

## DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE INFORMATION SHEET

### Northwest Boundary of Arches National Park Area

**Parcels:** UT1108-189, UT1108-190, UT1108-191, UT1108-192, UT1108-193, UT1108-194

**Description:** Adjacent to the Eagle Park section of Arches National Park, parcels comprise Salt Valley, Long Valley, and Little Valley. Many test wells already exist in this area.

#### **Resource Concerns:**

**River and water resources:** Parcels lie within a 100-year floodplain, which contains critical riparian habitat, springs, and public water reserves [189,191,193].

**Visual Resources:** VRM Class II designation for high-quality visual resources [189,191,192,193,194].

**Species Habitat:** Critical habitat and nesting sites for yellow-billed cuckoo [189,191,193], raptor species [all parcels], southwestern willow flycatcher [189,191,193], white-tailed prairie dog [189,190], and bald eagle [191,193,194].

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

**Recreational Resources:** Developed recreational sites exist with federal recreational facilities, established recreational use, and recreation-related view shed [194]. Potential light and sound pollution would negatively affect the experience of National Park visitors [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](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](http://www.redrockforests.org/blm_dec_2008_oil_and_gas_lease.htm)