0060

United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Manti-La Sal National Forest

Ferron/Price Ranger District
Ferron Work Center
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INCOMING
C/007/005

File Code: 2820-4
Date: June 16, 2003

Dear Interested Party:

The Manti-La Sal National Forest is evaluating a proposal (Coal Exploration Plan) submitted by Ark Land Company (a subsidiary of Arch Coal Inc.) on behalf of Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Skyline Mine, to conduct a helicopter assisted coal exploration surface drilling program during the 2003 field season. The proposed project would consist of drilling three core holes on Federal Coal Lease UTU-67939. The location of the proposed project is in the area of Winter Quarters Canyon, west of the town of Scofield, Sections 2, 10, 11; T.13 S., R.6 E., SLB&M, Carbon County, Utah (see map). The purpose of this drilling program would be to provide information necessary to evaluate the coal seam thickness, quality, and characterize the geology of the area's coal reserves in advance of underground coal mining at the Skyline Mine.

The project is proposed on existing Federal Coal leases administered by US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The District Ranger must concur to terms and conditions prior to approval of the Coal Exploration Plan by the BLM Utah State Director and must decide what conditions of approval (mitigations) are needed to protect non-coal resources.

Since this project involves helicopter-assisted drilling, there are only minor and temporary surface disturbances (<100 square feet per site), which would be reclaimed when drilling is completed. No new access roads are proposed. Since no other extraordinary circumstances have been identified, including inventoried roadless areas, it is anticipated that this action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis (EA or EIS) under category 31.2 (3), "Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land".

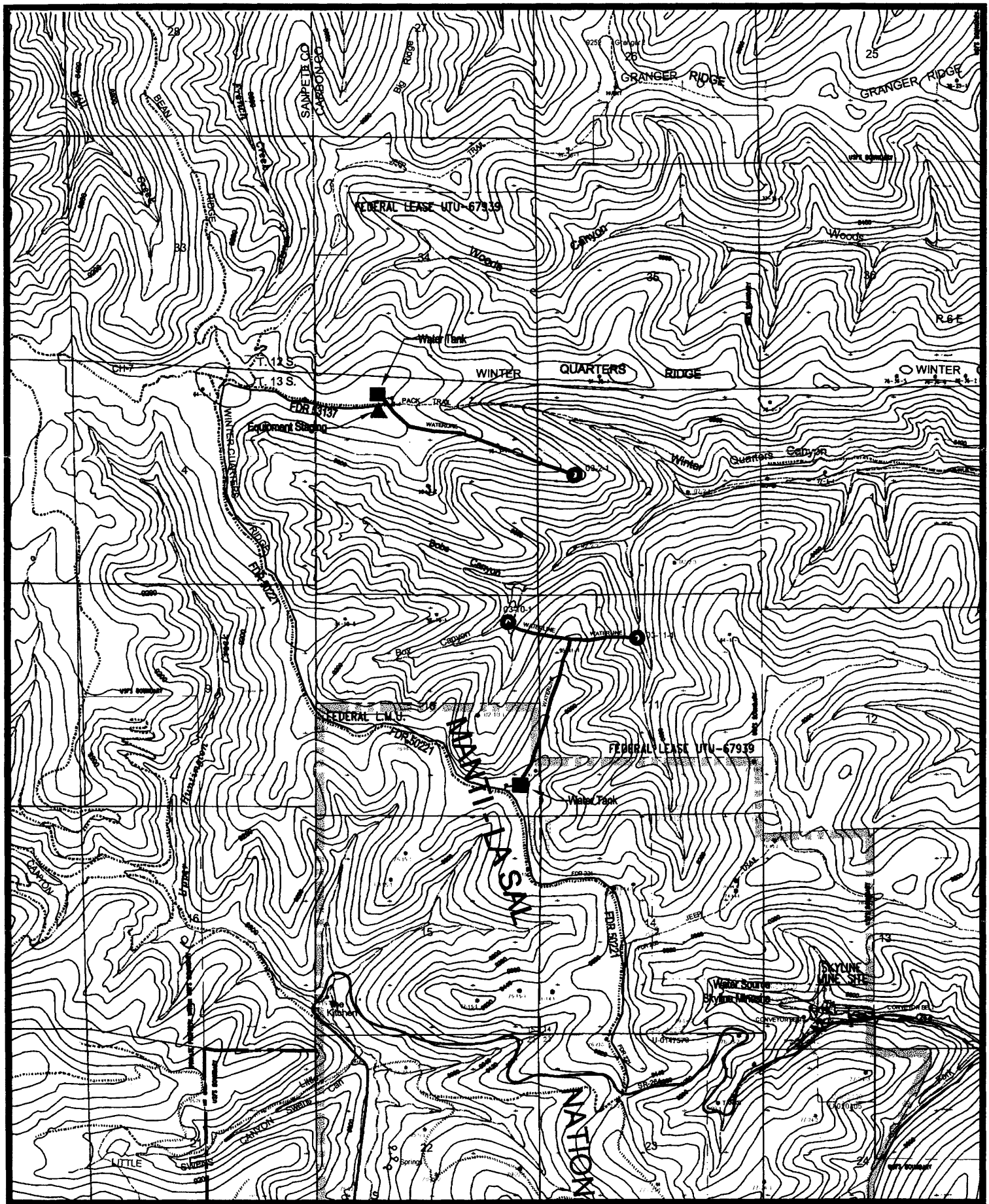
Comments are invited on this proposal. To ensure consideration, comments should be sent to the Manti-La Sal National Forest, Brian McClelland, Ferron-Price Ranger District, Box 310, Ferron, Utah, by July 19, 2003. All received comments will be considered. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses, would be considered part of the public record and would be available for public inspection.

Sincerely,

Mesia Nyman
District Ranger

RECEIVED
JUN 19 2003
DIV. OF OIL, GAS

Enclosure: Project Map
cc: SO, Sally Wisely, Utah State Director BLM, Mary Ann Wright, UDOGM



MAP 1

Proposed Helicopter Drill Site 03-11-1

Equipment Staging Area

Proposed Water Tank Location, 10,000-20,000 gal Frac Tank

Proposed Forest Road Use

2 to 4 in. Waterline (hdpe)

1000' 0' 1000' 2000' 3000'

N

ARK LAND COMPANY

PROPOSED EXPLORATION PLAN

WINTER QUARTERS LEASE
LEASE UTU-67939
2003

SCALE 1" = 3000'