



# Northwest District

## Kremmling Field Office (KFO – Kremmling)

❖ Kyle Hensley, Acting Field Manager, (970) 724-3001, [khensley@blm.gov](mailto:khensley@blm.gov)

### **North Sandhills Recreation Area Management Plan and Area of Critical Environmental**

**Concern:** The North Sandhills (NSH) Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is the only sandhills area in Colorado that is open to public OHV use. The area sees very large crowds during the OHV riding season, and especially on the holiday weekends (sometimes in excess of 3,000 people per day). The KFO is currently working on a Resource Area Management Plan (RAMP) and a business plan to address management issues in the SRMA. The Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) was put in place under the 2015 Resource Management Plan (RMP), primarily to protect the Boat-shaped Bugseed. This year, the USFWS and BLM Colorado have determined this plant is not a separate species, and is no longer formally Listed or Sensitive.

Question for the RAC: Business plan development for NSH RAMP, what type of fee structure (if any) should BLM be evaluating?

Question for the RAC: For the NSH ACEC, should BLM begin discussions on Amending the 2015 RMP to address the Boat-shaped Bugseed situation?

**Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area:** The Upper Colorado River (UCR) Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is very popular, hosting approximately 115,000 visitors each year. These numbers are collected from commercial outfitters' use reports and Recreation Use Permits collected at Pumphouse, Radium, and State Bridge Recreation sites. Private boaters' use of the river has grown steadily, from approximately 7,274 in 2000 to approximately 60,000 in 2021. Over that same period, commercial use has reflected greater up and down variation, ranging from a low of 29,449 in 2005 to a high of 55,000 in 2021. A business plan for fee structures for river use will be presented to the RAC in the Fall of 2022. The Kremmling Field Office (KFO) has secured funding for a formal carrying capacity study (both social and resource-based), to assist us in implementing current plans, and to facilitate development of an overall River Management Plan.

Question for the RAC: What agencies/organizations should we invite to participate in initial discussions for the River Management Plan?

**Fuels Reduction Projects:** The KFO is currently conducting the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process on fuels reduction projects totaling approximately 4000 acres, to be implemented over the next two years. Historically this office has done approximately 500 acres



in fuels reduction projects per year, so these ongoing projects are a very significant increase in workload.

**Blue Valley Land Exchange:** The BLM proposes to exchange nine parcels, totaling 1,489 acres of Federal lands managed by the BLM in Grand County, Colorado for nine parcels totaling 1,830 acres of non-Federal lands in Summit and Grand counties, Colorado, owned by Galloway, Inc., the owners of the Blue Valley Ranch (BVR). Next steps are for BLM to issue a decision and Notice of Decision which is currently being routed through BLM to DOI leadership. The decision will initiate a 45-day protest period.

## White River Field Office (WRFO – Meeker)

❖ Bill Mills, Field Manager, (970) 878-3800, [wmills@blm.gov](mailto:wmills@blm.gov)

### Wild Horse & Burro Program:

**Piceance East Douglas Horse Management Area (PEDHMA):** WRFO is planning a gather for the PEDHMA scheduled for September 11 – October 11, 2022. The current authorization is to gather 1050 horses with 750 permitted to ship to holding facilities. WRFO is working with the local non-profit organization, Piceance Mustangs, to gain their assistance for determining which horses will be returned to the HMA if projected gather goals are met.

**Meeker Mustang Makeover (MMM):** This year's MMM is scheduled for August 26-27, 2022, at the Rio Blanco Fairgrounds in Meeker. This year's event was intended feature horses from the Sand Wash Basin HMA that were gathered in 2021, however, due to the Canon City facility being temporarily closed the WRFO was able to obtain horses from Wyoming and Utah to support the event. The WRFO continues to partner with MMM to provide assistance with event planning and processing adoption applications.

