



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

*2015/2018 Incoming
cc: James, April, Steve C.
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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

File Code: 1950
Date: November 15, 2012

Request for Comments
Deer Creek – Upper Cottonwood Two Lease Modifications
to Federal Coal Leases UTU-06039 and UTU-88554
USDA – Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest
Emery County, Utah

Dear Interested Parties:

Allen Rowley, Manti-La Sal National Forest (FS) Acting Forest Supervisor, is proposing to consent to modify with stipulations Federal Coal Leases UTU-06039 and UTU-88554 in the Deer Creek – Upper Cottonwood area. The anticipated environmental effects of implementing this proposal or other alternatives have been evaluated following federal and state regulations. An Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared jointly by the BLM, FS and OSM that discloses the effects of implementing the proposed action has been completed. The EA and associated environmental analysis documents are available upon request and can be obtained from the Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor's Office, the Ferron-Price District Office, or on the internet at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/land/mantilasal/landmanagement>.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the FS would consent to the BLM modifying federal coal leases UTU-88554 and UTU-06039, with stipulations for the protection of non-mineral resources. Based on FS consent, the BLM would modify existing federal coal leases by adding 860 acres to Lease UTU-88554 and 320 acres to Lease UTU-06039.

The proposed two lease modification areas are within National Forest System lands and the coal estate is administered by the BLM. The areas are about 15 miles northwest of Orangeville, Utah in Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, & 27 of T16S, R6E, SLB&M.

If the proposed lease modifications are issued and necessary mine permits obtained, coal reserves would be accessed and recovered by underground mining methods through the Deer Creek Mine. This possible mining would not require any surface facilities or roads though there could be ground subsidence.

Your comments on the proposed action are requested to help identify important issues. Comments will be most helpful if they are within the scope of, are specific to, and have a direct relationship to the proposed action. Comments should include supporting reasons why the Responsible Officials should consider them in reaching a decision. The comment period ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice in the Sun Advocate, a newspaper published at Price, Utah. The date of



this publication is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit comments on the proposed action. Those wishing to comment on this proposal should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. Only those who provide comments or otherwise express interest in the proposed action by the close of the comment period will be accepted as appellants. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of this comment period will not constitute standing for appeal purposes. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments on this action will be accepted. To be eligible for appeal, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection.

Please send written comments to: Allen Rowley, Responsible Official/Acting Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Dr., Price, UT 84501; phone: (435) 636-3561, fax: (435) 637-4940; e-mail: FS-comments-intermtn-manti-lasal@fs.fed.us. E-mailed comments must be submitted in MS Word (*.doc or .docx), pdf, rich text format (*.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html). Comments may also be delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays.

If you have any questions or would like a copy of the EA sent to you, please contact Rob Hamilton, FS Contact, 115 E 900 North, Richfield, UT 84701; phone: (435) 896-1022 or Vaughn Hughes, BLM Contact (435) 636-3626.

Sincerely,



for ALLEN ROWLEY
Acting Forest Supervisor