



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Vernal Field Office  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, Utah 84078  
<http://www.blm.gov>



IN REPLY REFER TO:

3100  
LLUTG01100

February 6, 2009

Memorandum

To: State Director, UT-924  
Attention: Teresa Thompson, Terry Catlin

From: Field Manager, Vernal Field Office *William Stenger*

Subject: March 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale Parcel Recommendations

The Vernal Field Office (VFO) has thirteen (13) parcels on the preliminary list for the March 2009 oil and gas lease sale. The following recommendations for leasing of parcels are provided to the BLM Utah State Director.

### **Parcels Processed and Recommended For Sale**

UT0309-095  
UT0309-097  
UT0309-098  
UT0309-099  
UT0309-100  
UT0309-101  
UT0309-102  
UT0309-103  
UT0309-119  
UT0309-120  
UT0309-121\*  
UT0309-150\*  
UT0309-198

\*portion of parcel falls within Vernal planning area

The attached Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Worksheet was prepared to determine if the existing NEPA analysis is adequate for the leasing of oil and gas parcels within the administrative boundaries of the VFO for the March 2009 competitive oil and gas lease sale. All thirteen parcels, or portions of parcels within the Vernal planning area, were processed and are being considered for the March 2009 sale. These parcels have been determined to be in conformance with existing Land Use Plan, and are recommended to go forward in the lease sale. The VFO DNA addresses only those parcels and portions of parcels within the Vernal planning area.

Stipulations were attached to the parcels which were not included on the preliminary offer list submitted by USO on 12/30/08. The recommended parcels and attached stipulations are found in Attachment 1 of the DNA.

In accordance with WOIM 2002-174 the following Endangered Species Act section 7 consultation stipulation is to be added to all recommended lease parcels.

“The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals or 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 objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that would contribute to a need to list such species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications 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 until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.”

In accordance with WOIM 2005-003 Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation for Fluid Minerals Leasing, the cultural stipulation which states the following has been added to all offered lease parcels:

“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.”

Please contact Holly Villa (435)-781-4404 if you have any questions.

Attachment 1 DNA

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

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

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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:** Vernal Field Office (LLUTG01000)

**Tracking #:** DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2009-0181-DNA

**Proposed Action Title:** March 24, 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

**Location of Proposed Action:** Parcels within Grand, and Uintah County, Utah. Attachment 1 contains legal descriptions for each parcel.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Utah State Office proposes to offer 13 parcels of land in Grand and Uintah County, Utah administered by the Vernal Field Office for oil and gas leasing in a competitive lease sale to be held on March 24, 2009. All 13 parcels were assessed for land use plan compliance and NEPA adequacy; thirteen parcels, including portions of parcels within the Vernal planning area, were processed for the March 2009 lease sale and it was recommended that these parcels go forward. Attachment 1 lists all parcels including special lease stipulations and lease notices. These parcels include public lands or lands in which the mineral estate is administered by the BLM. If a parcel of land is not purchased at the lease sale by competitive bidding, it may still be leased within two years after the initial offering. A lease may be held for ten years, after which the lease expires unless oil or gas is produced in paying quantities. A producing lease can be held indefinitely by economic production.

A lessee must submit an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) (Form 3160-3) to the BLM for approval and must possess an approved APD prior to any surface disturbance in preparation for drilling. Any stipulations attached to the standard lease form must be complied with before an APD may be approved. Following BLM approval of an APD, a lessee may produce oil and gas from the well in a manner approved by BLM in the APD or in subsequent sundry notices. The operator must notify the appropriate authorized officer, 48 hours before starting any surface disturbing activity approved in the APD.

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

LUP Name:

Vernal Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (VRMP/ROD), approved October 31, 2008

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

- The ROD for the VRMP/FEIS on page(s) 96-99 identifies those specific lands within the Vernal Field Office that are available for leasing. Appendix K of the FEIS contains pertinent stipulations.

**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.

- Environmental Analysis Record Oil and Gas Leasing Program Vernal District Office Utah, approved June 1975. Environmental Analysis Record on page VIII-1 found no significant adverse impacts to the environment from leasing, and recommended that an environmental impact statement was not necessary.
- Diamond Mountain Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DMEIS), 1993 and Diamond Mountain Resource Area Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (DMRMP/ROD), approved December 21, 1994
- Book Cliffs Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (BCEIS), 1985 and Book Cliffs Resource Area Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (BCRMP/ROD), approved June 3, 1985
- Environmental Assessment for Oil and Gas Leasing in the Book Cliffs Resource Area, UT-080-89-002, 1988.
- Supplement to Environmental Assessment for Oil and Gas Leasing in the Book Cliffs Resource Area, UT-080-89-002, 1989.
- Final Vernal Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement UT-GI-04-001-1610, 2008.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessments, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standard's assessment and determinations, and monitoring report).

REVIEW	DATE
State of Utah Sensitive Species List	2007

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

**Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. The proposed action is a feature of the Environmental Analysis Record and the VRMP/ROD. Leasing of the lands described in Attachment 1 was analyzed in the Environmental Analysis Record, and the Final VRMP. The proposed action - leasing for oil and gas in the March 2009 sale - is substantially the same as the proposed action analyzed in each of the above environmental documents. Public land would be offered for leasing, as allowed for in the VRMP/ROD, 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.

The Environmental Analysis Record in Chapter 3, page III-1 described the affected environment. Chapter 4 page IV-1 describes the impacts of the proposed action and other alternatives. It considered both the no leasing and leasing alternatives.

The VRMP/EIS in Chapter 3 describes the affected environment. Chapter 4 describes the impacts of the proposed action and other alternatives. The ROD for the VRMP/EIS, on page(s) 96-99, identifies those specific lands within the Management Area that are available for leasing. Appendix K contains pertinent stipulations.

**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, and resource values?**

**Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. The 1975 Environmental Analysis Record analyzed the impacts of oil and gas leasing in the resource area under two alternatives. The two alternatives were leasing and no leasing.

The VRMP/EIS analyzed the impacts of oil and gas leasing on all lands in the resource area under five different alternatives. The five alternatives ranged from emphasizing oil and gas exploration and development to minimizing oil and gas exploration and development with varying degrees of exploration and development activities and varying stipulations (restrictions) for each alternative. The alternatives analyzed, and the range of alternatives, covered the entire range of leasing possibilities. That range is still appropriate for this action given current concerns, interests, and values.

**3. Is existing analysis adequate in light of any new information or circumstances? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

**Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. Existing analysis is adequate. New information would not change the analysis as documented below. All resources are adequately protected through leasing category and applicable stipulations and notices.

The VFO received the draft March 2009 competitive oil and gas lease sale parcel list on December 30, 2008. Copies of the complete list were provided to the interdisciplinary team on December 30, 2008 to for review. On January 12, 2009, the ID team of resource specialists, identified in Part E of this DNA, met to discuss the preliminary lease parcels. As part of the review process, the VRMP/ROD was reviewed for applicable leasing categories, stipulations, and resource impact from oil and gas leasing. The parcels were reviewed individually by specialists for potential impacts to wildlife, plants, cultural, and watershed and lease stipulations were added as a result of those reviews in accordance with the VRMP/ROD.

Individual members of the ID team reached conclusions regarding the adequacy of existing NEPA documentation. The BLM VFO management then conducted an additional multiple-use review in light of the parcel specific reviews, existing oil and gas lease categories, all required stipulations and

relevance of information found in the Final Vernal RMP. The results of these reviews for the parcels recommended for sale in the March 2009 lease sale are presented below.

Resource information, none of which is significant, is described below.

**Cultural Resources:** The analytic unit/APE is the lease sale parcel's external boundary as defined in the lease document. The impact analysis for each parcel is based on the assumption that one 5 acre well pad and associated access road could be constructed on each parcel. Data was derived from the Cultural Program files which include: 1. 7.5' topographic quadrangles, 2. 7.5' Orthophotoquads with inventory and site overlays, 3. studies and reports which cover the areas of concern.