**Mineral Development / Oil and Gas Development:** The White River Field Office (WRFO) currently processes the oil and gas for all three field offices in the Northwest District (Kremmling Field Office (KFO), Little Snake Field Office (LSFO), and the WRFO). There are approximately 4,000 active oil and gas wells located within the Northwest District Office (approximately 3,400 in WRFO, 300 in LSFO, and 200 in KFO), The largest oil and gas workload is located within the WRFO. In 2021, the WRFO's processed a total of 172 Applications for Permits to Drill (APD) (169 in WRFO, 3 in LSFO, and none in KFO). In 2022, the WRFO has completed four APDs in WRFO, and has processed two applications in KFO. The field office will also be working several multi-year plans of development for two separate companies the remainder of 2022. In addition to the processing of APDs the field office processes approximately 2,000 sundry notices annually. The WRFO also completes the oil and gas inspection and enforcement covering all three field offices. The WRFO anticipates completing over 370 total oil and gas inspections (265 within WRFO and 105 within LSFO and KFO planned). In 2022, the WRFO will



be working with Chevron Oil and Gas to plug and reclaim the remaining wells within the Wilson Creek Field just northwest of Meeker. Currently, WRFO only has one active drilling rigs located in the Piceance Basin with plans of perhaps increasing that number to 3 by the end of the year. WRFO also manages a nahcolite solution mine as well as a number of gravel and decorative rock mining permits.

### **Land Tenure Adjustments:**

**CNCC Shooting Range:** On December 29, 2021, BLM published a combined Notice of Intent and Notice of Reality Action to announce its proposal to sell 3.73 acres of BLM public lands in Rio Blanco County to Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) to resolve inadvertent, unauthorized use of public lands. CNCC previously leased this parcel of public land for the operation of a shooting range. The lease expired in 2006 and the shooting range is currently operating without a lease. In 2008, the BLM issued direction to dispose of developed shooting ranges on public lands through direct sale (the agency-preferred method) or by patent through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. In 2017, CNCC applied to purchase the parcel containing its shooting range from the BLM. The amendment would add the parcel containing CNCC's shooting range to a list of public lands identified for disposal, making the land available for direct sale to CNCC. Under a direct sale, the 3.73 acres of land would be sold to CNCC for no less than fair market value, as appraised by the Appraisal and Valuation Services Office of the Department of the Interior (\$25,000). The shooting range facility serves local communities by providing a resource for law enforcement education and training at CNCC, along with local police, sheriffs, and federal agencies for qualifying their law enforcement personnel. The Proposed RMPA is currently out for public protest (ends May 31, 2022) and the governor's consistency review (ends June 30, 2022). The BLM anticipates issuing a decision for this project in July 2022.

### **Realty Infrastructure Projects:**

**Gateway South:** In December 2016, the BLM issued a Record of Decision to approve the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project which includes the construction of a 416-mile 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line which spans Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. Gateway South is hoping for a notice to proceed by the end of May 2022 with construction beginning in June 2022.

**Change in Alignment for Gateway South Powerline across Raven Ridge ACEC:** The Gateway South transmission line within Colorado traverses the Little Snake and White River Field Offices. In March 2021, PacifiCorp submitted an application to the BLM to re-route a short segment (approximately 2.9 miles) of the approved (but not yet constructed) powerline at the Colorado/Utah border. The proposed alternative route would avoid having to either move or cross the existing Western Area Power Administration's Bears Ears to Bonanza 345kv transmission line. The proposed alternative would involve spanning the Raven Ridge Area of



Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which would require an amendment to the RMP. The public protest period for this project is completed and the governor's consistency review is open until June 2, 2022. The BLM anticipates issuing a decision for this project in mid-June 2022.

## Little Snake Field Office (LSFO – Craig)

❖ Bruce Sillitoe, Field Manager, (970) 826-5089, [bsillitoe@blm.gov](mailto:bsillitoe@blm.gov)

**Large Transmission Line (update): TransWest Express and Pacificorp's Gateway South:** PacifiCorp's Energy Gateway South transmission line (a 500-kV, overhead, single-circuit, alternating-current transmission line) has been issued a Notice to Proceed. GWS has hired a construction contractor and a construction inspection contractor and will begin construction on June 1, 2022. PacifiCorp provided BLM with a revised mitigation plan for impacts to Greater Sage Grouse and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will accept and manage the mitigation funds.

TransWest Express (a high-voltage electric transmission system that will deliver renewable wind energy (direct current) produced in Wyoming to the Desert Southwest) is working towards a tentative limited NTP in October 2022, a full NTP by February 2023, and construction in April 2023. These two powerline projects will impact both the White River and Little Snake Field Offices.

