

BLM - UT - 950
2007 DEC 17 PM 1:03

Worksheet
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

This worksheet is to be completed consistent with guidance provided in instructional text boxes on the worksheet and the 'Guidelines for Using the DNA Worksheet' located at the end of the worksheet. The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision; however, it constitutes an administrative record to be provided as evidence in protest, appeals and legal procedures.

A. BLM Office: Richfield Field Office (UT-050)

Lease/Serial/Case File: Not Applicable

NEPA Number: UT-050-08- 008 DNA

Type of Action: Leasing for Oil and Gas as offered by competitive leasing under the Minerals Act of 1920, as amended.

Location of Proposed Action: Multiple townships in Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne Counties, Utah.

Description of the Proposed Action:

Public land in the Richfield Field Office has been nominated for Federal oil and gas leasing. Attachment DNA-1 includes the list of the 36 nominated parcels (approximately 58,837 acres) with the legal descriptions and includes seven maps (an Index Map and Maps 1-6 of the parcels). The parcels in this sale (February 08) is the same parcels that were proposed in the November 2007 lease sale which was cancelled, for this reason the documents reference parcels that are numbered 1107.

Leasing for oil and gas is allowed under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended. Parcels of land nominated by the public are offered for leasing through a competitive process, and a competitive lease sale is held each quarter of the year. The subject parcels would be offered in the February 2008 competitive lease sale. If a parcel is not leased through competitive bidding, then for two years following the competitive sale, the parcel would be available through a noncompetitive sale. A lease, once issued, may be held for a primary term of 10 years. After 10 years, the lease expires unless oil and/or gas are produced, and if there is production, then a lease is held for as long as production is in paying quantities.

Based on land use planning, parcels offered for lease are subject to four leasing categories. These categories are:

- Category 1: Open to leasing, subject to standard lease terms,
- Category 2: Open to leasing, subject to standard lease terms and special stipulations,
- Category 3: Open to leasing, subject to standard lease terms and no surface occupancy, and
- Category 4: Not open to leasing.

The parcels nominated for leasing include land in Categories 1, 2, and 3.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

<u>Land Use Plan:</u>	<u>Date Approved:</u>
Mountain Valley Management Framework Plan	1982
Parker Mountain Management Framework Plan	1982
Forest Planning Unit Management Framework Plan	1982

<u>Other documents:</u>	<u>Date Approved:</u>
None	N/A

Parcels UT1107-029 through UT1107-045 are subject to the Mountain Valley Management Framework Plan. Parcels UT1107-048 through UT1107-050 are subject to the Parker Mountain Management Framework Plan. Parcels UT1107-046, UT1107-047 and UT1107-051 through UT1107-064 are subject to the Forest Planning Unit Management Framework Plan. The decisions in these plans are to implement oil and gas leasing in accordance with the category system.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action:

- Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment Record, 43-050-5-31, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District (1975), subsequently referred to as the Richfield District Oil and Gas EA,
- Environmental Analysis Record, Oil and Gas Leasing, Fillmore District, Bureau of Land Management (1976), subsequently referred to as the Fillmore District Oil and Gas EA,
- Utah Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Regional EIS (1984), subsequently referred to as the CHL EIS
- Oil and Gas Leasing Implementation EA for Henry Mountain and Sevier River Resource Areas (1988), UT 050-89-024, subsequently referred to as the Implementation EA.

- Quitchupah Creek Road EIS March 2006

The 1975 Richfield District Oil and Gas EA and the 1976 Fillmore District Oil and Gas EA address leasing for oil and gas programmatically. In 1975, public land, now in the Richfield Field Office, was administered by two District Offices as follows:

- Public land in Sanpete County was included in the Fillmore District and
- Public land in Piute, Sevier, and Wayne County (generally west of the Dirty Devil River) was included in the Richfield District.

Thus, the District Oil and Gas EAs apply to the public land that is proposed for leasing in the February 2008 sale. In 1976, administrative boundaries were adjusted, and the public land as described above became part of the re-aligned Richfield District.

In 1988, the Implementation EA was prepared to address leasing in the Sevier River and the Henry Mountain Resource Areas, which were part of the Richfield District. This EA allows for leasing as directed in the Mountain Valley and Parker Mountain MFPs. The Richfield District Oil and Gas EA was cited in the Implementation EA; however, by oversight, the Fillmore District Oil and Gas EA was not specifically cited. However, the applicable land use plans in 1988 were the Mountain Valley MFP and Parker Mountain MFPs, and these plans address leasing of public land in Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne Counties that is nominated for leasing in the February 2008 sale.

In 1996, the Richfield District boundaries were again re-drawn. Public land as described above is now included in the Richfield Field Office.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

The proposed action has been reviewed by BLM specialists, which have expertise in natural resources. Documentation of this review of the existing NEPA record and the environmental analysis is provided through an Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Checklist (Attachment DNA-1). The documentation and explanation to each of the adequacy criteria are based on this interdisciplinary approach and review.

- 1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?**

Yes
 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

In the 1975-76 District Oil and Gas EAs, the proposed action is to lease public lands that are administered by the Bureau of Land Management for oil and gas exploration and development. Activities that could be associated with oil and gas exploration and development are described as

petroleum operations that progress through five phases, which include: preliminary investigations, exploratory drilling, development, production, and abandonment. Operations normally progress from one phase to the next, although abandonment may follow any one stage or two or more stages could occur concurrently in a given area. Although some variation in the discussion may be noted, the EAs have a detailed description of the proposed action and the possible oil and gas activities that may occur, if leasing is allowed. The proposed action is addressed in the 1975-76 EAs as follows:

- Richfield District Oil and Gas EA, p. 1-25 and
- Fillmore District Oil and Gas EA, p. 1-11.

In the 1988 Implementation EA (p. 1-2), oil and gas leasing would be allowed on the subject parcels, subject to the land use plans and subject to the leasing categories that are identified in those plans. The appropriate leasing categories are identified in this EA on p. 4, 5, 8-10, and Appendix 1. This EA references the "original EA" of the Richfield District. As stated at Section C of this document, the Fillmore District Oil and Gas EA was unintentionally omitted from reference in the Implementation EA. The leasing categories are identified and delineated for public land within the field office, and the category designations are consistent with the analysis in the 1975-76 District Oil and Gas EAs and the decisions in the approved land use plans. As previously stated, the subject parcels, as located in the Richfield Field Office, include public land in Categories 1, 2, and 3.

The proposed action—leasing for oil and gas in the February 2008 sale—is substantially the same as the proposed action analyzed in each of the above environmental documents. Public land would be offered for leasing, and exploration and development for oil and gas resources may occur dependent on specific approval by the BLM and dependent on site-specific NEPA analysis. If land is leased, a lessee would be afforded rights to explore for and to develop oil and gas, subject to the lease terms, regulations, and laws.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

Yes
 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

In the 1975-76 District Oil and Gas EAs, BLM evaluated one alternative to leasing which is to not allow leasing. The no leasing alternative is described in each District Oil and Gas EA as follows:

- Richfield District Oil and Gas EA, p. 26.
- Fillmore District Oil and Gas EA, p. 11, and
- Price District Oil and Gas EA, p. 13.

In the 1988 Implementation EA (p. 2), alternative proposals to the proposed action are not evaluated, "(b)ecause this assessment finds no significant impact from the analysis of the proposal," which is to allow for leasing. Therefore, neither a no leasing alternative nor any other alternatives were considered in the 1988 Implementation EA, because the potential impacts to the environment from oil and gas leasing are adequately analyzed in the 1975-76 EAs, and no further study of alternatives is warranted. The rationale for this absence of alternatives to the proposed action in 1988 is based on 40 CFR 1501.2(c) that states: "(s)tudy, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources * * *." The 1975-76 EAs had considered appropriate alternatives, including no leasing; therefore, consideration of this alternative or other alternatives was deemed unnecessary.

3. Is existing analysis adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Yes
 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

A review of the proposed action has been completed and is documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record (Attachment DNA-1). New information or changes in circumstances are described below. This new information or changes in circumstances do significantly modify the analysis that has been completed in the NEPA record, where significantly is considered in the context of the rules adopted by the Council of Environmental Quality.

Cultural Resources and Native American Consultation

Based on the existing information concerning cultural resources as documented in the Staff Report for cultural resources, which is in Attachment DNA-1, the proposed lease parcels predominantly have low densities of archaeological or cultural sites. Under Section 6 of the standard lease terms (Form 3100-11), placement and design of facilities may be modified to the extent consistent with lease rights granted. Under the federal regulations at 43 CFR 3101.1-2, proposed operations may be moved up to 200 meters, when consistent with lease rights. A proposed site could be moved a greater distance, if justified in the environmental analysis at the time of an application for oil and gas operations. Thus, a proposed operation for oil and gas may be moved to avoid impacts to archaeological or cultural resources, consistent with lease rights.

Given the absence of recorded archaeological sites on the subject parcels and the anticipated low density of cultural sites, if present, the discretionary authority to move a proposed operation

would allow for adequate protection of any inventoried cultural resource site at the time of an application for exploration and/or development of oil and gas resources. Potential impacts to cultural resources could be avoided or mitigated by appropriate measures when on-the-ground exploration and development are proposed. If actual surface disturbing activities are proposed on a lease, site-specific cultural resource inventories would be conducted at that time and appropriate Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Protection Act would be completed.

In addition, possible impacts to cultural resources are not anticipated, because adequate protection can be afforded by the Cultural Resource stipulation required by IM 2005-003. That stipulation is:

This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated.

Based on the attached staff report, the recommended determination is: No Historic Properties Affected; eligible sites present, but not affected as defined by 36 CFR 800.4. This recommendation is in accordance with the State Protocol Agreement at Part VII(A)(C)(4) between the Utah BLM and the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer. According to this section of the Protocol Agreement, BLM is not requesting SHPO review of leasing, because this action does not meet the review thresholds outlined in Part VII(A).

The Paiute Indian Tribe, Uinta and Ouray Ute Indian Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Kaibab Paiute, White Mesa Ute, Navajo Utah Commission, Moapa Band of Paiute, San Juan Southern Paiute, and Navajo Nation were notified by certified mail of the proposed leasing by letters that were mailed on September 4, 2007. Copies of these letters are included in Attachment DNA-1.

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah objected in a letter to the RFO dated December 4, 2006, to the lease sale of parcels UT1107-039, UT1107-040, UT1107-041 because of the cultural significance of the area and the importance of the plants, animals, and natural springs here. Tribal interests here go far beyond archaeological site boundaries and encompass the entire area. It would not be possible to locate a well on any of these parcels without intruding on these interests.

Parcels UT1107-054, UT1107-055, UT1107-056, and UT1107-057 are near the Quitcupah Creek area. Previous consultation identified this area for cultural resource significance when the area was proposed for a road by the coal company. These parcels are being deferred based on that previous consultation and decision not to permit the road.

On December 10, 2007 the Navajo Nation responded that they had no tribal interest in any of the lease parcels. As of December 12, 2007 no other tribes have responded to BLM with respect to the lease sale. All tribes would be afforded an opportunity to comment again, if on-the-ground operations, involving surface disturbance, are proposed on a lease.

These parcels are deferred for cultural resource concerns identified in Staff Report:

UT1107-039	UT1107-040	UT1107-041
UT1107-054	UT1107-055	UT1107-056
UT1107-057		

Wilderness Characteristics

As addressed in the Staff Report, Special Management Areas (Tim Finger author), in Attachment DNA-1, Parcels UT1107-052, 054, 055, 056, 057, 059, 060, and 063 are encompassed, in part, by lands that were nominated for wilderness by the public during the on-going land use planning for the Richfield Field Office. The lands listed in the staff report under Wilderness Characteristics have been evaluated by BLM and were determined to likely have wilderness characteristics. Wilderness characteristic of these lands were not considered in the existing NEPA record; therefore, the information is new circumstance. However, the components of wilderness characteristics, i. e., naturalness, primitive recreation, and opportunity for solitude have been analyzed in the 1975 Richfield District EA. The potential impacts of leasing to vegetation, wildlife, soils and other components of the natural environment were analyzed in 1975, and these components of naturalness are factors that influence primitive recreation and the opportunities for solitude. In addition, the use and the character of the public land, including primitive recreation and the opportunity for solitude, have not changed substantially since 1975. Therefore, this new information is considered insignificant with regard to the analysis of the proposed action for all but the following parcels.

These parcels are deferred for wilderness characteristic concerns identified in Staff Report:

UT1107-052	UT1107-054	UT1107-055
UT1107-056	UT1107-057	UT1107-059
UT1107-060	UT1107-063	

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Parcels UT1107-054, UT1107-055, UT1107-050, and UT1107-032 overlap public lands that have been nominated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) during the on-going land use planning for the Richfield Field Office. The nominations of the ACECs by the public occurred after the completion of the existing NEPA record for leasing; therefore, the information constitutes new circumstances. The portion of each parcel that is within a proposed ACEC is listed in the Staff Report for Special Management Areas, which is in Attachment DNA-1. The relevant and important values include wildlife, riparian areas, and sagebrush steppe habitat, and these values are adequately addressed in the existing EAs. The wildlife concerns include big game, prairie dog, pygmy rabbit, southwestern willow flycatcher, and sage grouse, and riparian areas and sagebrush terrain that provides habitat for these animals. Where appropriate, based on

the allocations in the subject land use plan and the 1988 Implementation EA, a special lease stipulation will be attached to a lease for seasonal restriction on oil and gas exploration to protect important wildlife habitat. As addressed below under Special Status Species, a lease notice will be added to protect the Utah prairie dog, and a lease notice will be added for sage grouse. In addition, biological and water resources are also subject to necessary mitigations under the standard lease terms (section 6 of Form 3100-11) as consistent with the rights afforded to the lessee. Therefore, the nomination of ACECs is a possible designation of land use management that was not considered in the existing NEPA record; however, impacts to animals and vegetation (habitat including riparian) were considered in the existing NEPA documents. This analysis is considered adequate with the exception of the following parcels listed below.

Parcels deferred for Wild and Scenic River eligibility concerns identified in Staff Report:
UT1107-054 UT1107-055

Visual Resource Management and Recreation Values

Parcels UT1107-032, UT1107-062, and UT1107-064 are encompassed, in part, by lands that have been designated as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II in the Mountain Valley Management Framework Plan (MFP). The objective of Class II is:

“* * * to retain the character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic of landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristics landscape.”

Landscape character is analyzed in the 1975 District Oil and Gas EA, and as addressed in that EA, mitigating visual impacts could include evaluating the location of facilities, recontouring and revegetating disturbed lands, using color schemes harmonious with the surrounding landscape, and requiring off-site drilling in specific locations as addressed in the MFP. The lands subject to VRM Class II were designated in the applicable MFP, and the 1988 Richfield Implementation EA carried forth the decisions in the MFP. A lease stipulation for VRM Class II is not required in the MFP, since mitigations would be developed at the time of the review of an application for exploration and development.

The BLM manages the Koosharem Reservoir Recreation Site as a developed destination point along Hwy 24. It is located in T 25 S., R 1 E., Section 30, SWSW. A portion of Lease Parcel UT1107-043 overlies this popular destination location. While the lands are not removed from leasing in the LUP, to lease this portion of parcel UT1107-043 (40Acres) may cause impacts to this developed recreation site and the current recreational use pattern would be displaced and where the recreational facilities themselves are already in place.

Parcels deferred for Recreation concerns until the Richfield Field Office RMP EIS (Draft is finalized):

UT1107-043 (T 25 S., R 1 E., Section 30, SWSW)

Special Status Species

Based on the interdisciplinary review (Attachment DNA-1), habitat for the Utah prairie dog, pygmy rabbit, and sage grouse may be present on certain parcels as identified below.

Utah Prairie Dog

Habitat for the Utah prairie dog may be present on Parcels UT1107-048, UT1107-049 and UT1107-050. Thus, based on the potential presence of this threatened species and/or habitat and as directed by WO IM No. 2002-174, the following lease stipulation will be added to these parcels:

The lease may now and hereafter contain plants, animals, and their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objectives to avoid BLM approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modification to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligation under requirements of the Endangered species Act as amended, 16 O.S. C. § 1531 et seq. including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.

In addition, as directed in IM UT 2005-089, the following lease notice (UT-T&E-08) will be added:

The lessee/operator is given notice that lands in this lease may contain historic and/or occupied Utah prairie dog habitat, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Avoidance or use restrictions may be placed on portions of the lease. Application of appropriate measures will depend whether the action is temporary or permanent, and whether it occurs when prairie dogs are active or hibernating. A temporary action is completed prior to the following active season leaving no permanent structures and resulting in no permanent habitat loss. A permanent action continues for more than one activity/hibernation season and/or causes a loss of Utah prairie dog habitat or displaces prairie dogs through disturbances, i.e. creation of a permanent structure. The following avoidance and minimization measures have been designed to ensure activities carried out on the lease are in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Integration of and adherence to these measures will facilitate review and analysis of any submitted permits under the authority of this lease. Following these measures could reduce the scope of Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultation at the permit stage.

Current avoidance and minimization measures include the following:

1. Surveys may be required prior to operations. All Surveys must be conducted by qualified individual(s).

2. Lease activities may require monitoring throughout the duration of the project. To ensure desired results are being achieved, minimization measures will be evaluated and, if necessary, Section 7 consultation reinitiated.
3. Where technically and economically feasible, use directional drilling or multiple wells from the same pad to reduce surface disturbance and eliminate drilling in prairie dog habitat.
4. Surface occupancy or other surface disturbing activity will be avoided within 0.5 mile of active prairie dog colonies.
5. Permanent surface disturbance or facilities will be avoided within 0.5 mile of potentially suitable, unoccupied prairie dog habitat, identified and mapped by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources since 1976.
6. The lessee/operator should consider if fencing infrastructure on well pad, e.g., drill pads, tank batteries, and compressors, would be needed to protect equipment from burrowing activities. In addition, the operator should consider if future surface disturbing activities would be required at the site.
7. Within occupied habitat, set a 25 mph speed limit on operator-created and maintained roads.
8. Limit disturbances to and within suitable habitat by staying on designated routes.
9. Limit new access routes created by the project.

Southwest Willow Flycatcher

The endangered Southwest Willow Flycatcher is found on parcel UT-1107-048, because existing NEPA analysis does not adequately address this species and its habitat this parcel should be deferred.

Sage Grouse Habitat

Habitat for sage grouse, non-listed species, may be present on Parcels UT1107-037,039,040, 041, 043, 044, 045, 048, 049, and 050. These parcels should have lease notices UT-LN-49 and UT-LN-51 attached to them.

The lessee/operator is given notice that this lease has been identified as containing sage grouse nesting and brooding habitat. Modifications may be required in the Surface Use Plan of Operations to protect the species and its habitat. This notice may be waived, excepted, or modified by the authorized officer if either the resource values change or the lessee/operator demonstrates that adverse impacts can be mitigated.

The lessee/operator is given notice that lands in this lease have been identified as containing habitat for named species on the BLM Sensitive Species List and the Utah Sensitive Species List. Modifications to the Surface Use Plan of Operations may be required in order to protect any sensitive Species and/or habitat from surface disturbing activities in accordance with Section 6 of the Oil and Gas Lease Terms, Endangered Species Act, and 43 CRF 3101.1-2. This notice may be waived, excepted, or modified by the authorized officer if either the resource values change or the lessee/operator demonstrates that adverse impacts can be mitigated.

Pygmy Rabbit

Habitat for pygmy rabbit may be present on Parcels UT1107-48 and UT1107-049, because existing NEPA analysis does not adequately address this species and its habitat these parcels should be deferred.

Consultaion with Fish and Wildlife Service

Regarding Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Utah BLM State Office has determined that consultation has been completed for all lease sales as follows:

In December, 2004, BLM and FWS personnel completed work on a set of lease notices for listed species that are to be attached to oil and gas leases offered in the State. On December 13, 2004, section 7 consultation was initiated with the submission of a memorandum to FWS containing the lease notices.