Based on the January 13, 2009 records search, due to site size, density, and placement, development of at least one well pad and associated access road can occur without adverse impacts to eligible cultural resources on all parcels. The documented cultural resources are located in such a fashion that avoidance is feasible for the development of oil and gas potential therefore the staff archaeologist determined that under the Protocol review threshold Part VII.A.C(4): "No Historic Properties Affected; eligible sites present but not affected as defined by 36CFR800.4" for the March, 2009 oil and gas lease sale. On all parcels, however, once a project specific proposal is submitted and prior to the approval of construction or any ground disturbing activity, an additional Section 106 cultural resource assessment will be completed where site specific issues can be addressed. Likewise, the presence of newly found cultural resources in parcels may cause additional parameters to be placed upon development strategies in areas within the parcels.

On all parcels, however, once a project specific proposal is submitted and prior to the approval of construction or any ground disturbing activity, an additional Section 106 cultural resource assessment will be completed where site specific issues can be addressed. Likewise, the presence of newly found cultural resources in parcels may cause additional parameters to be placed upon development strategies in areas within the parcels. To assure appropriate consideration of future effects from the March 2009 lease sale, the BLM will add the following "lease stipulation" (WO-IM-2005-003), to all parcels offered for lease.

*"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." (WO-IM 2005-03).*

**Environmental Justice:** This review is for all parcels – No minority or economically disadvantaged communities would be disproportionately affected by the proposed leasing.

**Invasive, Non-native Species:** Weeds are present in the parcels. The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts to weeds. Surface disturbance activities will require a pesticide use permit. No stipulations or lease notices apply.

**Native American Religious Concern:** On January 13, 2009 certified consultation letters were sent to the following Tribes: Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Santa Clara Pueblo Tribe, Zia Pueblo Tribe, Navajo Nation, Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation, Hopi Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, White Mesa Ute Tribe, Laguna Pueblo, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The letter requested comments be provided to the VFO within 30 days after receipt of the letter. The last return receipt received was dated January 20, 2009. As of January 22, 2009 no concerns pertaining to leasing of the preliminary parcels have been received.

**Special Status Species:** In accordance with Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-174, all parcels would be subject to the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Stipulation. This stipulation is as follows:

*"The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals or 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 objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that would contribute to a need to list such species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications 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 until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation."*

In December 2004, BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel completed work on a set of programmatic level, lease notices for federally listed species occurring in Utah, that are to be attached to oil and gas leases offered in the State of Utah. On December 13, 2004, section 7 consultation was initiated with the submission of a memorandum to FWS, containing the lease notices. The FWS responded with a memorandum dated December 16, 2004 concurring with the BLM determination that attachment of the lease notices to appropriate lease parcels would constitute a "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" determination for listed species in Utah. Detailed information on the inclusion of the appropriate lease notices and stipulations are contained in Attachments 1 and 2.

The BLM consulted with the USFWS, concerning the Vernal PRMP, as required, prior to initiation of any project by a federal agency that may affect federally listed special status species or their habitat in accordance with Section 7 of the ESA and with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 USC Sec 661 et seq. The RMP/EIS is considered a major planning action, and the BLM initiated formal consultation with the USFWS on August 22, 2008.

In December 2001, the BLM requested assistance from the USFWS in identifying threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate plant and animal species that may be located in the Vernal

The VRMP formed the basis for a Biological Assessment (BA). The BLM determined that the implementation of the PRMP/FEIS is "not likely to adversely affect" or "may affect" the species on which this consultation occurred. The USFWS concurred with the BLM's determination via a

Biological Opinion (BO) on October 23, 2008, which advises the BLM on the actions that must be taken to protect federally listed special status species. A copy of the USFWS Biological Opinion can be found in Appendix N of the ROD. Included in these actions are the programmatic level lease notices for federally listed species occurring in Utah, that are required to be attached to all of the appropriate oil and gas leases offered in the State of Utah.

Based on the information and analysis provided in Attachment 2, and inclusion of all appropriate lease notices and stipulations, the December 2008 sale of oil and gas lease parcels complies with the 2004 FWS programmatic consultation and VRMP consultation, so that no listed species are likely to be adversely affected by the proposed action.

**ACECs:** Existing ACECS, as identified in the Vernal RMP/ROD, were reviewed to determine if the identified relevant and important values would be impacted by the proposed leasing. The parcels were also reviewed for conformance with the leasing category in the ACEC areas. As a result the lease stipulation of No Surface Occupancy was added to the appropriate portions of parcels. This will help protect the relevant and important criteria of the ACECs.

**Floodplains:** A lease notice that identifies the need to comply with the Floodplain Executive Order No 11988 would be added to the appropriate parcels. The added lease notices would provide adequate protection for the resource. The information is not significant because floodplains were addressed in the RMPS and therefore was taken into account in the referenced NEPA documents.

**Raptors:** A lease notice that identifies if there may be raptors in the area would be added to the appropriate parcels. The information is not significant because raptors were addressed in the RMPs and therefore was taken into account in the referenced NEPA documents.

**Soils:** A lease notice that identifies if there may be steep slopes or sensitive soils in the area would be added to the appropriate parcels. The information is not significant because soils and slopes were addressed in the RMPs and therefore was taken into account in the referenced NEPA documents.

- 4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? 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)?**

**Documentation and explanation:**

Yes. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of leasing and drilling are identical to those analyzed in the VRMP/FEIS. This is because the proposed action is essentially the same and the existing resource conditions and values have not changed since analysis in the EIS. The EIS used a general analysis of impacts, but these were tied to specific resources and values present in the specific areas. Leasing categories were established dependent on resources and values in particular areas and stipulations were designed for each of these categories to protect these resources and values. The RFDs further defined expected impacts to specific exploration and production regions. These

analyses are therefore region specific and allow region specific location and identification of potential impacts of the current leasing proposal.

Impacts from the current proposed leasing and subsequent drilling activities would be the same as those analyzed in the EAR. This is because the EAR analyzed, in general, the direct and indirect impacts of exploration and production activities that may result after an area in the Vernal District Area is leased.

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

**Documentation and explanation:**

Yes. The public involvement and interagency review procedures and findings made through the development of the Environmental Analysis Record, and the Vernal RMP/EIS are adequate for the proposed lease sale. During the development of the documents listed above, public workshops and meetings and public comments were received. All comments were taken into account in the finalized documents.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted:**

Name	Title	Resource Represented
Jason West	Outdoor Recreation Planner	ACECs, BLM natural areas, recreation, VRM, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness
Stephanie Howard	Environmental Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Air Quality, Farmlands, Lands/Access, Socio-economics, and Wastes
Holly Villa	Natural Resource Specialist	Team Lead, Waters of the U.S.
Amy Torres	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Animal Species, Wildlife
Robin Hansen	Geologist	Paleontology Review
Gabrielle Elliott	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns,
Clayton Newberry	Botanist	Special Status Plant Species, Invasive, Non-native Plant Species
Dusty Carpenter	Natural Resource Specialist	Range
Jerry Kenczka/Holly Villa	Natural Resource Specialist	Floodplains, Wetlands, Riparian, soils

**CONCLUSIONS**

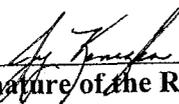
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that:

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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the Responsible Official**

2/6/2009  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

- Attachment  
Attachment 1, Vernal Parcel List  
Attachment 2, Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist  
Attachment 3, Vernal Field Office Stipulations/Notices

## MARCH 2009 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST

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### UT0309-095

T. 8 S., R. 18 E., Salt Lake

Sec. 27: SWSE.

40.00 Acres

Uintah County, Utah

Vernal Field Office

VFO-01 Air Quality

VFO-04 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Fawning Habitat SE Sec.27

VFO-12 Pariette ACEC-No Surface Occupancy

VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors

VFO-14 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves

VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes NE, SW Sec.27

VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40% NE, SW  
Sec.27

VFO-11 LN-High Potential for Paleontological Resources

VFO-07 T&E LN-Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin (entire parcel)

VFO-21 T&E LN-Federally Threatened Pariette cactus and Uinta Basin Hookless cactus  
(*Sclerocactus brevispinus* and *S.wetlandicus*)

### UT0309-097

T. 8 S., R. 19 E., Salt Lake

Sec. 31: Lots 1, 2, 4, SWSE.

