

the USFS in the Uncompahgre and San Juan National Forests, Colorado, are crossed by the TransColorado pipeline project. The Supplement addresses the environmental impacts of the construction, operation, maintenance, and ultimate abandonment of known proposed route changes and minor realignments (less than 100 ft.) of the approved pipeline and right-of-way (ROW) grant COC-51280, and the impacts of the proposed construction and use of known additional temporary work areas adjacent to the approved ROW or proposed ROW route changes or minor realignments. The Supplement also addresses the impacts of the construction of minor realignments and the construction and use of relocated or additional temporary work areas, in unspecified locations. These unspecified temporary work areas and minor realignments are addressed to accommodate conditions that might be encountered during construction. Also addressed in the Supplement are proposed modifications to several environmental protection measures contained in the 1992 Right of Way (ROW) grant and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Supplement, and the 1992 TransColorado FEIS are available for public review at the following BLM and USFS offices: BLM Grand Junction District, BLM Montrose District (Montrose District Office, 2465 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401), Montrose District, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (2250 Highway 50, Delta, Colorado 81416), San Juan National Forest and BLM San Juan Resource Area (Federal Building, Room 102, 701 Camino Del Rio, Durango, Colorado 81301), and BLM Farmington District (1235 N. LaPlata Hwy., Suite A, Farmington, New Mexico 87401). Public reading copies are available at the federal depository libraries in Colorado and New Mexico and public libraries within San Juan County, New Mexico, and La Plata, Montezuma, Dolores, San Miguel, Montrose, Delta, Mesa, Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado, and at TransColorado Offices in Salt Lake City and Montrose, CO.

DATES: The Final Supplement to the 1992 Final EIS will be available to the public for 30-days starting April 24, 1998. After the 30-day availability period, one Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued for all federal lands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Bottomly (970) 240-5337, Ilyse Auringer (970) 385-1341, or Steve Hemphill (970) 874-6633.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: After preparing Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements, the BLM and the USFS signed Records of Decision on December 1, 1992 and issued a ROW grant and adjacent Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for subsequent construction, operation and maintenance of the 292 mile-long TransColorado Gas Transmission pipeline from Meeker, Colorado to Bloomfield, New Mexico. Under the authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185), as amended by the Act of November 16, 1973 (37 Stat. 567), BLM issued a 50 foot-wide ROW grant on December 4, 1992, accompanied by a 25 foot-wide TUP, excepting 1.7 miles near Grand Junction, Colorado. The FERC issued TransColorado a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on June 3, 1994. TransColorado completed the 22.5 mile Phase I of the project in December, 1996. The proponent is now prepared to construct the remainder of the pipeline during 1998.

Public participation has occurred throughout the preparation of the Supplement. The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare this Supplement to the FEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on November 21, 1997. "Open House" forums were held from October 21 through December 10, 1997 at Norwood, Durango, Delta, Rangely, Dolores, and Grand Junction, Colorado. Field trips to locations on the San Juan National Forest were offered on November 15 and 22, 1997. The Draft Supplement was published on January 23, 1998, and was available for public comments for a 60-day period that closed on March 18, 1998. The BLM and USFS received 52 written comment letters and several oral comments at the public meetings held on February 17, 18, and 19, 1998 in Durango, Dolores, and Grand Junction, Colorado, respectively.

Dated: April 14, 1998.

Mark W. Stiles,

District Manager, Montrose District, Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: April 14, 1998.

Dale E. Trenda,

Range, Fire, and Timber Staff Officer, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, Forest Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

(AZ-917/AZ-060; AZA 28350)

Notice of Availability of the Decision Record for the White Canyon Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the Phoenix Resource Management Plan, Pinal County, AZ

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The State Director has approved that portion of the proposed plan amendment for the designation and management of the White Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). In compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the plan amendment revises designation and management decisions made through the Phoenix Resource Management Plan (RMP). The proposed modification to land tenure designations have been set aside and will be integrated with an environmental impact statement under preparation for the proposed Ray Land Exchange.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shela McFarlin, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004, or telephone (602) 417-9568.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Decision Record will amend the Phoenix RMP to modify the White Canyon ACEC designation as follows: (1) 300 non-wilderness federal acres will be retained as the White Canyon ACEC (within T3S, R12E, Section 23, NE ¼ and Section 25, NW ¼); (2) 1,620 wilderness acres formerly designated as ACEC will continue to be managed as wilderness under all appropriate guidelines, but will cease to be designated as ACEC; and, (3) BLM will seek to acquire 480 acres in Section 24 (T3S, R12E) to be managed upon acquisition as ACEC. Acquisition will be from the state of Arizona or subsequent land owners through appropriate mechanisms such as donation, friendly condemnation or exchange. New ACEC management prescriptions will replace the Phoenix RMP management actions and a coordinated resource management plan will be completed. Motorized travel will be limited to designated roads and trails. Surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing will be prohibited. The plan will

evaluate whether any ACEC areas not already under mining claims should be withdrawn.

