



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HILARY COOPER KRIS HOLSTROM LANCE WARING

November 13, 2020

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

Via Electronic Comment Tool: Electronic Comment Tool: <https://cara.ecosystemmanagement.org/Public/CommentInput?project=58860>

RE: Ouray Silver Mines, Inc. (OSMI) Fringe Lease Environmental Assessment (EA)

Dear Chad,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the OSMI proposal for underground leases of approximately 152 acres of locatable minerals. According to our GIS analysis roughly 40-45 acres of proposed fringe lease parcels extend across the Ouray/San Miguel County boundary into San Miguel County

The San Miguel County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) wishes to take advantage of the opportunity to provide scoping comments and to establish our eligibility to have standing on future USFS decisions regarding this process.

The October 9 notice anticipates the EA will focus on potential impacts to water resources, recreation and timber. It states that there will not be any surface impacts due to the activities underground.

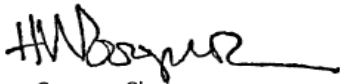
The EA should address any impacts to air quality, recreation, timber and water resources of the headwaters and watersheds of both the Uncompahgre *and* San Miguel Rivers since the proposed fringe lease parcels intersect both watersheds.

The EA should provide further detail and analyze potential impacts on humans, wildlife and avalanche risk from possible noise, vibration, dust, traffic and subsidence due to the underground development and mining activities that will remove waste rock and ore from the underground mine workings. Mine fire and wildlife risk should also be included in the EA analysis.

The proposed leases and projects should be structured to have no impact to public recreation on existing available trails crossing the USFS, wildlife or visual resources.

The EA should clarify the scope of allowable activities and proper harvesting of locatable minerals under the fringe lease parcels. We also request that the EA specify the amount of leased acreage in San Miguel County.

Sincerely,
San Miguel County
Board of Commissioners



Hilary Cooper, Chair



Lance Waring, Vice Chair



Kris Holstrom, Commissioner