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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Green River District-Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, UT 84501

(435) 636-3600 Fax: (435) 636-3657

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price.html>



IN REPLY REFER TO:
3432(UTU-78562)
(UTG023)

MAY - 5 2011

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Memorandum

To: Chief, Branch of Minerals, Utah State Office

From: Patricia A. Clabaugh, Field Office Manager

Patricia A. Clabaugh

Subject: Federal Coal Lease Modification Application UTU-78562, West Ridge Resources, Inc., Lessee

Attached is a copy of an Environmental Assessment (EA), a Decision Record (DR) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the subject lease modification application. The EA documents minimal to no impacts from the underground mining that would most likely occur if the lease modification is issued. The DR documents my decision to recommend issuance of this lease modification provided all other lease modification requirements and lease contractual agreements are met.

This EA has been completed in cooperation with the Office of Surface Mining to assist them in permitting the mining of this modified Federal coal lease should Federal mine plan approval be necessary.

As noted in the EA, the leasing of the modified coal lands is in conformance with the current land use plan. We also recommend that the modified coal lands be subject to the existing lease stipulations of UTU-78562. The lease bond should be modified to include the coverage of the modified lease acres. No bond increase is necessary as the current bond is adequate to cover liabilities of the modified lease.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk of my staff.

Attachments

- Environmental Assessment
- Decision Record
- Finding of No Significant Impact

cc: Green River District w/attach
Office of Surface Mining, Denver, CO. w/attach
Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining, SLC, Utah w/attach

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Finding of No Significant Impact
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-G023-2011-0014_EA**

May, 2011

West Ridge Lease Modification

Location: West Ridge Mine, Eastern Carbon County, Utah

Applicant/Address: West Ridge Resources, Inc.
PO Box 910
East Carbon, Utah 84520

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501
Phone: (435) 636-3600
Fax: (435) 636-3657

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-G023-2011-0014_EA
West Ridge Lease Modification

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the (referenced or attached) environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that modifying Federal Lease UTU-78562 to include approximately 351.24 acres of land will not have a significant effect on the human environment [other than those already analyzed in existing NEPA documents]. The coal mining development scenario associated with this added fringe coal lease acreage, is an extension of underground mine workings from the existing West Ridge Coal Mine. No surface facilities are planned on the modified lease acreage. Surrounding areas have already been mined and no subsidence has been detected. New or additional subsidence and any affects from subsidence are not anticipated on these fringe acres. Hence, no surface environmental impacts are anticipated. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

Patricia Chaboug
Authorized Officer
Field manager

5-3-11
Date

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Decision Record
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G023-2011-0014-EA**

May, 2011

West Ridge Lease Modification

Location: West Ridge Mine, Eastern Carbon County, Utah

Applicant/Address: West Ridge Resources, Inc.
PO Box 910
East Carbon, Utah 84520

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Price Field Office
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Phone: (435) 636-3600
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DECISION RECORD
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G023-2011-0014-EA
West Ridge Lease Modification

It is my decision to recommend that Federal Coal Lease UTU-78562 be modified to include approximately 351.24 additional acres of land adjacent to the lease. This recommendation is subject to the proponent meeting all other lease modification requirements and contractual agreements. The lease modification is required for West Ridge Resources, Inc. to extend the life of the mine and to provide access to lease areas currently held by the proponent.

Authorities: The authority for this decision is contained within the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185) (MLA), and within Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 3432).

Compliance and Monitoring: BLM shall monitor actions performed to ensure compliance with the terms, conditions, and stipulations of the lease grant. West Ridge Resources, Inc. will monitor reclamation according to the approved mine reclamation plan.

Terms / Conditions / Stipulations: Mining practices will be in conformance with the stipulations found in the approved mine permit and the lease stipulations of Federal coal lease UTU-78562 which stipulations the lease modification area will also acquire. Mitigation measures will also be in conformance with the approved mine permit. Reclamation will follow the terms and conditions of the approved mine reclamation plan.

PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Approved RMP) approved October 31, 2008. The objective on page 123 states: "Maintain coal leasing, exploration, and development within the planning area while minimizing impacts to other resource values."

