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Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Ouray Silver Mines, Inc. (OSMI) fringe lease application to lease 152 acres of locatable minerals under lands managed by the USFS. I am writing on behalf of our local Northern San Juan Chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness to advise caution and make a request for several specific conditions.

While "no post-leasing surface disturbance is anticipated on NFS lands as part of this proposed leasing action," we expect that OSMI guarantee (and the USFS enforce and oversee) that there will be no deleterious impacts to surface or ground water, sensitive alpine or riparian habitats, wildlife habitat or corridors, or air quality. In addition to the mining operations itself, we recognize that increased traffic on CR 361 coupled with the movement of large machinery could create impacts to the above qualities. The proposed project is located near Camp Bird Road (CR 361) to the west of Ouray, Colorado.

Finally, OSMI must provide evidence before any leasing occurs that they are fully bonded and financially capable of conducting any cleanup and/or future mitigation necessary as a result of this lease sale. We recognize that mining is a component of our local economy and we want to ensure that OSMI and the USFS are accountable to our community for the integrity and health of our natural resources, which also sustain our economy through tourism, recreation and agriculture.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. I am looking forward to hearing from you regarding the findings from the environmental assessment.