

DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE INFORMATION SHEET

Porcupine Rim Area

Parcels: UT1108-219, UT1108-221, UT1108-222, UT1108-223

Description: Parcels lie to the south of the Colorado River corridor and extend from Mat Martin Point southward across the world-renowned Porcupine Rim mountain biking area to Jackass Canyon. Parcels lie immediately adjacent to the southeastern boundary of Arches National Park and lie within the view shed of Arches National Park. Parcels lie within wilderness area proposed by America's Redrock Wilderness Act and immediately adjacent to the Negro Bill Canyon Wilderness Study Area. Parcel 219 extends across the Colorado River corridor and occupies a section north of the river adjacent to Salt Wash.

Resource Concerns:

River and water resources: Riparian, wildlife, scenic, and recreational values of the Colorado River corridor [all parcels]. In addition, the parcels lie within a 100-year floodplain, which contains critical habitat of endangered fishes, critical riparian habitat, critical watershed, and potential flash flood areas [219,222,223]

Species Habitat: Critical desert bighorn lambing grounds and migration corridors [219], critical habitat and nesting sites for bald eagle [219], burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk [219,221,223].

Visual Resources: VRM Class II designation for high-quality visual resources along the scenic highway 128 corridor [all parcels].

Recreational Resources: Developed recreational sites exist with federal recreational facilities, established recreational use, and recreation-related view shed [all parcels]. 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



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For more information: www.redrockforests.org/blm_dec_2008_oil_and_gas_lease.htm