



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Rocky Mountain RAC

Feb. 13, 2025





Agenda

- 9 a.m. Meeting begins
- 9:10 a.m. Opening remarks and housekeeping
- 9:30 a.m. District and field office updates
- 10 a.m. Fluid mineral leasing brief
- 10:45 a.m. New business
- 11:15 a.m. Public comment period
- 11:45 a.m. Closing remarks and open discussion
- Noon Adjourn



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District Updates

Rocky Mountain RAC: Feb. 13, 2025





District Updates

- Transition Period
 - Current guidance is evolving and will be implementing guidance as we receive it.
- Budget
 - Continuing resolution is funded through March 14
- DOI Secretary confirmed
 - Doug Burgum
- BLM Director nominated
 - Kathleen Sgamma



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RGFO Updates

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RGFO Updates

- Staffing
 - 25% vacancy rate = 11 vacancies
- NEPA
 - 30 Ongoing projects with active NEPA #s
- Renewable Resource Projects
 - Forestry, Range, Riparian, Wildlife
- M&L
 - Realty, O&G – 48 FFF APDs approved
- Recreation
 - Royal Gorge RAMP, Turtle Rock Camping Fee



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SLVFO Updates

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SLVFO Updates

- De Tilla Solar Energy Zone
- Lobatos Bridge
- South San Juan Acquisition



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Fluid Mineral Leasing Basics

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What is a Mineral Lease?

- Multiple-use mandate.
- Right to oil and gas mineral extraction.
- Nominating a parcel for lease.



Role of the BLM

- Ensure potential leasing complies with law.
- Land Use Planning Process (Under FLPMA) determines which lands/minerals will be available for leasing and what lease stipulations would be applied.
- Review parcels that have been nominated for leasing.
- Conduct lease sales.
- Provide lease administration and oversight.



Split Estate

- Two distinct components of any piece of land you can see:
 - Surface
 - Subsurface
- Ownership of one of these components can be severed from the other, and each has its own distinct boundaries.
- Both are measured in acres.
- Can create unique complications unlike anything encountered in purely surface-based ownership.



Recent Secretarial Orders

- SO 3421: Achieving Prosperity Through Deregulation.
 - For any new regulation, 10 existing regulations must be eliminated.
- SO 3418: Unleashing American Energy.
 - Eliminated several Executive Orders.
 - Instructs the DOI to find ways to avoid or eliminate dozens of existing regulations.
 - Instructs DOI to find a way to issue more leases, to review previously cancelled leases for reinstatement, and to pursue other ways to expand mineral leasing.
- SO 3417: Addressing the National Energy Emergency.
 - Instructs DOI to find ways to use emergency authorities to increase mineral leasing.



Requested Information

- What is BLM process for locating sites for oil and gas development?
 - Leasee/Operator submits a notice of staking or application for permit to drill to the BLM
 - Operator and BLM work through alternatives and resource issues for proposed project.
 - Areas should have appropriate development potential and be free of serious management conflict.
 - Acceptable applications are approved or approved with conditions.



Requested Information (contd.)

- What is the process for executing and issuing leases once they are purchased?
 - Potential operator must submit application for permit to drill. This must include operational plans and other certifications.
 - Application is reviewed against relevant policy and law before a decision is made.



Requested Information (contd.)

- Did the Inflation Reduction Act affect BLM lease fees and royalties?
 - IRA eliminated non-competitive leases.
 - Royalty rate went from 12.5% to 16.66%.
 - Any leases not fully executed by the time of IRA implementation were subject to the new fee and had to make up the difference. This did not create delays in the process.
 - Re-opening development in areas with low mineral potential is likely to create a backlog of applications.



Requested Information (contd.)

- Has BLM considered leasing in areas of no surface occupancy?
 - The BLM does issue leases in areas of no surface occupancy.
 - The Royal Gorge Field Office's Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan shows what areas are open to leasing, and how those areas are categorized, using a data table.



Requested Information (contd.)

- Has the BLM considered updating or replacing the current system that lease holders use to make lease payments?
 - The BLM only issues the leases. It does not collect lease payments.
 - The Office of Natural Resources and Revenue is responsible for collecting payment.
 - Lease holders can also pay using pay.gov.
 - Payment can be accepted up to 364 days before it is due.



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Questions?