

**Worksheet**  
**Determination of NEPA Adequacy**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

---

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.

**Office:** Vernal Field Office (LLUTG01000)

**Tracking #:** DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2009-0586-DNA

**Proposed Action Title:** November 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

**Location/Legal Description:** Parcels within Duchesne and Uintah County, Utah. Attachment 1 contains legal descriptions for each parcel.

**Applicant (if any):** Not Applicable

**A. Description of the Proposed Action and Any Applicable Mitigation Measures:** The Utah State Office proposes to offer seven parcels of land in Duchesne and Uintah County, Utah administered by the Vernal Field Office for oil and gas leasing in a competitive lease sale to be held in November 2009. All seven parcels were assessed for land use plan compliance and NEPA adequacy; six parcels and one portion of a parcel are not recommended to go forward, the remaining one and one portion of parcel was processed for the November 2009 lease sale and it was recommended that these parcels go (Attachment 2). 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. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name:

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

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 decisions MIN 6 – MIN 14 (pages 98-99) identifies those specific lands within the Vernal Field Office that are available for leasing as illustrated on its corresponding Oil and Gas Leasing map (Figure 8a). Within the ROD, Appendices K (Surface Stipulations to all Surface Disturbing Activities), L (Utah's T&E and Special Status Species Lease Notices for Oil and Gas and BLM Committed Measures) and R (Fluid Mineral Best Management Practices) of the FEIS contain pertinent stipulations, lease notices and committed measures.

It is also consistent with RMP decisions and their corresponding goals and objectives related to the management of air quality, cultural resources, recreation, riparian, soils, water, vegetation, fish & wildlife and ACEC.

**C. Identify the applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

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

- 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. biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

- State of Utah Sensitive Species List (2007)
- RMP USFWS Biological Opinion (2008)
- RMP BLM Biological Assessment (2008)
- RMP SHPO Concurrence Letter (2008)
- Lease Sale SHPO Concurrence Letter (2009)
- Lease Sale Cultural Staff Report (2009)

**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?**

Yes  
 No

**Documentation of answer and explanation:**

The proposed action is a feature of the VRMP/ROD. Leasing of the lands described in Attachment 1 was analyzed in the Final VRMP. The proposed action - leasing for oil and gas in the November 2009 sale - was analyzed in the above land use plan. 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 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. Applicable best management practices for raptors and fluid minerals are also contained in appendices A and R (respectively) and lease notices detailed in Appendix L of the ROD would be applied, as required for these lease parcels. These are specifically identified by parcel in Attachment 1.

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

Yes  
 No

**Documentation of answer and explanation:**

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. In addition, alternatives were not identified by the interdisciplinary team or brought forward by the public.

**3. Is existing analysis adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standards assessment; recent endangered species listings, updated list of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Yes

No

**Documentation of answer and explanation:**

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 November 2009 competitive oil and gas lease sale parcel list on July 31, 2009. Copies of the complete list were provided to the interdisciplinary team on August 18, 2009 for review. On August 24, 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. 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 November 2009 lease sale are presented below. Resource information, none of which is substantial, is described below.

**Cultural Resources:** Based on the information provided in the Cultural Staff Report (November 2009) the known and potential sites in the APE of the parcels proposed for leasing adherence to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 will not be adversely affected as amended and other applicable laws and regulations including Onshore Order #1. A "no historic properties affected" Determination is for six parcels. This determination is based upon the above listed physical factors and the physical descriptions provided to the reviewer of this document. Avoidance is practiced by the VFO where possible, otherwise mitigation is implemented through Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. Traditional Cultural Properties are always avoided and a protective buffer is implemented for a .5 mile radius.

To assure appropriate consideration of future effects from the November 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).*

**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 plan and pesticide use permit. No stipulations or lease notices apply.

