



National Outdoor Leadership School

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The Leader In Wilderness Education

Monday, July 31st, 2006

Mr. Bisson, Interim State Director
 Utah Bureau of Land Management
 Attn.: Utah State Office Business Information Center
 440 West 200 South, Suite 500
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

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Dear Mr. Bisson,

I am writing on behalf of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and Canyon Voyages to protest, under provision 43 C.F.R. 3120.1-3, the inclusion of parcel 273 in the August 15, 2006 competitive sale.

NOLS is a non-profit organization headquartered in Lander, Wyoming, teaching outdoor skills, leadership and environmental ethics to 10,000 students each year. Its river base has been located in Vernal, Utah, since 1988. **NOLS is a long-standing permitted operator on the Green river, with more than 30 courses per year amounting to more than 3,500 user-days.** The Green River corridor, from its middle segment in the Vernal district down to the southern end of Labyrinth Canyon in the Price district, forms NOLS's most extensive and diverse river classroom.

NOLS participated in the Price scoping process and believes that development of the areas included parcel 273, with its current stipulations, would **impair the wilderness quality of the river experience in Labyrinth Canyon.** The latter is a prized river classroom and operating area for NOLS and Canyon Voyages and is increasingly used by commercial river outfitters.

Specifically, we are concerned by Utah BLM's intent to lease parcel 273 as it includes areas being studied for potential ACEC designation with No Surface Occupancy stipulations in alternatives B & C of the Price draft RMP/EIS and again in BLM's June 06 "Supplemental information and analysis to the Price Field Office draft RMP/EIS for ACEC." (The latter is currently open for public comments.)

We urge the BLM to remain consistent and remove parcel 273 from the August sale until the Price RMP is finalized and public comment on the supplemental ACEC information is analysed.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Yannakos
 Wilderness Advocacy Coordinator
 National Outdoor Leadership School

Denise Oblak
 Co-owner
 Canyon Voyages