



Trapper Mine, C-07519 and C-079641, Environmental Assessment

PURPOSE AND NEED/PROPOSED ACTION

Purpose and Need

- The purpose of the proposed Federal action is for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) to recommend to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) approval, disapproval, or conditional approval of the proposed mining plan modification to leases C-07519 and C-079641, for mining from July 1, 2015, through the life of mine for these leases and for the ASLM to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve the mining plan modification.
- Preparation of the Environmental Assessment is required as part of the Joint Proposed Remedy filed by WildEarth Guardians, OSMRE, and Trapper in U.S District Court and subsequently approved by the Court.
- The need for the action is to assist OSMRE in developing a new recommendation for the ASLM to make a new decision on the current and future mining plans for the two Federal lease areas.

Proposed Action Overview

- The Proposed Action is for Trapper Mining Inc. to continue to mine coal within Federal Coal Leases C-07519 and C-079641 from July 1, 2015, through the life of mine in accordance with a new mining plan modification that will be proposed to the ASLM.
- The Trapper Mine operates under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) Permit No. C-1981-010 issued by Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety under SMCRA. The SMCRA Permit boundary totals approximately 11,157 acres.
- The Project Area is the portion of the two federal coal leases that lies within the SMCRA Permit boundary totaling approximately 2,423 acres of Federal Mineral estate. Trapper Mining Inc. owns the surface rights within the Project Area.
- As of July 1, 2015, approximately 19 million tons of recoverable Federal coal remains in the Project Area. Trapper mines coal at a maximum rate of 2.6 million tons per year.
- Approximately 1,550 acres have been disturbed prior to July 1, 2015, within the Project Area.
- Approximately 254 additional acres of disturbance is planned for the period from July 1, 2015, through the life of mine.



Loading coal at the Trapper Mine