**Native American Religious Concern:** Certified consultation letters were sent to the following Tribes: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Goshute Indian Tribe, White Mesa Ute Tribe, Laguna Pueblo Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Santa Clara Pueblo Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Zia Pueblo Tribe, Navajo Nation, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Tribe, and the Eastern Shoshone 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 August 27, 2009. As of this date, no concerns pertaining to leasing of the preliminary parcels have been received. If any concerns are raised by the tribes, those concerns will be addressed. Consultation will be considered complete if tribal response presents no objections or if response is not received seven (7) days prior to the date of the proposed sale. Additional consultation will be conducted should site-specific use authorization requests for a lease be received. This correspondence is part of the administrative record.

**Wildlife:** Detailed information on the inclusion of the appropriate lease notices and stipulations are contained in Attachments 1 (Parcel List) and 2 (ID Team Checklist). Wildlife habitat and criteria were identified for raptors, deer fawning, elk calving, Mexican spotted owl, and Colorado endangered fish. UDWR Heritage data were utilized to determine presence and absence of species in addition to field office records. All of these habitats are addressed in the RMP and provided certain protections through stipulations or notices.

*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."*

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. The VRMP formed the basis for a Biological Assessment (BA). The BLM determined that the implementation of the PRMP/FEIS "may affect" but is "not likely to adversely 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 provided in Attachment 2, and inclusion of all appropriate lease notices and stipulations, the November 2009 sale of oil and gas lease parcels complies with the VRMP consultation, so that no listed species are likely to be adversely affected by the proposed action.

**Floodplains:** Lease Notice UTSO-S-53 (Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves) which identifies the need to comply with the Floodplain Executive Order No 11988 would be added to the appropriate parcels as identified in Attachments 1 and 2. The added lease notices (Attachments 1 & 2) would provide adequate protection for the resource. The information was addressed in the RMP and therefore was taken into account in the referenced NEPA document.

**Soils:** Lease Notice UTSO-S-29 and UTSO-S-62 (Fragile Soils/Slopes) that identifies if there may be steep slopes or sensitive soils in the area would be added to the appropriate parcels as identified in Attachments 1 and 2. The information was addressed in the RMP and therefore was taken into account in the referenced NEPA document.

**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?**

Yes  
 No

**Documentation and explanation:**

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 analyzed 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 RFD 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.

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

Yes  
 No

**Documentation and explanation:**

The public involvement and interagency review procedures and findings made through the development of the 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.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, United States Forest Service, State of Utah and State Institutional Trust Lands Administration were notified of the proposed action via letter (dated 7/31/09) regarding the November 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and were provided a copy of the Preliminary List of Parcels (27 parcels and 42091.82 acres). This correspondence is part of the administrative record.

Public outreach and notification for this lease sale also occurred by posting the action on 8/42009 on the BLM's Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (<https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php>) and Utah Oil and Gas web page ([http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/energy/oil\\_and\\_gas/oil\\_and\\_gas\\_lease.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/energy/oil_and_gas/oil_and_gas_lease.html)). Notices are also placed in the Field Office and Utah State Office public rooms.

**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., Floodplains, Wetlands, Riparian, soils
Scott Ackerman	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Animal Species, Wildlife
Betty Gamber	Geologist	Paleontology Review

Name	Title	Resource Represented
Gabrielle Elliott	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Clayton Newberry	Botanist	Special Status Plant Species, Invasive, Non-native Plant Species
Michael Cutler	Natural Resource Specialist	Range

Refer also the List of Preparers identified in the Approved RMP and ROD at page 199.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that:

Plan Conformance:

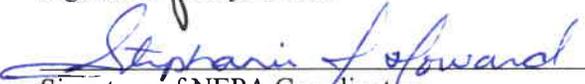
- This proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan.
- This proposal does not conform to the applicable land use plan

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

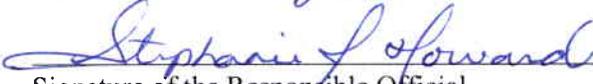
- The existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.
- The existing NEPA documentation does not fully cover the proposed action. Additional NEPA documentation is needed if the project is to be further considered.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Project Lead

9-30-09  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of NEPA Coordinator

9-30-09  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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

9-30-09  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

**Note:** The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

Attachments

- Attachment 1, Parcel List
- Attachment 2, Interdisciplinary Team Checklist
- Attachment 3, Deferred Parcel Table

