

**Mt. Emmons Land Exchange  
March 2, 2022 Public Open House  
Meeting Summary**

**Overview**

The first public open house for the Mt. Emmons Land Exchange was held on Wednesday, March 2, from 4-6 p.m. at Crested Butte Town Hall. Approximately 45 people attended, as well as the seven team members (from Mt. Emmons Mining Company and Western Land Group). Informational boards were arranged around the Council Chambers, centered around the definition of a land exchange, objectives and components of the Mt. Emmons Land Exchange, maps from the proposal, remediation activities at the mine, and how to stay informed.

Two non-profit organizations were present at the meeting: High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA) and the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC). There were also a handful of other unaffiliated citizens at the meeting. The attendees spoke to our team members throughout the open house and many people stayed for most of the meeting duration.

**Comments and Questions**

The following feedback was provided by the MEMC / WLG Team, as to the comments and questions that were posed during the meeting from participants to the best of their recollection. They are organized by theme or main topic.

**Water Rights:**

- Why do we need the Slate River water rights if we are not mining?
- What is the status of the water rights?

**Water Treatment Plant:**

- Who is the regulatory agency (responsible for water treatment and water quality) after the land exchange goes through and the USFS is no longer involved?
- What are the financial assurance (FA) requirements to operate the WTP?
- It was requested that permits for the site should be up to date/valid before the Federal government conveys any land.

**Conservation Easements and Agreements:**

- General support to permanently extinguish commercial mining from the Red Lady and to establish permanent recreational access to the top of Mt. Emmons in coordination with the Crested Butte Land Trust.
- Will the conservation easement language be available for the public to view?
- What guarantee do we have that the mineral extinguishment and conservation easements will be completed?

**Withdrawal and CORE Act:**

- What is the timing of the administrative withdraw of the lands from mining?

- Why aren't the lands containing the WTP being conserved in some manner?
- What happens with the surrounding mineral estate if the CORE Act fails?
- Why not pursue a Federal Mineral Withdrawal?

**Exchange Parcels:**

- Why do you need the lands on top of the mountain in the exchange?
- What are the locations of the federal and non-federal parcels?
- Why had Federal Parcels 1 and 2 been expanded from the original concept proposed by MEMC in spring 2021?
- Why does the proposal not include certain land in this watershed?
- What are the current uses on Federal Parcel 1?

**Process / NEPA:**

- Where is this in the process?
- How can this project be evaluated under a Categorical Exclusion?
- How many of these types of meetings are you going to have?
- How can a project of this size/complexity qualify for a CATEX instead of an Environmental Assessment?

**Several questions for the USFS:**

- A landowner near Copley Lake asked if Land Exchange could or would change private land access on Admin Route FSR 732.1A.
- Why is USFS interested and what USFS will receive in the Land Exchange?