

CHAPTER 4 • ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Table 4-38. Number of Wells and Reserves of Oil and Gas in BLM Portions of the Planning Area

Planning Area Oil and Gas Components		Alternative				
		I	II	III	IV	V
Total Planning Area Land Area		127,000 ac				
Federal Mineral Estate		73,602 ac				
Area of Federal Minerals Currently Leased		18,670 ac				
No-Lease Area		44,267 ac	21,382 ac	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac
Deferred-Lease Area ¹		0 ac	0 ac	34,758 ac	0 ac	0 ac
NSO Stipulations		13,912 ac	31,200 ac	30,928 ac	30,928 ac	21,609 ac
CSU Stipulations		8,256 ac	7,015 ac	29,594 ac	29,594 ac	21,517 ac
Standard Lease Terms, including Areas with TL Stipulations		7,146 ac	14,690 ac	13,080 ac	13,080 ac	30,476 ac
Total Areas Available for Oil and Gas Development (excludes No-lease and NSO)		15,423 ac	21,021 ac	42,674 ac	42,674 ac	51,993 ac
Potential New Wells at Full Field Development ²		1,439	1,607	2,288	2,288	2,783
New Wells in 20 Years ^{2,3}	Atop the Plateau	10	87	51	168	234
	Below the Rim	845	818	1,273	1,156	1,348
	Total	855	905	1,324	1,324	1,582
Total Recoverable Reserves on BLM Lands in Planning Area ³		2,239 BCF				
Gas Recovered from Wells Developed on BLM Lands in 20 Years ³		983 BCF	1,041 BCF	1,523 BCF	1,523 BCF	1,819 BCF
Percent of Gas Reserves Recovered in 20 Years		44%	46%	68%	68%	81%
Approximate Number of Colorado Households that could be Served Annually by Gas Recovered from Wells on BLM Lands ^{3,4,5}		523,000	555,000	810,000	810,000	968,000

¹ Leasing and drilling on BLM lands atop the plateau would be deferred until at least 80% of the total wells anticipated below the rim under Alternative III have been effectively completed to total depth and a production test performed.

² Mesaverde Wells – Above the Rim: 40-acre downhole spacing; Below the Rim: 80% @ 10-acre downhole spacing and 20% at 20-acre downhole spacing. Wasatch Wells: 160-acre downhole spacing throughout.

³ Natural gas produced over operational life of wells drilled on BLM lands in Planning Area during 20-year period of analysis.

⁴ Based on development rate used in RFD (Appendix H); assumes 1.17 BCF per Mesaverde well and 0.7 BCF per Wasatch well; weighted average approximately = 1.15 BCF per well.

⁵ Based on 2.5 persons per household and 94 MCF per customer per year; see Section 3.5.5.4.

4.5.5.1 Alternative I

Oil and gas development under this alternative would be severely limited by the continuing closure to leasing of 44,267 acres in the former NOSRs, including all of NOSR 1. Any oil and gas development under this alternative would

occur on the 8,379 acres of NOSR 3 that was leased at the direction of Congress in 1999 and the 20,952 acres of Federal mineral estate in the Planning Area that lies outside the NOSRs, a total of 29,331 acres.