

DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE
INFORMATION SHEET

Thompson Springs Area
Parcels: UT1108-187

Description: Northeast of Thompson Springs, south of the Book Cliffs, this parcel lies adjacent to wilderness area proposed by America's Redrock Wilderness Act, BLM Wilderness Study Area, and land within the 1998 BLM Wilderness Inventory.

Resource Concerns:

Species Habitat: Critical habitat and nesting sites for bald eagle and raptor species such as the burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk.

Seasonal vulnerability: Fragile soils on steep slopes provide for potential winter watershed damage.

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