Alternatives Considered: The single other alternative considered was Alternative B, No Action alternative. Implementation of Alternative B would not meet the purpose and need for the action outlined in the Environmental Assessment (EA). No resource concerns or additional mitigation actions were identified which warranted consideration for additional alternatives.

Rationale for Decision: Alternative A was chosen due to the fact that the Proposed Action was the only other analyzed alternative that met the purpose and need as outlined in the EA (page 1). As stated in the attached Finding of No Significant Impact, this action has been analyzed in the EA and was found to have no significant impact. The project is also in conformance with the Approved RMP.

The public was notified of the Proposed Action by posting on the Environmental Notification Bulletin Board on January 1, 2011. No comments were received.

Native American Tribes were notified of this proposal and no concerns were raised.

Protest/Appeal Language: This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah 84501, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Patricia Clabaugh
Authorized Officer

5-3-11
Date

Field Manager

**United States Department of the Interior
Lead Agency:
Bureau of Land Management**

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G023-2011-0014-EA**

May, 2011

West Ridge Lease Modification

***Location:* West Ridge Mine, Eastern Carbon County, Utah**

***Applicant/Address:* West Ridge Resources, Inc.
PO Box 910
East Carbon, Utah 84520**

Cooperating Agency:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Denver Colorado

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501
Phone: (435) 636-3600
Fax: (435) 636-3657

**West Ridge Coal Mine Lease Modification
DOI-BLM-UT-G023-2011-0014-EA**

**CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

INTRODUCTION

West Ridge Resources, Inc. (West Ridge) proposes to modify the Federal Lease UTU-78562 to include an additional 356.24 acres of land adjacent to the lease. The existing lease has been mined in the past through the operation of the West Ridge Mine, and in order to extend the life of the mine, additional lease area is required. The proposed additional lease area is found in Eastern Carbon County, Utah, and is administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The proposed lease modification includes parcels located in Section 31, T. 13 S., R 14 E., and Sections 5, 6, 8 and 17, T. 14 S., R. 14 E. Salt Lake Base and Meridian (SLBM), (see Plate #1). With the lease modification authorized, operations in the additional lease area would begin in May 2011.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

West Ridge has submitted an application for a lease modification to gain access to additional areas. The BLM's need is to respond to the applicant's proposal to modify the existing lease.