FWS responded with a memorandum dated December 16, 2004 which stated the following: "We concur that the sale of oil and gas lease parcels, with the species-specific lease notices, results in a **"not likely to adversely affect"** determination. Our concurrence applies to all upcoming lease parcels that include these notices, as well as the issuance of all lease parcels sold since November 2003."

In addition, the lease notice for sage grouse habitat is expected to provide adequate flexibility to mitigate possible impacts to the habitat that could occur from proposed, oil and gas operations within a federal lease. Additional measures to avoid or minimize effects to the Utah prairie dog and sage grouse may be prepared and implemented in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when exploration and development is proposed for a lease, and the measures would ensure continued compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Riparian Values

There are twenty-two parcels that contain riparian/wetland zones (BLM, 2007).

Specifically, UT1107-032 - East Fork Sevier River; UT1107-033 - Willow Spring; UT1107-034 - Cottonwood Creek & Manning Creek.; UT1107-035 - Tenmile Creek.; UT1107-036 - Oak Springs; UT1107-039 - Dock Spring; UT1107-041 - Birch Creek.; UT1107-043 - Otter Creek.; UT1107-044 - Praetor Creek; UT1107-046 - Niotche Creek; UT1107-047 - Yogo Creek and Spring Creek; UT1107-048 - Fremont River; UT1107-050 - Fremont River; UT1107-051 - Skumpah Creek; UT1107-054 - Quitchupah Creek; UT1107-055 - Quitchupah Creek; UT1107-056 - Quitchupah Creek; UT1107-057 - Quitchupah Creek; UT1107-060 - Saleratus Creek; UT1107-061 - Saleratus Creek; UT1107-062 - Saleratus Creek; UT1107-064 - Ivie Creek.

Lease Notice UT-LN-69 would be added to the above parcels for the riparian/wetland zones identified.

The lessee/operator is given notice that this lease has been identified as containing riparian resources. Modifications to the Surface Use Plan of Operations, including no surface occupancy on portions of the parcel (up to 500 feet), may be required in order to protect riparian resources from surface disturbing activities.

Summary of New Information and/or Circumstance

New information and circumstances exist for the southwestern willow flycatcher and pygmy rabbit that precludes parcels that have these species or habitat present. New information has also been received from Native American tribes that have resulted in other parcels being deferred. Additional information and/or analysis is needed prior to leasing the previously identified parcels to be deferred. For all other parcels no new information or circumstances have been identified that would render the existing environmental analysis inadequate. All identified new information and/or circumstances are adequately analyzed in the existing NEPA record or are otherwise insignificant additions to the information available when the existing NEPA record was completed. New analysis is considered unnecessary.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Yes
 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The methodology and the analysis in the 1975-76 District Oil and Gas EAs are appropriate for the current proposed action. The proposed action and the existing environment are described in the NEPA documents, and the anticipated and residual impacts are considered and evaluated with respect to the elements of the environment that may be affected, if the proposed action were authorized. Anticipated and residual impacts in the 1975 EAs are inclusive of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. In addition, short-term use versus long-term productivity, irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources, possible mitigations to reduce or eliminate anticipated impacts to the elements of the environment, and enhancing measures have been evaluated. An alternative, no leasing, has also been analyzed. This methodology—describing the proposed action, alternative actions, and the affected environment; analyzing the potential impacts to elements of the environment; and evaluating proposed mitigations—is consistent with the current BLM NEPA guidance and is appropriate in evaluating the possible consequences of leasing.

The 1988 Implementation EA evaluates oil and gas leasing as directed and allowed under the Mountain Valley MFP. In addition, this EA (p. 1) incorporates the 1984 CHL EIS by reference, which addressed the guidelines for the leasing category system. In the 1988 Implementation EA (p. 4, 5, 8-10, and Appendix 1), the oil and gas leasing categories are designated for public land in the Richfield Field Office. As stated in the 1988 Implementation EA (p. 1), the decisions in the land use plan are not modified. Rather the decisions in the land use plan are implemented by supporting the compliance with the NEPA process (p. 1). Through the process of preparing the 1988 Implementation EA, the BLM is assured that public land available for leasing is offered in the appropriate leasing category and that appropriate special stipulations are attached to an authorized lease. This methodology is considered appropriate to the current proposed action.

In the 1988 Implementation EA (p. 2-3), a reasonable foreseeable development (RFD) was analyzed for oil and gas exploration and development. The RFD includes one exploratory well per year, based on historical activity.

Exploration methodology has changed somewhat, since the NEPA record was completed. In general, exploration and development involves less surface disturbance than was envisioned in the existing NEPA record. Equipment for geophysical operations involves smaller trucks for drilling shot holes and for vibrating, and heliportable drilling is utilized where vehicles cannot be reasonably driven cross-country. Co-locating wells on a single well pad also is considered as an alternative to constructing an access and well pad for each well. These methodologies are considered based upon topography, existing access, exploration targets, and the feasibility of each method. The potential impacts would generally be less than analyzed in existing NEPA documents; therefore, the existing documents adequately analyze the parcels recommended for leasing.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Do the existing NEPA documents analyze impacts related to the current proposed action at a level of specificity appropriate to the proposal (plan level, programmatic level, project level)?

Yes
 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

On a programmatic basis, the 1975-76 District Oil and Gas EAs evaluated the anticipated and residual impacts that could result from oil and gas leasing. The MFPs provide specific information regarding the resources that could be impacted by oil and gas exploration and development. The 1988 Implementation EA provides an analysis of designating public land as being subject to the four leasing categories and the special stipulations under Category 2, based on specific resource information and concerns. The analysis in the 1988 Implementation EA is therefore sufficiently describes the mitigations required for leasing. Further site-specific review that addressed environmental justice, hazardous and solid waste, Native American Religious concerns, and noxious weeds in addition to the elements originally examined in the NEPA documents listed in B. and C. above, indicate the following: Possible mitigating or enhancing measures as well as recommended mitigations or enhancements are addressed in the EAs. The impact analysis and mitigations, as appropriate, have been incorporated into the land use plan and are implemented through the 1988 Implementation EA through the leasing category system. The impacts, which are evaluated in the District Oil and Gas Leasing EAs and 1988 Implementation EA, are essentially the same now as when the EAs were prepared.

Anticipated and residual impacts are addressed in the 1975-76 EAs at:

- Richfield District Oil and Gas EA, p. 50-79 (anticipated impacts); p.115-122 (residual

- impacts) and
- Fillmore District Oil and Gas EA, p. 61-112 (anticipated impacts); p.165-173 (residual impacts).

As a consideration to leasing of public land, the impacts of geophysical exploration, drilling for oil and gas, and development were addressed in the above-listed EAs. If an operator or lessee were to propose geophysical exploration, drilling of a well, or development of production facilities, then a written proposal would be required, and the action would require approval prior to such exploration or development. As stated in the 1988 Implementation EA (p. 3), a site-specific analysis and mitigation would be completed under an NEPA document for the specific proposal at the time of a specific application. As a further note, geophysical exploration is a discretionary action that does not require a lease, and applications for geophysical exploration would be considered, subject to the land use plan and a site-specific environmental analysis, regardless of whether a lease is authorized.

6. Are the reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes
 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

As stated in the 1988 Implementation EA (p. 3), oil and gas exploration and development has historically involved an average of one exploration well per year. Based on that trend, one well per year for exploration was projected as a reasonable foreseeable development scenario as stated in the Implementation EA (p. 3, 11), and the anticipated impacts were projected to be approximately 78 acres during the subsequent 13 years. From 1988 to 2003, oil and gas activity averaged much less than one well per year, and all wells on public land were plugged and abandoned with the surface reclaimed. The 1988 Implementation EA was written to address lands managed under the MFPs, and the reasonable foreseeable development scenario, therefore, applies to public land administered by the Richfield Field Office.

In 2004, oil was discovered in paying quantities in Sevier County. Since that discovery, exploration has increased within the Richfield Field Office. Also, the Energy Act of 2005 and an increase in the prices for oil and gas have been favorable for oil and gas exploration. In the Richfield Field Office, most drilling to date has been at the newly discovered Covenant Field, south of Sigurd; however, there have been other wells proposed in the vicinity of the Sevier and Sanpete Valleys and on the Wasatch Plateau. Not all of these wells have been on public land. Total surface disturbance on public land from the oil and gas drilling and production in the vicinity of Sevier Valley includes approximately 48 acres. An additional 51 acres of public lands would be disturbed, if the wells currently under application or approved were to be drilled.

In addition, geophysical operations have increased in association with an increased interest in exploration. From 1988 through 2003, Richfield FO approved six Notices of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Operations; whereas, from 2004-2005, six seismic operations have involved BLM approval. One seismic project has been approved for 2006, and five additional projects are being reviewed for approval at this time. In 2004-2007, 748 miles of seismic surveying were completed, and in 2008, 100 square miles (10 miles by 10 miles) of 3D line have been proposed. The 3D line is relatively small area and high intensity survey, there would be 38 receiving lines and 54 source lines within this area. The total linear lines for this project would be 920 miles. Exploration using geophysical surveys is anticipated to continue and possibly increase in the foreseeable future. Geophysical operations were not included in the reasonable foreseeable development scenario in 1988; however, the surface disturbances associated with seismic operations have been negligible to minimal. Federal oil and gas leases are not required for seismic exploration on public land, and regardless of whether leases are issued, geophysical exploration may occur, although seismic exploration could be less likely to occur, if industry cannot obtain federal leases.

In summary, the reasonable foreseeable development included a projection of 99 acres of surface disturbance related to oil and gas exploration during a 13-year period. Although more than 13 years have elapsed since the adoption of that scenario, the total acreage has not been exceeded: For public land, approximately 48 acres of the projected 99 acres are currently disturbed by oil and gas operations. The 1975-76 Oil and Gas Leasing EAs and the 1988 Implementation EA considered and addressed possible residual impacts, the short-term versus long-term productivity, and the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources. The impact analysis in those documents has not substantially changed; however, the exploration and limited development has occurred with the activity mostly in the last two years. The 1975-76 District Oil and Gas EAs programmatically address all phases of oil and gas exploration and development, which range from preliminary investigations to abandonment, and the analysis in those documents is substantially unchanged from 1975 to the present.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes
 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The public was allowed an opportunity to comment on the NEPA documents that were prepared in 1975-76 and 1988, and the public was allowed to participate in the land use planning that resulted in the MFPs. In 1975, the public was notified of the environmental review for oil and gas leasing through public meetings, news releases, and radio broadcasts (1975-76 District Oil and Gas EAs). The public was allowed to review and comment on the 1988 Implementation EA (p. 13).

For the current lease sale in February 2008, the public again has been offered the opportunity to provide comments or to be involved in the process. The proposed sale and the NEPA review have been posted for public review on the Electronic Notification Bulletin Board. A decision to lease by the BLM will be signed, once the final list of available tracts is completed and the decision is subject to protest.

The BLM notified Native American tribes of the proposed lease offer on September 4, 2007. A copy of the letter is included in Attachment DNA-1. One response has been received from the Paiute Indian Tribe, which requested that Parcels UT1107-039, 040, and 041 not be offered for leasing. This letter was received from the tribe for a previous sale for these same parcels. Further consultation is planned with respect to these three parcels to evaluate the tribal concerns and to determine the adequacy of the existing NEPA record. These three parcels are recommended for deferral from leasing in the February 2008 sale, in order to allow for that consultation. Another response was received from the Navajo Nation stating that had not tribal interest in the proposed parcels to be leased.

As previously addressed under Criterion 3, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been consulted on the impacts to sensitive, threatened and endangered species.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting analysis or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

The team members are identified in Attachment DNA-1.

F. Mitigation Measures:

Leasing categories and special stipulations have been identified in the applicable land use plans and the 1988 Implementation EA. Where in accordance with the land use plan, lease stipulations have been identified for the subject parcels as delineated by legal description in the preliminary list (Attachment DNA-1).

As stated previously, parcels in this sale will have a lease notice for the protection of cultural resources in accordance with Bureau policy. In addition, inventories would be used to identify specific cultural resources at the time of an application for oil and gas operations. Furthermore, lease stipulations for the Utah prairie dog and lease notices for sage grouse will be attached to the parcels that may contain habitat for these animals.

G. Summary

Parcels recommended to be deferred for planning considerations:

UT1107-039	UT1107-040	UT1107-041
UT1107-043 (partial deferral; T 25 S., R 1 E., Section 30, SWSW)		
UT1107-048	UT1107-049	UT1107-052
UT1107-054	UT1107-055	UT1107-056
UT1107-057	UT1107-059	UT1107-060
UT1107-063		

Parcels recommended to be leased with notices:

Lease Notice UT-T&E-08 Utah Prairie Dog
UT1107-050

Lease Notice UT-LN 49 &51 for sage grouse
UT1107-037 UT1107-043 UT1107-044
UT1107-045 UT1107-050

Lease Notice UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk
UT1107-029 UT1107-030 UT1107-031
UT1107-032 UT1107-033 UT1107-034
UT1107-035 UT1107-036 UT1107-037
UT1107-038 UT1107-042 UT1107-043
UT1107-044 UT1107-045 UT1107-050
UT1107-053 UT1107-058 UT1107-061
UT1107-062 UT1107-064

Lease Notice UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle
UT1107-029 UT1107-030 UT1107-031
UT1107-032 UT1107-033 UT1107-034
UT1107-035 UT1107-036 UT1107-037
UT1107-038 UT1107-042 UT1107-043
UT1107-044 UT1107-045 UT1107-050
UT1107-053 UT1107-058 UT1107-061
UT1107-062 UT1107-064

Lease Notice UT-T&E-01 for Bald Eagle winter roost habitat
UT1107-035 UT1107-036 UT1107-043
UT1107-044 UT1107-061 UT1107-062
UT1107-064

Lease Notice UT-LN-69 for Riparian Values (500 feet buffer)
UT1107-032 UT1107-033 UT1107-034
UT1107-035 UT1107-036 UT1107-037
UT1107-043 UT1107-044 UT1107-050
UT1107-058 UT1107-061 UT1107-062
UT1107-064

Parcels recommended to be leased with stipulations:

Lease Stipulation UT-S-07 for crucial deer/elk winter range
UT1107-032 UT1107-033 UT1107-034
UT1107-035 UT1107-036 UT1107-037
UT1107-038 UT1107-042 UT1107-043

UT1107-044
UT1107-053
UT1107-062

UT1107-045
UT1107-058
UT1107-064

UT1107-050
UT1107-061

CONCLUSIONS

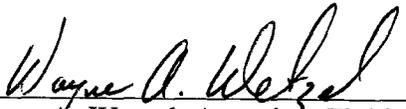
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that:

Plan Conformance:

- This proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan.
- This proposal does not conform to the applicable land use plan

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

- The existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.
- The existing NEPA documentation does not fully cover the proposed action. Additional NEPA documentation is needed if the project is to be further considered.



Wayne A. Wetzel, Associate Field Manager

14 Dec 2007
Date

Attachment DNA-1:

Proposed Action
Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist
Maps 1-6
Attachment for Air and Water Quality
Staff Report for Special Management Areas
November 2007 Preliminary Lease Sale List with Legal Descriptions
Floodplains and Soils
Special Status Plant and Animal Clearances
Staff Report for Cultural Resources with tribal notifications

ATTACHMENT DNA-1

PROPOSED ACTION

BLM - UT - 950
2007 DEC 17 PM 1:23

Parcels of public land would be offered for the leasing of oil and gas in the February 2008 sale by competitive bidding. If a parcel is not selected competitively, then the parcel would be available through noncompetitive leasing for two years.

The subject parcels are identified on the Preliminary November 2007 Lease Sale List (Richfield FO Parcels), which is attached. The legal descriptions of the parcels and any special stipulations for a parcel are identified in the list. The subject parcels in the Richfield FO are in Sevier, and Piute Sanpete Counties. Some parcels involve split estate with non-federal surface estate and federal oil and gas estate.

The parcels need to be reviewed for conformance with the existing land use plans and for adequacy of the existing NEPA record. In the land use plans, public land is designated as being in Oil and Gas Leasing Category 1, 2, 3, or 4. Category 1 leases are subject to standard lease terms; Category 2, special stipulations; Category 3, no surface occupancy; and Category 4, no leasing.

A DNA will be prepared to document the review, and you are asked to review the existing land use plans and environmental documents. **Per the NEPA Guidebook and directions on the Checklist, consider NC, when appropriate.** The existing NEPA record includes:

- Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment Record, 43-050-5-31, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District (1975),
- Environmental Analysis Record, Oil and Gas Leasing, Fillmore District, Bureau of Land Management (1976),
- Utah Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Regional EIS (1984), and
- Oil and Gas Leasing Implementation EA for Henry Mountain and Sevier River Resource Areas (1988), UT 050-89-024.

Please be sure you reference the specific EA or EAs that support your rationale on the Interdisciplinary Checklist. All parcels in RFO are subject to the 1988 Supplemental EA.

If a parcel is offered and leased, the lease conveys a right to explore and develop mineral resources, subject to the lease terms and the applicable laws and regulations. On-the-ground operations, such as geophysical exploration or drilling, would require a separate application under a Notice of Intent or Application for Permit to Drill, and the proposed operation would be evaluated under a subsequent environmental review.