Public reading copies may be reviewed at the following BLM locations:

Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004
Tucson Field Office, 12661 East Broadway, Tucson, Arizona 85748-7208

Phoenix Field Office, 2015 West Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027.

Dated: April 17, 1998.

Lonna O'Neal,

Acting State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Phosphate Mine Expansion Dry Valley, Caribou County, ID

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, USDI and Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Pocatello Resource Area and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS), Caribou National Forest, will jointly prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposal to expand FMC Corporation's active Dry Valley Phosphate Mine. The Dry Valley Mine is located about 17 air miles northeast of Soda Springs, Caribou County, Idaho. The proposed mining and reclamation activities for the expansion of the Dry Valley Mine would occur on existing Federal Phosphate Leases I-014184, I-0678 and I-011866, State of Idaho Leases 3823R and 7961, and private mineral rights. Surface ownership includes BLM, FS, State of Idaho, and private lands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS.

SCOPING PROCEDURE: The scoping procedure to be used for this EIS has and will involve the following: a broad mailing asking for comments, issues and concerns to interested and potentially affected individuals, groups, Federal, State and local governments; news releases; and public scoping meetings. An initial mailing was done in February 1998, comments received by mid-March highlighted several issues associated with this proposal. Another

comprehensive mailing to individuals, groups and agencies known to be interested will be conducted concurrent with publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis described in this Notice should be received on or before May 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Bureau of Land Management, Pocatello Resource Area, 1111 N. 8th Ave., Pocatello, Idaho 83201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be directed to Jeff Cundick, Mining Engineer, Pocatello Resource Area, 1111 N. 8th Ave., Pocatello, Idaho 83201, phone: (208) 236-6860, or Jeff Jones, Geologist, Caribou National Forest, Soda Springs Ranger District, 421 W. Second South, Soda Springs, Idaho 83276, phone: (208) 547-4356.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received a proposal from FMC Corp. to expand its existing Dry Valley Phosphate Mine to the south. The 1920 Mineral Leasing Act, as amended, gives the primary responsibility for approval of mining and reclamation plans for solid leasable minerals, like phosphate, to the BLM when the proposed action is located on Federal leases, regardless of the surface owner or manager. This proposal covers a mixture of surface and mineral estate ownership, including Federal (FS and BLM), State and private.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: When lands administered by the FS are involved, the FS will develop and submit recommendations to the BLM for those proposed on-lease activities, while activities off-lease will require FS Special Use Permit authorization. The BLM and FS do not have approval or recommendation authority where State surface and mineral estate or private surface and mineral estate exist, as is the case for portions of this project.

FMC Corp. has been mining at their Dry Valley Mine since 1992, and the present proposal is for the expansion of that mine on existing leases. Ancillary facilities including shop, office, railroad line with loading facility, stockpile area, etc. are currently in place and functioning for this mine. Those existing facilities would continue to be utilized for the proposed expansion. The proposed expansion consists of the mining of two pits, referred to as pits C and D. Pit A has already been mined and reclaimed; pit B has been partially mined. Reclamation and mining are concurrent in different parts of this pit development. Mining in pit B is

projected to be complete by early 2000. The purpose of the mine expansion is to provide a continued supply of ore to FMC's Pocatello, Idaho processing plant. Mining in Pits A and B was approved in 1990.

FMC has completed extensive exploration drilling on pits C and D; sufficient to develop a proposed mine and reclamation plan and two alternatives. Under the proposed alternative, about 600 acres of surface disturbance would occur, just over 200 of which are Federally owned and almost entirely FS administered lands. As mining progresses, waste rock is generally placed as backfill into mined-out pits. However, external waste rock dumps will be required because the volume of waste rock swells as consolidated materials are fractured during the mining process. In the current proposal, about 166 acres are planned to be covered with waste rock dumps, about 90 acres on the National Forest and about 76 acres on FMC's private land. When mining is completed, the last portion of the mine pit is proposed to be left open. Fifty-three acres, all of which will be on NFS lands, would not be reclaimed or filled with overburden.

Preliminary and informal public scoping for the FMC Corporation's Dry Valley Mine expansion project was first conducted in 1998. During the consideration of issues to be analyzed in depth, and in the development of alternatives, the Pocatello Resource Area (BLM) and the Caribou NF preliminarily identified these issues.

1. *Water quality.* Potential water quality and quantity effects. Potential effects on water rights and possible mitigation measures.

2. *Wetlands.* Potential effects and mitigation for wetlands affected by the proposal or alternatives.

3. *Range.* Potential effects on developments used to manage livestock grazing currently occurring on the Federal lands involved.

4. *Wildlife.* Potential effects on wildlife and their habitats.

Four preliminary alternatives have been identified. Additional alternatives may be developed from the analysis and further scoping. The preliminary alternatives are:

- Alternative 1—The proposed action.
- Alternative 3—Do not mine the north portion of pit C to protect wetlands.
- Alternative 2—Reduce the size of the north end of pit C to reduce impacts to wetlands.
- Alternative 4—No Action.