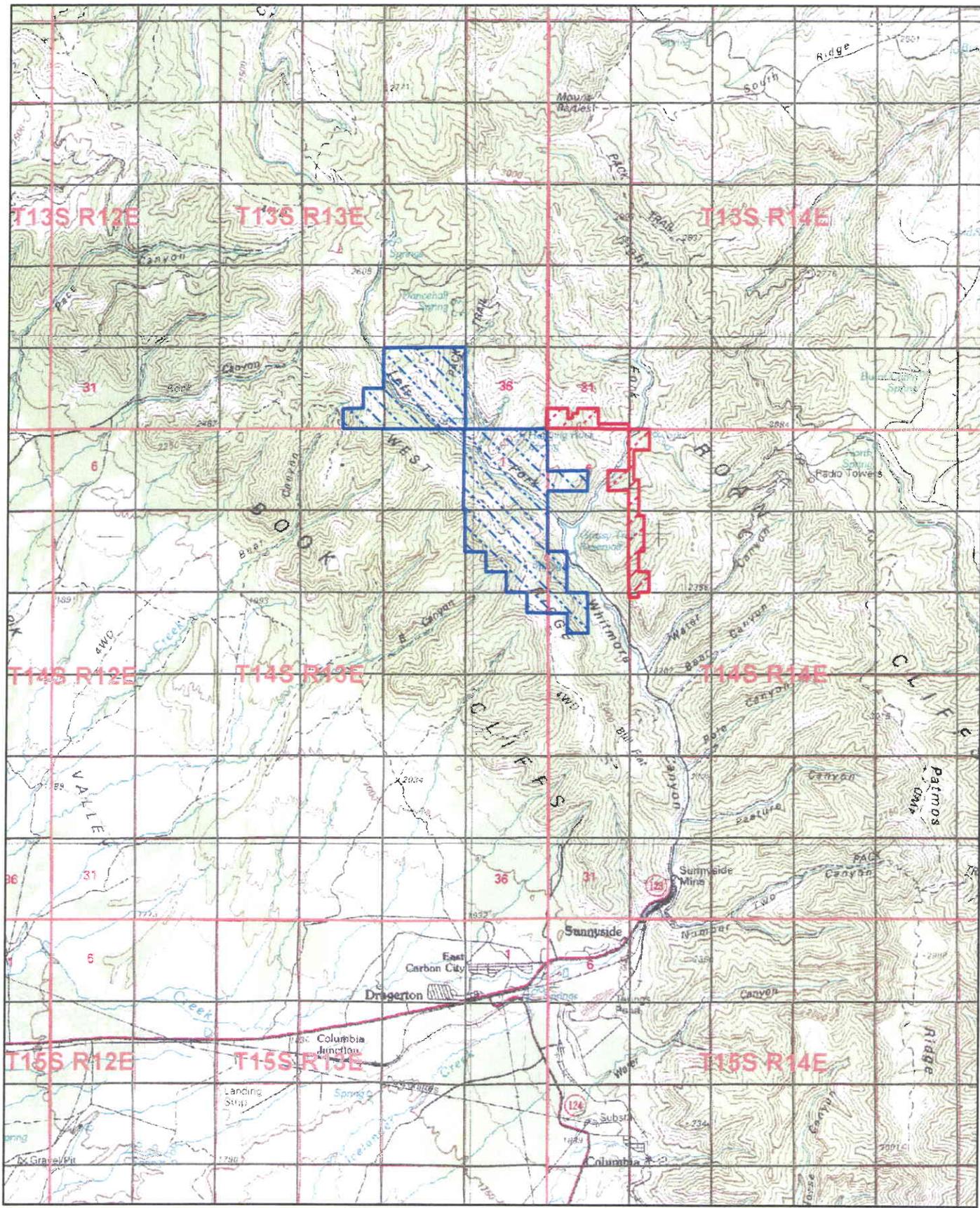
The BLM must consider the Proposed Action according to Title 5 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), regulations found in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 3432, and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185).

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Approved RMP) (BLM 2008b) Mineral and Energy Resources goal of providing opportunities for mineral development under the mining and mineral leasing laws.

RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS

The Proposed Action is consistent with FLPMA of 1976, MLA of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185), regulations found within Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 3432), National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), the Department of Interior Procedures for Implementing NEPA (43 CFR Part 46), and the BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) (BLM 2008a). The lease would be administered under the regulation and requirements within Chapter 7 Title 30 of the CFR.



 Federal Lease UTU - 078562
 Proposed Lease Modification

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**West Ridge Lease Modification
 Environmental Assessment**

The additional lease area is within lands designated as Watershed (WS) and Recreation, Forestry, and Mining (RF&M) by Carbon County Planning and Building Department and the Proposed Action is in conformance with land use policies (Carbon County 2003).

Construction of the access road, utility lines, and surface utilities were previously analyzed in EA UT-066-98-41, and the Decision Record was signed on June 11, 1998. A copy of the EA can be obtained from the BLM Price Field Office. Mining operations are described in the approved West Ridge Mining and Reclamation Plan.

CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) focuses on the Proposed and No Action alternatives. BLM resource specialists reviewed West Ridge's Proposed Action and no potential impacts were identified. No resource concerns or additional mitigation actions were identified which warranted consideration for additional alternatives. The No Action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison to the Proposed Action.