Six maps have been prepared of the parcels.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD CHECKLIST

Project Title: Oil and Gas Lease Sale, February 2008

NEPA Log Number: UT-050-08-008 DNA

File/Serial Number: Not Applicable

Project Leader: Bert Hart

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for significant impact analyzed in detail in the EA; or identified in a DNA as requiring further analysis

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section C of the DNA form.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NC	Air Quality	See attachment (for both air and water quality) that cites references for any and all locations within the RFO area of responsibility involving oil and gas actions.	Phil Zieg	8/28/07
PI	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	See attached Staff Report for details. The parcels which overlap with eligible Wild and Scenic River segment cannot be leased, while the other parcels can, with stipulations.	Tim Finger	08/24/07
NI	Cultural Resources	A cultural resource records search was completed for lands involved with the subject lease sale parcels. Cultural resources are or could be present in all lease areas but, given the low site densities indicated by current information, there is room on each lease parcel to locate at least one well pad, ancillary facilities and afford reasonable access and still avoid any cultural resources that may be present. The Utah Protocol Part VII.A.C. was applied to this cultural resource review for the (November, 2007 lease sale and the RFO determination under the Protocol review threshold (Part VII.A.C(4)) is: "No Historic Properties Affected; Eligible Sites Present But Not Affected As Defined By 36 CFR 800.4." A cultural inventory is done prior to all surface disturbing activities and a Section 106 consultation will be done to ensure that cultural and historic properties are avoided or are not adversely affected. See attached Cultural Resources Staff Report. (Cultural Resources, November 2007 Oil & Gas Lease Parcels: August 31, 2007).	Craig Harmon	09/05/07
NC	Environmental Justice	Impacts to local communities and economies are addressed in the existing NEPA record. Leasing would not adversely or disproportionately affect minority, low income or disadvantaged groups.	Bert Hart	08/25/07
NC	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	Prime and unique farmland was not specifically addressed in existing O&G EAs. Very few, if any, of the listed parcels have the potential to qualify as prime or unique farmlands. Any	Brant Hallows	8/28/07

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		actions that would cause a parcel of prime or unique farmland to NOT qualify as prime or unique farmland (as specified in 7CFR 657.5), and for which mitigation efforts would not return the parcel to meeting the criteria, would need to be further addressed at the time of an APD, if deemed having potential impacts. No impacts.		
NC	Floodplains	Although existing O&G NEPA documents do not directly address floodplains, floodplains are indirectly but adequately addressed in discussions of drainages, streams, rivers, lakes ponds, waterholes, seeps, marshes and wildlife habitat. Also, the proposed action will not increase the risk of flooding or the risk of damage to human life and property and will not be contrary to Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management. (see attachment for references).	Brant Hallows	8/28/07
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	Invasive, non-native weed species are not addressed in any of existing Oil and Gas EAs; however, the BLM does coordinate with County and local governments to conduct an active program for control of invasive species. Standard operating procedures such as washing of vehicles and annual monitoring and spraying along with site specific mitigation applied as conditions of approval (COA) at the APD stage should be sufficient to prevent the spread or introduction of Invasive, Non-native species.	Vearl Christiansen for Burke Williams	8-28-07
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Letters containing notification of this lease sale and the results of our cultural resources records search were sent to the following Tribes on September 4, 2007: 1) the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, 2) the Uinta and Ouray Ute Tribe, 3) the Hopi Tribe, 4) the Navajo Nation, 5) the Southern Ute, 6) the Ute Mountain Ute, and 7) the Kaibab Paiute, 8) the White Mesa Ute, 9) the Navajo Utah Commission, 10) the Moapa Band of Paiutes and 11) the San Juan Southern Paiute. The letters detailed the lease proposal and requested their comments if they had any concerns with it. A response was received from the Paiute tribe in December 2006 regarding a lease sale. Information from this letter is being used to defer the same parcels in the February 2008 sale. A response was also received on December 10, 2007 from the Navajo Nation stating that they had no interest in the parcels schedules to be leased. To date, no response has been received from the other tribes. However, if any concerns are raised subsequently by the tribes, those concerns will be addressed as necessary. Additional consultation will be conducted should site-specific use authorization requests be received. As the proposal becomes more site-specific, tribes will again be notified and given further opportunity for comment. Refer to section D.7 of the DNA for further discussion.	Craig Harmon	8-31-2007
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	See Attached Staff Report.	Larry Greenwood	8-27-07
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	See Attached Staff Report	Larry Greenwood	8-27-07
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	There are no known hazardous or solid waste found within the proposed leases. Existing NEPA documentations are adequate, because drilling fluids, produced waters, and other wastes	Stan Adams	8/30/07

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		associated with the exploration, development or production of crude or natural gas are excluded as a hazardous waste under 40 CFR 261.4(b)(4). As recognized in previous analyses, site specific mitigation applied as conditions of approval (COA) at the APD stage would be sufficient to ensure proper containment, transport and disposal of solid or toxic waste if any are required or generated.		
PI	Water Quality (drinking/ground)	See attachment (includes both air and water quality) that cites references for any and all locations within the RFO area of responsibility involving oil and gas actions. This attachment also contains reference to a specific parcel of land included in the Preliminary Oil and Gas Sale List UT1107-050.	Phil Zieg	8/28/07
NI	Wetlands / Riparian Zones	See Attached Staff Report	Larry Greenwood	8-27-07
PI	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Two parcels proposed have been found to be eligible for potential Wild and Scenic River designation. See attached staff report	Tim Finger	08/22/07
NP	Wilderness	None present. No affect. See attached Staff Report for details	Tim Finger	08/22/07
OTHER RESOURCES / CONCERNS				
NI	Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines	The proposed action will not affect Rangeland standards and guidelines. Current EAs are adequate, no change in analysis is necessary. Water quality, vegetation, Threatened & Endangered Species habitat and other components of ecological conditions that are considered in Rangeland Health Standards and Guides have been analyzed in the previous NEPA documents pertaining to the nominated parcels. Exploration and development under the standard lease terms can be adequately mitigated at the time of a site-specific application as conditions of approval (COAs). Therefore, it is concluded that Rangeland Health Standards would be met.	Vearl Christiansen Burke Williams	8-28-07
NI	Livestock Grazing	The proposed action will not affect livestock grazing. Exploration and development under the standard lease terms can be adequately mitigated at the time of a site-specific application as conditions of approval (COAs). Therefore, it is concluded that existing analysis is adequate and that livestock grazing operation would not be affected. Drill sites would be fenced. Any facilities such as fences and cattleguards that would be affected would be replaced or restored and disturbed areas would be reclaimed.	Vearl Christiansen Burke Williams	8-28-07
NC	Woodland / Forestry	Although Woodland/Forestry is not specifically addressed in these EAs, the effects on Woodland/Forestry would be comparable to that of vegetation. Vegetation is discussed in the 1975 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment Record (43-050-5-31, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District, Pages 38-39, 41-42, 52, 62-65, 69-72, 89-91, 111, 118-119, 123, 127), and is therefore considered adequate. It is also discussed in the 1976 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Analysis Record (Fillmore District, Bureau of Land Management, Pages 36, 37, 38, 39, 46, 47, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 95, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 159, 160, 161, 167, 168, 169, 174, 175, 179, 180, Appendix 1), and is consider to	Robert Bate	9/05/07

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		be adequate.		
NC	Vegetation	<p>The 1975 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment Record (43-050-5-31, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District, Pages 38, 39, 41, 62, 63, 64, 89, 90, 91, 111, 118, 119, 123, 127), discusses vegetation and is therefore considered adequate.</p> <p>The 1976 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Analysis Record (Fillmore District, Bureau of Land Management, Pages 36, 37, 38, 39, 46, 47, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 95, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 159, 160, 161, 167, 168, 169, 174, 175, 179, 180, Appendix 1), has a detailed discussion on vegetation. Therefore, this NEPA document is considered adequate.</p>	Larry Greenwood	8-27-07
NI	Special Status Plant and Animal Species other than Threatened, Endangered or Candidate	See Attached Staff Report.	Larry Greenwood	8-27-07
NI	Fish and Wildlife	See Attached Staff Report.	Larry Greenwood	8-27-07
NC	Migratory Birds	<p>Migratory birds, as a specific category, were not discussed in the oil and gas EA's. However, the discussion on animals and birds in the two EA's is very adequate and covers migratory birds.</p> <p>Specifically, the 1975 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment Record (43-050-5-31, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District, Pages 39- 41, 64- 67, 91-93, 111- 113, 119, 120, 123, 127).</p> <p>And the 1976 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Analysis Record (Fillmore District, Bureau of Land Management, p. 39-45, 47, 48, 82- 91, 132-135, 161-163, 169, 170, 175, 180, Appendix 2).</p>	Larry Greenwood	8-27-07
NC	Soils	Soil impacts and mitigations are adequately addressed in many different sections of the existing NEPA documents. Impacts to the soils are the same now as when the analyses were complete. (see attachment for references)	Brant Hallows	8/28/07
PI	Recreation	Although recreation use types and activity patterns have altered since the NEPA evaluation, the analysis is still appropriate for most areas. However, there are a number of parcels which are potentially or actually affected by specific LUP Decisions, BLM Policies, and Acts of Congress. See attached Staff Report for details.	Tim Finger	08/22/07
NI	Visual Resources	See attached Staff Report for details for VRM Class II located in the Forest Planning Unit and for new information regarding the State of Utah Scenic Highway designations, not previously incorporated in the existing NEPA documents.	Tim Finger	08/22/07
NC	Geology/Mineral Resources/Energy Production	The existing EAs adequately address the impacts of oil and gas leasing, as the EAs address oil and gas operations and the impacts that could result from exploration through development. The analysis includes:	Francis Rakow	09/04/2007

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		<p>Richfield District Oil and Gas EA, p. 50-79 (anticipated impacts), p. 115-128 (residual impacts), and Fillmore District Oil and Gas EA, p. 61-112 (anticipated impacts), p. 165-173 (residual impacts).</p> <p>Possible mitigating or enhancing measures as well as recommended mitigations or enhancements are addressed in the Richfield District EA (p. 80-115). The impact analysis and mitigations, as appropriate, have been incorporated into the land use plans and are implemented through the 1988 Implementation EA. The impacts, which are evaluated in the District Oil and Gas Leasing EAs and the 1988 Implementation EA, are essentially the same now as when the EAs were prepared. An RFD was developed in 1988.</p> <p>The EAs considered impacts to the natural terrain, such as landscape, scenery, and geologic features. Possible mitigations, such as avoidance, no surface occupancy, and relocation of facilities, were analyzed in the EAs.</p> <p>Oil and gas exploration could lead to an increased understanding of the geologic setting, as subsurface data obtained through lease operations may become public record. This information promotes an understanding of mineral resources as well as geologic interpretation.</p> <p>Conflicts could arise between oil and gas operations and other mineral operations. These could generally be mitigated under the regulations 3101.1-2, where proposed oil and gas operations may be moved up to 200 meters or delayed by 60 days and also under the standard lease terms (Sec. 6) where siting and design of facilities may be modified to protect other resources.</p>		
NC	Paleontology	Impacts to fossils are not anticipated. If fossils are discovered, then fossils would be protected under the regulatory requirement that oil and gas operations may be moved up to 200 meters. Also, under the standard lease terms (Sec. 6), siting and design of facilities may be modified to protect other resources.	Francis Rakow	09/04/2007
NC	Lands / Access	As described, the proposed action would not affect access to public land. No roads providing access to public land would be closed on a long term basis. Any proposed project would be subject to valid prior existing rights (See Relevant Master Title Plat [MTP] pages. More specific information is available upon request) and any operations would be coordinated with right-of-way (ROW) Holders and adjacent non-federal landowners. Off-lease ancillary facilities that cross public land, if any, may require a separate authorization. Existing ROW in proposed operation areas would not be affected because site specific mitigation applied at the APD stage, including the ability to move operations up to 200 meters, would ensure that communication sites, water projects, power lines, etc. would be avoided, restored or replaced. The described parcels are not located within an identified ROW corridor. Potential issues include but are not limited to surface disturbance within and outside described project areas and generated trash/debris should be removed from public land and discarded at an authorized facility.	Nancy DeMille	09/05/07

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NC	Fuels / Fire Management	Fire and fuels management were not specifically addressed in existing O&G EA's. However, site-specific mitigation and safety measures applied at the application stage would minimize the risk of inadvertent ignitions. Therefore, impacts to fire and fuels management are not expected.	Russ Ivie	09/06/2007
NC	Socio-economics	Socio-economic conditions are adequately addressed in the existing NEPA record. The proposed actions considered the social and economic impacts that could be associated with oil and gas operations that range from initial exploration to field development and abandonment. The impacts include demands on social and governmental infrastructure, migration of people as work forces increase and decrease, changes in the tax base, economic growth and decline, and changes in social institutions.	Bert Hart	8/28/07
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	Wild horses and burros are not known to be present on the parcels.	Dona Bastian	09/05/07
PI	Wilderness Characteristics	There are parcels which lie within areas evaluated by BLM and which have been found by BLM to possess wilderness characteristics. There are also parcels which have been submitted directly to Congress for potential Wilderness designation by a Wilderness Advocacy group (America's Red Rock Desert Wilderness Bill) These parcels cannot be offered for lease at this time by Judicial decision (Kimball decision) See attached Staff Report for details	Tim Finger	08/22/07

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
NEPA / Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NC	Fuels / Fire Management	Fire and fuels management were not specifically addressed in existing O&G EA's. However, site-specific mitigation and safety measures applied at the application stage would minimize the risk of inadvertent ignitions. Therefore, impacts to fire and fuels management are not expected.	Russ Ivie	09/06/2007
NC	Socio-economics	Socio-economic conditions are adequately addressed in the existing NEPA record. The proposed actions considered the social and economic impacts that could be associated with oil and gas operations that range from initial exploration to field development and abandonment. The impacts include demands on social and governmental infrastructure, migration of people as work forces increase and decrease, changes in the tax base, economic growth and decline, and changes in social institutions.	Bert Hart	8/28/07
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	Wild horses and burros are not known to be present on the parcels.	Dona Bastian	09/05/07
PI	Wilderness Characteristics	There are parcels which lie within areas evaluated by BLM and which have been found by BLM to possess wilderness characteristics. There are also parcels which have been submitted directly to Congress for potential Wilderness designation by a Wilderness Advocacy group (America's Red Rock Desert Wilderness Bill) These parcels cannot be offered for lease at this time by Judicial decision (Kimball decision) See attached Staff Report for details	Tim Finger	08/22/07

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
NEPA / Environmental Coordinator	<i>Rodney P. Lee</i>	12-14-07	
Authorized Officer	<i>Wayne A. Weibel</i>	14 Dec 2007	

**Parcel Deferral Table-Based on DNA
November 2007 Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale
Richfield Field Office**

DATE NOMINATED	PARCEL NUMBER	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	ACRES	REASON TRACT POSTPONED	LAND USE PLAN	PROPOSED LEASING DECISION DATED
July 2007	UT1107-039 Piute County, Utah	T. 30 S., R. 4 W., Salt Lake Sec. 1: ALL; Sec. 10: Lots 1, 3-8, S2NE, E2SW, SE; Sec. 11: N2, SW; Sec. 12: N2, N2SW, SE.	2,249.1	Paiute Indian Tribe Of Utah objection	Mountain Val- ley MFP	Defer for further consultation with the Tribe needed to deter- mine if a portion of the parcel can be leased.
July 2007	UT1107-040 Piute County, Utah	T. 30 S., R. 4 W., Salt Lake Sec. 14: NENW, W2W2; Secs. 15 and 22: ALL; Sec. 23: NWNW, W2SW; Sec. 27: N2, SW, N2SE, SWSE.	2,200.00 Acres	Paiute Indian Tribe Of Utah objection	Mountain Val- ley MFP	Defer for further consultation with the Tribe needed to deter- mine if a portion of the parcel can be leased.
July 2007	UT1107-041 Piute County, Utah	T. 30 S., R. 4 W., Salt Lake Sec. 34: W2NE, NW, N2SW, SWSW, N2SE.	440.00	Paiute Indian Tribe Of Utah objection	Mountain Val- ley MFP	Defer for further consultation with the Tribe needed to deter- mine if a portion of the parcel can be leased.
July 2007	UT 1107-043 Sevier County, Utah	T. 25 S., R. 1 E., Salt Lake Sec. 30: Lot 4	40.0	Recreation concerns	Mountain Val- ley MFP	Defer until decision on Draft RMP EIS is made.
July 2007	UT 1107-048 Wayne	T. 27 S., R. 3 E., Salt Lake	1,843.36	Presence of Southwestern wil- low flycatcher and pygmy rab-	Parker Moun- tain MFP	Defer until additional analysis and NEPA completed for these

	County, Utah	Sec. 3: ALL; Sec. 10: Lots 1-4, E2E2, E2NW, SW; Sec. 11: ALL.	1,241.39	bit habitat.		species.
July 2007	UT 1107-049 Wayne County, Utah	T. 27 S., R. 3 E., Salt Lake Sec. 14: ALL; Sec. 15: Lots 1, 2, E2NE, NENW, S2NW, S2.	1,241.39	Presence of pygmy rabbit habi- tat.	Parker Moun- tain MFP	Defer until additional analysis and NEPA completed for this species.
July 2007	UT 1107-052 Sevier County, Utah	T. 23 S., R. 4 E., Salt Lake Sec. 1: Lots 1, 2, 7, 8, S2NE, SE; Sec. 12: E2; Sec. 13: E2; Sec. 24: Lots 3, 4, NE, N2SE; Sec. 25: E2.	1,611.66	Wilderness characteristics identified in Richfield Field Of- fice RMP EIS (Draft).	Forest Planning Unit MFP	Defer until decision on Draft RMP EIS is made.
July 2007	UT 1107-054 Sevier County, Utah	T. 22 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake Sec. 13: N2, N2SW, SESW, SE; Sec. 14: N2, N2S2; Sec. 15: N2, SW, N2SE; Sec. 24: N2NE, SENE, NENW	1,800.00	Cultural resource concerns identified in the Quitchupah Road EIS, and Wilderness characteristics identified in Richfield Field Office RMP EIS (Draft).	Forest Planning Unit MFP	Defer until decision on Draft RMP EIS is made, additional consultation is completed.
July 2007	UT 1107-055 Sevier County, Utah	T. 22 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake Sec. 17: NESW, N2SE, SESE; Sec. 20: N2; Sec. 21: ALL; Sec. 28: E2; Sec. 33: E2.	1,760.00	Cultural resource concerns identified in the Quitchupah Road EIS, and Wilderness characteristics identified in Richfield Field Office RMP EIS (Draft).	Forest Planning Unit MFP	Defer until decision on Draft RMP EIS is made, additional consultation is completed.

July 2007	UT 1107-056 Sevier County, Utah	T. 22 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake Secs. 22, 27, 34 and 35: ALL.	2,560.00	Cultural resource concerns identified in the Quitcupah Road EIS, and Wilderness characteristics identified in Richfield Field Office RMP EIS (Draft).	Forest Planning Unit MFP	Defer until decision on Draft RMP EIS is made, additional consultation is completed.
July 2007	UT 1107-057 Sevier County, Utah	T. 22 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake Sec. 23: S2NE, W2, SE; Sec. 24: S2S2; Sec. 25: E2NE, W2, N2SE, SWSE; Sec. 26: ALL.	1,880.00	Cultural resource concerns identified in the Quitcupah Road EIS, and Wilderness characteristics identified in Richfield Field Office RMP EIS (Draft).	Forest Planning Unit MFP	Defer until decision on Draft RMP EIS is made, additional consultation is completed.
July 2007	UT 1107-059 Sevier County, Utah	T. 23 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake Secs. 3, 4, 9 and 10: ALL.	2,545.28	Wilderness characteristics identified in Richfield Field Of- fice RMP EIS (Draft).	Forest Planning Unit MFP	Defer until decision on Draft RMP EIS is made.
July 2007	UT 1107-060 Sevier County, Utah	T. 23 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake Secs. 5, 6, 7 and 8: ALL.	2,142.69	Wilderness characteristics identified in Richfield Field Of- fice RMP EIS (Draft).	Forest Planning Unit MFP	Defer until decision on Draft RMP EIS is made.
July 2007	UT 1107-063 Sevier County, Utah	T. 23 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake Secs. 17, 18 and 19: ALL; Sec. 20: N2NE, SWNE, W2, NWSE; Sec. 21: NVNW; Sec. 30: Lots 1-4, NE, N2SE; Sec. 31: Lots 1-4, S2SE.	2,544.56	Wilderness characteristics identified in Richfield Field Of- fice RMP EIS (Draft).	Forest Planning Unit MFP	Defer until decision on Draft RMP EIS is made.

UTAH NOVEMBER 2007 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST
Richfield Field Office

Changes to the preliminary list are made in red font

UT1107- 029

T. 20 S., R. 1½ W., Salt Lake
Sec. 3: Lots 1-2, SWNE;
Sec. 10: Lots 3-4, W2NE, SENE, SE;
Sec. 11: S2N2, S2;
Sec. 14: N2;
Sec. 15: ALL.

1,750.47 Acres

Sanpete County, Utah

Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

UT1107- 030

T. 20 S., R. 1½ W., Salt Lake
Secs. 13, 22, 23 and 24: ALL.

2,383.72 Acres

Sanpete County, Utah

Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

UT1107- 031

T. 20 S., R. 1½ W., Salt Lake
Secs. 25, 26, 27, 34 and 35: ALL.

2,324.76 Acres

Sanpete County, Utah

Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

UT1107- 032

T. 30 S., R. 2 W., Salt Lake
Sec. 17: ALL;
Sec. 18: Lots 2-4, E2, E2W2;
Secs. 19 and 20: ALL.

2,503.88 Acres

Piute County, Utah

Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UTAH NOVEMBER 2007 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 033

T. 27 S., R. 3 W., Salt Lake
Sec. 1: ALL;
Sec. 12: NE.

800.00 Acres

Piute County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk
UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle
UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT1107- 034

T. 28 S., R. 3 W., Salt Lake
Sec. 4: S2SW, NESW;
Sec. 5: SESE;
Sec. 15: SE;
Sec. 17: SENW, SW;
Sec. 18: NESE, S2SE;
Sec. 19: E2;
Sec. 20: NW;
Sec. 22: NENE.