168.81 Acres

Uintah County, Utah

Vernal Field Office

VFO-01 Air Quality

VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors

VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes

VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40% Lot 2 Sec.31

VFO-11 LN-High Potential for Paleontological Resources

VFO-12 Pariette ACEC-No Surface Occupancy

VFO-07 T&E LN-Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin (entire parcel)

VFO-21 T&E LN-Federally Threatened Pariette cactus and Uinta Basin Hookless cactus  
(*Sclerocactus brevispinus* and *S.wetlandicus*)

## MARCH 2009 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST

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### UT0309-098

T. 10 S., R. 19 E., Salt Lake

Sec. 29: All.

640.00 Acres

Uintah County, Utah

Vernal Field Office

UT-S-?? Drainage Stipulation

VFO-01 Air Quality

VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors

VFO-14 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves W2NW, NENW, NE, NESE Sec.29

VFO-15 Federally Threatened Clay reed-mustard (*Schoenocrambe argillacea*)

VFO-16 Visual Resources: VRM II W2NW Sec.29

VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes

VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%

VFO-07 T&E LN-Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin (entire parcel)

VFO-22 River Corridors: Lower Green River: NSO NWNW, SWNW Sec.29

### UT0309-099

T. 4 S., R. 21 E., Salt Lake

Sec. 1: Lots 1-4, S2NE, NESE;

Sec. 6: Lots 1-7, S2NE, SENW, E2SW, NWSE.

794.04 Acres

Uintah County, Utah

Vernal Field Office

VFO-01 Air Quality

VFO-02 Wildlife: Crucial Elk Winter Range Lot 1, 2, S2NE, NESE Sec.1; Lots 1-7, S2NE, SENW, E2SW, NWSE Sec.6

VFO-04 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Fawning Habitat Lot 2, S2NE, NESE Sec.1

VFO-05 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Winter Range (CSU) Lots 1-7, S2NE, SENW, E2SW, NWSE Sec.6

VFO-06 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Winter Range (TL) Lots 1-7, S2NE, SENW, E2SW, NWSE Sec.6

VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors

VFO-14 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves Lot 3, 4 Sec.1; Lot 1 Sec.6

VFO-16 Visual Resources: VRM II Lots 1-3, 5-7, S2NE, SENW, E2SW Sec.6

VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes

VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%

VFO-07 T&E LN-Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin (entire parcel)

## MARCH 2009 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST

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### UT0309-100

T. 7 S., R. 21 E., Salt Lake

Sec. 20: E2SE.

80.00 Acres

Uintah County, Utah

Vernal Field Office

VFO-01 Air Quality

VFO-04 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Fawning Habitat SESE Sec.20

VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors

VFO-14 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves SESE Sec.20

VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes

VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40% SESE  
Sec.20

VFO-20 LN Black-Footed Ferret (entire parcel)

VFO-07 T&E LN-Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin (entire parcel)

VFO-21 Federally Threatened Pariette cactus and Uinta Basin Hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus brevispinus* and *S.wetlandicus*)

### UT0309-101

T. 11 S., R. 21 E., Salt Lake

Sec. 1: All;

Sec. 22: NENE;

Secs. 23 and 26: All.

1,950.28 Acres

Uintah County, Utah

Vernal Field Office

VFO-01 Air Quality

VFO-08 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (TL) entire parcel

VFO-09 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (CSU) NENE Sec.22; N2NW Sec.23

VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors

VFO-14 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves NESE, SESE Sec.1

VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes

VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%

## MARCH 2009 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST

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### UT0309-102

T. 11 S., R. 21 E., Salt Lake  
Secs. 19 and 29: All;  
Sec. 30: E2, NENW;  
Sec. 31: Lots 1-4, NENE, E2W2.

1,933.84 Acres

Uintah County, Utah

Vernal Field Office

VFO-01 Air Quality

VFO-08 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (TL) Sec.19; Sec.29; E2, NENW Sec.30 (all BLM surface)

VFO-09 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (CSU) NE Sec.19; NE, NENW, N2SE Sec.29

VFO-10 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (NSO) NENE Sec.19; E2NE, NWNE Sec.29

VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors

VFO-14 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves NENW Sec.30; SWNE Sec.31

VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes

VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%

VFO-07 T&E LN-Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin (Sec.19; W2W2 Sec.29; Sec.30; Sec.31)

VFO-15 Federally Threatened Clay reed-mustard (*Schoenrambe argillacea*) (N2 Sec.19)

VFO-19 Federally Threatened Shrubby reed-mustard (*Schoenrambe suffrutescens*) (1/2 mile W of parcel boundary)

### UT0309-103

T. 11 S., R. 21 E., Salt Lake  
Secs. 34 and 35: All.

1,280.00 Acres

Uintah County, Utah

Vernal Field Office

VFO-01 Air Quality

VFO-08 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (TL) NWNE, NW, W2SW Sec.34; NENW, NE, NESE Sec.35

VFO-09 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (CSU)

VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors

VFO-14 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves W2E2, E2W2 Sec.34

VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes

VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%

VFO-07 T&E LN-Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin (Sec.34)

## MARCH 2009 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST

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### UT0309-119

T. 11 S., R. 23 E., Salt Lake  
Sec. 15: SWNE, NESW, S2SW, W2SE.  
240.00 Acres  
Uintah County, Utah  
Vernal Field Office

VFO-01 Air Quality  
VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors  
VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes  
VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%

### UT0309-120

T. 16 S., R. 23 E., Salt Lake  
Sec. 4: Lot 4, S2NW.  
119.52 Acres  
Grand County, Utah  
Moab Field Office  
(entire parcel within VFO planning area)

VFO-01 Air Quality  
VFO-03 Wildlife: Crucial Elk Calving Habitat  
VFO-04 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Fawning Habitat  
VFO-08 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (TL)  
VFO-09 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (CSU)  
VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors  
VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes  
VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%

## MARCH 2009 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST

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### UT0309-121

T. 16 S., R. 23 E., Salt Lake

Sec. 19: S2SE;

Sec. 20: S2SW, NESW; (NESW, SWSW in VFO planning area)

Sec. 28: W2NW, NWSW; (NWNW in VFO planning area)

Sec. 29: W2NE, W2, SE; (NWNW in VFO planning area)

Sec. 30: Lots 2-4, E2, SENW, E2SW. (Lots 2-4, SENW, E2SW in VFO planning area)

1,424.50 Acres

Grand County, Utah

Moab Field Office

(red depicts the parcel description within VFO planning area)

VFO-01 Air Quality

VFO-03 Wildlife: Crucial Elk Calving Habitat NESW, SWSW Sec.20; NWNW Sec.29, SENW, NESW Lots 2-4 Sec.30

VFO-04 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Fawning Habitat NESW, SWSW Sec.20; NWNW Sec.28; NWNW Sec.29; Lot 2-4, SENW, E2SW Sec.30

VFO-08 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (TL)

VFO-09 Special Status Species: Sage Grouse (CSU)

VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors

VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes

VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40% (almost entire parcel)

VFO-16 Visual Resources: VRM II- NESW, SWSW Sec.20; NWNW Sec.28; NWNW Sec.29; Lot 2-4, SENW, E2SW Sec.30

### UT0309-150

T. 16 S., R. 24 E., Salt Lake

Sec. 7: Lots 3, 4, E2SW, SE; (Lot 3, NESW in VFO planning area)

Sec. 8: S2; (N2S2 in VFO planning area)

Secs. 9, 10 and 17: All.

2,549.18 Acres

Grand County, Utah

Moab Field Office

(red depicts the parcel description within VFO planning area)

VFO-01 Air Quality

VFO-04 Wildlife: Crucial Deer Fawning Habitat Lot 3, NESW Sec.7; N2SW Sec.8

VFO-13 Special Status Species: Raptors

VFO-17 Fragile Soils/Slopes

VFO-18 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40% (almost entire parcel)

**MARCH 2009 PRELIMINARY OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE LIST**

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**ACQUIRED LANDS**

**UT0309-198**

**50% BLM Minerals**

T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Uintah Special

Sec. 2: SW.