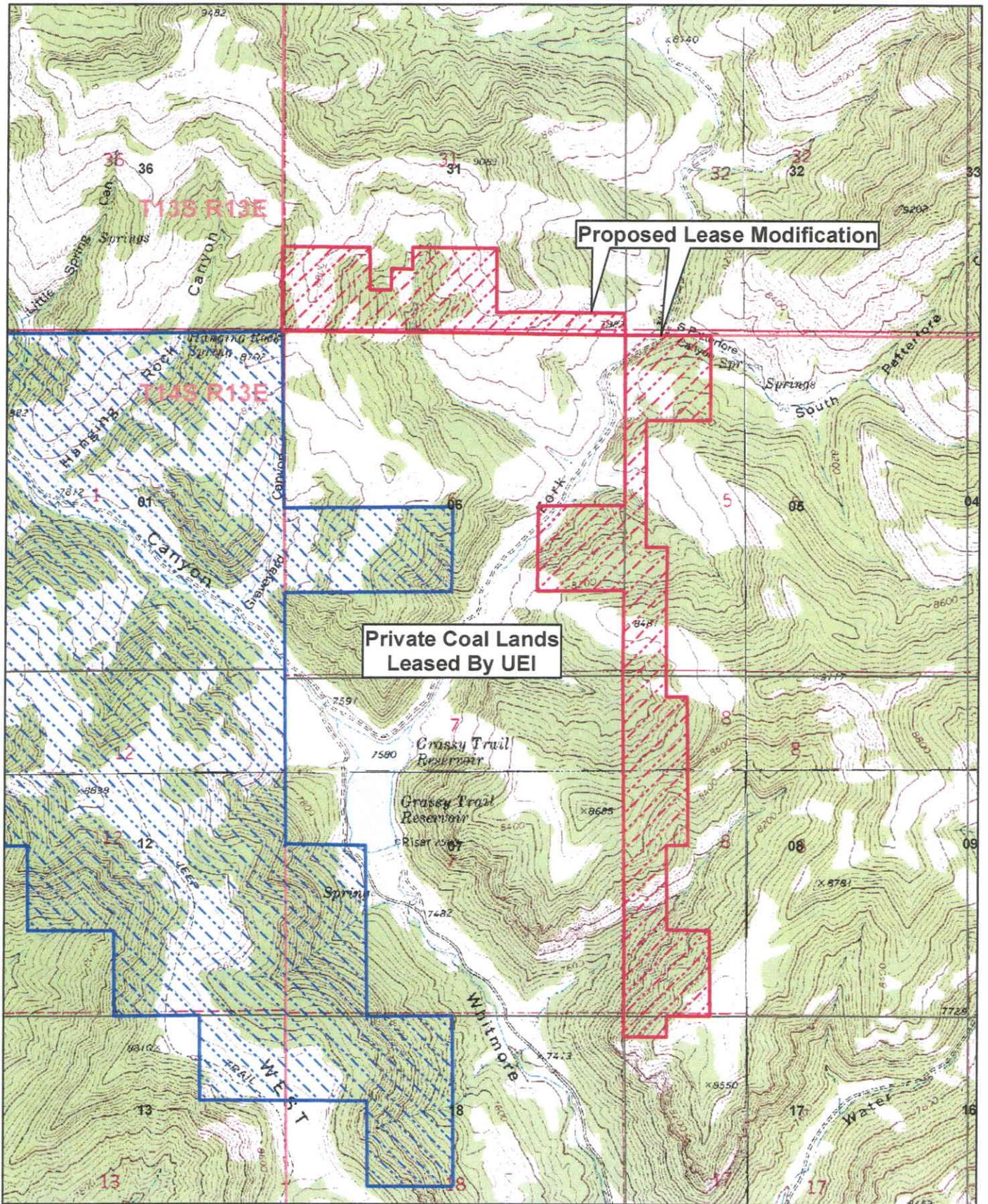
PROPOSED ACTION

West Ridge has applied for a lease modification of lease UTU-78562 for the purpose of gaining access to currently held lease areas and extending the mining lease to adjacent lands. With the approved lease modification, several additional long-wall panels would be mined for the recovery of up to 2,200,000 additional tons of coal from existing private, federal, and state leases. The majority of the coal mined as a result of the Proposed Action would be retrieved from lease areas currently held by West Ridge Resources. Only the end of the long-wall panels would extend into the proposed lease modification area. The proposed lease modification includes the following lands (SLM) shown on Plate #2:

T. 13 S., R. 14 E.	Section 31:	Lot 4; S1/2SE1/4SW1/4; NE1/4SE1/4SW1/4; SE1/4NW1/4SE1/4SW1/4; W1/2SW1/4SE1/4; S1/2SE1/4SW1/4SE1/4; S1/2S1/2SE1/4SE1/4
T. 14 S., R. 14 E.	Section 5:	Lot 4; W1/2W1/2SW1/4NW1/4; SW1/4NW1/4SW1/4; W1/2NW1/4NW1/4SW1/4; W1/2SW1/4SW1/4
	Section 6:	NE1/4SE1/4
	Section 8:	W1/2NW1/4NW1/4; W1/2SE1/4NW1/4NW1/4; SW1/4NE1/4NW1/4NW1/4; W1/2SW1/4NW1/4; W1/2E1/2SW1/4NW1/4; W1/2NW1/4SW1/4; SW1/4SW1/4
	Section 17:	N1/2NW1/4NW1/4NW1/4

Proposed lease modification areas contain approximately 356.24 acres of federal land administered by BLM.

Mining operations creating access through the southwest corner of Section 31, T. 13 S., R. 14 E. would begin in May 2011, however the majority of the coal would not be extracted for several months. Mining operations would follow procedures described in the approved mine plan and as permitted in the lease. Portals, breakouts, fan sites, or other direct surface disturbance is not planned in the lease modification area.



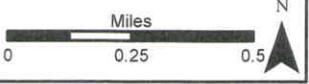
T13S R13E

T14S R13E

Proposed Lease Modification

Private Coal Lands Leased By UEI

-  Federal Lease UTU - 078562
-  Proposed Lease Modification



West Ridge Lease Modification
Environmental Assessment

Plate #2

NO ACTION

The No Action alternative would be the denial of the Proposed Action. West Ridge would not be allowed to mine or create access through the areas beyond their current lease boundary. Alternate plans would be required to continue mining within the existing lease.

CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

An interdisciplinary team has considered and analyzed the affected environment in response to the Proposed Action. The Interdisciplinary Team Checklist, included as Appendix A, provides a brief description of the resources present and effects expected from the Proposed Action. This chapter describes the potentially affected environment and is used as a baseline to describe the impacts described in Chapter 4.

The West Ridge Mine is located along the western edge of the Book Cliffs in Eastern Carbon County, Utah. The proposed lease modification areas are between approximately 7,600 and 8,600 feet and are comprised of mixed oak-shrubland, aspen forest, and mixed conifer forest. The proposed lease areas are near the Grassy Trail Reservoir, which provides water for the mine and the towns of Sunnyside and East Carbon. In the past, the surrounding area had been used for ranching and natural gas extraction. This area has a history of coal mining beginning in 1897 with the Sunnyside Mine. There is an unpaved road through the northeastern corner of the parcels, and an access road to a gas well pad in the southern portion. Water in the area is mostly in the form of winter snowmelt with occasional summer rain.

The coal reserve within the modified lease area is under approximately 3,000 to 3,500 feet of cover.

Soils

The Natural Resources Conservation Service describes soil in the proposed lease area as loam, stony loam, bouldery loam, or extremely bouldery fine sandy loam (NRCS 2006). These surface soils are approximately 3,000 to 3,500 feet above the coal seam. Coal in the general area has been mined previously resulting in nearly imperceptible subsidence. Coal mined previously was shallower with significantly less overburden. A large portion of the proposed lease area is hillside affected by natural erosion.

Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species and BLM Sensitive Species

Vegetation communities in the proposed lease area is comprised of mixed conifer woodland, sagebrush shrubland, oak shrubland, and aspen forest. The proposed lease area is comprised of approximately 71.1 acres of woodland, 82.5 acres of mixed oak shrubland, 136.1 acres of aspen forest, and 64.3 acres of sagebrush shrubland. Approximately 2.2 acres of the proposed lease area is cliff and canyon.

Vegetation in the lease area is similar to surrounding areas over previously mined coal seams. Previous mining actions resulted in minimal subsidence with little or no effect on vegetation.

CHAPTER 4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

This EA is tiered to EA UT-066-98-41. The previous EA analyzed the environmental consequences of mineral leasing based on the reasonably foreseeable development of the 2,570.67 acres in the original lease area. The impacts from the additional 356.24 acres would be similar to the impacts described in the previous EA at a smaller scale. A copy of the EA can be obtained from the BLM Price Field Office.