1,160.00 Acres

Piute County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk
UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle
UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT1107- 035

T. 28 S., R. 3 W., Salt Lake
Sec. 20: S2;
Sec. 28: N2NE, SENE, W2SW, SESW, NESE, S2SE;
Sec. 29: Lot 1, N2, N2SW, SESW, SE;
Sec. 33: ALL.

1,946.63 Acres

Piute County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk
UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle
UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)
UT-T&E-01 for Bald Eagle winter roost habitat

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

**UTAH NOVEMBER 2007 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST
Richfield Field Office**

UT1107- 036

T. 29 S., R. 3 W., Salt Lake

Sec. 4: W2SW;

Sec. 5: ALL;

Sec. 8: E2;

Sec. 17: N2NE, SWNE, W2SE.

1,240.64 Acres

Piute County, Utah

Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)

UT-T&E-01 for Bald Eagle winter roost habitat

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT1107- 037

T. 30 S., R. 3 W., Salt Lake

Sec. 5: SWNW, SW;

Secs. 6 and 7: ALL;

Sec. 8: W2, W2SE;

Sec. 17: NWNE, N2NW;

Sec. 18: Lot 1, NE, E2NW.

2,282.98 Acres

Piute County, Utah

Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

UT-LN-49 for Sage Grouse

UT-LN-51 for Sage Grouse

UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on entire lease.

UT1107- 038

T. 30 S., R. 3 W., Salt Lake

Sec. 21: Lots 1-5, W2NE, SE; No lots

Sec. 27: S2SW;

Sec. 28: NE, NENW, S2NW, S2;

Sec. 29: SENE, E2SE;

Sec. 33: ALL;

Sec. 34: NW, W2SW.

2,040.74 Acres

Piute County, Utah

Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

**UTAH NOVEMBER 2007 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST
Richfield Field Office**

UT1107- 039 Parcel Deferred

T. 30 S., R. 4 W., Salt Lake
Sec. 1: ALL;
Sec. 10: Lots 1, 3-8, S2NE, E2SW, SE;
Sec. 11: N2, SW;
Sec. 12: N2, N2SW, SE.

2,249.11 Acres
Piute County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT1107- 040 Parcel Deferred

T. 30 S., R. 4 W., Salt Lake
Sec. 14: NENW, W2W2;
Secs. 15 and 22: ALL;
Sec. 23: NWNW, W2SW;
Sec. 27: N2, SW, N2SE, SWSE.

2,200.00 Acres
Piute County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT1107- 041 Parcel Deferred

T. 30 S., R. 4 W., Salt Lake
Sec. 34: W2NE, NW, N2SW, SWSW, N2SE.

440.00 Acres
Piute County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT1107- 042

T. 22 S., R. 1 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 8: ALL;
Sec. 9: NE, W2.

1,120.00 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UTAH NOVEMBER 2007 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 043

T. 25 S., R. 1 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 19: Lot 1, NWNE, NENW;
Sec. 21: W2;
Sec. 28: Lots 1-2, NW, N2SW;
Sec. 29: Lots 1-4, E2NE;
Sec. 30: Lot 4; Deferred
Sec. 31: E2SE.

1,001.40 Acres

Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk
UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle
UT-LN-49 for Sage Grouse
UT-LN-51 for Sage Grouse
UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)
UT-T&E-01 for Bald Eagle winter roost habitat

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on Sec. 31.

UT1107- 044

T. 26 S., R. 1 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 4: Lots 3, 4, S2NW, SW;
Sec. 5: ALL;
Sec. 6: Lot 1, SENE, E2SE.

1,080.90 Acres

Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk
UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle
UT-LN-49 for Sage Grouse
UT-LN-51 for Sage Grouse
UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)
UT-T&E-01 for Bald Eagle winter roost habitat

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT1107- 045

T. 26 S., R. 1 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 7: E2, SENW, E2SW;
Sec. 8: ALL;
Sec. 9: W2.

1,400.00 Acres

Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk
UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle
UT-LN-49 for Sage Grouse
UT-LN-51 for Sage Grouse

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UTAH NOVEMBER 2007 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 046

T. 22 S., R. 3 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 5: Lots 3, 4;
Sec. 7: SENE;
Sec. 33: NWNE.
161.92 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 047

T. 23 S., R. 3 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 3: SENE, E2SE;
Sec. 10: E2NE, W2SE;
Sec. 11: NW.
440.00 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 048 Parcel Deferred

T. 27 S., R. 3 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 3: ALL; Below stip applies to lots 2-4, SWNE, S2NW, SW, W2SE
Sec. 10: Lots 1-4, E2E2, E2NW, SW;
Sec. 11: ALL.
1,843.36 Acres
Wayne County, Utah
Richfield Field Office
Special Stip No. 7 Water Resource-no drilling within 500 feet of live water

UT1107- 049 Parcel Deferred

T. 27 S., R. 3 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 14: ALL;
Sec. 15: Lots 1, 2, E2NE, NENW, S2NW, S2.
1,241.39 Acres
Wayne County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 050

T. 28 S., R. 3 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 25: N2, NESW, SE;
Sec. 26: N2, NWSW;
Sec. 27: N2, NESW, S2SW, N2SE, SWSE;
Sec. 34: W2NW, SENW, SW. Special Stip No 7 water resource
1,720.00 Acres
Wayne County, Utah
Richfield Field Office
LEASE NOTICE
UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk
UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle
UT-T&E-08 for Utah Prairie Dog
UT-LN-49 for Sage Grouse
UT-LN-51 for Sage Grouse
UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)
STIPULATION

UTAH NOVEMBER 2007 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST
Richfield Field Office

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.
UT-S-13: Important Antelope Habitat on the entire lease.
Special Stip No 7 water resource W2NW
Special Stip No 7 sanitary dispostal SESW

UT1107- 051

T. 22 S., R. 4 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 6: NESW.
40.00 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 052 Parcel Deferred

T. 23 S., R. 4 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 1: Lots 1, 2, 7, 8, S2NE, SE;
Sec. 12: E2;
Sec. 13: E2;
Sec. 24: Lots 3, 4, NE, N2SE;
Sec. 25: E2.

1,611.66 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office
STIPULATION

UT-S-07: In order to minimize the disturbance of deer during their crucial winter stress period from April 1 thru November 30 on Lots 3, 4 of Sec. 24.

UT1107- 053

T. 14 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 34: SENE, NESE.

80.00 Acres
Sanpete County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk
UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT1107- 054 Parcel Deferred

T. 22 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 13: N2, N2SW, SESW, SE;
Sec. 14: N2, N2S2;
Sec. 15: N2, SW, N2SE;
Sec. 24: N2NE, SENE, NENW.

1,800.00 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

UTAH NOVEMBER 2007 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 055 Parcel Deferred

T. 22 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 17: NESW, N2SE, SESE;
Sec. 20: N2;
Sec. 21: ALL;
Sec. 28: E2;
Sec. 33: E2.

1,760.00 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 056 Parcel Deferred

T. 22 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Secs. 22, 27, 34 and 35: ALL.

2,560.00 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 057 Parcel Deferred

T. 22 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 23: S2NE, W2, SE;
Sec. 24: S2S2;
Sec. 25: E2NE, W2, N2SE, SWSE;
Sec. 26: ALL.

1,880.00 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 058

T. 23 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 1: ALL.

640.76 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT1107- 059 Parcel Deferred

T. 23 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Secs. 3, 4, 9 and 10: ALL.

2,545.28 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

STIPULATION

UT-S-03: No surface occupancy on the S2 of Sec. 10.

**UTAH NOVEMBER 2007 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST
Richfield Field Office**

UT1107- 060 Parcel Deferred

T. 23 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Secs. 5, 6, 7 and 8: ALL.

2,142.69 Acres

Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

STIPULATION

UT-S-03: No surface occupancy on Lots 5, 6, SE of Sec. 6; Sec. 7 and the S2 of Sec. 8.

UT1107- 061

T. 23 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Secs. 11, 12 and 13: ALL;
Sec. 14: E2, N2NW, SW.

2,480.00 Acres

Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

UT-T&E-01 for Bald Eagle winter roost habitat

UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT-S-03: No surface occupancy on the SW of Sec. 11; Sec. 13 and Sec. 14.

UT1107- 062

T. 23 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 15: W2;
Sec. 21: NENE, SE;
Sec. 22: SENE, NWNW, NWSW, SWSE;
Sec. 23: S2NE, NESW, S2SW, SE;
Sec. 27: E2, E2W2, SWSW;
Sec. 28: ALL;
Sec. 29: SENE, W2NW, NWSW, SE.

2,520.00 Acres

Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office

LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk

UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle

UT-T&E-01 for Bald Eagle winter roost habitat

UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.

UT-S-03: No surface occupancy on Sec. 15.

UT-S-04: No occupancy or surface disturbance within 500 feet of Ivie Creek located on the SWSE of Sec. 22 and the NE, E2W2, SWSW of Sec. 27.

UT-S-05: No drilling or storage facilities within 500 feet of streams located on the SWSE of Sec. 22 and the NE, E2W2, SWSW of Sec. 27.

UTAH NOVEMBER 2007 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST
Richfield Field Office

UT1107- 063 Parcel Deferred

T. 23 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Secs. 17, 18 and 19: ALL;
Sec. 20: N2NE, SWNE, W2, NWSE;
Sec. 21: NWNW;
Sec. 30: Lots 1-4, NE, N2SE;
Sec. 31: Lots 1-4, S2SE.

2,544.56 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office
STIPULATION

UT-S-03: No surface occupancy on Sec. 17; Sec. 18; Sec. 19 and Sec. 20.

UT1107- 064

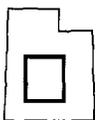
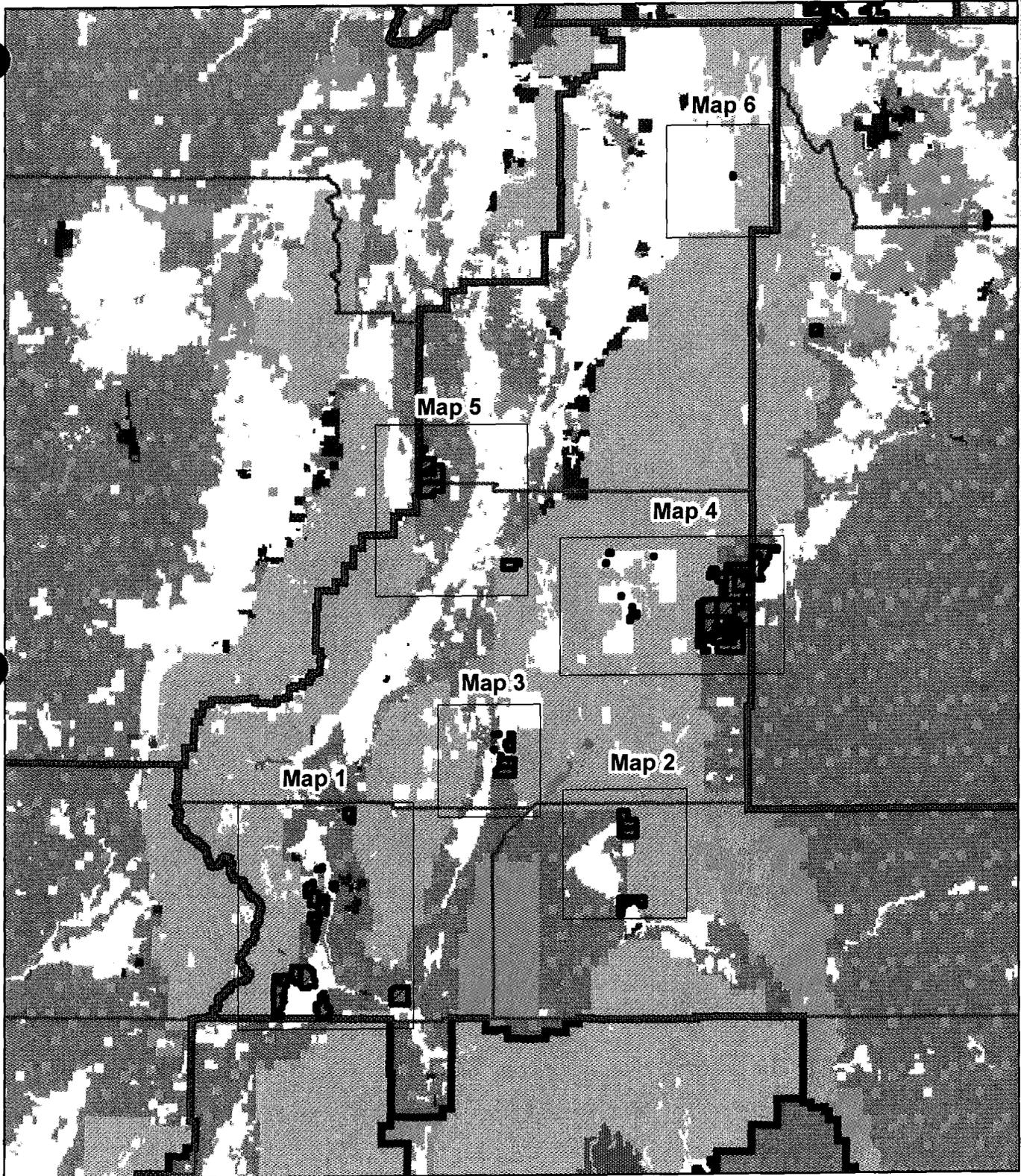
T. 23 S., R. 5 E., Salt Lake
Secs. 26, 33, 34 and 35: ALL.

2,560.00 Acres
Sevier County, Utah
Richfield Field Office
LEASE NOTICE

UT-LN-26 for Ferruginous Hawk
UT-LN-27 for Golden Eagle
UT-T&E-01 for Bald Eagle winter roost habitat
UT-LN-69 Riparian buffer (500 feet)

STIPULATION

UT-S-07: Important Seasonal Wildlife Habitat from May 15 thru December 15 on the entire lease.
UT-S-02: No access or work trail or road, earth cut or fill, structure or other improvement, other than an active drilling rig, will be permitted if it can be viewed from the I-70 located on the SE of Sec. 26; S2NE, SE of Sec. 34 and Sec. 35.
UT-S-04: No occupancy or surface disturbance within 500 feet of Ivie Creek located on the SW of Sec. 33 and W2 of Sec. 34.
UT-S-05: No drilling or storage facilities within 500 feet of streams located on the SE of Sec. 33 and W2 of Sec. 34.



-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

Legend

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel

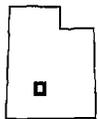


February 2008 Lease Sale

Dec 14, 2007

Map 1

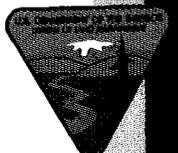
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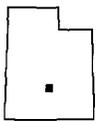
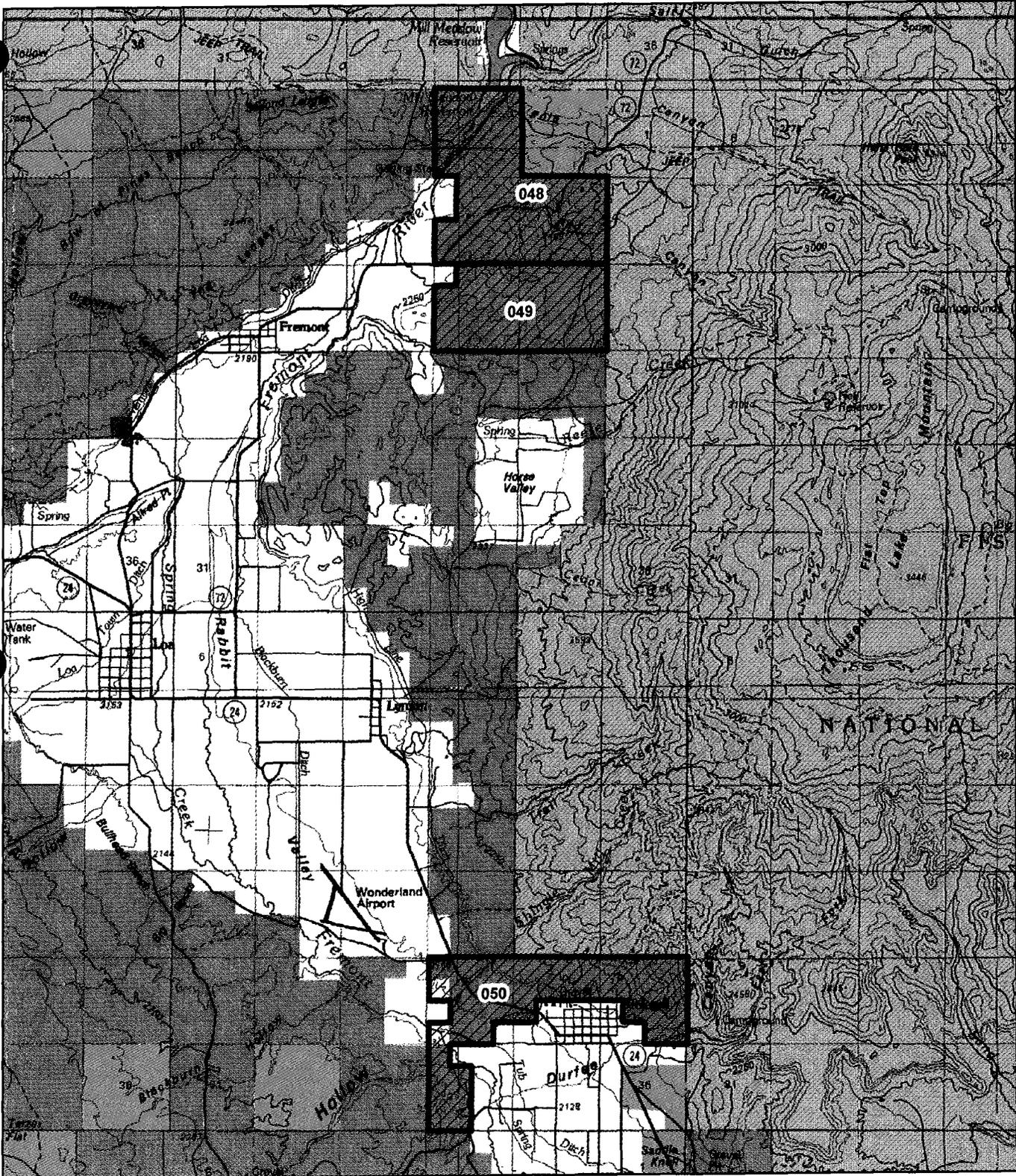