**Travel Management Planning (update):** The Decision Record for Travel Management Area 1 was issued on April 7<sup>th</sup> and was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. By way of review, three TMAs have been identified in LSFO. Each TMA has a standalone EA that has completed the public review process. TMA 2 Decision Record was signed in 2021 and TMA 3 will be signed in 2023. Also, by way of a reminder, the Little Snake Field Office has been engaged in detailed, route-by-route travel management evaluation since the completion of the Resource Management Plan Revision in 2011. The RMP made area designations and directed the LSFO to develop implementation level decisions for approximately 4,700 miles of routes.

**Outcome Based Grazing (update):** The proposed decision was issued April 25, 2022, with a 30-day protest period. Following BLM grazing regulations, if a protest is not received the decision becomes final followed by a 15-day appeal period. By way of review, the Little Snake Field Office was selected as one of 11 demonstration projects in six states to pilot the BLM's Outcome Based Grazing program. Outcome Based Grazing offers a more collaborative approach when issuing grazing authorizations between the BLM and its partners within the livestock grazing community. The purpose of this project is to improve BLM's management of grazing on public lands by offering livestock operators greater flexibility in livestock management with greater consideration to economic flexibility and specific goals and outcomes of rangeland



resources. Decreasing the response time to changing field conditions is one of the primary goals of this program.

**Craig Chamber of Commerce Agreement (update):** Public Scoping meetings were held the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> to seek public input on develop of a Recreation Area Management Plan for South Sand Wash Basin Open Recreation Area.

## Upper Colorado River District

**Supplemental EIS/RMP for Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO) and Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO):** CRVFO and GJFO continue to work on the court ordered Supplemental EIS to address issues related to analysis of downstream greenhouse gas emissions and the range of alternatives for acres available for leasing under their 2015 RMPs and Records of Decision. The CRVFO consolidated oil and gas team will be writing the EIS, with support from a contractor managed by the Colorado State Office. The BLM is currently conducting pre-work, such as drafting the Notice of Intent (NOI), completing GIS calculations, developing the affected environment, and considering a range of leasing alternatives. This may satisfy the plaintiffs (consortium of environmental groups); however, this may create controversy for local governments who rely on oil and gas in their local economies.

### **Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) including McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (MCNCA) and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (DENCA)**

Gulch Fire in size. Suppression repair has been completed and rehabilitation is ongoing. The BLM prepared an Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation plan for the Pine Gulch Fire, which burned approximately 139,000 acres. The plan outlines emergency stabilization and rehabilitation strategies to address resources impacted by the fire.

**Livestock Grazing:** The livestock grazing closure order that the BLM issued January 22, 2021, remains in place. The closure is in effect for all BLM lands that were burned or seeded for a minimum of two years to allow for recovery and seedling establishment.

**Recreation trail damage:** Major rework of the trails is slated for 2022, which will be aided by the new trail dozer with funding awarded by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife OHV program to the Grand Junction Field Office.

**Debris flows and road damage:** The BLM will continue to use previously secured funding for culvert and road repair and maintenance inventory. This contract will provide basic road maintenance in FY22. Rain events over the fire have led to numerous debris flows during 2021.



Road and culvert repair will continue to be necessary across the 192 miles of roads within the Pine Gulch fire.

**Managing Livestock During Drought:** The GJFO continues to coordinate with livestock operators to respond to the on-going drought. The range staff have been coordinating with permittees to discuss drought conditions within areas of the field office. Use recommendations are determined based on-site visits to each allotment and most permittees are making voluntary reductions to the number of livestock that are turned out. Our lower elevation country is being impacted the most by the ongoing drought.

**Mountain Island Ranch:** The Grand Junction Field Office completed NEPA on September 1, 2021, for a collaborative project with Mountain Island Ranch (MIR). BLM and MIR will be working together to install Post Assisted Log structures (also known as beaver analog dams) in the lower Little Dolores River on both private and public land to improve riparian habitat. The structures will help stabilize and restore hydrologic balance to the stream corridor. The project is slated to begin during the Spring of 2022. This project is a continuation of work that MIR began in 2021 on their ranch.

