

DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE  
INFORMATION SHEET

**Sand Flats Recreation Area**  
***Parcels: UT1108-224***

**Description:** Parcel lies immediately to the east of the town of Moab and comprises much of the world-renowned Slickrock Bike Trail. Sand Flats Road would be the main transportation access point. Parcel lies immediately adjacent to the Negro Bill Wilderness Study Area to the north, and to the Mill Creek Canyon Wilderness Study Area to the south.

**Resource Concerns:**

River and water resources: Riparian, wildlife, scenic, and recreational values of Mill Creek Canyon and Negro Bill Canyon.

Recreational Resources: Recreational and scenic values specific to Sand Flats SRMA. Developed recreational sites exist with federal recreational facilities, established recreational use, and recreation-related view shed. Potential light and sound pollution would negatively affect the experience of National Park visitors.

**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)