PROPOSED ACTION

This section analyzes the impacts of the Proposed Action to the affected environment described in Chapter 3.

Soils

The Proposed Action is in an area with approximately 3,000 to 3,500 feet of overburden. Based on over 110 years of mining within the same geologic formation in coal seams of similar thickness, 5 to 12 feet, it has been demonstrated that subsidence impact to the surface are minimal in areas mined with greater than 1,800 feet of overburden. The extensive barrier panels that will remain in place would negate even minor vibrations that could result in the displacement of soil, escarpment failure, or any subsequent surface disturbances. Impacts to soils are expected to be nonexistent or at most minimal.

Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species and BLM Sensitive Species

Due to the amount of overburden in the proposed lease area and the observations from mining in the general area, impacts to vegetation caused by subsidence is expected to be minimal. Impacts from the Proposed Action to ground water are not expected to a degree that detailed analysis is required in this EA and have only a small possibility to affect upland vegetation. Mitigation for possible effects to vegetation is described in the approved mine plan. There would be no clearing or direct loss of vegetation from the Proposed Action.

NO ACTION

The No Action alternative would not meet the need of the Proposed Action. Denial of the lease modification would restrict access to mining in areas of the existing lease and additional areas of coal resulting in the loss of over two million tons of recoverable coal. There would be no environmental impacts from the Proposed Action because it would be denied. Mining operations would continue within the existing lease area with impacts similar to those described for the Proposed Action, however, the impacts would not be within the proposed lease modification area. Under the No Action alternative, the life of the mine would be reduced from one to four years, depending on local markets. This could result in the loss of tax revenue, property tax,

income tax, and the loss of royalty revenue to both the US government as well as the state of Utah.

Soils

There would be no impacts to soils caused by the Proposed Action because the No Action alternative would be the denial of the Proposed Action.

Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species and BLM Sensitive Species

There would be no impacts to vegetation caused by the Proposed Action because the No Action alternative would be the denial of the Proposed Action.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are impacts resulting from incremental impacts when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of which agency or person undertakes such action.

Soils

The Cumulative Impact Area (CIA) for impacts to soil resources caused by the Proposed Action would be the area of the West Ridge Mine leases and adjacent mining areas. Previous mining within the CIA has resulted in minimal effects to soil resources and the additional impacts caused by the Proposed Action are expected to be minimal. With the Proposed Action authorized, the mining would continue to operate. Effects from future mining would be similar to past and present impacts to soil with minimal subsidence. Other actions from continued mining are not foreseeable at this time and cannot be analyzed in this EA.

The No Action alternative would have no cumulative impacts on soils.

Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species and BLM Sensitive Species

The CIA for impacts to vegetation caused by the Proposed Action would be the existing and proposed lease areas of West Ridge Mine. The additive impacts from the Proposed Action would be a fractional increase of effects similar to effects from previous mining, such as minimal surface disturbance caused by subsidence. Impacts to vegetation from foreseeable future mining would also be similar to impacts from previous mining. Cumulative impacts to vegetation are expected to be minimal.

The No Action alternative would have no cumulative impacts to vegetation.

CHAPTER 5 PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During preparation of this EA, the public was notified of the Proposed Action by posting on the Utah Internet Homepage on January 10, 2011. To date, no comments have been received from the public.

Table 5.1 List of Persons, Agencies and Organization Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Northern Band Shoshone, Shoshone -Bannock, Paiute Tribe of Utah, Navajo, Eastern Shoshone, Ute, Hopi, Southern Ute, Ute Mountain, Zuni	Native American Concerns	Consultation was conducted through scoping. Letters describing the project were sent to interested parties. No concerns were identified.

List of Preparers

BLM staff specialists who determined the affected resources for this document are listed in Appendix A. Those who contributed further analysis in the body of the EA are listed below.

Table 5.2 List of Preparers

BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Dana Truman	Range Management Specialist	Review, Soils and Vegetation
Stephen Falk	Mining Engineer	Project Lead

Non-BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Mel A Coonrod	Owner, EIS	Editing and Impact Analysis
Tom Paluso	Engineer/Mining	Potential Subsidence
Matt Serfustini	Biologist	Drafting, Editing, Revision

REFERENCES

BLM. 2008a. BLM NEPA Handbook. H-1790-1. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C.