-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

Legend

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel



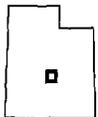
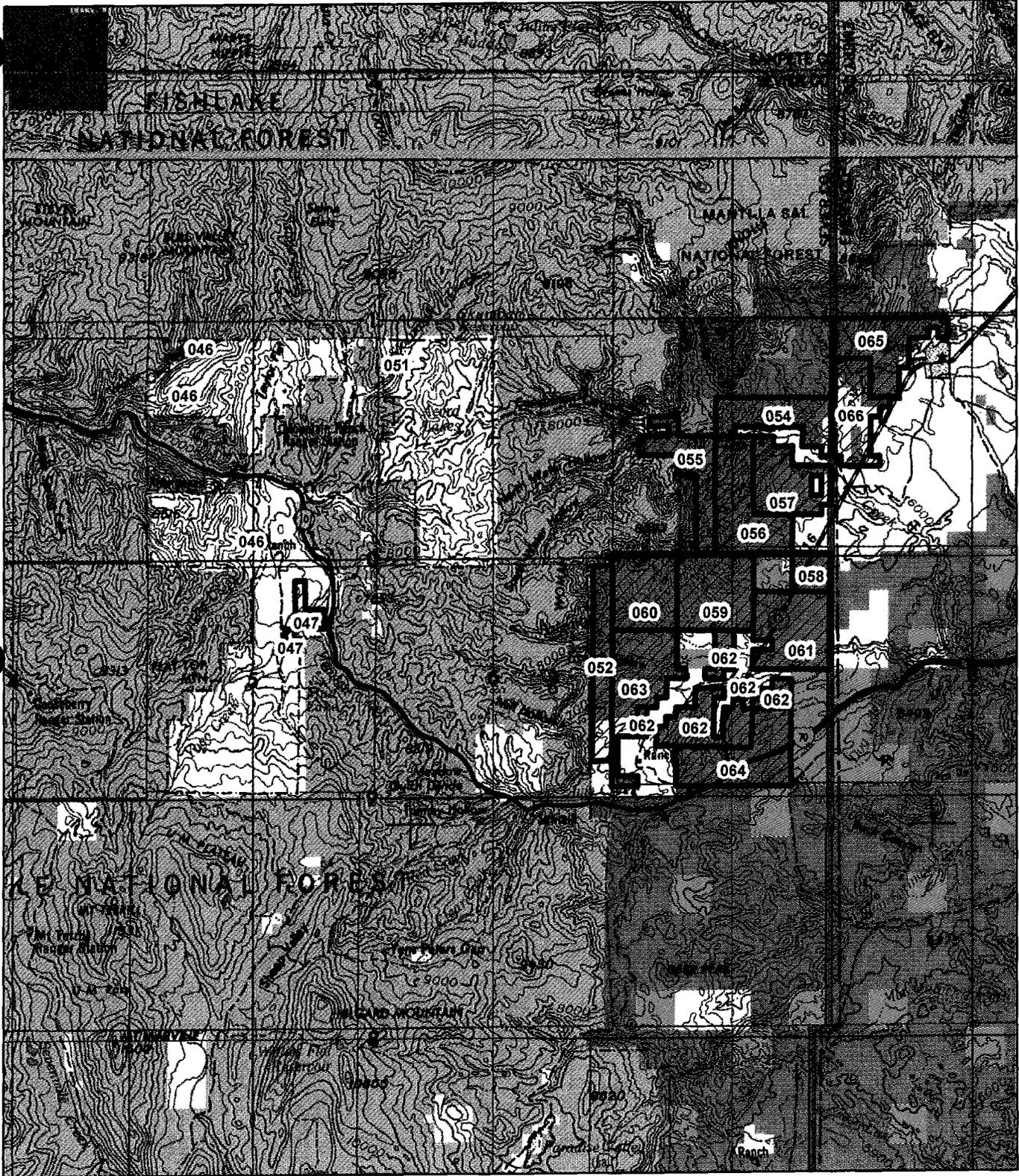


-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

Legend

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel

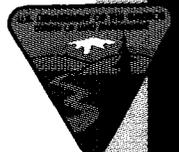


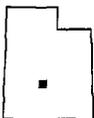


Legend

-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel



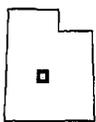


Legend

-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel



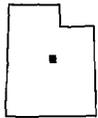
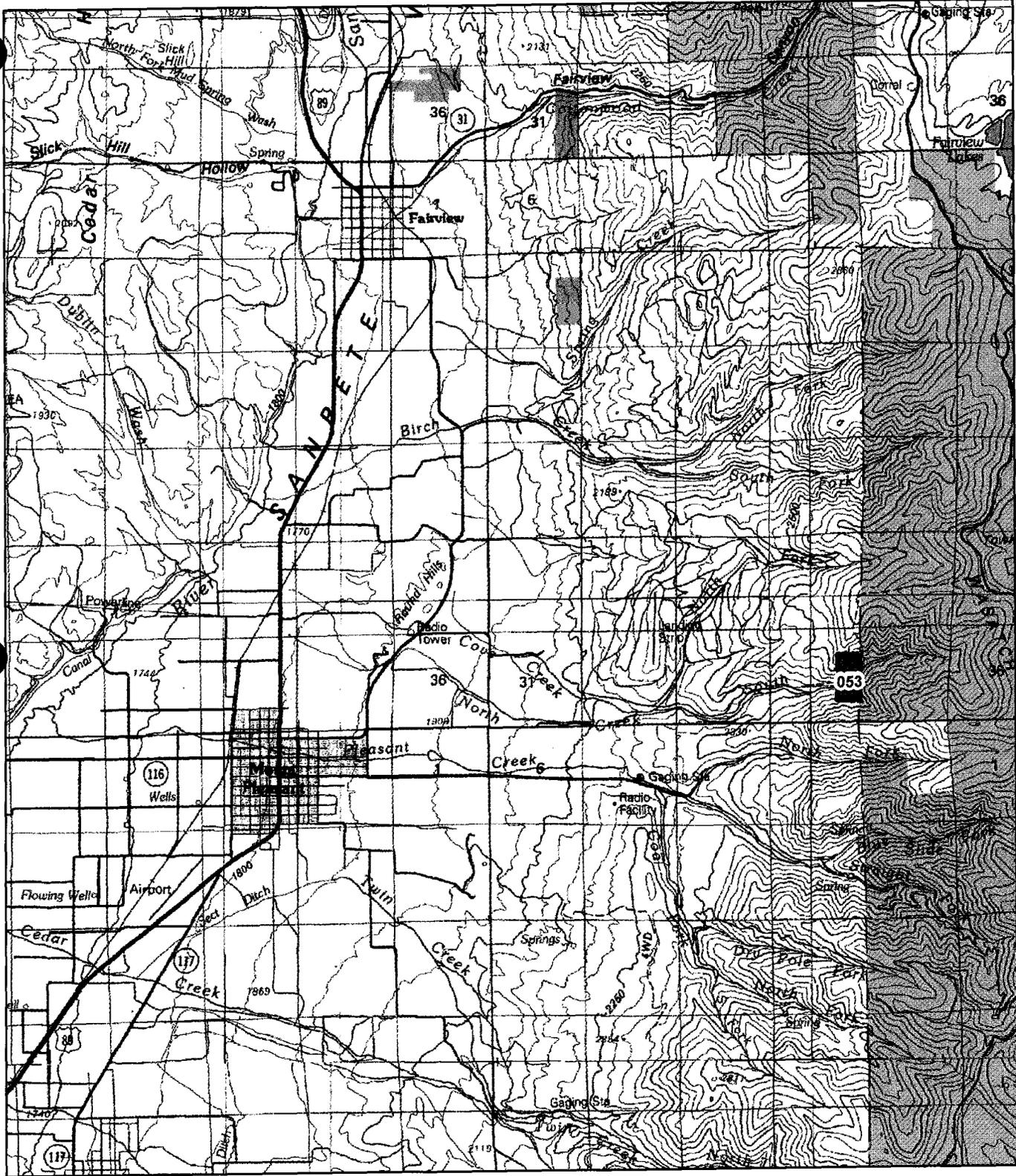


Legend

-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel





Legend

-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel



STAFF REPORT

TITLE: Cultural Resources, February 2008 Oil & Gas Lease Parcels
DATE: August 31, 2007
AUTHOR: Craig Harmon, Archaeologist

The existing Richfield Oil and Gas Leasing EA addresses impacts to cultural resources from leasing activities. To determine the presence or absence of archaeological and historic sites in the proposed lease areas we checked our site and inventory report files. The Area of Potential Effect is defined as the exterior boundaries of all the lease parcels being considered in this current offering. Some of the areas proposed for lease have no inventory work in them at all and, as a result of this lack of inventory, no archaeological sites have been recorded there. The 29 November lease parcels considered here are located in four of the five counties that fall within the boundaries of the Richfield Field Office, and the results of our records search are as follows:

Sanpete County (Parcels UT1107-029, 1107-030, 1107-053)

Only two cultural resource inventories have been done within the boundaries of the three parcels in Sanpete County involved in this lease sale (see maps 5 and 6): one for some seismic lines and one for a vegetation treatment. The only sites recorded were on the latter inventory, and those consisted of four non-diagnostic lithic scatters. We do know that indications of Fremont and more recent Ute activity have been observed in areas of Sanpete County, and it may be that the lithic scatters recorded on parcel 1107-030 (map 6) are a result of this activity. But, with no diagnostic artifacts on the sites, there is no way to tell.

Sevier County (Parcels UT1107-031, 1107-042, 1107-043, 1107-044, 1107-045, 1107-046, 1107-047, 1107-051, 1107-052, 1107-058, 1107-059, 1107-060, 1107-061, 1107-062, 1107-063, 1107-064)

Neither of the two Sevier County parcels on map 5 (1107-031 and 1107-042) have had any cultural resource inventory done on them, and only parcel 1107-042 contains any recorded sites on it. This is the Soldier Canyon Dam built during the Civilian Conservation Corps era. There are a few scattered prehistoric artifacts around the dam, but nothing indicative of any definable activity.

Map 3 contains three numbered parcels. Of these, parcels 1107-044 and 1107-045 were inventoried several years ago as part of the Praetor Slopes seeding. Very few sites were recorded, but those that merited preservation were excluded from the project at the time. Should the area be leased and developed for oil and gas, those sites would be relocated and excluded again. The remaining parcel on Map 3, 1107-043, has had some limited cultural resource inventory done on it, but no sites were recorded.

Map 4 contains 11 numbered parcels. The first three (1107-046, 1107-047, and 1107-051) have had only two small inventories done in them, and only one archaeological site was recorded: a non-diagnostic lithic scatter in parcel 1107-047. The remaining parcels on this map (1107-052, 1107-058, 1107-059, 1107-060, 1107-061, 1107-062, 1107-063, 1107-064) are located within and near the Trough Hollow drainage west of Highway 10. This area was inventoried at least twice for the Huntington-Sigurd power lines and many sites of all types were recorded there. However, the density of sites is rather low, and the area could support the placement of a well pad without disturbing any of the sites present. Again, should the areas be leased and developed for oil and gas, further inventory would be done and eligible recorded sites would be protected.

The list of lease sale parcels provided to the Richfield BLM Field Office from the Utah State BLM Office originally contained four parcels located in and around Quitchupah Creek in Convulsion Canyon. This area was subject to extensive environmental review as part of the Quitchupah Road EIS. The Record of Decision for this EIS was released in March of 2006, and the proposed road planned for Quitchupah Creek was denied based on, among other things, the sacred nature of the canyon to various Indian tribes. Because

of this, parcels 1107-054, 1107-055, 1107-056, and 1107-057 were deleted from the original list of parcels being considered for the November, 2007, lease sale.

Piute County (Parcels 1107-032, 1107- 033, 1107- 034, 1107- 035, 1107- 036, 1107- 037, 1107-038)

All of the parcels in Piute County are shown on Map 1. Of those, only one has a site in it: 1107-036. This parcel is the presumed location of a portion of the Old Spanish Trail which more or less parallels U.S. 89 between the highway and Piute Reservoir. There are no visible remnants of the OST here, but historical records indicate that it was located in this area.

Parcel 1107-032 has had no cultural resource inventory done on it, nor are there any recorded archaeological sites there. Parcel 1107-033 has no recorded sites in it but, just to the south of this parcel, a seeding inventory found many non-diagnostic lithic scatters in the pinyon-juniper belt which we assume to be Fremont. These are located just down slope from Durkee Springs.

The remaining parcels in Piute County have had various amounts of cultural resource inventory on them, but no archaeological sites have been recorded there.

The list of lease sale parcels provided to the Richfield BLM Field Office from the Utah State BLM Office originally contained three parcels that had been offered for lease sale in February of 2007: 1107- 039, 1107- 040, and 1107- 041. The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah objected in a letter to the RFO dated December 4, 2006, to the lease sale of these parcels because of the cultural significance of the area and the importance of the plants, animals, and natural springs here. Tribal interests here go far beyond archaeological site boundaries and encompass the entire area. It would not be possible to locate a well on any of these parcels without intruding on these interests. Because of this, these parcels were deleted from the original list of parcels being considered for the November, 2007 lease sale.

Wayne County (Parcels 1107-048, 1107-049, 1107-050)

All of the parcels in Wayne County are shown on Map 2. The northern part of parcel 1107-048 has had quite a bit of cultural resource inventory done on it and many sites have been recorded. These are mostly Fremont short-term camps and sites showing Archaic activity. There are definitely sites here, but the density is low enough that wells could be placed without impacting any of them.

Parcel 1107-049 just immediately to the south has had several cultural inventories done on it, but no sites have been recorded. Parcel 1107- 050 has had several cultural resource inventories done on it resulting in the recording of a few non-diagnostic lithic scatters. During the realignment of U-24 west of Bicknell, an Archaic pithouse was found and excavated – one of about 10 in the State. However, excavation destroyed the site.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Most of these parcels have had some amount of cultural resource inventory done in them; any many archaeological sites have been recorded there. In those parcels that have had no inventory done in them, there are no archaeological sites recorded. However, the lack of inventory is not an indicator of the absence of sites. We assume that there are many sites in these areas, but the lack of project inventory there has precluded their recording. There are three potential concerns with this lease sale, but those concerns can be addressed with further inventory should the areas actually be leased:

1. Parcels 1107-052, 1107-058, 1107-059, 1107-060, 1107-061, 1107-062, 1107-063, and 1107-064 are located within and near the Trough Hollow drainage west of Highway 10 in eastern Sevier County (map 4). This area was inventoried at least twice for the Huntington-Sigurd power lines and many sites of all types were recorded there. However, the density of sites is rather low, and the area could support the placement of a well pad without disturbing any of the sites present. Should the areas be leased and developed for oil and gas, further inventory would be done and eligible recorded sites would be protected.

2. Parcels 1107-044 and 1107-045 were inventoried several years ago as part of the Praetor Slopes seeding near Koosharem Reservoir in Sevier County (map 3). Very few sites were recorded, but there were some that merited preservation and those were excluded from the project at the time. Should the area be leased and developed for oil and gas, those sites would be relocated and excluded again.

3. The northern part of parcel 1107-048 in Wayne County has had quite a bit of cultural resource inventory done on it and many sites have been recorded. These are mostly Fremont short-term camps and sites showing Archaic activity. There are definitely sites there, but the density is low enough that wells could be placed without impacting any of them. Should the areas be leased and developed for oil and gas, further inventory would be done and eligible recorded sites would be protected.

If actual surface-disturbing activities result from the lease, site specific cultural resource inventories will be conducted and appropriate Section 106 consultation will be done. Given the low site densities in the areas being considered for leasing, it is likely that a well could be easily located there without disturbing any archaeological or historic sites that may be present. However, the character of the area may be substantially altered as a result, and the large significant sites that are located in these areas would be affected. "The introduction of visual, atmospheric or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features" is the criteria of adverse effect that is being used to support this conclusion. It can be found in the regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act at 36 CFR 800.5a(2)(v).

Assuming that the low site densities in these areas would allow placement of a well pad without impacting archaeological sites, a determination of No Historic Properties Affected can be made; eligible sites present, but not affected as defined by 36CFR800.4. This is in accordance with the State Protocol Agreement (Part VII(A)(C)(4)) between the Utah BLM and the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer. According to this section of the Protocol Agreement, BLM is not requesting SHPO review of leasing because this action does not meet the review thresholds outlined in Part VII.A. Letters containing notification of this lease sale and the results of our cultural resources records search were sent to the following Tribes on September 4, 2007: Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Ute Indian Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Utah Navajo Commission, Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute, White Mesa Ute, San Juan Southern Paiute, Kaibab Paiute Tribe and the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians.

These lease parcels may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated.

November 2007 Oil & Gas Lease Sale
Tribal Notification

Letters on this sale were sent to the
following on September 4, 2007:

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

Ms. Dorena Martineau
440 North Paiute Drive
Cedar City, UT 84720

Ute Indian Tribe

Ms. Betsy Chapoose
Cultural Rights & Protection Office
P. O. Box 190
Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026-0190

Hopi Tribe

Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office
P. O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039-0123

Navajo Nation

Mr. Tony Joe
Division of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 4950
Window Rock, AZ 84034

Navajo Utah Commission

Mr. Clarence Rockwell, Chairman
P.O. Box 570
Montezuma Creek, Utah 84534

Southern Ute Tribe

Mr. Neil Cloud
NAGPRA Coordinator
Southern Ute Tribal Council
P. O. Box 737
Ignacio, CO 81137-0737

Ute Mountain Ute

Mr. Terry Knight, Cultural Resources
Contract Coordinator
P. O. Box 468
Towaoc, CO 81334

White Mesa Ute

Elayne Attcity, Councilwoman
White Mesa Ute Council
P.O. Box 7096
White Mesa, Utah 84511

San Juan Southern Paiute

Honorable Evelyn James, President
San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 1989
Tuba City, Arizona 86045

Kaibab Paiute Tribe

Mr. Charley Bulletts
Southern Paiute Consortium
HC65 Box 2
Fredonia, Arizona 86022

Moapa Band of Paiute Indians

Mr. Darren Daboda, Chairperson
P.O. Box 340
#1 Lincoln Street
Moapa, Nevada 89025-0340

November 2007 Oil & Gas Lease Sale Tribal Notification

Tribe	Certified Mail Number	Date Mailed	Response
Paiute	7005 0390 0004 9906 4167	9/04/07	
Ute	7005 0390 0004 9906 4174	9/04/07	
Hopi	7005 0390 0004 9906 4181	9/04/07	
Navajo	7005 0390 0004 9906 4198	9/04/07	
Southern Ute	7005 0390 0004 9906 4204	9/04/07	
Ute Mountain Ute	7006 3450 0003 5603 8233	9/04/07	
White Mesa Ute	7006 3450 0003 5603 8240	9/04/07	
Kaibab Paiute	7006 3450 0003 5603 8257	9/04/07	
Navajo Utah Commission	7006 3450 0003 5603 8264	9/04/07	
Moapa Band of Paiutes	7005 0390 0004 9906 0749	9/04/07	
San Juan Southern Paiute	7005 0390 0004 9906 0756	9/04/07	



THE PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH

440 North Paiute Drive • Cedar City, Utah 84720 • (435) 586-1112

RECEIVED

DEC - 5 2006

Richfield BLM Field Office

December 4 , 2006

Craig B. Harmon
U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Richfield Field Office
150 East 900 North
Richfield, Utah 84701 .

Dear Mr. Harmon,

SUBJECT: Utah February 2007 Preliminary Oil and Gas Lease Sale

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah is in receipt of your letter dated November 27, 2006 and have reviewed the material and in reading on the significance of importance to the Tribe on Parcels 001, 007, 008 and 009, we would like to see these four parcels dropped. Our interest is not limited to cultural resources but include plants and animals as well as natural Springs or other places of cultural significance. We do appreciate BLM's continuing solicitation of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah's input and your effort to address our concerns.

Please notify the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah of any cultural information that is found including type and location, also updates or changes to the project.

Sincerely

Dorena Martineau

Dorena Martineau
Cultural Resources
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

THE HOPI TRIBE



Wayne Taylor, Jr.
CHAIRMAN
Philip R. Quochyiewa, Sr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mary C. Erickson, Forest Supervisor
Attention: Linda L. Jackson, Public Affairs Officer
Fishlake National Forest
115 East 900 North
Richfield, Utah 84701

Jerry Meredith, Acting Field Manager
Attention: Kay Erickson, Realty Specialist
Bureau of Land Management, Richfield Field Office
150 East 900 North
Richfield, Utah 84701

Dear Ms. Erickson, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Erickson, and Mr. Meredith,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated December 3, 2001, with an enclosed Draft Environmental Impact Statement by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Richfield Field Office and the Fishlake National Forest, regarding a road construction project proposed by Sevier County and Canyon Fuels, Inc., in Sevier and Emery Counties. As you know from our attached letter dated December 18, 2000, and our March 21, 2001, administrative meeting on this proposal, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the Fremont prehistoric cultural group in Utah, and therefore we appreciate the BLM and U.S. Forest Service's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office understands that there are numerous prehistoric/Fremont archaeological sites located along the route of the Quitchupah Creek Road, several containing rock marking panels, and that many of these sites are significant in terms of their eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. In our December 18, 2000, letter on this proposal, we stated that because the Water Hollow alternative would avoid archaeological sites in that right-of-way by virtue of re-routes, we supported the Water Hollow alternative to the Quitchupah Creek Road. We also stated that we support site avoidance for this proposal because we oppose the BLM policy that forbids reburial of human remains and funerary objects subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) from BLM lands on BLM lands. We further stated that until this policy is revised, we oppose any BLM proposal involving activities with the potential to disturb the remains of our ancestors on BLM lands.

