

From: [Howard, Stephanie J](#)
To: [Peterson, Leah M](#); [Gaddis, Benjamin T](#); [Arbogast, Tiera K](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: BLM weighing proposal for expanding Uinta Basin oil loadout by 70,000 barrels/day
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 10:04:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Stephanie Howard
Branch Chief NEPA & GIS
Green River District
170 S 500 E
Vernal, UT 84078
435-781-4469

From: Hocanson, Molly M <mhocanson@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 3:42 PM
To: Marcia Gilles <marcia.gilles@eaglecounty.us>
Cc: Palma, Joseph (Joe) <jpalma@blm.gov>; Kratman, Veronica E <vkratman@blm.gov>; Howard, Stephanie J <showard@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: BLM weighing proposal for expanding Uinta Basin oil loadout by 70,000 barrels/day

Hi Marcia – Thank you for your inquiry. The analysis in the Environmental Assessment is still being drafted. There will be an opportunity for you to review the Draft EA and comment on it coming soon. The link to the project is below and I can send you notification when the comment period starts.

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2025436/510>

Thank you -

	<p>Molly Hocanson Planning & Environmental Coordinator Project Manager - Public Law 116-9 S.47 (she/her) Utah Bureau of Land Management Phone: (435) 636-3660 website: www.blm.gov email: mhocanson@blm.gov</p> <p>    </p>
---	--

From: Marcia Gilles <marcia.gilles@eaglecounty.us>

Sent: Monday, July 3, 2023 4:33 PM

To: Hocanson, Molly M <mhocanson@blm.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: BLM weighing proposal for expanding Uinta Basin oil loadout by 70,000 barrels/day

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Molly,

I am sure you are getting a number of inquiries on the Wildcat Loadout Facility ROW Amendment DOI-BLM-UT-G020-2023-0013-EA. I am located in Eagle County, CO and the Board of Commissioners have been opposing crude oil transport across state lines via the railway. I am wondering if you have time for a call or can tell me how to best participate in the planning process or public comment period.

In particular, we are wondering if impacts are being considered once the crude oil leaves UT?

Thanks for your help. Do you have time on July 5th for a quick call?

Best

Marcia

Marcia Gilles

Director Open Space and Natural Resources

(o) 970-328-8697

(c) 970-230-1583

[Open Space and Natural Resources](#)



Follow Open Space and Natural Resources on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jeff Shroll <jeff.shroll@eaglecounty.us>

Date: Mon, Jul 3, 2023 at 9:10 AM

Subject: Fwd: BLM weighing proposal for expanding Uinta Basin oil loadout by 70,000 barrels/day

To: Marcia Gilles <marcia.gilles@eaglecounty.us>

See Below....would you mind inquiring about this with your BLM contacts?

Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,
Jeff Shroll

County Manager
Eagle County Government
970-328-8604

www.eaglecounty.us



[Business Resources](#) | 970-328-8750

[Mental Health Resources](#) | 844-493-8255

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matt Scherr** <matt.scherr@eaglecounty.us>

Date: Mon, Jul 3, 2023 at 8:52 AM

Subject: Fwd: BLM weighing proposal for expanding Uinta Basin oil loadout by 70,000 barrels/day

To: Beth Oliver <Beth.Oliver@eaglecounty.us>, Bryan Treu <bryan.treu@eaglecounty.us>

Cc: Jeff Shroll <jeff.shroll@eaglecounty.us>

Do we want to also inquire with BLM about the environmental process for this?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ted Zukoski** <tzukoski@biologicaldiversity.org>

Date: Fri, Jun 30, 2023 at 3:52 PM

Subject: BLM weighing proposal for expanding Uinta Basin oil loadout by 70,000 barrels/day

To: Matt Scherr <matt.scherr@eaglecounty.us>, Bill Eubanks <bill@eubankslegal.com>, Richard J.

Peterson-Cremer <rjp@mountainlawfirm.com>, Karl J. Hanlon <kjh@mountainlawfirm.com>, Matt

Arnold <matt@eubankslegal.com>

Commissioner Scherr, Bill, Richard, Karl, and Matt:

We learned today that the Bureau of Land Management in Utah is considering granting a [new right-of-way](#) to allow the "Wildcat Loadout" in central Utah to increase its capacity to put Uinta Basin crude on to westbound railcars from 30,000 barrels per day (current capacity) to 100,000 barrels per day. That's an increase of 1 billion gallons/year. Backers of the Wildcat Loadout expansion apparently plan to dramatically expand truck tanker traffic carrying oil out of the Basin, take the oil to the loadout, and then put the oil on trains going through Colorado.