BLM. 2008b. Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. Bureau of Land Management, Price, Utah.

BLM. 2009. NEPA Guidebook. Bureau of Land Management. Utah State Office, Utah.

Carbon County. 2003. Carbon County General Plan. Carbon County, Utah.

NRCS. 2006. Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database for Carbon Area, Utah, Parts of Carbon and Emery Counties. USDA, NRCS, Fort Worth, TX.

NRCS. 2009. Official Soils Series Description. NRCS, Soil Surveys Division.
<<http://soils.usda.gov/technical/classification/osd/index.html>> USDA-NRCS, Lincoln, NE.

Utah GIS Portal. 2009. Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center.
<<http://agrc.its.state.ut.us/>>

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: West Ridge Coal Mine Lease Modification

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-G023-2011-0014-EA

File/Serial Number: UTU-78562

Project Leader: Stephen Falk

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: *(Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)*

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality	The project area is considered to be in attainment of National air quality standards. Dust and other emissions would be generated by vehicles and other equipment utilized for the project. However, these emissions are unlikely to result in impacts that would be measurable in models or by monitors.	Stephanie Howard	3/2/2011
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	There are no ACEC's within the project area as per GIS/Map review.	Kathryn Lloyd	2011-Jan-11
NP	BLM Natural Areas**	There are no BLM Natural Areas within the project area as per GIS/Map review.	Kathryn Lloyd	2011-Jan-11
NP	BLM Sensitive Animal Species	BLM sensitive animal species are not known to be present within the project area as per GIS/Map review.	David L. Waller	2011-Jan-11
NP	BLM Sensitive Plant Species	There are no known populations or habitat for sensitive plants species according to the BLM records.	Dana Truman	1/6/2011
NI	Cultural Resources	There is no surface disturbance from facilities or subsidence. No cultural resource should be affected	Blaine Miller	1-6-11
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions**	No standards have been set by EPA or other regulatory agencies for greenhouse gases. Further, the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is still in its earliest stages of formulation. Global scientific models are inconsistent, and regional or local scientific models are lacking so that it is not technically feasible to determine the net impacts to climate due to greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions associated with this action and its alternative(s) would be negligible.	Mark Wimmer	1-13-11
NP	Environmental Justice	The proposed alternatives would not likely create disproportionately high and adverse human health impacts or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations since there are none in the project area.	Mark Wimmer	1-13-11
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	There are no prime and unique farmlands as mapped by the NRCS soils survey for the area All prime or unique farm lands must be irrigated to be considered under this designation, among other factors. No irrigated lands are located in the proposed action area; therefore this resource will not be carried forward for analysis.	Dana Truman	1/6/2011