268-1

Response 268-1
Comments noted.

268

P.O. BOX 123 - KINGSBURY, AZ - 86033

Letter
#268

Mary C. Erickson, Terry Mercedith
January 2, 2002
Page 2

Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has reviewed the *Quitcupah Creek Road Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. We support the right of other Tribes to identify Traditional Cultural Properties, and therefore we support the Paiute opposition to any project along Quitcupah Creek because human activity could impact the sacredness of the canyon. And therefore, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports Alternative A, No Action in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. If any other alternative is selected we request to continue to be consulted on this proposal.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Cultural Preservation Office at 928-734-3767. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Utah State Historic Preservation Office
Paiute Tribe of Utah

268

Response 268-2

An ethnographic study of the Quitcupah Creek area was conducted with the Paiute Tribe (Stoffle et al. 2004). The Paiute Tribe has identified the Quitcupah Creek canyon as sacred; this is summarized in Section 3.13. Therefore some resolution with the tribes will need to be reached before any action is taken. Consultation with the tribes (Paiute, Hopi, and Ute) has been and will be on-going throughout the EIS process.

0003

BLM RICHFIELD

722-3970 or 722-3972

RECEIVED

APR 12 2002

Bureau of Land
Management SBRA

April 11, 2002

Key Erickson
Bureau of Land Management
Richfield Field Office
150 East 900 North
Richfield, Utah 84701

Dear Ms. Erickson:

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Quitchupah Creek Road and I agree with the Alternatives that was suggested by the Ute Tribe Cultural Rights Director, Betsy Chappoose. The only way to protect the petroglyphs in that particular area, would be to eliminate public access to the canyon this would preserve the historic sites in that area. The other alternative would be to use the Water Hollow area.

If you should have any questions please contact me at the Ute Tribe Resource Department 722-3970 or 722-3972.

Thank you.

Jonas Grant Sr., Director
Ute Indian Tribe
Natural Resource Department

cc: Resource file

410

Response 410-1

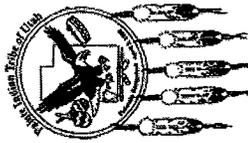
Comments noted. The proposed alignment for Alternative B, Quitchupah Creek Road, and Alternative C, Alternate Junction, was shifted south. This alignment would place the proposed road about 300 feet away and across the creek from the rock art panels which are located north of the creek. The new alignment would also avoid impacting known cultural sites located within the previous alignment. No additional sites would be impacted by the reroute.

The existing road routed between the creek and the panels would be blocked for access. This would tend to limit access for casual visitors.

This modification to Alternatives B&C would avoid the direct impacts of a busy public road next to the rock art

QUITCHUPAH CREEK ROAD FEIS

Letter #341



THE PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH
440 North Palute Drive • Cedar City, Utah 84720 • (435) 586-1112

February 13, 2001

Re: *Quitichupah Creek Road*

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, we acknowledge the public comment deadline of February 15, 2002 and wish to express our opinion regarding this proposed project. During the past year I had the opportunity to travel to Quitichupah Creek Road to view the rock art panels and rock shelters which contain prehistoric petroglyphs and pictographs which were done in red ochre.

341-1

It is evident that the selected route for the SUFCO trucks would destroy many of the cultural sites we believe to be significant. It would erase the past and make only a statement of profit for SUFCO Coal Mine, ignoring the impact it may have on the cattle and ranchers of that area and most importantly the history which will be lost forever due to this endeavor.

The Paiute Tribe of Utah adamantly objects to the selection of Quitichupah Creek Road for the purpose of providing a route for transporting coal from the SUFCO Coal Mine.

Sincerely,

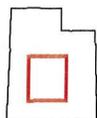
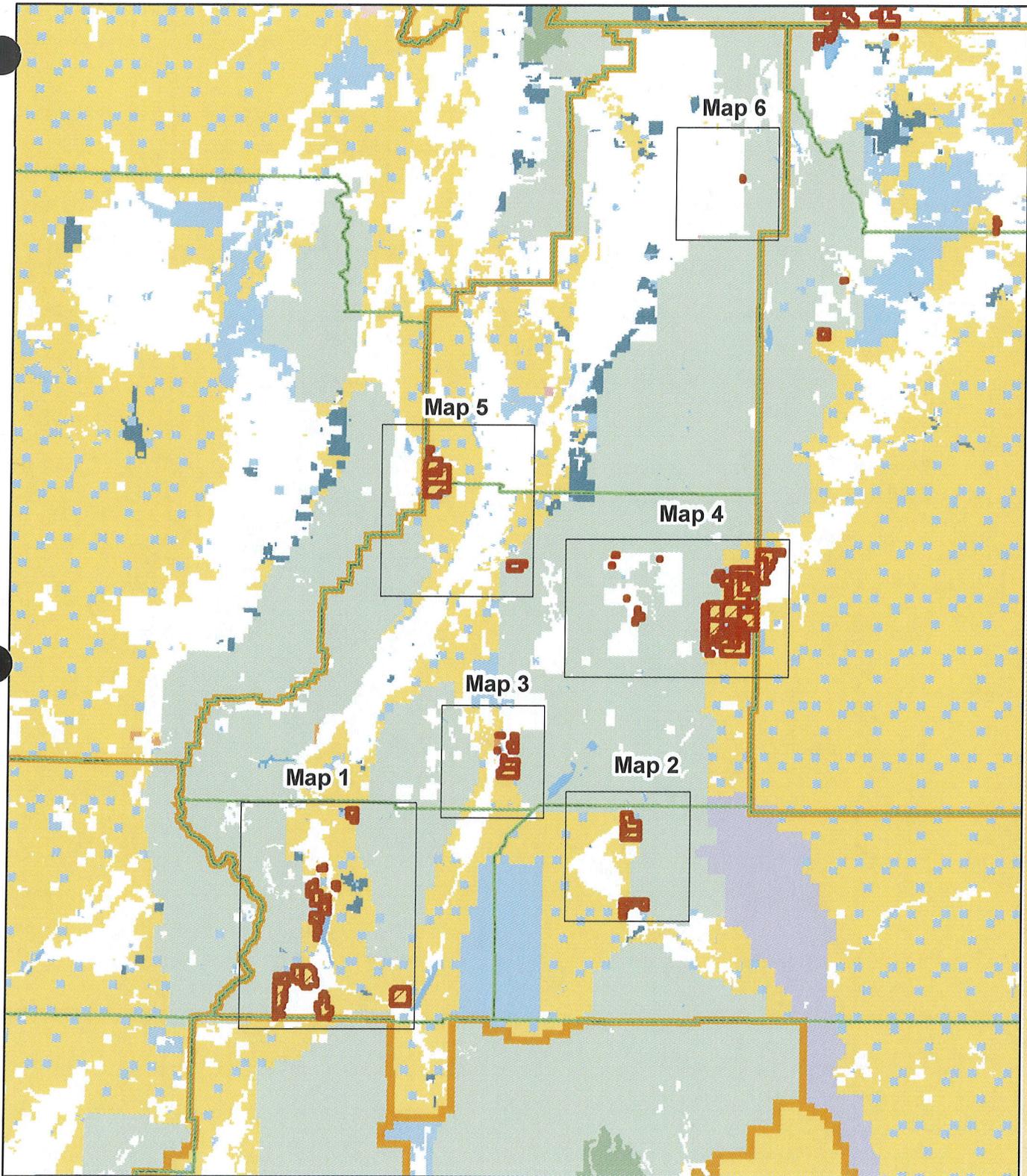
Lora E. Tom, Chairwoman
Paiute Social Services

LET/mwk

341

Response 341-1
Comments noted. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regulations require federal agencies to determine whether a federal action will adversely affect cultural resources and consult to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects

An ethnographic study of the Quitichupah Creek area was conducted with the Paiute Tribe (Stoffle et al. 2004) and is summarized in Section 3.13 of the FEIS.

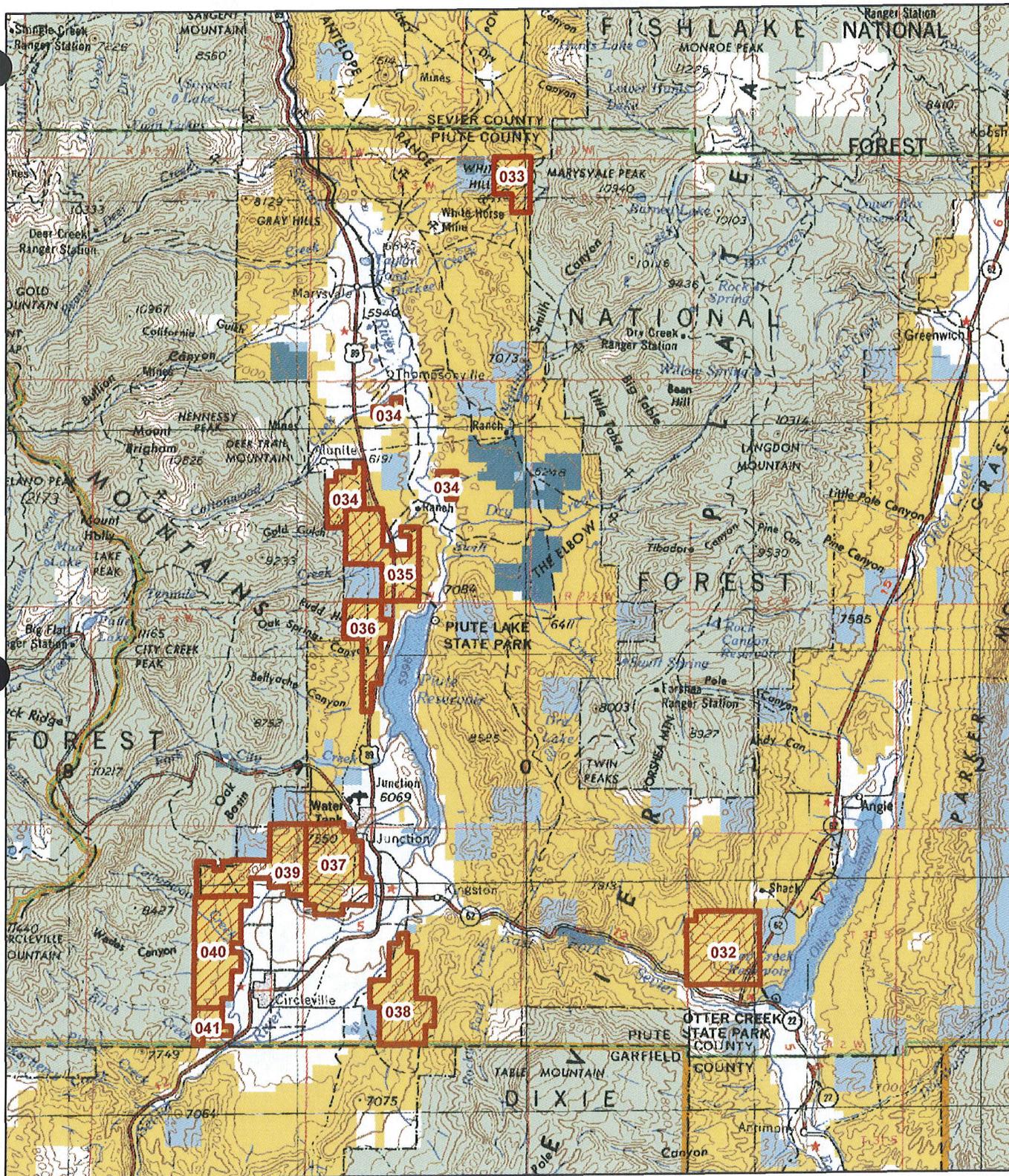


-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

Legend

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel



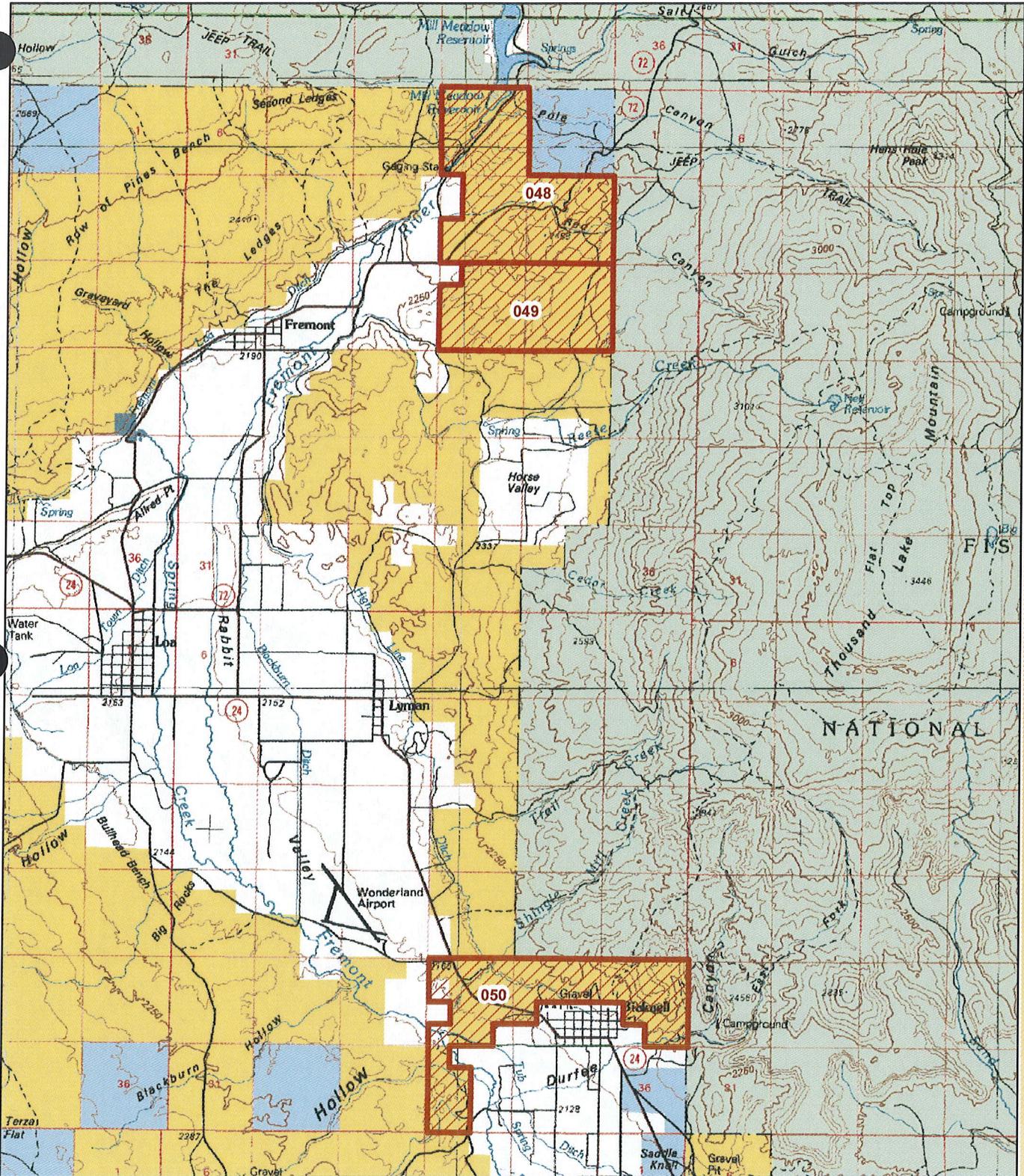


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-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel





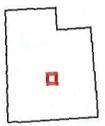
-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