160.00 Acres

Uintah County, Utah

Vernal Field Office

VFO-01 Air Quality

# INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD CHECKLIST

**Project Title:** March 2009 Lease Sale (Vernal Field Office)

**NEPA Log Number:**

**File/Serial Number:** DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2009-0181-DNA

**Project Lead:** Holly Villa

**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
NC	Air Quality	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No exceedences of National Ambient Air Quality Standards were modeled. Standard stipulations apply to all parcels.	Stephanie Howard	1-12-09
NC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. Portions of parcels 95 and 97 are within the Pariette ACEC as identified in the Vernal RMP. NSO stipulations apply. The remaining parcels do not contain ACECs.	Jason West	1-12-09
NC	BLM natural areas	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No BLM natural areas are present in the subject parcels. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Jason West	1-12-09
NC	Cultural Resources	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. A consultation letter was sent to SHPO on January 14, 2009 with a determination of "No historic properties Affected; eligible sites present but not affected as defined by 36CFR800.4" Concurrence was received on January 21, 2009.	Gabrielle Elliott	1-22-09
NC	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities would be disproportionately affected by the proposed leasing.	Stephanie Howard	1-12-09
NC	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No additional impacts are anticipated. No stipulations or lease notices will apply.	Stephanie Howard	1-12-09
NC	Floodplains	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts to floodplains. Parcels 97, 119, 120, 121, 150, 198 do not involve floodplains. All other parcels contain portions of 100-year floodplains. Standard floodplain stipulations or lease notices will apply to those parcels.	Amy Torres	1-12-09
NC	Fuels / Fire Management	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. Development of these parcels is not expected to affect future suppression efforts, or fuels treatment projects.	Steve Strong	1-14-09
NC	Geology / Mineral Resources / Energy Production	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. Stability problems due to slopes on Parcels 121 and 150. Standard slope stipulations or notices will apply.	Robin Hansen	1-12-09
NC	Invasive Plants / Noxious Weeds	Weeds are present in the parcels. The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts to weeds. Surface disturbance activities will require a pesticide use permit. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Clayton Newberry	1-12-09

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NC	Lands / Access	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. No conflicts are anticipated. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Stephanie Howard	1-12-09
NC	Livestock Grazing	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts for the proposed leasing action to livestock grazing. However, parcels 100, 101, 102, and 103 are in allotments that are experiencing a cumulative loss of forage due to ongoing oil and gas activities, and a reduction of wildlife and livestock AUMs is likely to be necessary in the future. If these parcels are leased, additional site-specific review and NEPA will be necessary at the development stage to determine and assess the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to forage from surface disturbing activities.	Dusty Carpenter	1-22-09
NC	Native American Religious Concerns	Analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. Consultation letters were sent on January 13, 2009. As of January 22, 2009 no responses have been received.	Holly Villa	1-22-09
NC	Paleontology	Analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. Parcels 95 and 97 have a high potential for producing fossil resources. The remaining parcels have a moderate potential for producing fossils. Standard stipulations or notices from the RMP are required.	Robin Hansen	1-12-09
NC	Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts for the proposed leasing action to the area's ability to meet Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines. However, parcel 101 is in the Sand Wash Allotment, which is currently in the middle of a settlement for forage with the permittee. In addition, the allotment is experiencing a cumulative loss of forage due to ongoing oil and gas activities, and a reduction of wildlife and livestock AUMs is likely to be necessary in the future. If this parcel is leased, additional site-specific review and NEPA will be necessary at the development stage to determine and assess the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from surface disturbing activities to the allotment's ability to meet Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines.	Dusty Carpenter	1-22-09
NC	Recreation	Analysis of recreation impacts in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. Limited OHV use occurs throughout the parcels. No other impacts/conflicts are anticipated. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Jason West	1-12-09
NC	Socio-economics	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. No unusual impacts are anticipated to occur. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Stephanie Howard	1-12-09
NC	Soils	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. Steep slopes occur on Parcels 121 and 150 (approximately 40%). Standard slope stipulations or lease notices will apply.	Jerry Kenczka	1-12-09
NC	Special Status Animal Species other than USFWS candidate or listed species e.g. Migratory birds.	<p><b>Parcel 095</b> contains crucial deer fawning habitat (TL).</p> <p><b>Parcel 098</b> contains white-tailed prairie dog habitat (CSU).</p> <p><b>Parcel 099</b> contains crucial deer fawning habitat (TL); crucial deer winter habitat (CSU); crucial deer and elk winter habitat (TL); and white-tailed prairie dog habitat (CSU).</p> <p><b>Parcel 100</b> contains crucial deer fawning habitat (TL); and white-tailed prairie dog habitat (CSU).</p> <p><b>Parcel 101</b> contains sage grouse lek/nesting habitat (TL, CSU) and sage grouse winter range.</p> <p><b>Parcel 102</b> contains sage grouse lek/nesting habitat (TL, CSU, NSO); and sage grouse winter range.</p> <p><b>Parcel 103</b> contains sage grouse lek/nesting habitat (TL, CSU); and sage grouse winter range.</p> <p><b>Parcel 120</b> contains crucial deer fawning and elk calving habitat</p>	Amy Torres	1-13-09

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
		(TL); sage grouse lek/nesting habitat (CSU, TL). <b>Parcel 121</b> contains crucial deer fawning and elk calving habitat (TL); and sage grouse lek/nesting habitat (CSU, TL). <b>Parcel 150</b> contains crucial deer fawning habitat (TL);  All of the parcels contain potential raptor nesting and foraging habitat.  <b>Please note: The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. The action of leasing these parcels will not have any direct or indirect impacts on these species. The identified stipulations will be placed on the leases. The potential impact from surface disturbance that may occur at the development stage and these impacts will be addressed via future NEPA documents.</b>		
NC	Special Status Plant Species other than USFWS candidate or listed species	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No Bureau sensitive species present on any of the parcels. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Clayton Newberry	1-12-09
NC	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	Development in the following parcels have the potential to impact T&E fish and/or their habitat: Parcel 095, 097, 098, 099, 100, 102 and 103.  Parcel 100 has the potential to impact black-footed ferrets and/or their habitat.  <b>Please note: The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient the action of leasing these parcels will not have any direct or indirect impacts on these species. The identified lease notices will be placed on the leases. The potential impact will occur at the development stage and these impacts will be addressed via future NEPA documents.</b>	Amy Torres	1-12-09
PI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. SCBR12, SCWE in parcel 95 SCBR12 in parcel 97 SCAR5 in parcel 98 SCWE in parcel 100 SCAR5, SCSU2 in parcel 102; lease notices and stipulations apply.	Clayton Newberry	1/13/2009
NC	Vegetation	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts to vegetation. No unusual impacts are anticipated. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Clayton Newberry	1-12-09
NC	Visual Resources	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. VRM II identified in parcels 98, 99, 120, 121, and 150. Class II objectives are that surface disturbing activities would retain the character of the landscape. The level of change should be low. Stipulations will apply to those parcels. All other parcels are VRM III and IV and will be within management objectives.	Jason West	1-12-09
NC	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No hazardous or solid waste sites are known to be present. No hazardous or solid was sites are anticipated to occur as a result of leasing. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Stephanie Howard	1-12-09
NC	Waters of the U.S.	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No unusual impacts are anticipated. GIS was reviewed for 100-year floodplains and a No Surface Occupancy stipulation was added to the appropriate leases. Specific cases will be looked at in more detail when an application is sent in.	Holly Villa	1-22-09

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NC	Water Quality (surface / ground)	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. According to GIS review, there are no public water reserves within the proposed parcels. A stipulation of No Surface Occupancy has been added to the appropriate areas based on GIS review of 100-year floodplains.	Holly Villa	1-22-09
NC	Wetlands / Riparian Zones	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. A stipulations of No Surface Occupancy has been added to the appropriate areas based on GIS review of riparian areas.	Holly Villa	1-22-09
NC	Wild and Scenic Rivers	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. A portion of parcel 98 is within 0.5 mile of the lower green river suitable WSR segment. A No surface occupancy stipulation will be applied to this section.	Jason West Holly Villa	1-12-09 1-22-09
NC	Wild Horses and Burros	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. None present in the parcels. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Amy Torres	1-12-09
NC	Wilderness	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No wilderness areas or wilderness study areas are present in the proposed parcels. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Jason West	1-12-09
NC	Woodland / Forestry	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. No unusual impacts to woodlands are anticipated. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Dave Palmer	1-12-09

