



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Ferron/Price Ranger District
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Incoming C 04/0002

cc: Wayne
Pam

File Code: 2820-4/1950-1
Date: March 8, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

The Ferron/Price Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest is evaluating the possible environmental effects of a proposal from Ark Land Co., SUFCO Mine to conduct exploratory drilling on the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) Muddy Coal Tract in Sevier County, Utah. The drilling is proposed for the 2006 field season and would consist of drilling two exploratory holes. Location of the proposed project is in T20S, R5E, Sections 32 & 33 and T21S, R5E, Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9, (SLB&M) (Muddy Creek area).

The proposed project would utilize truck-mounted core drilling rigs and would access the two drill pad locations via National Forest Trail 025 (Big Ridge Trail). The trail would be temporarily widened to an approximate width of 12 feet and two temporary access spur roads and drill pads would be constructed. Total surface disturbance for the project would be less than 5 acres. Since the project, as proposed, would have minimal disturbance to land and resources, it is anticipated that it may be categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis (EA or EIS) under category 31.2(3), Forest Service Handbook, 1909.15.

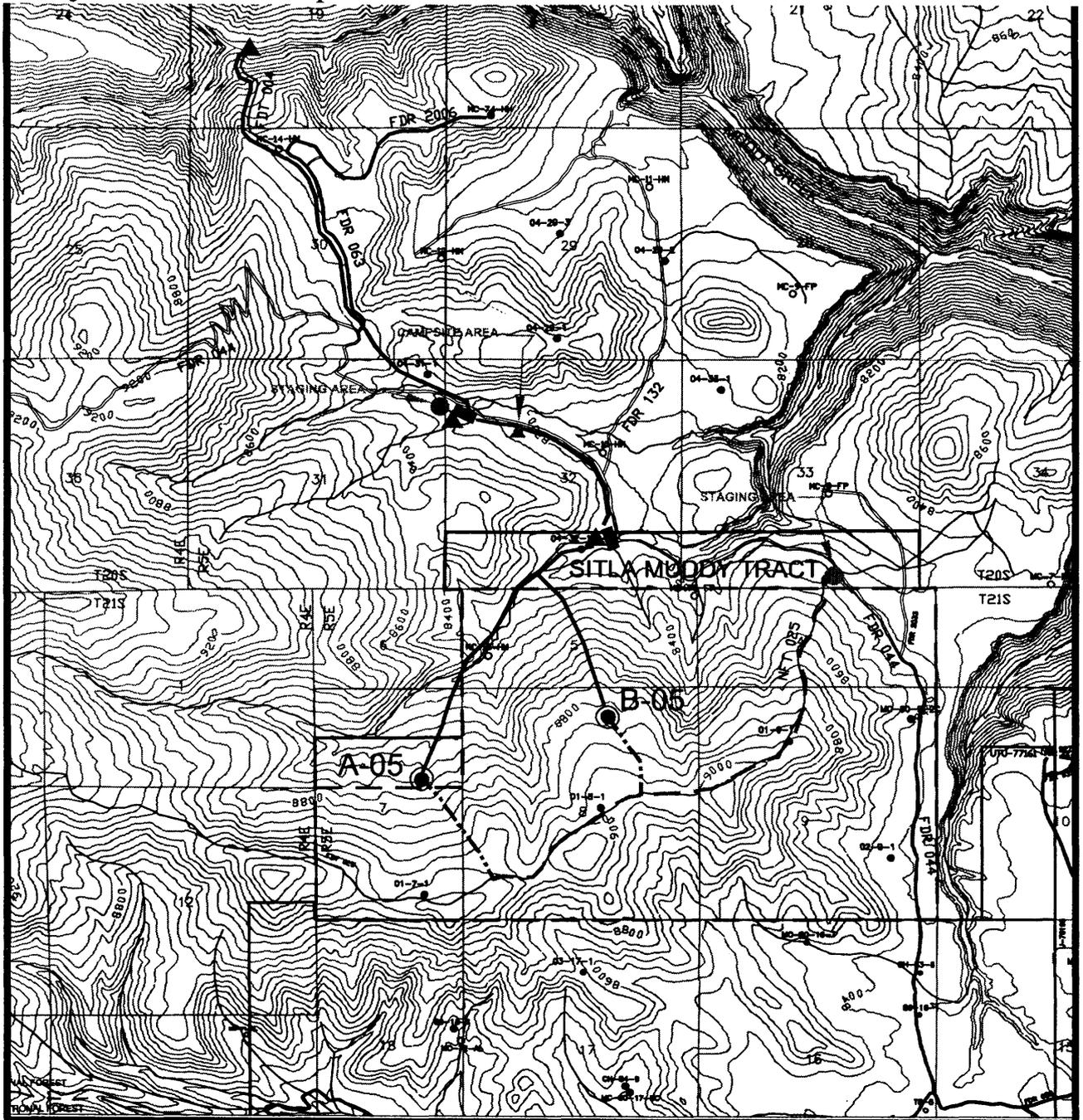
The purpose of the drilling is to provide information necessary to characterize the geology of the area's coal reserves for mine plan development. Drilling would occur on lands in which the United States Forest Service (USFS) administers the surface; the coal estate is owned by SITLA. The District Ranger must decide whether or not to issue a Special Use Permit authorizing construction and drilling activities. If a permit is issued, the District Ranger must decide what additional terms and conditions would be required to protect non-coal resources.

You are invited to comment on the proposed action. The proposed project will not be appealable by the public under 36 CFR 215 rules but would be appealable by the proponent under 36 CFR 251 rules. 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.

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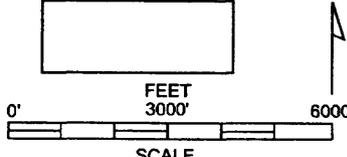


Project Location Map



 A-05 Proposed 2005 Drillsite	 Staging Area
 Temporary Widening of Trail 025	 Campsite
 Temporary Access Route	 Pump
 Frac Tank	
 HDPE Waterline	





0' 3000' 6000'

SCALE