**Use of e-Bikes on Non-Motorized Trails:** The BLM is taking steps to increase opportunities for e-bikes on public lands per guidance in both Secretarial Order (SO) 3376 - Increasing Recreation Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes and BLM Information Bulletin (IB) 2020-003. The final rule took effect on December 2, 2020. Under the new rule, any decision to exempt e-bikes or to allow e-bikes on designated trails closed to motorized use will require a formal planning process. In April, GJFO expanded access to e-bikes within the North Fruita Desert (NFD) Special Recreation Management Area trail system after signing the NFD Master Trails Plan. 32 miles of additional trails and trail reroutes are currently underway made possible through partnerships with Mesa County, the City of Fruita, and the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA).

**North Fruita Desert (18 Rd) Campground and Event Staging Area:** GJFO completed construction at the new event staging and camping area. A new access road, event parking, and 53 new campsites have been constructed. Advanced reservations for all developed camping in the North Fruita Desert Campgrounds are made through Recreation.gov. Reservations for the Upper Campground and select group sites can be made up to six months in advance and reservations for the Lower Campground can be made up to four days in advance.

**Palisade Plunge Singletrack Trail:** Construction of the entire 32-mile trail is now complete. Opening day this year has been delayed due inclement weather yet will open once trail conditions permit. Monitoring and maintenance plans are currently being developed and finalized with key partners to ensure sustainability of the trail system and immediately surrounding areas.



**Volunteer Projects** Since October GJFO has held 5 types of events: trail repair, seeding, cleanups, fence removal, and burned site restoration. With the assistance of our volunteers, over 2000 hours have been donated to the field office. Aside from the volunteer events, we also have two ongoing volunteer programs: Adopt-a-site and Volunteer River Rangers. The adopt-a-site program works at 34&C and has provided over 300 hours and improved shooting range. The river volunteer program was just launched in February. Volunteers have been assisting the office checking in permit holders and going on the river to assist rafters and check campsite conditions. With some collaboration, our volunteers and river ranger managed to remove a fridge from the river.

**County Road 200:** High Lonesome Ranch (HLR), a large ranching operation in Garfield County, locked a gate on their property boundary on Garfield County Road 200 (CR200), which blocked motorized public access to large tracts of BLM-administered public lands.

In 2015, Garfield County requested HLR to remove the gate to allow public access. A dispute ensued and HLR filed a lawsuit against the county to acquire quiet title to the road. Garfield County filed a counterclaim, which alleged the road is a Revised Statute 2477 right-of-way, arguing that they hold prescriptive rights to the road from the gate to the BLM tracts.

In 2020 a federal judge ruled in favor of Garfield County and ordered HLR to remove its lock and gate, allowing public access to the BLM administered lands. The road currently remains open. BLM roads not included in the court decision remain closed to public motorized use pending an appeal. The new access that CR 200 provides allows for expanded foot and horse access on the administrative routes. An appeal to this case was held on January 18, 2022.

## **McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area**

- Collin Ewing, NCA Manager, (970) 244-3000, [cewing@blm.gov](mailto:cewing@blm.gov)

**Rabbit Valley Campgrounds:** The Federal Register Notice for the Rabbit Valley camping Plan published on March 30, 2022. Rabbit Valley is a popular recreation destination for ATVs/UTVs, jeeps, dirt bikes, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding and camping. The area is also a point of access to the Utah Rims trail system (managed by BLM Moab Field Office). Over the past decade we have seen a huge increase in user created campsites in Rabbit Valley, and associated damage to vegetation, archaeology, and a degradation of the user experience. So we went through an [extensive public planning process](#) in 2018-2019 analyzing options for future management. With our 2019 plan we are improving the campgrounds (Knowles Campground expansion is done), building a new equestrian campground, and are now requiring a permit to camp. Camping is now limited to designated sites and requires a free permit. We plan to start charging fees for campsites next spring, and make them reservable on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).