**FINAL REVIEW:**

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
NEPA / Environmental Coordinator	<i>Stephanie J. Forward</i>	2/6/09	
Authorized Officer	<i>Amy Torres</i>	2/6/2009	

*Follow the italicized instructions below and then delete the asterisks "\*" in the checklist, this sentence, and the instructions.*

*\*Rationale for Determination is required for all "NIs" and "NPs." Write issue statements for "PIs"*

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
VFO-01	<p><b>Air Quality:</b> All new and replacement internal combustion gas field engines of less than or equal to 300 design-rated horsepower must not emit more than 2 gms of NO<sub>x</sub> per horsepower-hour. <b>Exception:</b> This requirement does not apply to gas field engines of less than or equal to 40 design-rated horsepower. <b>Modification:</b> None <b>Waiver:</b> None</p> <p><b>Air Quality:</b> All and replacement internal combustion gas field engines of greater than 300 design rated horsepower must not emit more than 1.0 gms of NO<sub>x</sub> per horsepower-hour. <b>Exception:</b> None. <b>Modification:</b> None</p>
VFO -02	<p><b>Wildlife</b> <b>Crucial Elk Winter Range</b> Do not allow activities that would result in adverse impacts to elk crucial winter range from December 1 - April 30. <b>Exception:</b> This restriction would not apply if elk are not present, or if it is determined through analysis and coordination with UDWR that impacts could be mitigated. Factors to be considered would include snow depth, temperature, snow crusting, location of disturbance, forage quantity and quality, animal condition, and expected duration of disturbance. <b>Modification:</b> The stipulation could be modified based on findings of collaborative monitoring and analysis. For example, the winter range configuration and time frames could be changed if current animal use patterns are determined to be inconsistent with the dates and boundaries established. <b>Waiver:</b> This stipulation could be waived if it is determined through collaborative monitoring and analysis that the area is not crucial winter range or that timing restrictions are unnecessary.</p>
VFO-03	<p><b>Wildlife:</b> <b>Crucial Elk Calving Habitat</b> In order to protect crucial elk calving habitat exploration, drilling, and other development activity would not be allowed from May 15 - June 30. <b>Exception:</b> This restriction would not apply to maintenance and operation of existing facilities. This stipulation may be excepted if either the resource values change or the lessee/operator demonstrates to BLMs satisfaction that adverse impact can be mitigated. <b>Modification:</b> None <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
VFO-04	<p><b>Wildlife:</b>  <b>Crucial Deer Fawning Habitat</b>            In order to protect crucial deer fawning habitat exploration, drilling, and other development activity would not be allowed from May 15 to June 30.  <b>Exception:</b> This restriction would not apply to maintenance and operation of existing facilities. This stipulation may be excepted if either the resource values change or the lessee/operator demonstrates to BLMs satisfaction that adverse impact can be mitigated.  <b>Modification:</b> None  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>
VFO-05	<p><b>Wildlife:</b>  <b>Crucial Deer Winter Range</b>            Within crucial deer winter range, no more than 10% of such habitat would be subject to surface disturbance and remain un-reclaimed at any given time.  <b>Exception:</b> This stipulation may be excepted if either the resource values change or the lessee/operator demonstrates to BLMs satisfaction that impacts can be mitigated.  <b>Modification:</b> None  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>
VFO-06	<p><b>Wildlife</b>  <b>Crucial Deer Winter Range</b>            Do not allow activities that would result in adverse impacts to deer crucial winter range from December 1 - April 30.  <b>Exception:</b> This restriction would not apply if deer are not present, or if it is determined through analysis and coordination with UDWR that impacts could be mitigated. Factors to be considered would include snow depth, temperature, snow crusting, location of disturbance, forage quantity and quality, animal condition, and expected duration of disturbance.  <b>Modification:</b> The stipulation could be modified based on findings of collaborative monitoring and analysis. For example, the winter range configuration and time frames could be changed if current animal use patterns are determined to be inconsistent with the dates and boundaries established.  <b>Waiver:</b> This stipulation could be waived if it is determined through collaborative monitoring and analysis that the area is not crucial winter range or that timing restrictions are unnecessary.</p>
VFO-07	<p><b>T&amp;E LN-Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin:</b>            The Lessee/Operator is given notice that the lands in this parcel contain Critical Habitat for the Colorado River fish (bonytail, humpback chub, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker) listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or these parcels have watersheds that are tributary to designated habitat. Critical habitat was designated for the four endangered Colorado River fishes on March 21, 1994 (59 FR 13374-13400). Designated critical habitat for all the endangered fishes includes those portions of the 100-year floodplain that contain primary constituent elements necessary for survival of the species. Avoidance or use restrictions may be placed on portions of the lease. The following avoidance and minimization measures have been designed to ensure activities carried out on the lease are in compliance with the ESA. Integration, of and adherence to these measures will facilitate review and analysis of any submitted permits under the authority of this lease.</p>

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
	<p>Following these measures could reduce the scope of ESA, Section 7 consultation at the permit stage.</p> <p>Current avoidance and minimization measures include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Surveys will be required prior to operations unless species occupancy and distribution information is complete and available. All surveys must be conducted by qualified individual(s);</li> <li>2. Lease activities will 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;</li> <li>3. Water production will be managed to ensure maintenance or enhancement of riparian habitat;</li> <li>4. Avoid loss or disturbance of riparian habitats;</li> <li>5. Where technically and economically feasible, use directional drilling or multiple wells from the same pad to reduce surface disturbance and eliminate drilling in suitable riparian habitat. Ensure that such directional drilling does not intercept or degrade alluvial aquifers;</li> <li>6. Conduct watershed analysis for leases in designated critical habitat and overlapping major tributaries in order to determine toxicity risk from permanent facilities;</li> <li>7. Implement the Utah Oil and Gas Pipeline Crossing Guidance (from BLM National Science and Technology Center);</li> <li>8. Drilling will not occur within 100-year floodplains of rivers or tributaries to rivers that contain listed fish species or critical habitat; and,</li> <li>9. In areas adjacent to 100-year flood plains, particularly in systems prone to flash floods, analyze the risk for flash floods to impact facilities, and use closed loop drilling, and pipeline burial or suspension according to the Utah Oil and Gas Pipeline Crossing Guidance, to minimize the potential for equipment damage and resulting leaks or spills.</li> </ol> <p>Water depletions from <i>any</i> portion of the Upper Colorado River drainage basin above Lake Powell are considered to adversely affect or adversely modify the critical habitat of the four resident endangered fish species, and must be evaluated with regard to the criteria described in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. Formal consultation with USFWS is required for all depletions. All depletion amounts must be reported to BLM.</p> <p>Additional measures to avoid or minimize effects to the species may be developed and implemented in consultation with the USFWS between the lease sale stage and lease development stage to ensure continued compliance with the ESA.</p>

