



## Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment

### Oil and Gas Development Summary

- Transferred to the BLM in 1997 with specific direction to lease the area for the production of petroleum resources
- Originally set aside for future mineral development as the Naval Oil Shale Reserve
- 73,602 BLM surface and sub-surface acres in the Planning Area

The Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment outlines an innovative, staged approach to oil and gas leasing on the Roan Plateau.

By emphasizing directional drilling and tightly controlling development, the plan allows for maximum natural gas recovery while protecting fish and wildlife habitat, water resources and scenic views.

#### Key aspects of the Plan:

- **Surface disturbance on top of the plateau is limited to about one percent of the area at any one time** – which means no more than 350 acres total of drill pads, new access roads, pipelines and other areas of surface disturbance. Previous areas disturbed must be satisfactorily reclaimed before development would be approved for new acres.
- **A single oil and gas operator will conduct all natural gas operations** on behalf of all lessees under a federal unit, which allows BLM greater control of how, when and where development takes place.
- **Oil and gas development will be restricted to the high ridges on the plateau and staged over time**, with one ridge being developed and reclaimed before moving to the next
- **More than 50 percent of the area on top and below will have “no surface occupancy” stipulations**, meaning no surface disturbance.
- Habitat fragmentation will be greatly reduced because **wells will be clustered on multi-well pads not closer than one-half mile apart on top of the plateau**, resulting in a maximum surface density of one pad per 160 acres on top.
- **This approach allows for the recovery of 90 percent of the estimated 8.9 trillion cubic feet of federal natural gas** under the Roan Plateau Planning Area. The plan estimates up to 1,570 new wells in the planning area (210 on the Plateau, 1,360 below the Plateau) on 193 pads over the course of 20 years.