

DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE INFORMATION SHEET

I-70 Corridor/Book Cliffs Area

Parcels: UT1108-164, UT1108-165, UT1108-169, UT1108-177A

Description: At the base of the Book Cliffs along the I-70 Corridor. Adjacent to wilderness area proposed by America's Redrock Wilderness Act, BLM Wilderness Study Area land, and land in the 1998 BLM Wilderness Inventory.

Resource Concerns:

River and water resources: Parcels lie within a 100-year floodplain, which contains critical riparian habitat, springs, and public water reserves [169].

Species Habitat: Critical habitat for raptor species such as the burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk [all parcels], yellow-billed cuckoo [169], southwestern willow flycatcher [169], and bald eagle [177A]. Critical winter range habitat for Deer and Elk. [164,177A] Critical antelope birthing habitat in spring [164,169].

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