

**Availability of an Environmental Assessment for Public Review and Comment  
Colowyo Coal Mine, Collom Permit Expansion Area Mining Plan Modification and  
Federal Coal Lease Modification**

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations and the Department of the Interior procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 42 U.S.C. 43332(2) (C), the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) have prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed mining plan modification for the Collom Permit Expansion Area at the Colowyo Coal Mine and for a decision by the BLM LSFO on a related coal lease modification application. OSMRE is responsible for reviewing plans to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on lands containing leased Federal coal. Pursuant to 30 CFR 746, OSMRE must prepare and submit to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) a decision document recommending approval, conditional approval or disapproval of the proposed mining plan modification. ASLM approval of a mining plan modification would authorize mining activities to produce up to 5.1 million tons per year of coal from Colowyo's federal coal leases, COC-0123475 01 and COC-68590 and disturb up to a maximum total of 2,636 acres of private, state and federal lands. BLM is responsible for reviewing and making decisions on federal coal lease modification applications. Pursuant to 43 CFR Subpart 3432 federal coal lessees have the opportunity to apply for BLM approval of a lease modification to add less than 960 acres of unleased lands to an existing lease. The proposed lease modification would add 27.84 acres of unleased federal land within the existing, state approved mine permit boundary to federal coal lease COC – 0123475 01. The proposed lease modification was not an original element of the Project and EA when public outreach was held in October and November 2013 but was later incorporated as a necessary action under both Alternative A and Alternative B analyzed in the EA. The lease modification would provide Colowyo with use of those lands for development of the Collom Permit Expansion Area. Those lands would only be utilized for surface activities and no federal coal resources would be mined there. The Colowyo Coal Mine is located approximately 26 miles southwest of Craig, Colorado and 22 miles north-northeast of Meeker, Colorado, west of Colorado Highway 13/789 in southwest Moffat and northern Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado.

OSMRE and BLM invite the public to comment on the EA and has also made separate agency unsigned Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) available for public review. The EA and unsigned FONSI will be available for review as of January 19, 2016. All comments must be post marked by February 18, 2016 for consideration.

The EA and unsigned FONSI can be reviewed online at the following OSMRE and BLM websites:

<http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/colowyo.shtm>

<http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/lsfo.html>

A hard copy of the EA and unsigned FONSI's will also be available for review at the following locations:

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Western Region  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202  
Between the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday  
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Field Office  
455 Emerson St.  
Craig, CO 81625  
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday  
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
1313 Sherman St, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203  
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday  
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Moffat County Building  
221 W. Victory Way, Suite 130  
Craig, CO 81625  
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday  
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Moffat County Library  
570 Green St.  
Craig, CO 81625  
Between the hours of: 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM, Monday and Tuesday; 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM, Wednesday through Friday; and 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM Saturday  
(Closed Sunday)

Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office  
220 East Market St.  
Meeker, CO 81641  
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday  
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Rio Blanco County Courthouse  
555 Main St.  
Meeker, CO 81641  
Between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday  
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Meeker Public Library  
490 Main St.

Meeker, CO 81641

Between the hours of 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 AM and 9:00 PM Saturday 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM  
(Closed Sunday)

Rangely Regional Library

109 E. Main St.

Rangely, CO 81648

Between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM, Tuesday; and 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Saturday  
(Closed Sunday)

You are invited to direct your comments to:

ATTN: Collom Permit Expansion EA

C/O: Nicole Caveny

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

1999 Broadway, Suite 3320

Denver, CO 80202

Comments may also be emailed to [OSM-Colowyo-Mine-EA@OSMRE.gov](mailto:OSM-Colowyo-Mine-EA@OSMRE.gov). Be sure to send emails with the subject line:

ATTN: Collom Permit Expansion EA

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – will be publicly available. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public review to the extent consistent with applicable law. Additional information regarding this Project may be obtained from Nicole Caveny, telephone number (303) 293-5078, and email address: [ncaveny@osmre.gov](mailto:ncaveny@osmre.gov).