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
VFO-08	<p><b>Special Status Species:</b>  <b>Sage Grouse</b>            No surface-disturbing activities within 2 miles of active sage grouse leks from March 1 - June 15.  <b>Exception:</b> None  <b>Modification:</b> None  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>
VFO-09	<p><b>Special Status Species:</b>  <b>Sage Grouse</b>            Within ½ mile of known active leks use the best available technology such as installation of multi-cylinder pumps, hospital sound reducing mufflers, and placement of exhaust systems to reduce noise.  <b>Exception:</b> None  <b>Modification:</b> None  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>
VFO-10	<p><b>Special Status Species:</b>  <b>Sage Grouse</b>            No surface-disturbing activities within 1/4 mile of active sage grouse leks year round and no permanent facilities or structures would be allowed within 2 miles when possible.  <b>Exception:</b> None  <b>Modification:</b> None  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>
VFO-11	<p><b>LN-High Potential for Paleontological Resources:</b>            Planned projects should be consistent with BLM Manual and Handbook H8270-1, Chapter III (A) and III (B) to avoid areas where significant fossils are known or predicted to occur or to provide for other mitigation of possible adverse effects. (RX, NF, ESR)</p>
VFO-12	<p><b>Pariette ACEC-No Surface Occupancy</b>            Allow no new surface-disturbing activities within the Pariette ACEC.  <b>Exception:</b> None.  <b>Modification:</b> None  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
VFO-13	<p><b>Special Status Species:</b>  <b>Raptors</b>  Raptor management would be guided by the use of "Best Management Practices for Raptors and Their Associated Habitats in Utah" (Utah BLM, 2006, Appendix A), utilizing seasonal and spatial buffers, as well as mitigation, to maintain and enhance raptor nesting and foraging habitat, while allowing other resource uses.</p> <p><b>Exception:</b> None  <b>Modification:</b> Criteria that would need to be met, prior to implementing modifications to the spatial and seasonal buffers in the "Raptor BMPs", would include the following:  1. Completion of a site-specific assessment by a wildlife biologist or other qualified individual. See example (Attachment 1 of the Raptor BMPs in Appendix A)  2. Written documentation by the BLM Field Office Wildlife Biologist, identifying the proposed modification and affirming that implementation of the proposed modification(s) would not affect nest success or the suitability of the site for future nesting. Modification of the "BMPs" would not be recommended if it is determined that adverse impacts to nesting raptors would occur or that the suitability of the site for future nesting would be compromised.  3. Development of a monitoring and mitigation strategy by a BLM biologist, or other raptor biologist. Impacts of authorized activities would be documented to determine if the modifications were implemented as described in the environmental documentation or Conditions of Approval, and were adequate to protect the nest site. Should adverse impacts be identified during monitoring of an activity, BLM would follow an appropriate course of action, which may include cessation or modification of activities that would avoid, minimize or mitigate the impact, or, with the approval of UDWR and the Service, BLM could allow the activity to continue while requiring monitoring to determine the full impact of the activity on the affected raptor nest. A monitoring report would be completed and forwarded to UDWR for incorporation into the Natural Heritage Program (NHP) raptor database.</p> <p><b>Waiver:</b> None</p>
VFO-14	<p><b>Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves:</b>  Allow no new surface-disturbing activities within active flood plains, wetlands, public water reserves, or 100m of riparian areas that are present. Keep construction of new stream crossings to a minimum.</p> <p><b>Exception:</b> An exception could be authorized if: (a) there are no practical alternatives (b) impacts could be fully mitigated, or (c) the action is designed to enhance the riparian resources.</p> <p><b>Modification:</b> None  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>
VFO-15	<p><b>Lease Notice-Clay Reed-Mustard (<i>Schoenocrambe argillacea</i>)</b>  In order to minimize effects to the federally threatened clay reed-mustard, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) developed the following avoidance and minimization measures. Integration of and adherence to these measures will help ensure the activities carried out during oil and gas development (including but not limited to drilling, production, and maintenance) are in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The following avoidance and minimization measures should be included in the Plan of Development:</p>

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pre-project habitat assessments will be completed across 100% of the project disturbance area within potential habitat<sup>1</sup> prior to any ground disturbing activities to determine if suitable clay reed-mustard habitat is present.</li> <li>2. Site inventories will be conducted within suitable habitat<sup>2</sup> to determine occupancy. Where standard surveys are technically infeasible and otherwise hazardous due to topography, slope, etc., suitable habitat will be assessed and mapped for avoidance (hereafter, "avoidance areas"); in such cases, in general, 300-foot buffers will be maintained between surface disturbance and avoidance areas. However, site specific distances will need to be approved by FWS and BLM when disturbance will occur upslope of habitat. Where conditions allow, inventories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Must be conducted by qualified individual(s) and according to BLM and Service accepted survey protocols,</li> <li>b. Will be conducted in suitable and occupied<sup>3</sup> habitat for all areas proposed for surface disturbance prior to initiation of project activities and within the same growing season, at a time when the plant can be detected (usually May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>, in the Uintah Basin; however, surveyors should verify that the plant is flowering by contacting a BLM or FWS botanist or demonstrating that the nearest known population is in flower ),</li> <li>c. Will occur within 300 feet from the centerline of the proposed right-of-way for surface pipelines or roads; and within 300 feet from the perimeter of disturbance for the proposed well pad including the well pad,</li> <li>d. Will include, but not be limited to, plant species lists and habitat characteristics, and</li> <li>e. Will be valid until May 1<sup>st</sup> the following year.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Design project infrastructure to minimize impacts within suitable habitat<sup>2</sup>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Where standard surveys are technically infeasible, infrastructure and activities will avoid all suitable habitat (avoidance areas) and incorporate 300-foot buffers, in general; however, site specific distances will need to be approved by FWS and BLM when disturbance will occur upslope of habitat,</li> <li>b. Reduce well pad size to the minimum needed, without compromising safety,</li> <li>c. Limit new access routes created by the project,</li> <li>d. Roads and utilities should share common right-of-ways where possible,</li> <li>e. Reduce the width of right-of-ways and minimize the depth</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> *Potential habitat* is defined as areas which satisfy the broad criteria of the species habitat description; usually determined by preliminary, in-house assessment.

<sup>2</sup> *Suitable habitat* is defined as areas which contain or exhibit the specific components or constituents necessary for plant persistence; determined by field inspection and/or surveys; may or may not contain clay reed-mustard; habitat descriptions can be found in Federal Register Notice and species recovery plan links at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife.html>.

<sup>3</sup> *Occupied habitat* is defined as areas currently or historically known to support clay reed-mustard; synonymous with "known habitat."

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
	<p>of excavation needed for the road bed; where feasible, use the natural ground surface for the road within habitat,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Place signing to limit off-road travel in sensitive areas, and</li> <li>g. Stay on designated routes and other cleared/approved areas.</li> </ul> <p>4. Within occupied habitat<sup>3</sup>, project infrastructure will be designed to avoid direct disturbance and minimize indirect impacts to populations and to individual plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Where standard surveys are technically infeasible, infrastructure and activities will avoid all suitable habitat (avoidance areas) and incorporate 300-foot buffers, in general; however, site specific distances will need to be approved by FWS and BLM when disturbance will occur upslope of habitat,</li> <li>b. Follow the above recommendations (#3) for project design within suitable habitats,</li> <li>c. To avoid water flow and/or sedimentation into occupied habitat and avoidance areas, silt fences, hay bales, and similar structures or practices will be incorporated into the project design; appropriate placement of fill is encouraged,</li> <li>d. Construction of roads will occur such that the edge of the right of way is at least 300 feet from any plant and 300 feet from avoidance areas,</li> <li>e. Roads will be graveled within occupied habitat; the operator is encouraged to apply water for dust abatement to such areas from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup> (flowering period); dust abatement applications will be comprised of water only,</li> <li>f. The edge of the well pad should be located at least 300 feet away from plants and avoidance areas, in general; however, site specific distances will need to be approved by FWS and BLM when disturbance will occur upslope of habitat,</li> <li>g. Surface pipelines will be laid such that a 300-foot buffer exists between the edge of the right of way and plants and 300 feet between the edge of right of way and avoidance areas; use stabilizing and anchoring techniques when the pipeline crosses suitable habitat to ensure pipelines don't move towards the population; site specific distances will need to be approved by FWS and BLM when disturbance will occur upslope of habitat,</li> <li>h. Construction activities will not occur from May 1<sup>st</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup> within occupied habitat,</li> <li>i. Before and during construction, areas for avoidance should be visually identifiable in the field, e.g., flagging, temporary fencing, rebar, etc.,</li> <li>j. Where technically and economically feasible, use directional drilling or multiple wells from the same pad,</li> <li>k. Place produced oil, water, or condensate tanks in centralized locations, away from occupied habitat, and</li> <li>l. Minimize the disturbed area of producing well locations through interim and final reclamation. Reclaim well pads following drilling to the smallest area possible.</li> </ul> <p>5. Occupied clay reed-mustard habitats within 300 feet of the edge of</p>

