



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

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October 30, 2012

Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor
White River National Forest
Oil and Gas Leasing DEIS
P.O. Box 1919
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: White River National Forest Oil and Gas Leasing DEIS

Scott
Dear ~~Mr. Fitzwilliams~~:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the White River National Forest (WRNF) Oil and Gas Leasing DEIS. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) values the opportunity to be actively involved as a Cooperating Agency throughout this planning process. We appreciate the WRNF addressing many of our previous scoping comments provided to you on June 30, 2010 and February 3, 2012. The WRNF landscapes and its wildlife habitats, natural resources, and socio-economic values are of utmost importance to CPW and the people of Colorado.

Maintaining the sustainability of Colorado's wildlife resources will require assurances that migration corridors, key wildlife habitats, protection of water resources, and other irreplaceable habitats be maintained. CPW encourages the WRNF to incorporate a landscape scale perspective in land use planning for all wildlife resources. Much of the WRNF presently has a high level of use for purposes other than energy development. Many of these areas are currently managed for wildlife habitats with closures and seasonal restrictions that are very important to wildlife. A major land use change on these lands could have a significant adverse affect on wildlife populations. The Proposed Action Alternative (Alternative C) is commendable for addressing these concerns and providing a balanced and sustainable approach to oil and gas leasing and natural resources management. CPW is strongly supportive of Alternative C, the Proposed Action Alternative.

Overall, the WRNF Oil and Gas Leasing DEIS is well-written and well organized. We would again like to thank the WRNF staff for working closely with CPW on this project and considering our comments in the DEIS. CPW looks forward to a continued strong working relationship and dialogue with the WRNF.

If you have any questions please contact Jim Komatinsky at 970-255-6104.

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
Rick D. Cables, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Parks and Wildlife Commission: Robert W. Bray • Chris Castilian • Jeanne Home
Bill Kane, Vice-Chair • Gaspar Perricone • James Pribyl • John Singletary, Chair
Mark Smith, Secretary • James Vigil • Dean Wingfield • Michelle Zimmerman
Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

Sincerely,

Ron

Ron D. Velarde,
NW Regional Manager

cc: Dean Riggs, Assistant NW Regional Manager
Sherman Hebein, Senior Aquatic Biologist
Brad Petch, Senior Terrestrial Biologist
Michael Warren, Energy Liaison, NW
JT Romatzke, Area Wildlife Manager
Perry Will, Area Wildlife Manager
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