

DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE INFORMATION SHEET

Northern Hatch Point Area

Parcels: UT1108-201, UT1108-202, UT1108-203

Description: Parcels are located around the Anticline Overlook Road just to the east of (and overlooking) Lockhart Basin (part of the Canyon Rims Recreation Area), just to the west (and overlooking) Hatch Wash, Kane Springs Canyon, and Behind the Rocks Wilderness Study Area, and just to the east of the Canyonlands National Park boundary.

Resource Concerns:

River and water resources: Parcels lie within a 100-year floodplain, which contains critical riparian habitat, springs, and public water reserves [202].

Species Habitat: Sagebrush/sage steppe community habitat, especially for sage grouse [201,202], critical antelope birthing habitat [201,202], critical habitat for bald eagle [201,202], raptor species [all parcels], gunnison sage-grouse [201,202], Mexican spotted owl [202,203], yellow-billed cuckoo [202], and southwestern Willow Flycatcher [202].

Visual Resources: VRM Class II designation for high-quality visual resources along the Anticline Overlook Road [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



P.O. Box 298 • Moab, Utah 84532 • 435-259-5640

For more information:

www.redrockforests.org/blm_dec_2008_oil_and_gas_lease.htm