*Attachment 1*  
**Parcel List**

**UT1109-025**

T. 9 S., R. 16 E., Salt Lake  
Sec. 31 Lots 2-4, SENW, E2SW, SE  
392.15 Acres  
Duchesne County, Utah  
Vernal Field Office

- UTSO-S-01 Air Quality
- UTSO-S-29 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%
- UTSO-S-53 Riparian, Floodplains, and Public Water Reserves W2SE Sec. 31.
- UTSO-S-62 Fragile Soils/Slopes
- UTSO-S-104 Crucial Elk Calving habitat Lots 2-4, SENW, E2SW, SE
- UT-LN-07 Raptor Habitat
- UT-LN-90 Migratory Bird
- T&E-03-LN Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin

**UT1109-027**

T. 10 S., R. 22 E., Salt Lake  
Sec. 35: SESE.  
40.00 Acres  
Uintah County, Utah  
Vernal Field Office

- UTSO-S-01 Air Quality
- UTSO-S-29 Fragile Soils/Slopes: No Surface Occupancy for slopes greater than 40%
- UTSO-S-62 Fragile Soils/Slopes
- UTSO-S-96 Timing Limitation – Sage Grouse
- UT-LN-07 Raptor Habitat
- UT-LN-90 Migratory Bird
- T&E-03-LN Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin

*Attachment 2*  
**Interdisciplinary Team Checklist**

## INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

**Project Title:** November 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale (Vernal Field Office)

**NEPA Log Number:** DOI-BLM-G010-2009-0586-DNA

**File/Serial Number:** NA

**Project Leader:** 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 relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

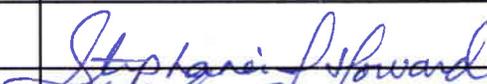
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
<b>RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)</b>				
NC	Air Quality	The act of leasing the proposed parcels will not result in any impacts to air quality. The RMP included an air quality model to determine the impact of exploration activities in the Uinta Basin on air quality. No exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards were modeled for exploration activities. Should the leases be issued and development be proposed, the impact of development on air quality would be revisited on a site specific basis. Standard stipulations apply to all parcels.	Stephanie Howard	8/27/2009
NC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	As Per Vernal RMP and ROD, no ACECs are present within the Proposed Action boundaries.	Jason West	9/2/09
NC	BLM Natural Areas	As per Vernal RMP and ROD review through GIS layering, no Natural Areas are present within the proposed project layers.	Jason West	8/24/09
NC	Cultural Resources	SHPO concurred with the Vernal FO determination of "no historic properties affected".	Gabrielle Elliott	8/25/09
NC	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	The act of leasing the proposed parcels will not result in any impacts to air quality. No standards have been set by EPA or other regulatory agencies for greenhouse gases. In addition, the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is still in its earliest stages of formulation. Global scientific models are inconsistent, and regional or local scientific models are lacking so that it is not technically feasible to determine the net impacts to climate due to greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions associated with this action and its alternative(s) would be negligible. Should the leases be issued and development be proposed, the impact of development on air quality would be revisited on a site specific basis.	Stephanie Howard	8/27/2009
NC	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities would be disproportionately affected by the proposed leasing.	Stephanie Howard	8/27/2009
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	8/27/2009