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
	<p>the surface pipelines' right of ways, 300 feet of the edge of the roads' right of ways, and 300 feet from the edge of the well pad shall be monitored for a period of three years after ground disturbing activities. Monitoring will include annual plant surveys to determine plant and habitat impacts relative to project facilities. Annual reports shall be provided to the BLM and the Service. To ensure desired results are being achieved, minimization measures will be evaluated and may be changed after a thorough review of the monitoring results and annual reports during annual meetings between the BLM and the Service.</p> <p>6. Reinitiation of section 7 consultation with the Service will be sought immediately if any loss of plants or occupied habitat for the shrubby reed-mustard is anticipated as a result of project activities.</p> <p>Additional site-specific measures may also be employed to avoid or minimize effects to the species. These additional measures will be developed and implemented in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure continued compliance with the ESA.</p>
VFO-16	<p><b>Visual Resources-VRM II</b>  Within VRM II areas, surface-disturbing activities would retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract attention of the casual observer. Any change to the landscape must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.  <b>Exception:</b> Exempted are recognized utility corridors.  <b>Modification:</b> None  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>
VFO-17	<p><b>Fragile Soils/Slopes:</b>  The surface operating standards for oil and gas exploration and development (Gold Book) would be used as a guide for surface-disturbing proposals on steep slopes/hillsides. If surface-disturbing activities cannot be avoided on slopes from 21-40% a plan would be required. The plan would be approved by BLM prior to construction and maintenance and include: An erosion control strategy, GIS modeling, and proper survey and design by a certified engineer.  <b>Exception:</b> None  <b>Modification:</b> None  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
VFO-18	<p><b>Fragile Soils/Slopes:</b>  <b>No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%</b>  <b>Exception:</b> If after an environment analysis the authorized officer determines that it would cause undue or unnecessary degradation to pursue other placement alternatives, surface occupancy in the NSO area may be authorized. Additionally a plan would be submitted by the operator and approved by BLM prior to construction and maintenance and include: An erosion control strategy, GIS modeling, and proper survey and design by a certified engineer.  <b>Modification:</b> Modifications also may be granted if a more detailed analysis, i.e. Order I, soil survey conducted by a qualified soil scientist finds that surface disturbance activities could occur on slopes greater than 40% while adequately protecting the area from accelerated erosion.  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>
VFO-19	<p><b>Lease Notice- Shrubby Reed-Mustard (<i>Schoenocrambe suffrutescens</i>)</b>  In order to minimize effects to the federally endangered shrubby reed-mustard, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) developed the following avoidance and minimization measures. Integration of and adherence to these measures will help ensure the activities carried out during oil and gas development (including but not limited to drilling, production, and maintenance) are in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The following avoidance and minimization measures should be included in the Plan of Development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pre-project habitat assessments will be completed across 100% of the project disturbance area within potential habitat<sup>4</sup> prior to any ground disturbing activities to determine if suitable shrubby reed-mustard habitat is present.</li> <li>2. Within suitable habitat<sup>5</sup>, site inventories will be conducted to determine occupancy. Inventories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Must be conducted by qualified individual(s) and according to BLM and Service accepted survey protocols,</li> <li>b. Will be conducted in suitable and occupied<sup>6</sup> habitat for all areas proposed for surface disturbance prior to initiation of project activities and within the same growing season, at a time when the plant can be detected (April 15<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>, unless extended by the BLM),</li> <li>c. Will occur within 300 feet from the centerline of the proposed right-of-way for surface pipelines or roads; and within 300 feet from the perimeter of disturbance for the proposed well pad including the well pad,</li> <li>d. Will include, but not be limited to, plant species lists and habitat characteristics, and</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<sup>4</sup> *Potential habitat* is defined as areas which satisfy the broad criteria of the species habitat description; usually determined by preliminary, in-house assessment.

<sup>5</sup> *Suitable habitat* is defined as areas which contain or exhibit the specific components or constituents necessary for plant persistence; determined by field inspection and/or surveys; may or may not contain shrubby reed-mustard; habitat descriptions can be found in the Federal Register 52(193):37416-37420 and in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 1994 Utah Reed-Mustards Recovery Plan (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife.html>).

<sup>6</sup> *Occupied habitat* is defined as areas currently or historically known to support shrubby reed-mustard; synonymous with "known habitat."

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
	<p>e. Will be valid until April 15<sup>th</sup> the following year.</p> <p>3. Design project infrastructure to minimize impacts within suitable habitat<sup>2</sup>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reduce well pad size to the minimum needed, without compromising safety,</li> <li>b. Limit new access routes created by the project,</li> <li>c. Roads and utilities should share common right-of-ways where possible,</li> <li>d. Reduce the width of right-of-ways and minimize the depth of excavation needed for the road bed; where feasible, use the natural ground surface for the road within habitat,</li> <li>e. Place signing to limit off-road travel in sensitive areas, and</li> <li>f. Stay on designated routes and other cleared/approved areas.</li> </ol> <p>4. Within occupied habitat<sup>3</sup>, project infrastructure will be designed to avoid direct disturbance and minimize indirect impacts to populations and to individual plants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Follow the above (#3) recommendations for project design within suitable habitats,</li> <li>b. Construction of roads will occur such that the edge of the right of way is at least 300' from any plant,</li> <li>c. Roads will be graveled within occupied habitat; the operator is encouraged to apply water for dust abatement to such areas from April 15<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup> (flowering period); dust abatement applications will be comprised of water only,</li> <li>d. The edge of the well pad should be located at least 300 feet away from plants,</li> <li>e. Surface pipelines will be laid such that a 300-foot buffer exists between the edge of the right of way and the plants, use stabilizing and anchoring techniques when the pipeline crosses the white shale strata to ensure the pipelines don't move towards the population,</li> <li>f. Construction activities will not occur from April 15<sup>th</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup> within occupied habitat,</li> <li>g. Before and during construction, areas for avoidance should be visually identifiable in the field, e.g., flagging, temporary fencing, rebar, etc.,</li> <li>h. Where technically and economically feasible, use directional drilling or multiple wells from the same pad,</li> <li>i. Designs will avoid concentrating water flows or sediments into occupied habitat,</li> <li>j. Place produced oil, water, or condensate tanks in centralized locations, away from occupied habitat, and</li> <li>k. Minimize the disturbed area of producing well locations through interim and final reclamation. Reclaim well pads following drilling to the smallest area possible.</li> </ol> <p>5. Occupied shrubby reed-mustard habitats within 300 feet of the edge of the surface pipeline right of ways, 300 feet of the edge of the road right of ways, and 300 feet from the edge of well pads shall be monitored for a period of three years after ground disturbing activities. Monitoring will include annual plant surveys to determine plant and habitat impacts relative to project facilities.</p>

Stipulation/Notice Number	VERNAL FIELD OFFICE STIPULATIONS/NOTICES
	<p>Annual reports shall be provided to the BLM and the Service. To ensure desired results are being achieved, minimization measures will be evaluated and may be changed after a thorough review of the monitoring results and annual reports during annual meetings between the BLM and the Service.</p> <p>6. Reinitiation of section 7 consultation with the Service will be sought immediately if any loss of plants or occupied habitat for the shrubby reed-mustard is anticipated as a result of project activities.</p> <p>Additional site-specific measures may also be employed to avoid or minimize effects to the species. These additional measures will be developed and implemented in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure continued compliance with the ESA.</p>

VFO-20	<p><b>Lease Notice: Black-Footed Ferret</b></p> <p>The Lessee/Operator is given notice that the lands in this parcel may contain occupied black-footed ferret habitat, an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act classified as an experimental, nonessential population in the state of Utah. Avoidance and minimization measures that should be followed are included within the <i>Northeastern Region Black-Footed Ferret Management Plan</i> published by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in 2007. These measures may be updated based on the best available scientific data as it becomes available.</p>
VFO-21	<p><b>Lease Notice – Pariette Cactus (<i>Sclerocactus brevispinus</i>) and Uinta Basin Hookless Cactus (<i>Sclerocactus wetlandicus</i>)</b></p> <p>In order to minimize effects to the federally threatened Pariette cactus and Uinta Basin hookless cactus, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), developed the following avoidance and minimization measures. Integration of and adherence to these measures will help ensure the activities carried out during oil and gas development (including but not limited to drilling, production, and maintenance) are in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The following avoidance and minimization measures should be included in the Plan of Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. Pre-project habitat assessments will be completed across 100% of the project disturbance area within potential habitat<sup>7</sup> prior to any ground disturbing activities to determine if suitable Pariette cactus and Uinta Basin hookless cactus habitat is present.</li> <li>e. Within suitable habitat<sup>8</sup>, site inventories will be conducted to determine occupancy. Inventories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Must be conducted by qualified individual(s) and according to BLM and Service accepted survey protocols,</li> <li>ii. Will be conducted in suitable and occupied<sup>9</sup> habitat for all areas proposed for surface disturbance prior to initiation of project activities and within the same growing season, at a time when the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> Potential habitat is defined as areas which satisfy the broad criteria of the species habitat description; usually determined by preliminary, in-house assessment.

