

DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE INFORMATION SHEET

Dome Plateau/Colorado River Corridor Area

Parcels: UT1108-216, UT1108-242, UT1108-243, UT1108-244

Description: Parcels are located on the Dome Plateau just to the northwest of (and overlooking) the Professor Valley section of the Colorado River Corridor (comprising Red Cliffs Lodge, Sorrel River Ranch, and the Castle Valley turnoff). Parcels overlap with the Dome Plateau recreational jeep trail system and lie within the view shed of the Delicate Arch section of Arches National Park. Parcels lie within wilderness area proposed by America's Redrock Wilderness Act and lie adjacent to land within the 1998 BLM Wilderness Inventory.

Resource Concerns:

River and water resources: Riparian, wildlife, scenic, and recreational values of the Colorado River corridor [242,243,244].

Species Habitat: Critical desert bighorn lambing grounds and migration corridors [all parcels], sagebrush/sage steppe community habitat for species such as sage grouse [216,242,243], critical habitat for bald eagle [all parcels], raptor species such as burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk [all parcels], Gunnison sage-grouse [216,242,243]

Visual Resources: VRM Class II designation for high-quality visual resources [all parcels].

Wilderness characteristics: Parcels lie in an area critical to the preservation of wilderness characteristics of Mary Jane Canyon, Fisher Towers, and the Beaver Creek Area (tributary to the Dolores River) [243].

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