



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Grand Mesa,  
Uncompahgre and  
Gunnison  
National Forests

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File Code: 1950-1/2820-2

Date: April 7, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) Environmental Assessment (EA), and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the Hightower Master Development Plan (Hightower MDP).

The Decision approves the drilling locations, compressor/tank facility, road access and gathering line locations as described in Alternative 3 of the Hightower MDP EA. It also identifies the terms and conditions under which the operator may occupy, explore, and develop its federal oil and gas lease or use national forest system lands, while protecting natural resources and providing for public access and safety as required under Design Criteria of the project. The Design Criteria will be included in site-specific surface use plans of operations for gas wells should applications be submitted; in subsequent special use permit(s) if needed for pipelines; or included in sundry notice approvals for other potential well site activities. Additionally, the Decision specifies where lease stipulation exceptions have been granted.

This decision is subject to administrative review as described in Section IX of the DN/FONSI.

Copies of this EA and Decision/FONSI may also be downloaded from the internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug/policy/>. For further information or to obtain hardcopies of the EA or DN/FONSI, please contact Niccole Mortenson, Engineering and Minerals NEPA Project Specialist, at 970-874-6616 or [nmortenson@fs.fed.us](mailto:nmortenson@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Charles S. Richmond*  
CHARLES S. RICHMOND  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