<sup>8</sup> Suitable habitat is defined as areas which contain or exhibit the specific components or constituents necessary for plant persistence; determined by field inspection and/or surveys; may or may not contain Uinta Basin hookless cactus. Habitat descriptions can be found in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 1990 Recovery Plan and Federal Register Notices for the Uinta Basin hookless cactus (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife.html>).

<sup>9</sup> Occupied habitat is defined as areas currently or historically known to support Pariette cactus and/or Uinta Basin hookless cactus; synonymous with "known habitat."

	<p>plant can be detected, and during appropriate flowering periods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>Sclerocactus brevispinus</i> surveys should be conducted March 15<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, unless extended by the BLM</li> <li>ii. <i>Sclerocactus wetlandicus</i> surveys can be done any time of the year, provided there is no snow cover,</li> <li>iii. Will occur within 115 feet from the centerline of the proposed right-of-way for surface pipelines or roads; and within 100 feet from the perimeter of disturbance for the proposed well pad including the well pad,</li> <li>iv. Will include, but not be limited to, plant species lists and habitat characteristics, and</li> <li>v. Will be valid until March 15<sup>th</sup> the following year for <i>Sclerocactus brevispinus</i> and one year from the survey date for <i>Sclerocactus wetlandicus</i>.</li> </ol> <p>f. Design project infrastructure to minimize impacts within suitable habitat<sup>2</sup>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Reduce well pad size to the minimum needed, without compromising safety,</li> <li>ii. Limit new access routes created by the project,</li> <li>iii. Roads and utilities should share common right-of-ways where possible,</li> <li>iv. Reduce width of right-of-ways and minimize the depth of excavation needed for the road bed; where feasible, use the natural ground surface for the road within habitat,</li> <li>v. Place signing to limit off-road travel in sensitive areas,</li> <li>vi. Stay on designated routes and other cleared/approved areas, and</li> <li>vii. All disturbed areas will be re-vegetated with native species comprised of species indigenous to the area and non-native species that are not likely to invade other areas.</li> </ol> <p>g. Within occupied habitat<sup>3</sup>, project infrastructure will be designed to avoid direct disturbance and minimize indirect impacts to populations and to individual plants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Follow the above (#3) recommendations for project design within suitable habitats,</li> <li>ii. Buffers of 100 feet minimum between the edge of the right of way (roads and surface pipelines) or surface disturbance (well pads) and plants and populations will be incorporated,</li> <li>iii. Surface pipelines will be laid such that a 100-foot buffer exists between the edge of the right of way and the plants, use stabilizing and anchoring techniques when the pipeline crosses the habitat to ensure the pipelines don't move towards the population,</li> <li>iv. Before and during construction, areas for avoidance should be visually identifiable in the field, e.g., flagging, temporary fencing, rebar, etc.,</li> <li>v. Where technically and economically feasible, use directional drilling or multiple wells from the same pad,</li> <li>vi. Designs will avoid concentrating water flows or sediments into occupied habitat,</li> <li>vii. Place produced oil, water, or condensate tanks in centralized locations, away from occupied habitat, and</li> <li>viii. Minimize the disturbed area of producing well locations through interim and final reclamation. Reclaim well pads following drilling to the smallest area possible.</li> </ol> <p>h. Occupied Pariette cactus and Uinta Basin hookless cactus habitats within 100 feet of the edge of the surface pipelines' right-of-ways, 100 feet of the edge of the roads' right-of-ways, and 100 feet from the edge of the well pad shall be monitored for a period of three years after ground disturbing activities. Monitoring will include annual plant surveys to determine plant and habitat impacts relative to project</p>
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	<p>facilities. Annual reports shall be provided to the BLM and the Service. To ensure desired results are being achieved, minimization measures will be evaluated and may be changed after a thorough review of the monitoring results and annual reports during annual meetings between the BLM and the Service.</p> <p>i. Reinitiation of section 7 consultation with the Service will be sought immediately if any loss of plants or occupied habitat for the Pariette cactus and Uinta Basin hookless cactus is anticipated as a result of project activities.</p> <p>Additional site-specific measures may also be employed to avoid or minimize effects to the species. These additional measures will be developed and implemented in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure continued compliance with the ESA.</p>
<p><b>VFO-22</b></p>	<p><b>River Corridors: Lower Green River: NSO</b>                  Between the Indian trust land boundary at Ouray and the Carbon County line, surface disturbing activities within the Lower Green River Corridor and Lower Green River Expansion would be subject to NSO within line of sight or up to one-half mile from the centerline of the river, whichever is less.  <b>Exception:</b> Future facilities would be placed within the existing ROW corridor near the Four Mile Bottom area where an existing pipeline crosses the Green River.  <b>Modification:</b> None  <b>Waiver:</b> None</p>



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Vernal Field Office  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, UT 84078  
(435) 781-4400 Fax: (435) 781-4410  
<http://www.blm.gov/utah/vernal>



In Reply Refer To:  
3160 (LLUTG01000)

January 15, 2009

SHPO  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Utah State Historical Society  
300 Rio Grande  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1182

Project Description

Project Name: March, 2009 Oil and Gas Parcel Lease Sale, Vernal Field Office

The following undertaking is located in Uintah and Grand County, Utah.  
For specific parcel locations please refer to enclosed maps

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah State Office proposes to offer 13 lease parcels comprising 7714.47 acres located within the Vernal Field Office (VFO) Uintah and Grand Counties, Utah for bid during the March, 2009 Oil and Gas Lease Sale. The attached Staff Memo and maps offer a synthesis of the presence or absence of previous cultural resource inventories and known archaeological sites within each designated lease parcel. The Area of Potential Effect for each parcel is the legal description provided for each parcel. If a parcel is not taken by competitive bidding, then it may be leased by non-competitive sale for the two years following the competitive lease sale. A lease is issued with a ten year primary term (see 43 CFR 3120.2-1), after which the lease would expire unless the lease is capable of production in paying quantities. A producing lease would be held indefinitely by paying production of oil or gas.

A lessee's right to explore and drill for oil and gas, at some location on the lease, is implied by issuance of the lease, unless the lease has a non-surface occupancy stipulation or a site specific proposal impacts non-discretionary resource values. A lessee must submit an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) to the BLM for approval and must possess a BLM approved APD prior to drilling. An appropriate level of NEPA documentation must be prepared with its analysis and decision prior to APD approval. Following BLM approval of an APD, a lessee may drill the well associated with the approved APD with the intent produce oil and gas from a lease without additional

Received

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approval. Additional wells proposed upon said lease would also require an approval from BLM.

This undertaking:

	(1) is a non-routine interstate and/or interagency project or program
	(2) directly affects a National Register eligible or listed property
	(3) has been determined by BLM, the SHPO or the Council to be highly controversial
	(4) is one of the following: a land exchange, land sale, Recreation and Public Purpose lease, or transfer
X	(5) is one which we wish to bring to your attention

PART II. Determination of Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.

BLM requests your concurrence on the following determinations of effect. The Utah Protocol Part VII.A.C. was applied to this cultural resource review for the February, 2008 lease sale and the VFO 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 36CFR800.4." Please review the enclosed documentation, then sign and return this letter with your comments within ten working days.

Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office

Field Office Archaeologist

Date

Green

1/13/2009

Assistant Field Office Manager for Minerals

Date

[Signature]

1-13-2009

Utah State Historic Preservation Officer

Concur

Do Not Concur

Date

[Signature]

FOR LOR. DUNBAR

1/20/09

Comments:

Enclosures

1. January 15, 2009 Staff Memo—Records Review
2. Topographic maps showing parcels, previous cultural resource surveys and known archaeological sites
3. Utah March, 2009 Oil and Gas Lease Sale List with stipulations and legal