Legend

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel



Map 4



Legend



November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel

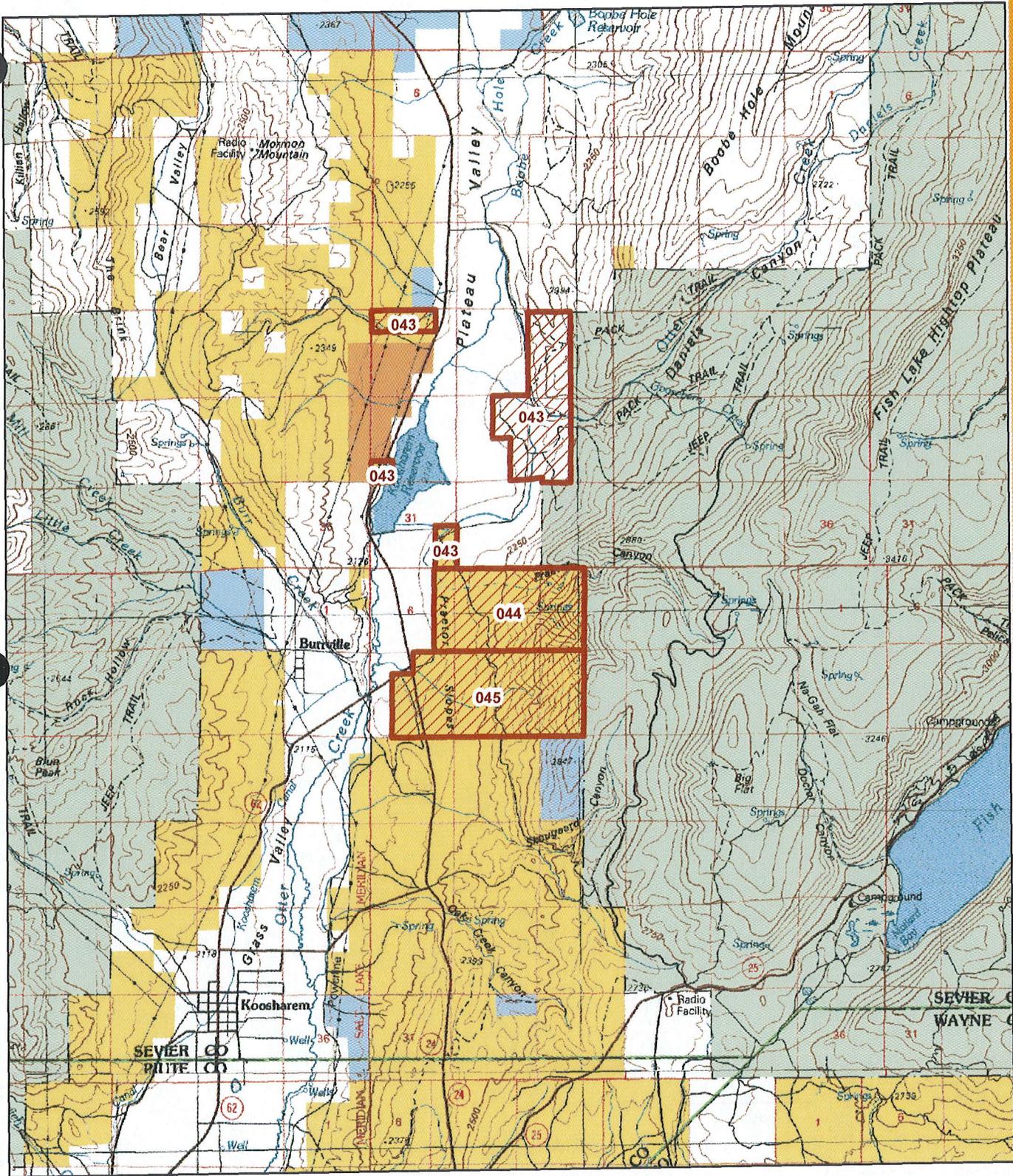


County Boundary



Field Office Boundary



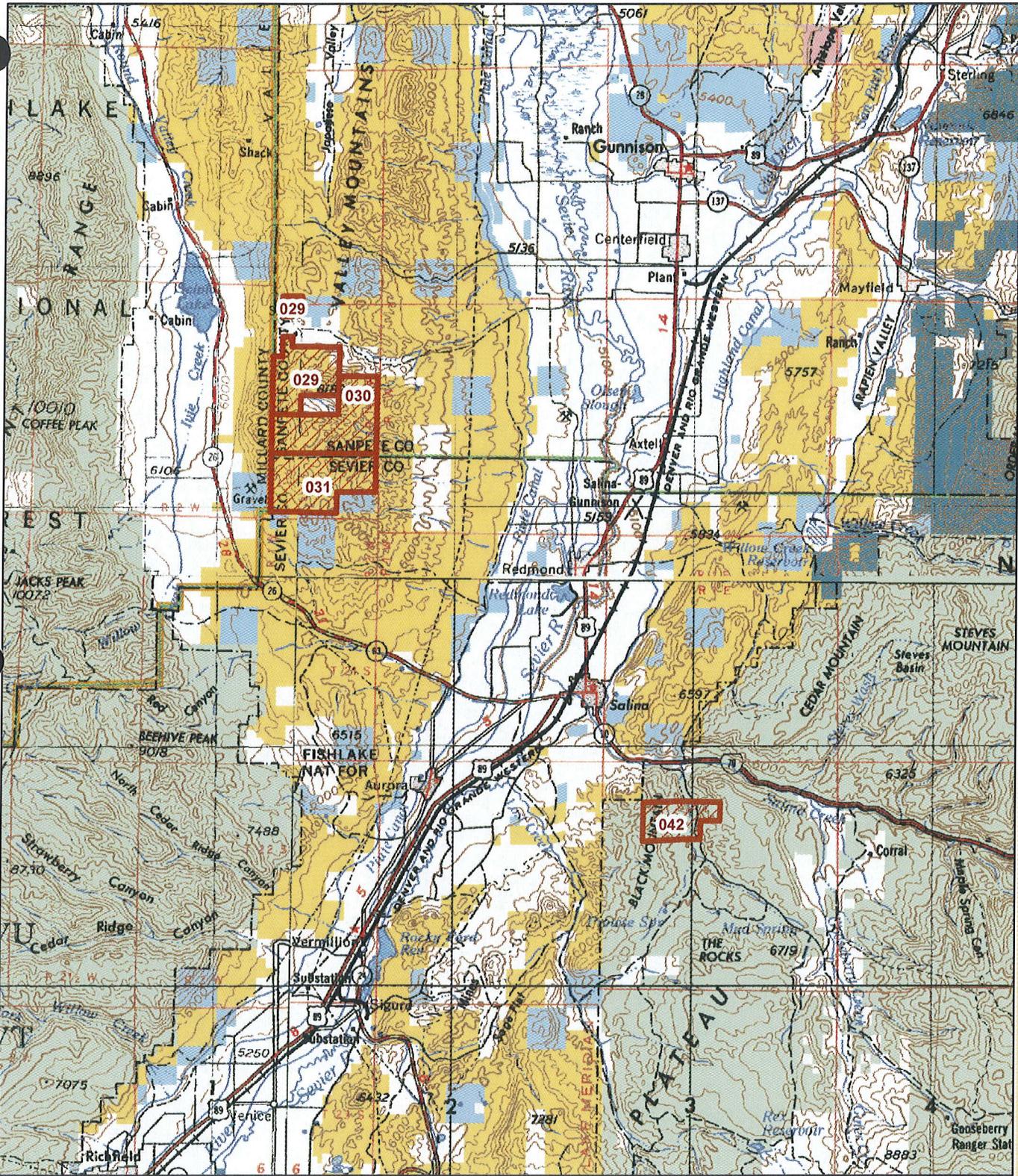


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- County Boundary
- Field Office Boundary

November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel

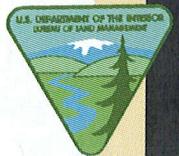


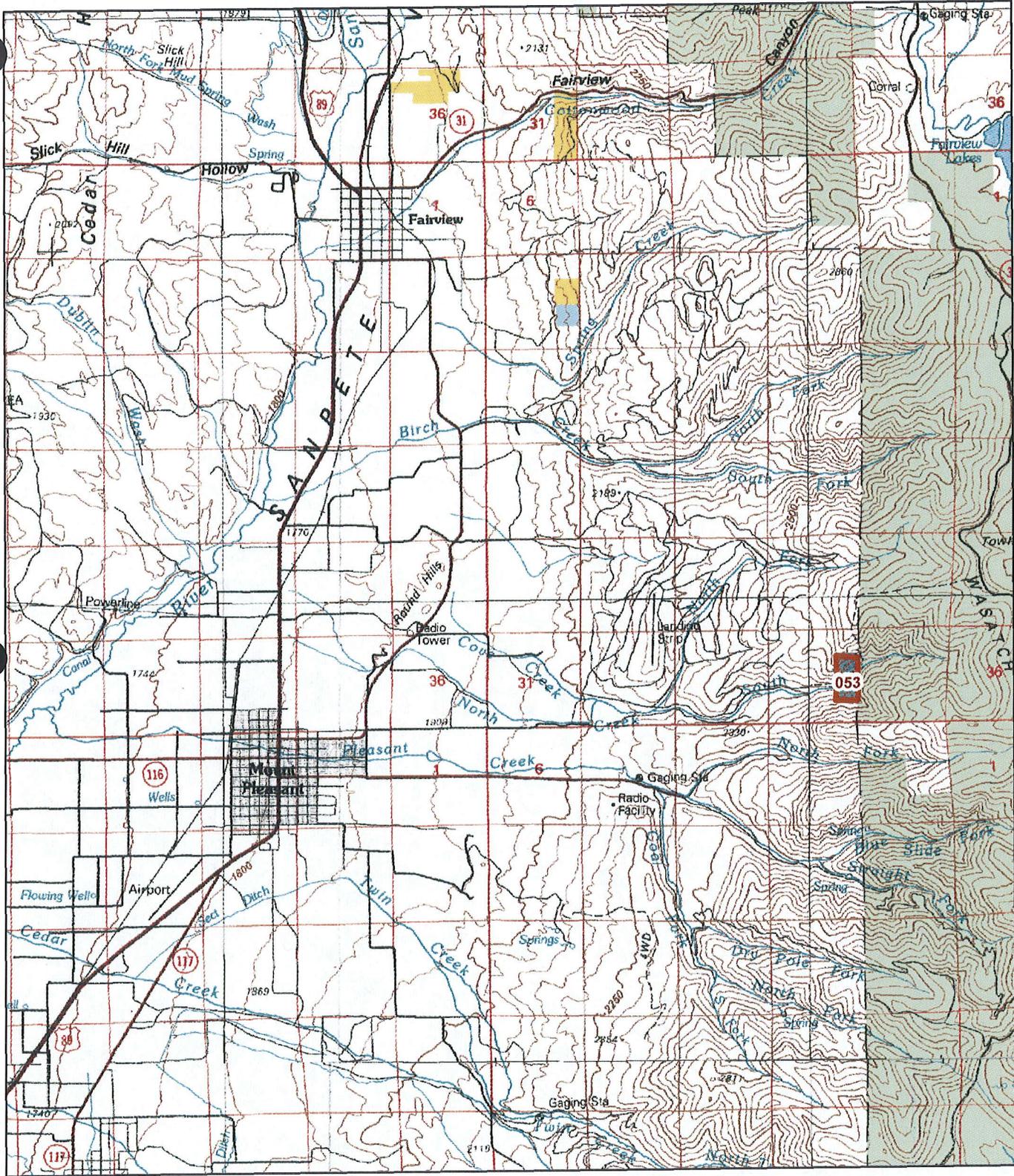


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-  County Boundary
-  Field Office Boundary

-  November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel





Legend

- County Boundary
- Field Office Boundary

November 2007 Lease Sale Parcel



STAFF REPORT - Review of February 2008 Oil and Gas Leasing Proposal

ACEC Program:

Under FLPMA BLM is required to give priority to the designation and protection of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and to designate and manage as ACECs areas where special management attention is required to protect and prevent any possible irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish, wildlife and plant resources, or other natural system or processes; or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

The 1975 and 1988 EAs do not address ACECs, although the "relevant and important values" are addressed individually. There are no lands currently designated as an ACEC. There are lands which have been nominated for potential ACEC designation as a result of public scoping for the new Richfield Field Office Resource Management Plan. These proposed ACECs are: the Quitchupah Creek ACEC, the Kingston Canyon ACEC and the Parker Mountains ACEC. The BLM Manual 1613 requires the BLM must protect these values until a decision has been made in the new Resource Management Plan. The areas are as follows:

UT1107-054: (T 22 S., R E., Section 15: SW) Quitchupah Creek ACEC – also overlaps Wild and Scenic River segment and lands which possess wilderness characteristics.

UT1107-055: (T 22 S., R 5 E., Section 17: SESE) Quitchupah Creek ACEC – also overlaps Wild and Scenic River segment and lands which possess wilderness characteristics.

UT1107-050: (T 28 S., R 3 E., Section 34: W2NW, SENW, SW) Parker Mountain ACEC

UT1107-032: (T 28 S., R 3 W., Section 17: W2, Section 18: ALL, Section 19: ALL, and Section 20: W2) Kingston Canyon ACEC

The term "relevance" in the ACEC manual refers to an area possessing a specific value such as a naturally occurring process, a natural hazard or a significant archeological or biological resource, while the criteria of "importance" indicates that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard must have substantial significance of a level which makes more than locally distinct, has more concern due to its fragility, sensitivity, rareness, or exemplary character.

Relevant and important values identified in the interdisciplinary ACEC review and to be considered in the ongoing planning effort include historic resources, sensitive riparian zones, critical wildlife habitat and scenic qualities - (Class "A" scenery).

In the existing Mountain Valley Management Framework Plan (MFP) the potential impacts to wildlife habitat, special status plant and animal species, and soil and water qualities were analyzed. The impacts that were analyzed have been found to not be significant and there has been no new information located which would alter the determination of relevance and importance. The proposed ACECs have special status species present. (In the Parker Mountains ACEC there are Sage Grouse and Pygmy rabbits). Deer habitat in the Kingston Canyon ACEC were addressed in the MFP. Visual concerns in the scenic zones were addressed in the MFP (Section R2.1).

Cultural/Historic values are protected by a number of laws, including the Native Preservation Act as amended, the American Indian Religious Freedoms Act, and the Native American Graves Repatriation Act. Scenic qualities in the Kingston Canyon ACEC nomination range from areas of relatively high qualities to other areas lacking uniqueness and having little contrasts in form, line, color, and texture. The project proposal covers lands that have the best visual sensitivity levels in the ACEC nomination and would by themselves meet the relevance and importance criteria. The EAs did not specifically address visual resources on these parcels, but existing management direction from the current plan is sufficient. The Riparian zones are protected under Executive Order 11990.

Conclusion: Conducting the project would, therefore, not preclude the consideration or establishment of any of these areas as an ACEC for its cultural, historic resources, wildlife habitat, special animal and plant species, and scenic values. However, portions of Parcels UT1107-054 and UT1107-055 cannot be leased due to the overlap with the Wild and Scenic River eligibility determination and the Wilderness characteristics determination. The portion of Parcel 1107-032 within VRM II lands can be leased, but should have a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) Stipulation attached for ACEC considerations. Parcel UT 1107-050 can be leased with no stipulations.

Wild and Scenic River Program

The basic purpose and authority for identification, evaluation, and management of potential Wild and Scenic River (WSR) segments is contained in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Act) of October 2, 1968 (P L. 90-542, as amended)

Additions to the NWSRS can be accomplished by an Act of Congress, or under certain conditions, by the Secretary of the Interior. Section 5 (d) of the Act provides direction to all federal agencies to evaluate potential additions during their planning efforts.

Policy and program direction to aid in fulfilling requirements of the Act is provided in BLM Manual 8351 and in the 1982 U.S. Department of the Interior - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDI-USDA) Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas (47 FR 39454). As the result of a 1994 Interagency Agreement to work cooperatively to define common criteria and processes for Utah rivers, the BLM (Utah State Office), USDA Forest Service (intermountain Region), and National Park Service (Rocky Mountain Region) developed additional guidance: Wild and Scenic River Review in the State of Utah, Process and Criteria for Interagency Use (July 1996).

BLM's policy is to identify and evaluate all rivers (as defined in the Act) located on BLM-administered lands to determine if they are eligible and suitable for addition to the NWSRS. This evaluation is done through the resource management planning process. All eligible river segments are tentatively classified as being either wild, scenic, or recreational.

It is BLM's policy, within its authority, and subject to valid existing rights, to manage rivers that BLM has determined eligible in a manner that would protect the values supporting eligibility and tentative classification determinations. If an eligible river is later found to be non-suitable for designation, management protection for wild and scenic purposes is discontinued

The 1975 EA did not address Wild and Scenic Rivers. The 1988 EA did for several river segments, none of which are on parcels offered for lease. As well, however, since the 1975 and 1988 EAs and the LUPs, there has been new information developed and BLM has made eligibility determinations on all river segments within the Field Office. The following November 2007 Oil and Gas Leas parcels lie within river corridors (0.25 miles wide from bank of river) found eligible by the RFO:

UT1107-054: (T 22 S., R E., Section 15: SW and T 22.S, R 5 E., Section 22, N2N2) Quitchupah Creek eligible W&SR
UT1107-055: (T 22 S., R 5 E., Section 17: E2SE and T 22 S., R 5 E., Section 20, NENE) Quitchupah Creek eligible W&SR (both eliminated by cultural)

Conclusion: Leasing these parcel portions at this time would not be consistent with the above referenced Acts of Congress, DOI and BLM Manuals, and Interagency Agreements.

Wilderness Areas/Wilderness Study Areas Concerns:

There are no designated Wilderness Areas (WAs) or Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the project area. There are no affects.

Other Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:

UWC Proposal Lands: The proposed project involves public lands recommended to Congress for wilderness designation by the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) in their Red Rock Wilderness Bill. Several parcels, UT-1107-052, 054, 055, 056, 057, 059, 060, and 063, located in eastern Sevier County, contains lands which lie within the

UWC proposal. The information submitted by UWC for Congressional review would be subject to the same assessment process as for all new information.

BLM Wilderness Characteristics: Most of the public land in the RFO was inventoried by BLM in the late 1970's and early 1980's under Section 603 of FLPMA, and all of the lands involved in the November 2007 leasing proposal were determined to lack wilderness character by BLM at the time. As a result of information submitted during planning over the last few years, the RFO conducted an additional wilderness character inventory of some the lands and found the following lands to possess wilderness characteristics:

UT1107-054: all lands in T 22 S., R 5 E., Section 13: except E2SE (private surface) lies within lands found to possess wilderness characteristics

UT1107-054: all public lands within T 22 S., R 5 E., Sections 14 and 15 lies within lands found to possess wilderness character. A portion is also overlaid by the eligible Wild and Scenic River segment, which cannot be leased

UT12107-054: T 22 S., R 5 E., Section 24. All public lands have been found to possess wilderness characteristics (T 22 S., R 5 E., Section 24, NENW and NWNE). A portion is also overlaid by the eligible Wild and Scenic River segment, which cannot be leased.

There is a difference of opinion in which lands the BLM found did not possess wilderness characteristics and which lands SUWA did. The difference is due to a management concern regarding the possible construction of a Ore Haul Road in the vicinity. The BLM Review information and decisions are included in the "Wildcat Knolls Wilderness Evaluation", signed by the RFO manager 01/24/07.

The critical question is the extent to which the new information either developed by the BLM evaluation or submitted to BLM by the Wildcat Knolls Proposed Wilderness nomination presents a picture of the likely environmental consequences associated with the proposed action not envisioned by the original documentation. In other words, is there new information of a level which presents a picture of the likely impacts from oil and gas leasing that is significantly different from the analysis in the 1975 EA? The new information is evaluated below:

Naturalness: Naturalness was not addressed specifically in the 1975 or 1988 Richfield EAs, or the LUP, so specific information is found in the sections of the EAs relating to cultural, wildlife, soils, vegetation, ecological inter-relationships and landscape values. The SUWA submittal, and the BLM's evaluation of it, both indicate that there is level of naturalness present, which is consistent with the 1975 EA analysis since the environmental conditions have not significantly changed.

Solitude: The effects of the proposal are the same as described in sections of the 1975 Richfield Oil and Gas EA. The 1975 EA discusses a number of activities that could have indirect affects on the solitude of an area, as well as having some discussion on several direct impacts that have a direct bearing on solitude. The SUWA submittal, and the BLM's evaluation of it, both indicate that there is level of solitude present, which is consistent with the 1975 EA analysis since the environmental conditions have not changed and while the use patterns have changed on the vehicle route system, the lands in the interior have not been affected.

Primitive Recreation: This activity and the potential impacts of the oil and gas leasing proposal were indirectly assessed in the 1975 Richfield Oil and Gas EA. The SUWA submittal, and the BLM's evaluation of it, both indicate that there is limited current recreation use occurring, which is consistent with the 1975 EA analysis. The impacts on these resources by oil and gas leasing are found in the 1975 Richfield EA sections relating to the anticipated and residual impacts and mitigations and in the short term use as opposed to the long term productivity sections. Based on an evaluation of the 1975 EA, it does not appear that any significant new information has been developed which would alter the original conclusions. The mitigation measures section of the EA is still appropriate for this leasing proposal and is in conformance with the decisions of the exiting Management Framework Plan.

This opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation is based on a rugged topography (the canyons), the expansiveness of the area, the lack of facilities, and the current recreation activity (commercial and noncommercial). Recreational use has increased in the area since the 1975 Richfield District Oil and Gas EA was prepared and beyond what was anticipated in the EA. Therefore, the increase in recreational use and the opportunity for primitive

and unconfined recreation are not adequately addressed in that EA and are considered to be a change in circumstance, since the EA was completed. The affect of the oil and gas leasing proposal could be detrimental to both current recreational patterns and to future recreational opportunities by altering factors such as noise levels, creating new visible surface developments such as roads or ancillary facilities, while it could also improve some aspects of recreational use such as access.

Conclusion: Therefore, the following lands should not be leased due to the primitive recreation patterns that have altered since the 1975 EA, are in the following parcels:

UT-1107-052, 054, 055, 056, 057, 059, 060, and 063

The lands described above should not be recommended for leasing because the lands are within an area that is receiving substantially different recreation use which was not anticipated in the NEPA record. This use pattern will be addressed in as part of the environmental impacts statement prepared as part of the ongoing land use planning effort for the Richfield BLM Office.

For the wilderness characteristics of naturalness and solitude, as defined in BLM IM 20003-275, the current conditions as identified in the BLM evaluations and by the SUWA submittal as well as the UWC Wilderness proposal still reflect the conditions found onsite in the 1975 EA and in the current Management Plan.

This rationale is consistent with, and supported by, the Kimball Court case legal decision.

Recreation Program:

A. In eastern Sevier County, the lands are managed under the Forest Plan Management Unit (1977). In this plan, Recreation Decisions 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 4.1 are appropriate to the proposed leasing. These decisions closed the area identified as "Trough Hollow" to OHV use while allowing continued OHV use elsewhere. These decisions also restricted oil and gas operations to stipulated and supervised conditions for the protection of Archeological resources. These conditions include requiring "*strict archeological surveys prior to any authorized action*" and requiring that the FO Mineral staff would stipulate leases and assure compliance, but no stipulations have been developed and a comprehensive archeological survey for the entire area has never been done. The Forest Plan OHV Implementation Plan followed through on implementing these decisions and closed the area, with the exception of the authorized Power line ROW. There are no motorized access routes available for access into the area.

