

## DECEMBER 2008 BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL SALE INFORMATION SHEET

### Ruby Ranch/Upper Labyrinth Area

**Parcels:** UT1108-161, UT1108-162, UT1108-163

**Description:** Immediately to the east of Labyrinth Canyon on the Green River. Portions lie within wilderness area proposed by America's Redrock Wilderness Act as well as lands in the 1998 BLM Wilderness Inventory.

#### **Resource Concerns:**

**River and water resources:** Riparian, wildlife, scenic, and recreational values of the Green River corridor. [all parcels] In addition, the parcels lie within a 100-year floodplain, which contains critical habitat of endangered fishes, critical riparian habitat, critical watershed, and potential flash flood areas [162,163] as well as critical riparian habitat, springs, and public water reserves [161].

**Visual resources:** VRM Class II high-quality visual resources [162,163]

**Species Habitat:** Critical habitat and nesting sites for yellow-billed cuckoo [161], raptor species such as the burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk [161, 163], and riparian habitat and breeding grounds for the southwestern willow flycatcher [161].

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

#### **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](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](http://www.redrockforests.org/blm_dec_2008_oil_and_gas_lease.htm)