



DON BATCHELDER  
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## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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November 3, 2020

Chad Stewart, Forest Supervisor  
Attn. OSMI Fringe Lease EA  
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests  
2250 South Main Street  
Delta, CO 81416

Submitted electronically: <https://cara.ecosystemmanagement.org/Public/CommentInput?project=58860>

**RE: Ouray Silver Mines Fringe Leasing**

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners has carefully reviewed the scoping letter and attachments regarding a fringe leasing application on National Forest System acquired lands. Most, but not all, of these proposed leases are located within Ouray County. All surface impacts from the proposed leasing activity appear to be located within Ouray County. We do note that the map attachments do not depict County boundary lines, and request that future submittal materials indicate the relevant County boundaries.

Over the past ten years, through several different mine ownership and management groups, the Commissioners have been active in working with this mine on issues related to use of County Roads; winter road maintenance; impacts on recreational activities; safety; housing; broadband; and other areas where the County's policies intersect with the Mine's activities. We also note that Ouray Silver Mines has supported multiple efforts to remediate the environmental effects of historic mining in the area. The current management and ownership group Ouray Silver Mines, Inc. has demonstrated many times over the past four years their willingness to work positively with all facets of Ouray County's citizens. As it moves towards Production status, it will become an increasingly important aspect of the County's economy.

The Fringe Leasing application represents an opportunity to extend the projected life of the mine beyond its current potential, while continuing to confine its surface area impacts to the currently designated location.

Ouray County therefore supports the Proposed Action of issuing the Fringe Lease as described in the October 9, 2020 scoping letter. We look forward to future participation and review of the Environmental Analysis.

Sincerely,

Don Batchelder, Chair  
Ouray County Board of County Commissioners