

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0123-EA**

BACKGROUND

Thirty-two parcels comprising approximately 17,246.79 acres in the WRFO are proposed for leasing in the May 2013 Colorado Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale (see Attachment C for complete legal descriptions). These parcels would be offered at public auction. Following the auction, any unsold parcels could be sold non-competitively.

Once sold, the lease purchaser would have the right to use as much of the leased lands as is reasonably necessary to explore and drill for all of the oil and gas resources within the lease boundaries, subject to the stipulations attached to the lease (43 CFR 3101). Oil and gas leases are issued for a 10-year period and continue for as long thereafter as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities. If a lease holder fails to produce oil and gas, does not make annual rental payments, does not comply with the terms and conditions of the lease, or relinquishes the lease, ownership of the minerals leased reverts back to the federal government and the lease can be resold. Drilling of wells on a lease would not be permitted until the lease owner or operator meets the site specific requirements specified in 43 CFR 3162.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

Context

The project is a site-specific action directly involving BLM administered public lands that do not in and of itself have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

Intensity

The following discussion is organized around the 10 Significance Criteria described at 40 CFR 1508.27. The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this Proposed Action:

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the White River Resource Area and adjacent land.

2. The degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health or safety.

Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas, or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

4. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.

5. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk.

There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.

6. Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

This Proposed Action does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State, or local natural resource related plans, policies, or programs.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

The Proposed Action will not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.

No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time, there could

be the potential for adverse impacts, proposals would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

Deputy State Director
Energy, Lands, and Minerals

DATE SIGNED: