



## **White River RMP Oil and Gas Development Amendment FACT SHEET: Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

The White River Field Office has identified more than 300,000 acres of lands that contain wilderness characteristics outside of Wilderness Study Areas. The BLM has the discretion to manage lands that contain wilderness characteristics to protect those characteristics.

Lands with wilderness characteristics will be managed using the following tiers under the plan:

- 70,000 acres will be managed as **Tier 1** areas to protect wilderness characteristics as a priority over other multiple uses. These lands would be open to oil and gas leasing with the following restrictions:
  - No Surface Occupancy stipulations
  - New road construction or improving/maintaining primitive roads would not be allowed
  - Construction of new facilities would not be allowed
  - Managed as Right-of-Way Exclusion Areas
  
- 67,900 acres will be managed as **Tier 2** areas where other multiple uses are emphasized while applying management restrictions to reduce impacts to wilderness characteristics. These lands would be open to oil and gas leasing with the following restrictions:
  - Controlled Surface Use stipulations
  - Managed as Right-of-Way Avoidance Areas
  - Linear features (e.g., roads, pipelines, or power lines) would not be permitted to bisect a unit or create an extensive intrusion into the unit
  - New development would be located on existing disturbances or adjacent to existing roads or trails
  
- 164,000 acres will be managed as **Tier 3** areas where other multiple uses are managed as a priority over protecting wilderness characteristics. These areas would be open to leasing without any lease stipulations designed to protect wilderness characteristics.

The BLM may apply conditions of approval to leased acreage in Tier 1, 2 and 3 areas that contain wilderness characteristics that are consistent with existing lease rights. Examples of such COAs could include, but are not limited to:

- Roads will not bisect the unit;
- Visual impacts will be considered when determining location and design of facilities;
- Timing restrictions on helicopter use may be applied during big game hunting seasons.