NC	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts to Fish and Wildlife. Parcel 026 has mule deer and elk crucial winter habitat. Timing limitations are associated with this habitat as well as controlled surface use for mule deer habitat. Parcels 017, 018, 019 and 020 are designated as summer deer fawning habitat which may have a timing restriction. Parcel 025 is designated as crucial elk fawning habitat which have a timing restriction. All parcels will have a raptor lease notice attached. None of the lease parcels are located in known prairie dog habitat. Parcel 027 is within UDWR identified sage grouse brood rearing/nesting habitat. Black bears and numerous bat species are known to occur within Argyle Canyon (Parcels 017-020). Specific management recommendations may be applied on a site – specific basis as development progresses.	Scott Ackerman	8/20/2009
NC	Floodplains	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts to floodplains. Parcels 17, 19, and 20 involve floodplains. Stipulation UTSO-S-53 will apply to those parcels.	Holly Villa	8/26/09
NC	Fuels/Fire Management	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient. No additional impacts are anticipated. No stipulations or lease notices will apply.	Steve Strong	8/26/09
NC	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	The analysis of the Vernal RMP covers the impacts to the geological and energy resources. No additional conflicts are anticipated.	Robin L Hansen	8/27/09
NC	Hydrologic Conditions	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts to hydrologic conditions. No conflicts are anticipated. Stormwater will be addressed at the application level and addressed on the onsite. Also UTSO-S-53 for floodplains will be attached to parcels 17, 19, and 20 as per the RMP.	Holly Villa	8/26/09
NC	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient for this leasing project. New surface disturbances create habitat for rapid weed colonization and establishment. Weed plan and PUP will be required at the APD stage as warranted.	Clayton Newberry	8/27/2009
NC	Lands/Access	The six parcels going forward in the leasing project should not be affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required.	Naomi Hatch	8/26/2009
NC	Livestock Grazing	If any range improvement projects will be impacted by wells or associated infrastructure, proposed well and/or infrastructure will be moved 200 meters to avoid these impacts (Vernal RMP\ROD, Appendix A).	Michael Cutler	8/20/09
NC	Migratory Birds.	Though no timing stipulations were developed, all parcels contain pinyon/juniper vegetation. Timing recommendations would be enacted on a site-specific basis	Scott Ackerman	8/25/2009
NC	Native American Religious Concerns	Certified consultation letters dated August 10, 2009 were sent to twelve tribes with legal descriptions and maps. No tribes have expressed concerns.	Holly Villa	8/26/09
NC	Paleontology	Standard Paleontological lease notices apply to all the parcels. Parcel 26 has 40 fossil localities located on and within 1 mile of the lease boundaries.	Robin L Hansen	8/26/2009
NC	Rangeland Health Standards	All of the allotments except Olsen AMP have had Rangeland Health Assessments conducted. These allotments are meeting Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines. The Olsen AMP allotment is scheduled for Rangeland Health Assessments in 2010. Cumulative oil and gas development in these areas could impact the ability to meet standards in the Olsen AMP Allotment, and compromise the ability to continue to meet standards in allotments already assessed (Vernal RMP\ROD, Goals and Objectives).	Michael Cutler	8/20/09
NC	Recreation	There are no special recreation areas within the parcels. The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts.	Holly Villa	9/2/09

NC	Socio-Economics	The Vernal RMP considered the impact of oil and gas leasing and development on Uinta Basin communities. The proposed leasing of the subject parcels falls within the scope of what was analyzed. No stipulations apply.	Stephanie Howard	8/27/2009
NC	Soils	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts. No conflicts are anticipated. Stipulations (UTSO-S-29 and UTSO-S-62) will apply to all parcels due to slope and soil type as per the RMP.	Holly Villa	8/26/09
NC	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	The RMP is sufficient, so long as applicable notices and stipulations are carried forward onto the lease. According to in-house GIS data and staff familiarity with the area, federally threatened Ute ladies'-tresses ( <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> ) may be present in wetland areas of parcel UT1109-026. No other federally listed, federal candidate or federal proposed plant species are present in this lease sale.	Holly Villa Clayton Newberry	8/27/2009
NC	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	The analysis in the Vernal RMP is sufficient to disclose impacts to T&E Wildlife and Fish. Water depletion to the upper Colorado River Basin will occur with minerals development. These depletions will be consulted with USFWS individually or as a group when field development documents are completed. A lease notice will be applied as appropriate. None of the proposed parcels are within the black-footed ferret Primary Management Zone or within Prairie dog towns associated with the Coyote Basin complexes.	Scott Ackerman	8/20/2009
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 waste sites are anticipated to occur as a result of leasing. No stipulations or lease notices apply.	Stephanie Howard	8/27/2009
NC	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	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. 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	8/26/09
NC	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	The analysis of the Vernal RMP is sufficient. A stipulation of No Surface Occupancy has been added to the appropriate areas based on GIS review of riparian areas.	Holly Villa	8/26/09
NC	Wild and Scenic Rivers	None Present within the proposed parcels as per Vernal RMP and ROD/GIS layer review.	Jason West	8/24/09
NC	Wilderness/WSA	None Present within the proposed parcels as per Vernal RMP and ROD/GIS layer review.	Jason West	8/24/09
NC	Woodland / Forestry	Pinyon juniper woodlands are present on 6 of the 7 proposed parcels, including UT1109-017, UT1109-018, UT1109-019, UT1109-020, UT1109-025, and UT1109-026	David Palmer	8/25/2009
NC	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species	The RMP is sufficient, so long as applicable notices and stipulations are carried forward onto the lease. According to in-house GIS data and staff familiarity with the area, Bureau-sensitive. Untermyer fleabane and Goodrich blazingstar ( <i>Erigeron untermannii</i> , <i>Mentzelia goodrichii</i> ) may be present in parcels UT1109-017, -018, -019, -020. Monument-sensitive grass milkvetch and dinosaur buckwheat ( <i>Astragalus chloödes</i> , <i>Eriogonum saurinum</i> ) and the newly described and exceedingly rare Ackerman frasera ( <i>Frasera ackermaniae</i> ) occur in parcel UT1109-26.	Holly Villa Clayton Newberry	8/27/2009
NC	Visual Resources	Parcels fall within VRM Class III and IV objectives and would be consistent with RMP goals and objectives if Best Management Practices are followed.	Jason West	9/2/2009

