

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, <i>et al.</i>))
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Plaintiffs,))
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v.))
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DAVID L. BERNHARDT, in his official)	Case No. 1:16-cv-1724-RC
capacity as Secretary of the Interior, <i>et al.</i>)	The Honorable Rudolph Contreras
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Federal Defendants,))
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and))
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WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE, <i>et al.</i>))
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Intervenor Defendants.))
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**FEDERAL DEFENDANTS’ NOTICE OF COMPLETION
OF NEPA ANALYSIS AND RELATED DECISION MAKING
FOR THE CHALLENGED COLORADO LEASING DECISIONS**

On May 24, 2019, Federal Defendants moved for voluntary remand of certain Colorado and Utah leasing decisions made by the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) in 2015 and 2016 and challenged in this case. ECF No. 107. On May 29, 2019, in a text-only minute order, the Court granted the motion, stating that the

Environmental Assessments [“EAs”], Findings of No Significant Impact [“FONSI”], and Determinations of National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) Adequacy . . . for the Colorado and Utah oil and gas leasing decisions challenged in this case are hereby remanded to [BLM], without vacatur, for supplementation consistent with [ECF No. 99,] the Court’s March 19, 2019 Memorandum Opinion.

Since then, BLM's Utah and Colorado State Offices have each undertaken NEPA analysis for the leases falling under their purview, published draft supplemental EAs consistent with the Court's directive, published unsigned draft FONSI, and received public comment. Although NEPA proceedings continue as to the Utah leasing decisions, BLM's Colorado State Office this week completed its effort on remand, including responding to public comment. On December 3, 2019, BLM Colorado posted to its website a new decision record, a final Supplemental EA with two appendices, and a signed FONSI, at the following address:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=200001188> (last checked Dec. 6, 2019)

The decision record affirms, based on the analysis of the final supplemental EA and FONSI, the seven Colorado leasing decisions challenged in this case.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of December, 2019.

JEAN E. WILLIAMS
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
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Environment and Natural Resources Div.

/s/ John S. Most
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on Dec. 6, 2019, a copy of the foregoing notice was served by electronic means on all counsel of record by the Court's CM/ECF system.

/s/ John S. Most

JOHN S. MOST