



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  
Fax # (435) 384-3296

File Code: 1950/2820-4

Date: May 21, 2004

Please note ZIP CODE correction on return address  
for written comments.

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ad Muddy Tract  
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Jan*

Dear Interested Party

Manti-La Sal National Forest (FS) and Bureau of Land Management are requesting public comments for a proposed 6-hole helicopter-assisted coal-drilling project submitted by Ark Land Company (a subsidiary of Arch Coal Inc.) on behalf of Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Coal Mine. The proposed drilling is in T. 20 S., R.5 E., Sect(s) 29, 32, and 33 in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, about 11 miles northwest of the town of Emery (see attached map). The purpose of the drilling is to gather data needed for coal reserve delineation. *not here*

Five of the holes are proposed on unleased federal portions of the proposed Muddy Coal Area (Forest Service Surface/Federal Coal). One hole is proposed on Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) portions of the Muddy Coal tract (Forest Service Surface/SITLA Coal). The project would be completed during the summer and early fall season, 2004. Access to three of the proposed drill sites would be along existing FS roads. Helicopters would be used to fly drill equipment to the other 3 remote sites where there are no existing roads. Since, helicopter-drilling techniques are proposed, there would be minimum disturbance (<100 ft<sup>2</sup> per site).

The proposed actions are:

- Concurrence with the Ark Land 6-hole Exploration Plan. The Forest Service must decide whether or not to approve the exploration plan, and if additional conditions are needed to protect none coal resources.
- Consent to BLM issuing an explorations license for 5 holes.
- BLM would issue the Coal Exploration License
- Issuance of a Special Use Permit by the Forest Service authorizing surface occupancy within the SITLA coal estate.

All actions and activities must be consistent with the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). Issuance of a Road Use Permit would also be necessary.

You are invited to comment on the proposed actions. Substantive comments are those within the scope of, are specific to, and have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include

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supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision. Comments received in response to this solicitation, must include name, organization and address of those who comment, and will be considered part of the public record for this project.

Please send written comments to: Mesia Nyman, District Ranger, Ferron/Price Ranger District, 115 West Canyon Road, P.O. Box 310, Ferron, UT 84523; phone: (435) 384-2372, fax: (435) 384-3296. 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. The opportunity to comment ends 14 days following the date of publication of this legal notice in the {*Sun Advocate*, Publication of Record}. For additional information call Tom Lloyd, District Geologist at 435-636-3596.

Sincerely,

MESIA NYMAN  
DISTRICT RANGER  
MESIA NYMAN  
District Ranger