gov/contact/
  - For “Message Topic” choose: Energy
  - On the line “Subject of Your Message” enter: Bull Mountain proposal
  - Copy your letter and paste it into the box that says “Comments”

- Senator Mark Udall—Submit your comments electronically by using the form found at: http://www.markudall.senate.gov/?p=contact_us
  - For “Topic” choose: Energy
  - On the line “Please type the subject of your message” enter: Bull Mountain proposal
  - Copy your letter and paste it into the box that says “Please type your message”

- State Senator Gail Schwartz: gail.schwartz.senate@gmail.com