**The Future of the Kokopelli trail system:** The 2004 Resource Management Plan for McInnis Canyons NCA called for additional future mountain bike trail development in the Kokopelli/Mack Ridge zone. Community partners from the Fruita Trails initiative have developed a preliminary proposal for approximately 30 miles of additional trail, including conceptual trail alignments. The Fruita Trails Initiative and Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association held two public meetings in Fruita to get community feedback prior to refining their proposal to the BLM. Timing of the environmental review for this project will depend on the ability of the community partners to fund sensitive resource surveys, as well as other GJFO interdisciplinary team priorities.

**Ruby Horsethief Permit Requirements:** Ruby-Horsethief Recreation Area is a 25 mile stretch of flat water on the Colorado River popular for multi day raft, canoe, and kayaking trips. Thirty-four boat-in campsites are available for reservation for up to seven consecutive nights on Recreation.gov 60 days prior to your launch date. We have been receiving an increasing number of complaints about no-shows at campsites on weekdays as well as unavailability of sites to book on weekends for Friday or Saturday launches. We have also noticed people launching on weekends even though their launch date was scheduled for earlier in the week.

Therefore, to improve the public's opportunity to reserve a campsite on Ruby-Horsethief we have added a stipulation to all permits that affirms the requirement that permit holders and their group launch on their scheduled launch date. In addition, permit holders and their groups will be required to check in with a river ranger (or at sign in at the kiosk if a ranger is not available) at Loma Boat Launch prior to heading downstream. The response to this change has been overwhelmingly positive.

## **Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (D-E NCA)**

- Collin Ewing, NCA Manager, 970-244-3000, [cewing@blm.gov](mailto:cewing@blm.gov)

**Gunnison River Campsite Designation and Permit System:** The BLM implemented a decision from the 2017 D-E NCA RMP to require overnight boaters on the Lower Gunnison River, from Delta to Whitewater, to obtain a permit. BLM staff updated signage and conducted outreach regarding the change with places like Mountain Buzz and American Whitewater. For now, the BLM has implemented a free, self-issued, permit that is filled out on-site. We estimate compliance at 50-70% and expect compliance to increase with additional education and outreach.

Moving forward, the BLM will refine the permit system, implement a reservation system, designate river campsites, and develop an allocation for permitted outfitters. Staff spent over 50 days in the field conducting outreach to the public on input to the planning process. Staff





also contacted river outfitters and collaborated with partners like Colorado Canyons Association to outreach through social media. BLM drafted a proposed action for campsites along the Gunnison River and conducted public scoping on the proposal during the fall of 2021. We received over 100 comments which are currently under review. BLM plans to write an environmental assessment and make it available for a 30-day public comment period in the July of 2022.

**Gunnison River Camping Fees Business Plan:** BLM has begun drafting a business plan that explores charging fees for camping in developed campgrounds and for camping permits on the Gunnison River. We hope to be ready to brief the RAC(s) and seek RAC input in the fall of 2022 and will eventually be seeking a RAC resolution. We are still interested in seeking solutions to make RAC input into this process efficient given that D-E NCA is partly in the areas covered by both the Southwest and Northwest RACs as discussed at the October 2021 RAC meeting.

**Cactus Park Special Recreation Management Area:** The 2017 D-E NCA RMP designated the Cactus Park Area as a Special Recreation Management Area targeting family friendly motorized trail riding and associated camping. The BLM is currently working with Western Slope ATV Association (WSATVA) on projects to improve recreation opportunities and protect sensitive resources in the area. WSATVA received a motorized trail grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife to conduct archaeological surveys on the proposed new Ponderosa Loop Trail. In addition, the BLM is working on layout and design of the Farmers Canyon Trail reroute. This will reroute users outside the mule deer winter range that is closed to travel during the winter to protect mule deer. The BLM will be completing biological surveys and finishing the archaeological surveys in the spring of 2022. The Gibbler Gulch Trail Crossings Environmental Assessment analyzed several reroutes of the popular Gibbler Gulch ATV Trail. The reroutes will decrease sediment contributions to an intermittent creek and improve trail access during higher water levels. In addition, the project designates approximately one mile of trail as open to ATV, motorcycle, bicycle, equestrian and foot travel. The newly designated trail is on lands BLM recently acquired through purchase using the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The new trail ends at a historic cabin on the acquired public land that will be available for heritage tourism and interpretation. The BLM anticipates implementation, in partnership with Western Slope ATV Association, in the fall of 2022.

## Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO – Silt)

❖ Larry Sandoval, Field Manager, (970) 876-9000, [lsandoval@blm.gov](mailto:lsandoval@blm.gov)

**Resources:**



**Rangeland Management NEPA:** During the January 2022 RAC meeting the CRVFO presented information related to longstanding cattle grazing issues (primarily in riparian) in the East Fork Parachute Creek Common Allotment. The Field Office conveyed that we had just learned that the cattle permittees had decided to sell their grazing permits to a sheep operator who had around a decade ago acquired permits on a neighboring allotment and successfully made the shift to sheep grazing. This EA was recently completed and posted on E-Planning, and a Decision Record and FONSI is expected to be signed before the end of May.

**Virtual Fence Network:** Last year, the CRVFO invested in a 6-tower virtual fence network that covers over 356,000 acres. As part of the first pilot project Pat Luark collared 130 cattle, used virtual fences to rest 620 acres in his allotment, and flash grazed a 100-acre pinyon-juniper mastication treatment for six days and then excluded cattle for the rest of the year. Despite exceptional drought conditions, we observed knee-high regrowth of native bunchgrasses in the treatment, and this winter vast amounts of deer, elk, and pronghorn are using the rested areas and treatment. Pat plans to collar 320 head this year.

Lloyd Gerrard plans to collar approximately 400 head this year. The White River National Forest plans to purchase two towers to extend the existing BLM network, which means Lloyd will be able to use the technology on his BLM and Forest Service allotments as well as his private land. We will rest a long-term weed treatment, address an ongoing boundary issue, and reduce conflicts in an area that receives heavy recreational use. The proposed East Divide project will involve at least eight livestock producers, 800-1200 collared cattle, and address multiple boundary fence issues.

Virtual fencing allows us to implement rest rotation in ways that have never been possible, improve soils, increase forage, and increase resiliency during ongoing drought. Cattle producers benefit from having more options in how they use their allotments, improved forage conditions, knowing exactly where their cattle are, knowing if an animal is not moving as expected due to injuries or illness, reduced fence maintenance, fewer concerns about gates being left open, and more. This work continues to be a collaboration between our range, wildlife, and fuels programs.

**CRVFO New and Expanded Trails:** Consolidated Reservoir Trail - BLM is working with the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council to build a four-mile foot and horse trail that will provide spectacular views for all levels of riders and horses. Once the EA is completed, the horse council plans to hire a Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew to help with trail construction summer/fall 2022. The trail will include some existing trail as well as new hand-built sections. Crown SRMA - BLM is working with the Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA) to develop approximately 11 miles of single track on the Crown. This would build out the SRMA guidance described in the Resource Management Plan. Grand Hogback Trails - The BLM, City of Rifle, and RFMBA recently presented a grant request to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife non-motorized



subcommittee. If awarded, it will fund the construction of eight additional miles of trails and a vault toilet for the parking lot.

### **Lands and Realty:**

**Xcel Energy multiyear transmission powerline rebuild projects:** The CRVFO is completing NEPA to authorize two Xcel Energy rebuilds. The first line runs from Glenwood to Cameo through several substations. This line is currently operating at 69kV but will be built out with upgraded infrastructure to accommodate the future needs of 115kV. The larger voltage results in taller structures and a greater right-of-way. The second rebuild is a 115kV line and originates in Leadville, snakes down the Frying Pan, and turns northwest at Basalt and terminates at the Fischer Creek substation. Both projects are complete rebuilds with all new structures and wire. Xcel has a current targeted construction start in late 2022.

**Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Right-of-way:** The CRVFO is completing NEPA to authorize a right-of-way for a 12.6-acre material storage area just east of Dotsero and north of I-70 for 30 years. The storage area will be used during emergency removal of rock and sediment from debris flows in Glenwood Canyon, which are exacerbated by the Grizzly Creek Fire and resulted in extended I-70 closures in 2021. The proposed site would provide a nearby location to store material during rapid responses to clear debris and reopen I-70 to traffic as quickly as possible. Reducing the time needed to safely reopen the interstate would diminish impacts to alternate routes that are not designed to handle the volume and size of vehicle traffic on I-70, would help meet the demand for interstate commerce, and decrease the impacts of rerouted interstate traffic to local communities.

