

DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE INFORMATION SHEET

Book Cliffs/Coal Canyon WSA Area

Parcels: UT1108-210, UT1108-211, UT1108-212

Description: Parcels lie just to the south of Coal Canyon Wilderness Study Area, and lie within wilderness area proposed by America's Redrock Wilderness Act and land within the 1998 BLM Wilderness Inventory.

Resource Concerns:

River and water resources: Parcel lies within a 100-year floodplain, which contains critical riparian habitat, springs, and public water reserves [211].

Species Habitat: Critical habitat for raptor species such as burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk [all parcels], yellow-billed cuckoo [211], and southwestern willow flycatcher [211]; critical antelope birthing habitat [all parcels].

Seasonal vulnerability: Fragile saline soils derived from Mancos Shale on steep slopes provide for potential winter watershed damage, compaction, rutting, topsoil loss, and other applicable damages [all parcels].

Other considerations:

The BLM has attempted in its RMP (Resource Management Plan) to mitigate the above concerns by placing stipulations intended for protection of habitat, viewshed, and prohibition or limitation of surface occupancy. However, these stipulations are not a replacement for a more protective "no lease" option. Each stipulation provides an "exception," allowing lessee a potential loophole around the intended protections. Only a handful of the 21 pages of stipulations expressly prohibit oil & gas from these exceptions. In addition, the BLM's provided stipulations fail to address cumulative effects of oil & gas leasing and the bigger picture of regional environmental protection.

Also keep in mind that if a parcel contains NSO (No Surface Occupancy) stipulations, the parcel must be drilled at from an *adjacent* parcel. The RMP does not adequately address the implications of this need, or the logistics of facilitating this type of drilling while upholding needed environmental protections.

For more information on stipulations or explanations of the new Visual Resource Management stipulations, please refer to a downloadable copy of the BLM's RMP (Resource Management Plan) found online at:

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/moab/planning/final_rmp_eis.html



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For more information:

www.redrockforests.org/blm_dec_2008_oil_and_gas_lease.htm