

**Availability of An Environmental Assessment for Public Review and Comment
Trapper Mining Inc.'s, Trapper Mine Federal Coal Leases C-07519 and C-079641
Mining Plan Modification**

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region, has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze environmental impacts of a federal mining plan approval for current and future mining within Federal Coal Lease Nos. C-07519 and C-079641 held by Trapper Mining Inc. as part of the Trapper Mine. The EA covers the time period beginning July 1, 2015, and continuing through the planned life of mine for the portion of the two federal coal lease areas lying within the approved Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) Permit Area (the Project). As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the EA discloses the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment from the Project.

The proposed Project is occurring on two federal coal leases administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and located within the eastern portion of the Trapper Mine's approved SMCRA Permit Area. The portion of the federal coal leases within the SMCRA Permit Area covers a total of approximately 2,423 acres of federal mineral estate. As of July 1, 2015, approximately 19.1 million tons of recoverable federal coal remains within the Project Area.

Preparation of the EA has been completed pursuant to the Court-approved Joint Proposed Remedy, as approved by the United States District Court for the District of Colorado on September 14, 2015, in the case entitled *WildEarth Guardians v. U.S. Office of Surface Mining et al.*, Case 1:13-cv-00518-RBJ (D. Colo. 2015). As part of the Court-approved remedy, OSMRE agreed to conduct a new NEPA analysis for Trapper's current and future mining activities within Federal Coal Lease Nos. C-07519 and C-079641.

OSMRE is responsible for reviewing plans to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on lands containing leased federal coal. Pursuant to 30 CFR 746.13, OSMRE is responsible for making a recommendation to the DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) regarding a decision on proposed mining plan modifications. OSMRE must prepare and submit a mining plan decision document (MPDD) to the DOI ASLM recommending approval, disapproval, or approval with condition(s) of the proposed mining plan modification. The ASLM is responsible for making the decision to approve, disapprove, or approve with condition(s) the document within the MPDD, as required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

OSMRE invites the public to comment on the EA and the unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA and unsigned FONSI are now available for review. All comments must be received or postmarked by February 19, 2016 to be considered.

The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review online at:

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

Printed versions of the EA and unsigned FONSI are also available for review at the following locations:

- OSMRE, 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)

- 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: 10:30AM and 7:00 PM Monday and Tuesday 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM Wednesday through Friday 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM Saturday (Closed Sunday)
- BLM, 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)
- BLM, 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 Public 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 to 8:00 PM Tuesday and 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Saturday
(Closed Sunday)

You are invited to direct your comments on the EA and unsigned OSMRE FONSI to:

ATTN: OSMRE, Trapper Mine EA, C/O: Nicole Caveny, OSMRE WR, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320,
Denver, CO 80202.

Comments may also be emailed to OSM-nepa-co@OSMRE.gov. Be sure to send emails with the subject line: ATTN: OSMRE, Trapper Mine 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 at (303) 293-5078 or ncaveny@osmre.gov.