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species and BLM Sensitive Species	The project area borders raptor high density cliff nesting habitat. The project area includes deer and elk summer range. Although there is wildlife habitat on the site, there is no identified crucial wildlife habitat on the project area, which would require wildlife stipulations.	David L. Waller	2011-Jan-11
NP	Floodplains	No floodplains present or near the project area.	Jeffrey Brower	01/04/11
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	The subsurface development of the proposed coal lease modification would not impact surface fuels and fire management on adjacent public lands.	Karl Ivory	01/11/11
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	This proposal is in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Price Field Office BLM. No negative effects will be realized to geologic resources. Coal, the resource of concern, will be utilized as per the plan of operations; other mineral resources, i.e., stone, sand and gravel, and fluid minerals are not present in economic quantities or can be acquired from off-site.	Chris Conrad	3/2/11
NI	Hydrologic Conditions**	Minimal surface disturbance will mean negligible impact to hydrologic conditions including groundwater.	Jeffery Brower	01/04/11
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (EO 13112)	Implementation of the proposed action would have negligible impacts on invasive species/noxious weeds because minimal to no subsidence is expected.	Stephanie Bauer	1/6/2011
NI	Lands/Access	At this time there are no authorized ROWs within the project area. However, this project would not preclude the issuance of any future ROWs. With the low probability of subsidence there should not be an effect on any future ROWs.	Connie Leschin	1/11/11
NI	Livestock Grazing	Minimal subsidence is expected on BLM lands due to the depth of the mining activities therefore minimal effects to forage resources on BLM are expected. The livestock grazing on the BLM lands is restricted near the grassy trail reservoir. Because grazing is not authorized by the BLM in the area expected to be influenced by the mining activity, minimal impacts are expected.	Dana Truman	1/6/2011
NI	Migratory Birds	There are mapped important migratory bird habitat areas in the project area. Although birds would use the project area, no special status migratory birds are known to be in those mapped habitat areas, which would require special consideration or stipulations.	David L. Waller	2011-Jan-11
NP	Native American Religious Concerns	Tribal notification sent. No Native American Religious Concerns identified by the tribes.	Blaine Miller	4/7/11
NP	Paleontology	Fossils present in leased coal seams are considered coal not fossils Therefore, this resource is not acknowledged to be present in the proposed action area.	Michael Leschin	1.10.11
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	The indicators for rangeland health standards are adequately addressed in the soils, vegetation, and wetlands sections. No addition impacts other than those disclosed in those sections are anticipated.	Dana Truman	1/6/2011
NI	Recreation	The proposed action is in an area (Extensive Recreation Management Area) where recreation opportunities and problems are limited and explicit recreation management is not required. The project would have minimal impact on dispersed recreation in the ERMA because of no surface impacts due to the remote chance of subsidence.	Kathryn Lloyd	2011-Jan-11
NI	Socio-Economics	No changes in impacts to socio-economic conditions are anticipated from development of the project area mineral resources in comparison with the larger economy, this	Steve Rigby	1/04/11

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
		project's impact would be negligible.		
PI	Soils	Mining of the underground coal reserves can cause subsidence and cracking of the soil surface.	Dana Truman	1/6/2011
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	There are no known populations or habitat for listed plants species according to the BLM records.	Dana Truman	1/6/2011
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	No effect – because, there are no known occurrences of federally listed or candidate species in the project area following GIS review. There is no designated critical habitat present either. There would be no surface water depletion that would affect federally listed fish species that occur downstream.	David L. Waller	2011-Jan-11
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Furthermore, no extremely hazardous substances, as defined in 40 CFR 355, in threshold planning quantities, will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of in association with the project. Trash would be confined in a covered container and disposed of in an approved landfill. No burning of any waste will occur due to this project. Human waste will be disposed of in an appropriate manner in an approved sewage treatment center.	Jeffery Brower	10/04/11
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	Minimal surface disturbance will result in no impact to water quality.	Jeffery Brower	10/04/11
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Due to the areal size of this project, minimal impacts are expected. Although there is a small possibility for subsidence, there is a possibility to impact springs and communication of aquifers.	Jeffery Brower	2011-Jan-11
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers within the project area as per GIS/Map review.	Kathryn Lloyd	2011-Jan-11
NP	Wilderness/WSA	There are no Wilderness/WSA's within the project area as per GIS/Map review.	Kathryn Lloyd	2011-Jan-11
NI	Woodland / Forestry	Implementation of the proposed action would have negligible impacts on woodland/forestry because minimal to no subsistence is expected.	Stephanie Bauer	1/6/2011
PI	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species and BLM Sensitive Species	Subsidence and other mining caused changes to the surface and ground water could affect upland vegetation.	Dana Truman	1/6/2011
NI	Visual Resources	The Visual Resource Management Class is III which allows for the level of change to the characteristic of the landscape to be moderate. The proposed project will comply and will not exceed the acceptable level of change.	Kathryn Lloyd	2011-Jan-11
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	The project area is not within a Wild Horse or Burro Herd Management Area as per GIS/Map review.	Mike Tweddell	1/12/2011
NP	Areas with Wilderness Characteristics**	There are no Areas with Wilderness Characteristics within the project area per GIS/RMP review.	Kathryn Lloyd	2011-Jan-11

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	<i>Stephanie J. Howard</i>	4/14/11	
Authorized Officer	<i>Patricia Clabaugh</i>	4-29-11	

Price Field Manager