

Protest Deadline—July 25, 2007

Comments to:

Minerals Geology-Rio Grande National Forest
Public Protect Comment Process
(List the Specific Lease Sale Parcels)
Karen Zurek, Chief Fluid Minerals Adjudication
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215
FAX: 303-239-3799

San Luis Hills Area Lease Sale Parcels:

COC 71343
COC 71342
COC 71341
COC 71340
COC 71339
COC 71338
COC 71337
COC 71336
COC 71335

Concerns:

- located less than 2 miles from Rio Grande Natural Area designation (passed October, 2006)
- listed as Colorado Natural Heritage Program Very High Significance for biodiversity
- under study for wilderness designation
- only SLV BLM management areas that meets wild conditions
- critical and endangered species habitat (Silky Pocket Mouse, Gunnison's Prairie Dog, Bald Eagle)
- important migration route for Sandhill cranes, who use wetland sites
- some of the area has a NSO (no surface occupancy) designation by BLM (San Luis Resource Area-BLM Final EIS)
- Rio Grande Corridor Final EIS states "continue to enforce the NSO stipulation that has been placed for oil and gas leasing and development on the semi-primitive, non-motorized portion (2,000 acres) of the ACEC on Flat Top Mountain"
- according to the BLM's own mineral and geology maps, there is low-potential for oil and gas

Water issues:

- where will water to drill come from?
- Flat Top wetlands, a 200 acre series of shallow intermittent playas, is designated as crucial roosting site for Sandhill cranes (up to 20,000 each fall and spring) (reference-Rio Grande Corridor Final EIS)