

DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE INFORMATION SHEET

Southern Hatch Point/Needles Overlook Area

Parcels: UT1108-204, UT1108-205, UT1108-206, UT1108-207, UT1108-208

Description: Parcels are located west of the Anticline Overlook Road, on the Needles Overlook Road, to the east of (and overlooking) Indian Creek Wilderness Study Area, to the south of (and overlooking) Lockhart Basin (part of the Canyon Rims Recreation 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 [205,207].

Species Habitat: Critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl [204,205,207,208], raptor species such as burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk [all parcels], sagebrush/sage steppe species such as sage grouse [205,206,207,208], bald eagle [205,206,207,208], yellow-billed cuckoo [205,207], Gunnison sage grouse [205,206,207,208], and southwestern willow flycatcher [205,207], critical antelope birthing habitat [205,206,207,208].

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