

# North Fork Valley Leasing - Timeline

January 2013

**Dec. 9, 2011** – The BLM announced a 30-day scoping period to prepare an environmental assessment for 22 proposed oil and gas parcels totaling 29,890 acres near Paonia, Hotchkiss, Somerset and Crawford (North Fork Valley) for the Aug. 9, 2012 oil and gas lease sale.

**Jan. 1, 2012** – The BLM announced a 30-day extension to the scoping period for the North Fork Valley parcels from Jan. 9 to Feb. 9, 2012 to allow the public more time for site-specific comments. During the scoping period, the BLM received 2,983 public scoping letters ranging from support to opposition.

**March 8, 2012** – The BLM released the draft environmental assessment for the parcels in the North Fork Valley for a 30-day public comment period.

**April 3, 2012** – The BLM extended the public comment period from April 6 to April 20, 2012 to allow the public additional time to comment on the draft environmental assessment.

**May 5, 2012** – The BLM deferred the 22 parcels in the North Fork Valley from the Aug. 9, 2012 lease sale based on public input to conduct additional environmental analysis.

**Nov. 15, 2012** – The BLM completed the final environmental assessment for the nominated parcels in the North Fork Valley.

**Opposition:** The majority of feedback cited opposition to oil and gas activity, especially the use of fracking, in the North Fork Valley and requested a permanent deferral. The remaining concerns were tied to natural resource protections and were addressed in the final environmental assessment through deferrals and site-specific mitigation measures. Roughly, 9,335 acres were deferred to protect local watersheds and address resource concerns in areas with steep slopes. About 40 of those acres were deferred due to their proximity to a school. The BLM also added site-specific mitigation measures to protect freshwater resources and address air quality impacts.

**Proponents:** People in support of the sale cited economic benefits for oil and gas development. In fiscal year 2011, oil and gas development in Colorado directly created 20,796 jobs and indirectly created 44,978 jobs. The same year, the State of Colorado received more than \$154 million from royalties, rentals and bonus bid payments for federal minerals, including oil and gas. Lastly, oil and gas development in Colorado contributed \$6.5 billion in direct and \$9.5 billion in total economic impacts.

**Nov. 16, 2013** – The BLM posted the sale notice for the Feb. 14, 2013 lease sale, which included 20 parcels covering 20,555 acres in the North Fork Valley. The sale notice initiates a 30-day protest period that closed Dec. 17, 2012. Of the 172 protests received, 150 were for parcels in the North Fork Valley.