It's unclear whether this proposal is an attempt by oil producers to replace the Uinta Basin Railway, or if it may boost chances for the Railway's construction (by demonstrating that there's a demand

and market for waxy crude, and facilitating a ramp-up of production in the Basin that will help make the Railway financially viable when built). At any rate, the loadout right-of-way is intended to increase the flow of oil along the Colorado River on the Union Pacific line significantly in the near term. (Recall that the Uinta Basin Railway could carry up to 350,000 gallons a day, so the loadout would enable the transport of a little less than 30% of the upper level of traffic predicted by the Surface Transportation Board. And yet still too much.)

BLM's notice describes the project as follows:

Coal Energy Group 2, LLC. (CEG2), has proposed to amend their Right of Way (ROW) UTU-48027, known as the Wildcat Loadout Facility. The ROW is a Uinta Basin crude oil transloading facility, where CEG2 transfers Uinta Basin crude oil from oil tanker trucks to rail cars. The Wildcat Loadout Facility currently exports 30,000 barrels (bbl) per day (also called thruput) of Uinta Basin crude oil from four (4) of the five (5) major producers in the Uinta Basin. Under the Proposed Action, the BLM would amend the ROW UTU-48027 to increase Uinta Basin crude oil thruput by 70,000 bbls per day (to a total of 100,000 bbls per day). This ROW Amendment would include adding unloading, tank farm, loading, and other facilities and operations. The operations would be conducted on approximately 12.5 acres of the existing ROW. CEG2 estimates the project life to be 20 years, so the ROW expiration date would be extended to 2043.

BLM is proposing to prepare a low-level environmental assessment (EA) rather than an environmental impact statement (EIS). It's unclear if the agency will allow for public comment before issuing the EA (and it's been a while since I engaged on a BLM project, so I need a refreshed course on how they do things).

I've emailed the BLM staffers asking for some clarification about how the NEPA analysis will proceed and recommending that they prepare an EIS. You (or your clients) may want to do the same. BLM's [notice](#) contains the names, emails, and phone numbers of the involved BLM staff which includes:

Molly Hocanson, mhocanson@blm.gov, (435) 636-3600 (Planning and Environmental Specialist, BLM Green River District)

Joe Palma, jpalma@blm.gov, (435) 636-3600 (apparently a permit specialist)

Kyle Beagley, kbeagley@blm.gov, (435) 636-3600 (Price River BLM Field Office director?).

Happy to chat if you all have questions. My quick and dirty email to BLM – hoping to get their attention and learn a little more – is below. Feel free to alert allies.

Ted Z.

=====

Edward B. (Ted) Zukoski, Senior Attorney

(*he/him*)

Center for Biological Diversity

[1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 421](#)

[Denver, CO 80202](#)

(cell) (303) 641-3149
tzukoski@biologicaldiversity.org
www.biologicaldiversity.org

=====

From: Ted Zukoski
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 2:54 PM
To: kbeagley@blm.gov; mhocanson@blm.gov; jpalma@blm.gov
Cc: Deeda Seed DSeed@biologicaldiversity.org
Subject: Wildcat Loadout Facility - DOI-BLM-UT-G020-2023-0013-EA

Mr. Beagley, Ms. Hocanson, and Mr. Palma:

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity, I'm interested in a recent posting on the BLM NEPA Register concerning the Wildcat Loadout Facility ROW Amendment DOI-BLM-UT-G020-2023-0013-EA.

Can you please let me know how BLM intends to proceed with its NEPA analysis for this proposal? Will a draft EA be prepared for public review and comment before a proposed decision is issued?

As you may know, there is significant public interest in actions that will result in an increase in oil trains moving through Colorado, and in federal agency actions that will result in a major increase in oil production in the Uinta Basin, in transportation of oil from the Basin to refineries, and in combustion of Uinta Basin oil, as evidenced by the controversy and litigation surrounding the Uinta Basin Railway proposal.

Because the increase in oil production (up to 70,000 bbls a day, or 1 billion gallons of oil per year) and shipping through Colorado and on to Gulf Coast refineries would apparently only be made possible by BLM's approval of the proposed right-of-way, any NEPA document BLM prepares must disclose:

- the upstream impacts (including increase in oil drilling with all attendant air and water impacts, the increase in vehicle traffic on roads bringing the oil to the loadout, etc.); and
- downstream impacts of oil transport (oil spills from derailment) and end-use combustion (including climate impacts).

Because these impacts are likely to be significant, we request that BLM begin the process of preparing a full environmental impact statement. In addition, this action appears to be a connected action (or at least a cumulative action) to the proposed paving of Nine Mile Canyon. BLM must consider addressing the proposal to pave Gate Canyon and the Wildcat Loadout right-of-way proposal in the same NEPA document.

Thanks for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Ted Z.

--

Matt Scherr
Eagle County Commissioner
970.328.8625