The lands proposed for leasing in the Trough Hollow Closed Area are as follows:

All public lands in UT1107-052 (T 23 S., 4 E., Section 1 lots 1, 2, 7, 8, S2NE, SE, Section 12 E2, Section 13 E2, Section 24 NE, N2SE, lots 3 and 4)

All public lands in UT1107-060 (T 23 S., R 5 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8: ALL)

All public lands in UT1107-063 (T 23 S., R 5 E., Sections 17, 18, 19: ALL; Section 20:N2NE, SWNE, W2, NWSE; Section 21: NWNW; Section 30: N2N2, SENE)

Conclusion: Leasing these parcels at this time would be consistent with the current BLM Land Use Plan but not appropriate for the area at this time because no required impact analysis could be done since no stipulations have been developed or comprehensive archeological surveys done.

B. In southern Sevier County, the lands are managed under the provisions of the Mountain Valley Management Framework Plan. The BLM manages the Koosharem Reservoir Recreation Site as a developed destination point along Hwy 24. It is located in T 25 S., R 1 E., Section 30, SWSW. A portion of Lease Parcel UT1107-043 overlies this popular destination location. While the lands are not removed from leasing in the LUP, it is not BLM Policy to lease developed recreation sites for potential mineral development since the current recreational use pattern would be displaced and the recreational facilities themselves are already in place.

Conclusion: Leasing this part of the parcel would not be consistent with current RFO and National Recreation Management goals. The rest of this parcel is not affected. The specific portion of the lease parcel that should be removed is the lands east of Highway 24, in T T 25 S., R 1 E., Section 30, SWSW.

C. In eastern Sevier County, the lands are managed under the provisions of the Forest Planning Unit decisions. Management Decision R-1.1 required the restriction of any scenically disruptive action or development including but not limited to rights, of way structures, gravel pits, dumps, and vegetative treatments in not only the I-70 Corridor viewshed but also along the Rock Springs/Last Chance Road viewshed – some of which is VRM II. This decision affects the following areas:

Parcel UT 1107-064: T 23 S., R 5 E., Sections 26: ALL except NW, Section 33: All except N2N2, Sections 34 and 35: ALL

Parcel UT 1107-062: T 23 S., R 5 E., Section 27, SESE

Conclusion: Stipulation –S-02 as written does not reflect the complete LUP decision. The intent is clearly to manage for recreational opportunities along both vehicle routes viewsheds in VRM II category, not just the view from I-70. Additionally, the State of Utah has designated the Rock Springs/Last Chance Road (AKA Cathedral Valley Road) as a State Scenic Byway for recreational vehicle touring. Leasing could be allowed with appropriate stipulations, (No Surface Occupancy – NSO – in VRM II lands).

In Piute County, the congressionally designated National Scenic and Historic Old Spanish Trail crosses the following parcels:

Parcel 1107-035: T 28 S., R 3 W., Sections 28 and 33.

Although the existing Land Use Plan and the 1975 and 1988 EAs do not address this designation, which is new information, there are no visible remains of the Old Spanish Trail at this location, and the route designation follows an existing vehicle route. There would be no impact to the recreation program by leasing this parcel.

In Piute County, the Utah State Highway 89 has been designated as a National Heritage Trail. The following parcels are crossed by this designation:

Parcels UT1107-034, 035, and 036.

Although the existing Land Use Plan and the 1975 and 1988 EAs do not address this designation, which is new information, the designation is intended to increase an awareness of the historical importance of the route and for commercial purposes. Since there would be no actual leasing of the route due to the ROW and there are no associated resources or facilities in this section which directly relate to the Heritage Trail, there would be no impact to the Heritage Trail by leasing the lands

Conclusions: Leasing the above mentioned parcels would not adversely affect the designations

Visual Resources:

A. Parcel UT 1007-062 and Parcel UT 1107-064 are encompassed by lands that have been designated as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II. The objective of Class II is:

“...to retain the character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic of landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristics landscape.”

Landscape character were analyzed in the 1975 Richfield District Oil and Gas EA, and as addressed in that EA, mitigating visual impacts could include evaluating the location of facilities, recontouring and revegetating disturbed lands, using color schemes harmonious with the surrounding landscape, and requiring off-site drilling in specific locations as addressed in the LUP – which is possible in this case. Appropriate mitigation g measures can be

developed in order to meet the VRM Class II objectives. The lands subject to VRM Class II were designated in the Forest Plan, and the 1988 Richfield Implementation EA carried forth the decisions in the LUP. A new advisement and appropriate Stipulations should be added to any parcels proposed for this area with respect to the objective of VRM Class II and the intent of the LUP decisions.

Conclusion: See the discussion of Recreation C, above. On site development would not be consistent with the intent of existing LUP.

B. A portion of Parcel UT 1107-050 (the portion in T 28 S., R 3 E., Section 27) lies within the State of Utah Scenic Highway 24 ROW. This highway has been designated by the State of Utah as the Capitol Reef Scenic Byway. This new information is not addressed in either the 1975 or the 1988 Oil and Gas EAs or the Parker Mountain Management Framework Plan. However, BLM manages the land in the Parker Mountain Management Framework Plan as VRM Class III. Leasing would be consistent with these management objectives. As well, any development would be located in the vicinity of the town of Bicknell, with its existing buildings, so would have less distraction than other locations.

Conclusion: The new information and decision for this Highway designation, while not specifically addressed in the either the existing LUP or the Oil and Gas EAs, would not be affected by the leasing of the parcel.

Tim Finger, Recreation, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Visual, Special Management Areas
Program
August 22, 2007

ATTACHMENT FOR AIR AND WATER QUALITY

1. Richfield Oil & Gas EA – Richfield District/San Rafael RA

Anticipated Impacts On Air Quality – Pages 51-52.
Anticipated Impacts On Water – Pages 61-62.
Possible Mitigating Or Enhancing Measures – Air Quality – Pages 80-81.
Mitigation Measures – General – Water – Pages 87 thru 89.
Possible Mitigating Or Enhancing Measures, Non Living – Air Quality – Page 103.
Recommendations for Mitigation or Enhancement – Water Quality – Pages 109 thru 111.
Residual Impacts – Air Quality – Pages 115-116.
Short-Term Use versus Long -Term Productivity – Air Quality – Page 122.
Short-Term Use versus Long -Term Productivity – Water Quality – Page 123.
Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources – Air Quality – Pages 125-126.
Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources – Water – Pages 126-127.

2. Fillmore District Oil & Gas Leasing EA

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action – Air Quality – Pages 61 thru 64.
Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action – Water Quality – Pages 76-77.
Possible Mitigating Or Enhancing Values, Non Living Components – Air Quality – Pages 112 thru 115.
Recommendations for Mitigation or Enhancement, Non Living – Air Quality – Page 150.
Recommendations for Mitigation or Enhancement, Non Living – Water – Pages 157 thru 159.
Residual Impacts Non Living – Air Quality – Pages 165-166.
Short-Term Use Verses Long-Term Productivity – Air Quality – Page 173.
Short-Term Use Verses Long-Term Productivity – Water Quality – Page 174.
Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources – Air Quality – Page 178.
Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources – Water Quality – Page 179.

3. Sevier River & Henry Mountains Supplemental O & G Leasing EA

Air Quality Not Adversely Affected - Checklist Of Required Elements For EA.
Water Resources Not Adversely Affected – Checklist Of Required Elements For EA.

4. Price District Oil & Gas EA

Standard Operating Procedures – Water – Page 4.
Analysis of Impacts – Air Quality – Pages 58-59.
Analysis of Impacts – Water Quality – Pages 64-65.
Possible Mitigating Or Enhancing Measures, Non Living – Air Quality – Pages 88-89.
Possible Mitigating Or Enhancing Measures, Non Living – Water Quality – Pages 91-92.
Recommendations for Mitigation or Enhancement Of Environmental Impacts, Non Living – Air Quality – Page 105.
Recommendations for Mitigation or Enhancement Of Environmental Impacts, Non Living – Water Quality – Pages 109-110.
Residual Impacts Non Living – Air Quality – Page 118.
Residual Impacts Non Living – Water Quality – Page 120.
Short-Term Use Verses Long-Term Productivity – Air Quality – Page 126.
Short-Term Use Verses Long-Term Productivity – Surface Water – Page 127.
Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources – Water – Page 130.

The November 2007 Preliminary Oil and Gas Lease Sale List, UT1107-050. includes a parcel of land described as:

T. 28. S., R. 3 E., Salt Lake
Sec. 34: W2NW.

A portion of this parcel in Sec. 34, described as NENWNW, involves the Dab Keele Spring Wetland Area. This wetland area involves several springs on both sides of the lower Fremont River. Following an IBLA decision confirming BLM ownership and control, the wetland area was fenced to exclude domestic livestock. This protective fence ended decades of grazing trespass, and has allowed riparian and meadow vegetation to begin recovery.

The 40 acre parcel described as NWNW Sec. 34, T. 28 S., R. 3 E., is withdrawn as a Public Water Reserve 107 by Executive Order dated April 17, 1926. The E.O. withdraws this public land from settlement, location, sale or entry.

Accordingly, the Oil and Gas Lease Sale List should be amended to exclude this 40 acre parcel.

FLOODPLAINS and SOILS

Oil and Gas Leasing EA Record, 43-050-5-31, BLM Richfield District (1975)

- **Floodplains –**
 - IMPACTS: Potential primitive and wild and scenic river areas(p. 57); anticipated impacts on water(61-62)
 - MITIGATION:
 1. possible mitigation or enhancing measures: soils(83), loss of water supply(88-89), animals-general(91-92)
 2. recommendations for mitigation or enhancement: water quality-surface construction or land disturbance activities shall not occur within any floodplain...(109); specific areas – no occupancy or other surface disturbance will be allowed within 500 feet of perennial streams(111)

- **Soils -**
 - IMPACTS:
 1. Anticipated impacts: soils(52-55), vegetation(62-64): ecological interrelationships(69-70)
 2. residual impacts: soils(115-116); vegetation(118-119)
 3. short-term use verses long-term productivity: soils(122), vegetation(123)
 4. irreversible and irretreivable commitment of resources: soils(126), vegetation(127)

 - MITIGATION:
 1. possible mitigation or enhancing measures: air quality(80), soils(81-84), land use compatibility in general(85) degradation of water quality(87-88), vegetation(89-91), animals-general(91-93), landscape character(95)
 2. recommendations for mitigation or enhancement: soils – surface protection(103-105)

Oil and Gas Leasing Implementation EA for Henry Mountain and Sevier River Resrouce Areas (1988)

- **Floodplains –** No occupancy within 500 feet of live water(appendix 2),
- **Soils –** no occupancy or disturbance on slopes greater than %; sites may take 3-50 years to revegetate(12)

Environmental Analysis Record, Oil and Gas leasing, Fillmore District, Bureau of Land Management (1976)

- **Floodplains**
 - IMPACTS:

- 1. anticipated impacts: water(76)
- MITIGATION
 - 1. possible mitigating or enhancing measures: water(125-127)
 - 2. Recommendations for mitigation or enhancement: water(157)
- **Soils**
 - IMPACTS
 - 1. anticipated impacts: soils(64-70), vegetation(77-81), ecological interrelationships(94-95), human values-landscape character(95-101)
 - 2. residual impacts: soils(166), vegetation(167-168), landscape character(170-171)
 - 3. short-term use vs. long-term productivity: soils(173), vegetation(174-175)
 - 4. irreversible and irretreivable commitment of resources: soils(178), vegetation(179)
 - MITIGATION
 - 1. possible mitigating or enhancing measures: land – soils(115-120), water(125), vegetation(128-130), animals(132-134), landscape character(136-137)
 - 2. recommendations for mitigation or enhancement: soils - surface protection(150-154), water(157), vegetation(159-160)

STAFF REPORT

TITLE: Richfield Field Office - Oil and Gas Lease Sale, February 2008 – UT0208
Parcel Analysis for Candidate, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species,
Crucial Wildlife Habitats and Riparian Values.

DATE: December 7, 2007

AUTHOR: Larry Greenwood, Wildlife Biologist

All parcels were analyzed by the Richfield BLM wildlife biologist, using current (2007) Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) databases and BLM databases regarding Candidate, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species, Crucial Wildlife Habitats and Riparian Values. The results of this analysis are as follows:

Candidate, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

According to extensive, on-ground BLM inventory data, conducted from 1977 through 2007, there are no Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species found within the proposed lease parcels. The parcels are in areas where the geology and habitat features are not right for species presence (BLM, 2007).

NEPA analysis contained within the 1975 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment Record (43-050-5-31, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District, Pages 39, 40, 41, 64, 65, 66, 67, 91, 92, 93, 111, 112, 113, 119, 120, 123, 127), and the 1976 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment Record (Fillmore District, Bureau of Land Management, Pages 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 48, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 132, 133, 134, 135, 161, 162, 163, 169, 170, 175, 180, Appendix 2), **adequately addresses** the following Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or Sensitive animal species and their habitat:

The threatened Utah Prairie Dog, the sensitive Greater Sage Grouse, the sensitive Ferruginous Hawk, the Golden Eagle and the Bald Eagle.

This analysis **is considered adequate** because these species are individually listed and because impacts to these species and their habitat are discussed. Mitigation measures are also discussed.

NEPA analysis contained within the 1975 and 1976 documents **does not** adequately address the following Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or Sensitive animal species and their habitat:

The endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the sensitive Pygmy Rabbit.

This analysis **is not considered adequate** because these species are not individually listed and therefore impacts and mitigation measures for these specific species are not discussed.

Regarding Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or Sensitive Animal species, extensive, on-ground BLM inventory data (1977 thru 2007) and current UDWR databases (2007) indicate the following:

Habitat for the threatened Utah Prairie Dog is found within Parcels **UT1107 - 048, 049 & 050** (UDWR, 2007). **Lease notice UT-T&E-08** would provide the necessary protection for this habitat on these parcels.

The sensitive, Greater Sage Grouse is found on Parcels **UT1107 - 37, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 48, 49 and 50** (BLM,2007). **Lease notices UT-LN-49 and UT-LN-51** would provide the necessary protection for this species and its habitat on these parcels.

Habitat for the sensitive Ferruginous Hawk is found within all identified Parcels (BLM, 2007). Specifically, **UT1107 -029, 030, 031, 032, 033, 034, 035, 036, 037, 038, 039, 040, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 048, 049, 050, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 061, 062, 063 and 064**. **Lease notice UT-LN-26 (dmc215)** would provide the necessary protection for this species and its habitat on these parcels.

Golden Eagle habitat occurs on all identified Parcels (BLM, 2007). Specifically, **UT1107 - 029, 030, 031, 032, 033, 034, 035, 036, 037, 038, 039, 040, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 048, 049, 050, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 061, 062, 063 and 064**. **Lease notice UT-LN-27 (dmc216)** would provide the necessary protection for this species and its habitat on these parcels.

Bald Eagle Winter Roost Habitat is found within Parcels **UT1107 - 035, 036, 043, 044, 048, 061, 062, 063 and 064** (BLM, 2007). **Lease notice UT-T&E-01** would provide the necessary protection for this species and its habitat on these parcels.

The endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher is found on Parcel **UT1107 - 048** (BLM, 2007). Because NEPA analysis does not adequately address this species and its habitat this parcel should be deferred.

The sensitive, Pygmy Rabbit is found on Parcels **UT1107 - 48 and 49** (BLM, 2007). Because NEPA analysis does not adequately address this species and its habitat this parcel should be deferred.

All parcels will be subject to the following Washington Office BLM lease stipulation as directed by WO IM No. 2002-174:

“The lease may now and hereafter contain plants, animals, and their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objectives to avoid BLM approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modification to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligation under requirements of the Endangered species Act as amended, 16 O.S. C. § 1531 et seq. including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.”

All parcels will also contain notification in Section 6 of the lease requirements that enforce compliance with the Endangered Species Act, stated as follows:

“If in the conduct of operations, threatened or endangered species, objects of historical or scientific interest, or substantial unanticipated environmental effects are observed, lessee will immediately contact lessor. Lessee shall cease any operations that would result in the destruction of such species or objects.”

Regarding Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Utah BLM State Office has determined that consultation has been completed for all lease sales as follows:

In December, 2004, BLM and FWS personnel completed work on a set of lease notices for listed species that are to be attached to oil and gas leases offered in the State. On December 13, 2004, section 7 consultation was initiated with the submission of a memorandum to FWS containing the lease notices.

FWS responded with a memorandum dated December 16, 2004 which stated the following: "We concur that the sale of oil and gas lease parcels, with the species-specific lease notices, results in a **"not likely to adversely affect"** determination. Our concurrence applies to all upcoming lease parcels that include these notices, as well as the issuance of all lease parcels sold since November 2003."

Crucial Wildlife Habitats

Crucial deer and elk winter/spring range is found within 33 of the 36 parcels, as follows: **UT1107 - 032, 033, 034, 035, 036, 037, 038, 039, 040, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 048, 049, 050, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 061, 062, 063 and 064** (UDWR, 2007 and BLM 2007). **Lease stipulation UT-S-07** would provide the necessary protection for this species and its habitat on these parcels. The stipulation would read as follows:

"In order to protect deer and elk crucial winter/spring range, exploration, drilling, and other development activity, in the Richfield Field Office, will not be allowed during the period from December 15 through May 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Exceptions to this limitation in any year may be specifically approved in writing by the authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management."

The 1975 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment Record (43-050-5-31, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District, Pages 40, 64, 65, 91, 112, 113, 119, 120, 127), specifically discusses mule deer and elk and their habitat, and is therefore considered adequate.

The 1976 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Analysis Record (Fillmore District, Bureau of Land Management, Pages 39, 47, 48, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 161, 162, 180, Appendix 2), also specifically discusses mule deer and elk and their habitat. Therefore, this NEPA document is considered adequate.

Riparian Values

There are twenty-two parcels that contain riparian/wetland zones (BLM, 2007). Specifically, **UT1107-032** - East Fork Sevier River; **UT1107-033** - Willow Spring; **UT1107-034** - Cottonwood Creek & Manning Creek.; **UT1107-035** - Tenmile Creek.; **UT1107-036** - Oak Springs; **UT1107-039** - Dock Spring; **UT1107-041** - Birch Creek.; **UT1107-043** - Otter Creek.; **UT1107-044** - Praetor Creek; **UT1107-048** - Fremont River; **UT1107-050** - Fremont River; **UT1107-054** - Quitchupah Creek; **UT1107-055** - Quitchupah Creek; **UT1107-056** - Quitchupah Creek; **UT1107-057** - Quitchupah Creek; **UT1107-060** - Saleratus Creek; **UT1107-061** - Saleratus Creek; **UT1107-062** - Saleratus Creek; **UT1107-064** - Ivie Creek. **Lease Notice UT-LN-69** would provide the necessary protection for the riparian habitat on these parcels. The stipulation would read as follows:

In order to protect riparian/wetland habitat, no occupancy or other surface disturbance will be allowed within 500 feet of springs, creeks, streams and wetland areas, located in the Richfield Field Office. If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted if approved in writing by the authorized officer in consultation with the Field Office wildlife biologist.

The 1975 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment Record (43-050-5-31, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District, Pages 34, 38, 39, 46, 57, 62, 64, 66, 91), discusses potential impacts and mitigation on riparian/wetland zones, and is therefore considered adequate.

The 1976 Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Analysis Record (Fillmore District, Bureau of Land Management, Pages 31, 35, 37, 39, 40, 76, 77, 78), also discusses potential impacts and mitigation on riparian/wetland zones. Therefore, this NEPA document is considered adequate.

/s/ Larry Greenwood