NC	Wild Horses and Burros	The parcels offered for lease at this time do not fall within the boundaries of the current HAs managed by the Vernal Field Office. Therefore, there are no known resource concerns. The analysis in the RMP is sufficient.	Holly Villa	8/26/09
NC	Areas with Wilderness Characteristics	None Present within the proposed parcels as per Vernal RMP and ROD/GIS layer review.	Jason West	8/24/09

**FINAL REVIEW:**

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator		9/30/09	
Authorized Officer		9/30/09	

**Attachment 3**  
**Deferred Parcel Table**

**Deferred Parcel Table**  
**November 2009 Oil and Gas Lease Sale**

PARCEL	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	ACRES	REASON TRACT POSTPONED	LAND USE PLAN	PROPOSED LEASING DECISION DATE
UT1109-017	T. 11 S., R. 12 E., Salt Lake  Secs. 1, 10, 11 and 12: All.	2,265.44	Potential yellow-billed cuckoo habitat.	Vernal RMP	The acreage identified is recommended for deferral until the conference with USFWS is completed.
UT1109-18	T. 11 S., R. 12 E., Salt Lake Secs. 3, 4 and 9: All.	1,575.38	Crucial wildlife habitat values.	Vernal RMP	Further coordination with UDWR is required.
UT1109-19	T. 11 S., R. 12 E., Salt Lake Secs. 7 and 8: All.	1,249.12	Crucial mule deer summer range	Vernal RMP	Further coordination with UDWR is required.
UT1109-020	T. 11 S., R. 12 E., Salt Lake  Secs. 3, 4 and 9: All.	1,575.38	Potential yellow-billed cuckoo habitat.	Vernal RMP	The acreage identified is recommended for deferral until the conference with USFWS is completed.
UT1109-025*	T.9S R.16E., Salt Lake  Sec.33 and 34	1280.0	Prairie Dog Habitat: This land is within white-tailed prairie dog habitat.	Vernal RMP	The acreage identified is recommended for deferral for interim protection pending further review of informational requirements.
UT1109-026	T. 3S., R. 22 E., Salt Lake  Sec.5 SW Sec.6 Lots 6, 7, E2SW, SE Sec.7 All Sec.8 N2, N2NW, SESE Sec.9 SW	1769.54	A new species to be named <i>Frasera ackermaniae</i> : Approximately half of the known distribution of the hitherto undescribed species is located within parcel 26. Preliminary investigations show that this is a highly restricted endemic. It is unknown if this new information is significant or not. A study of the species is underway.	Vernal RMP	The acreage identified is recommended for deferral for interim protection pending further review of the species and its habitat.

\*Only portions of lease are deferred