### **Land Tenure:**

**Eagle River Sanitation District (ERSD) Direct Sale:** In 2010, ERSD received a land patent pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purpose Act (R&PP) for 25 acres near the Eagle County Landfill to be used for wastewater drying purposes. ERSD is proposing to have a third party develop a Solar PV array in and around the existing facilities to sell and provide renewable power for Eagle County facilities. The R&PP Act disposal provisions do not provide for third party uses or revenue generation over and above the operating costs of the facility. Therefore, ERSD has proposed to purchase the property at fair market value. BLM is working to get the appraisals complete to prepare for the direct sale.

**Anderson Camp Direct Sale:** The CRVFO is developing a Notice of Realty Action (NORA) to propose a noncompetitive sale of 7.55 acres of public land in Eagle County, Colorado, to Sweetwater Rydev LLC, to resolve an unauthorized use of public lands. The proposed direct sale would be for no less than fair market value and would resolve a trespass on public land dating back more than 100 years. Some buildings and improvements in Anderson Summer Camp were built on public land, the oldest being a cabin from 1914. The current owners of Anderson Camp



purchased the property and associated infrastructure in 1979. They discovered the trespass through a 2014 survey and then contacted the BLM about resolving this long-standing, inadvertent trespass. The camp serves numerous non-profit groups including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school groups, church groups, foster kids, and Court Appointed Special Advocates.

**Remediation of Marijuana Grow Sites:** A contractor is expected to commence cleanup efforts for marijuana grow sites located on the Colorado River Valley and White River Field Offices in the spring/early summer of 2022. The efforts will remove an estimated 320 cubic yards of solid waste from the 12 grow sites. Due to the remoteness and limited access most of the effort will be completed through air operations with the use of helicopters.

### **Oil & Gas:**

**TEP's Upper Beaver Creek Project:** TEP is planning work with our office in the Beaver Creek area, which is anticipated to begin in summer 2022. If the APDs are approved, pad expansion work would begin in summer 2022, with drilling and completions tentatively planned for January-August 2023. The project site is located along County Road 317 (Beaver Creek Road), southwest of Rifle and a short distance north of the WRNF.

**TEP's Allen Point Master Development Plan: UPDATE: On Hold** - TEP acquired leases on the Roan Plateau and is considering developing the fee and Federal leases atop the plateau in coming year(s).

**CPX's "Tepee Park Ranch" Project:** Scheduled for 2023 at the earliest, federal bottomholes would be developed from one existing fee/fee pad and one new fee/fee pad. The existing fee/fee pad and a second existing fee/fee pad currently support multiple fee wells. The project area is on private land within the WRNF at the southern (upper) terminus of Beaver Creek Road southwest of Rifle. Access to the proposed new pad would require a new spur road and the pipeline alignments are undetermined. NEPA preparation, pending completion of resource surveys and more detailed site planning, could occur in late 2022. Interagency onsite review of the project has not yet occurred. CPX is a new operator in our area – at least for Federal wells – but is staffed by personnel who previously worked for other operators in our area.

**Laramie Energy's Cascade Creek Projects (GJFO, but in Garfield County):** CRVFO recently approved a DNA and will soon approve APDs four Federal wells on the fee/fee CC 0697-03-07 well pad -- four of eight APDs previously analyzed by the CRVFO but undrilled due to COVID-and other delays. Similarly, the COGCC approved APDs for three of 16 fee wells previously approved but undrilled. The pad is at approximately 8,525 feet in elevation and 16 miles northeast of De Beque, Colorado, on the divide between Parachute and Roan Creeks. Drilling on these projects would occur in 2022 and 2023.



**Current and Forecasted Drilling Activity** - Currently there are 2 working drill rigs in the Colorado River Valley and Grand Junction Field Offices. One is an ongoing rig with TEP currently drilling on the NR 23-3 location, which has a mix of federal and fee wells. The second rig is Laramie's, on their Cascade Creek 0697-03 location. There are 4 federal wells being drilled on this location. In addition to drilling operations, we expect several pluggings to occur during the summer/fall season.