



Grand County BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Colorado

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FEDERAL MINERAL ESTATE WITHDRAW

History:

- 2017 BLM O&G Lease Parcels
- Lots of Opposition for County, Towns, Dude Ranches, Env. Community
- Worked with Congressional Delegation to oppose and ultimately remove from Lease Parcels.
- Last fall started working with Dude Ranches and Senator Bennet's Office again to advance a more permanent solution, rather than trying to oppose each time the BLM goes through the process.
 - Legislative (Farm Bill or Public Lands Bill)
 - Administrative (20 years - temporary)

Grand County covers an area of 1,869 square miles. Within our county boundary, there are approximately 1,395 square miles of existing federal mineral estate.

Our economy is dependent upon outdoor recreation, tourism and agriculture. We need to protect these recreational and scenic areas of the County that we rely on, and especially the Headwaters of the CO River.

GOGA -

First step was then to meet with Colorado Oil and Gas Association (COGA). Grand County requested a full withdrawal of federal mineral estate in Grand County, 1,395 square miles. COGA was not in support of that request and thus Grand County has refined our request to Proposed Map 3.

They said much of Grand County is already in critical areas that would be hard to permit.

Part of the North Park Basin extends into Grand County, basically the Troublesome area from the encompassing the Hwy 40 to Hwy 125 and north to Jackson Co.

Looking for a win/win with GOGA and their support

Proposed Map 1

Colorado Parks and Wildlife critical habitat encompasses 835 square miles. Critical habitats within federal mineral estate areas is 511.8 square miles.

Proposed Map 2

The corridors highlighted in blue trace our scenic roadways and critical watersheds, including the Colorado River, which provides water to millions in the southwest portion of the country. We have depicted a 2-mile buffer on either side of the following watersheds: Colorado River, Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain Reservoir, Lake Granby, Willow Creek Reservoir, Williams Fork and Williams Fork Reservoir, Willow Creek and Willow Creek Reservoir, Muddy Creek and Wolford Mountain Reservoir.

These buffered areas protect critical watersheds for millions of people as well as critical wildlife habitats, including bald eagle nesting grounds, big game migration corridors and winter range, and greater sage grouse leks.

The areas highlighted in green are the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park, Wilderness Areas and Arapaho National Recreation Areas, both of which are economic drivers for our County, attracting millions of visitors annually.

National Parks, Recreation, and Wilderness Areas encompass 413.3 square miles and Scenic Routes and Water body buffers encompass 793.4 square miles. In total, National Parks, Recreation and Wilderness areas, and the Scenic Routes and Water Bodies within Federal Mineral Rights areas account for 873.7 square miles. THESE AREAS ARE ALREADY OFF LIMITS PER THE WILDERNESS ACT OR PUBLIC LAW.

Proposed Map 3

In this map, we truncated the Scenic Routes and Water Bodies buffer to the more populated and recreated areas. The truncated Scenic Routes and Water buffers encompasses 630.5 square miles, of which 285.7 square miles are within Federal Mineral Rights.

We also depicted the 2017 BLM proposed oil/gas lease parcels and the permitted exploratory oil and gas wells to date. The 2017 BLM lease parcels that are adjacent to tourist and populated areas are included in the proposed withdrawal area (blue).

Therefore, we will be requesting a withdrawal of federal mineral estates within our County's boundaries based upon finalization of Proposed Map 3. We believe the areas depicted in blue on this map represent the priority economic and environmentally significant areas.