

DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE INFORMATION SHEET

191 Corridor Area

Parcels: UT1108-178, UT1108-179

Description: Located just west of Highway 191 5 or 6 miles north of the Moab Airport, this area already has thick oil & gas exploration.

Resource Concerns:

Visual Resources: VRM Class II for visual resources along the scenic 191 corridor [178].

Species Habitat: Sagebrush/steppe habitat essential to sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species [178]. Critical habitat and nesting sites for raptor species [all parcels], critical habitat and breeding grounds for yellow-billed cuckoo [179], gunnison sage-grouse [179], and southwestern willow flycatcher [179].

Seasonal vulnerability: Fragile saline soils derived from Mancos Shale provide for potential winter watershed damage, compaction, rutting, topsoil loss, and other applicable damages [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