



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

Ferron/Price Ranger District  
Ferron Work Center  
115 West Canyon Road  
P.O. Box 310  
Ferron, UT 84523  
Phone # (435) 384-2372  
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File Code: 2820-4/1950

Date: March 14, 2005

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2005

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Interested Party,

The Ferron/Price Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest is evaluating the possible environmental effects of a proposal from Energy West/PacifiCorp to conduct exploratory drilling on Utah Coal Lease ML-48258 in Emery County, Utah. The drilling is proposed during the 2005 field season and would consist of drilling 6 holes. Location of the proposed drilling is in Section(s) 11, 22, and 23, T. 16 S., R. 6 E., SLB&M (Upper Joes Valley, Flat Canyon area, East Mountain). Helicopter assisted drilling methods are proposed at five (5) remote locations; one location is proposed using a truck mounted drill adjacent to Forest Road 50040 (See Attached Map). It is anticipated the proposed project would be completed within 60 days of start up of operations.

The purpose of the drilling is to provide information necessary to characterize the geology of the area's coal reserves for mine plan development. Drilling would occur on lands in which the surface are administered by the United States Forest Service; while the coal estate is owned by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). SITLA has an outstanding right to occupy National Forest System lands for the purpose of exploring for and developing their coal estate. Therefore, authorization of surface occupancy is non-discretionary under Federal Regulations 36 CFR 251. However, the District Ranger can require mitigations to minimize the effects to other resources in the area.

The project lies within the East Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area; however, no new roads are proposed. Surface disturbances would be minimal (<100 sq ft) per site and would be reclaimed per Forest Service specification upon completion. Since the project, as proposed, would have minimal disturbances to land and resources, it is anticipated this may be categorical excluded from further NEPA analysis (EA or EIS) under category 31.2(8), Forest Service Handbook, 1909.15.

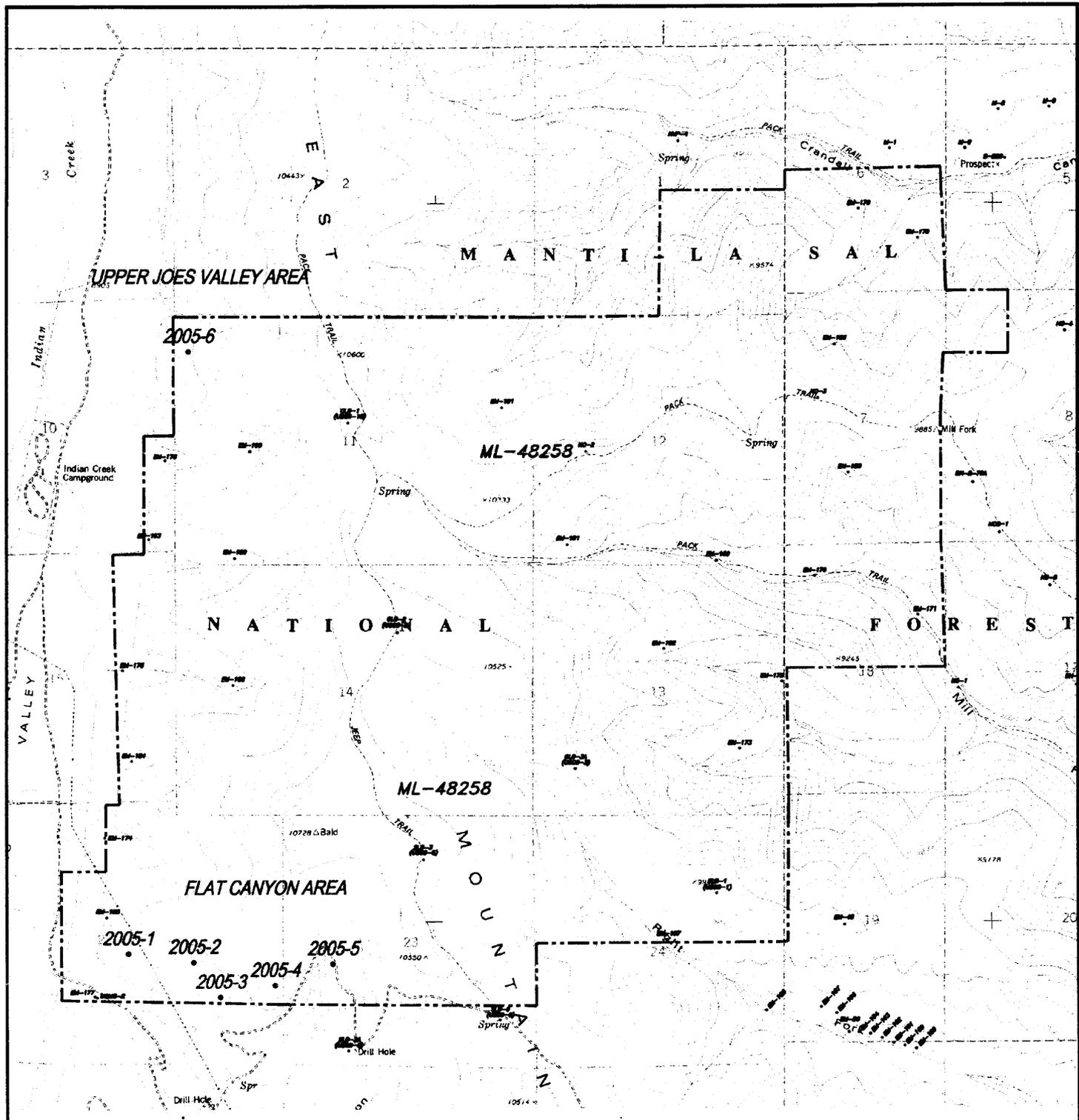
Comments should be sent to Tom Lloyd, Ferron/Price Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest, Box 310, Ferron, Utah 84523, by April 14, 2005. For further information contact Tom Lloyd at (435) 384-2372. Comments received, including names and addresses, will be considered part of the public record.

Sincerely,

*Tom Lloyd for*

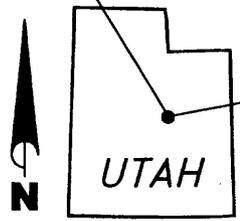
MESIA NYMAN  
District Ranger





CAD FILE NAME/DISK#: MF-2003-DRILLING-BASE-MAP.DWG

2005-1 Proposed 2005 Drilling Plan



Modified from  
Rilda Quadrangle  
7.5 Minute Series

<b>ENERGY WEST MINING COMPANY</b> HUNTINGTON, UTAH 84528			
<b>2005 COAL EXPLORATION UTAH STATE COAL LEASE ML-48258 GENERAL LOCATION MAP</b>			
DRAWN BY:	<b>K. LARSEN</b>	.....	
SCALE:	<b>1" = 3000'</b>	DRAWING #:	
DATE:	<b>MARCH 4, 2005</b>	SHEET <b>1</b> OF <b>1</b>	REV. <b>___</b>