



**BLM Canyon Country District Office
Moab Master Leasing Plan
Open House Public Meeting
May 14, 2014
WELCOME**

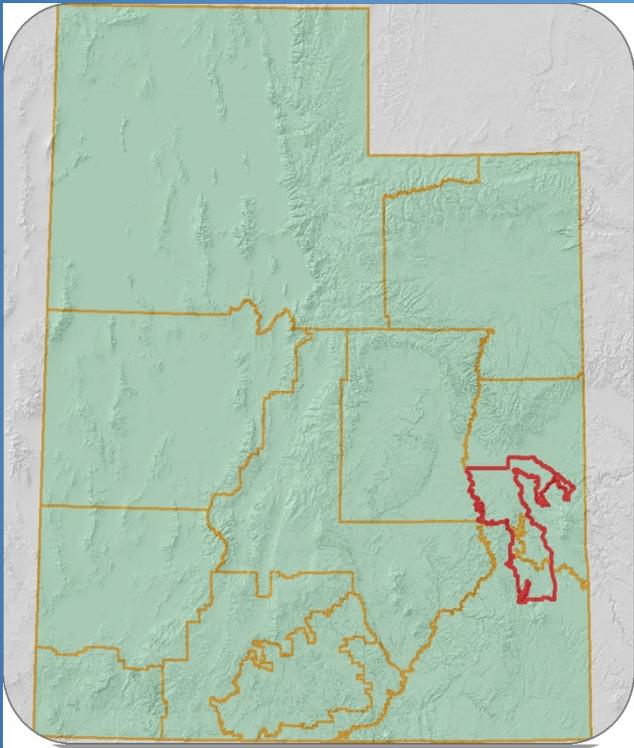


Master Leasing Plan

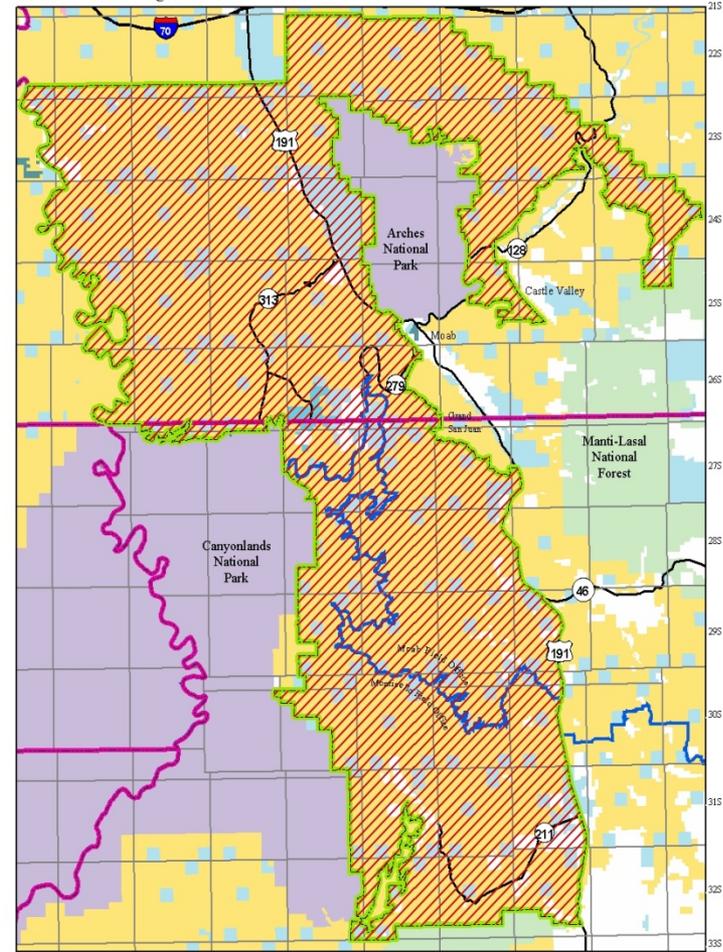
- By Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2010-117, the BLM implemented the policy for Oil and Gas Leasing Reform which includes the Master Leasing Plan (MLP) process.
- The Moab MLP area meets the criteria established in the policy for preparing a Master Leasing Plan. The criteria are also applicable to potash leasing.
- The MLP is a land use plan amendment which is limited in scope to new oil, gas, and potash leasing decisions within the planning area.
- An associated EIS will analyze likely development scenarios and land use plan alternatives with varying mitigation levels for mineral leasing.
- The outcome of the MLP process may result in new mitigation measures (BMPs), development constraints (phased development), leasing stipulations (timing limitations, controlled surface use, and no surface occupancy), and areas closed to leasing.

Moab Master Leasing Plan Area

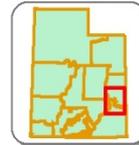
Land Status	acres
BLM	783,381
State	126,281
State Parks	4,377
Private/Split Estate	32,430/14,880
Total	946,469



Moab Master Leasing Plan Area



Location Map
Utah BLM Field Office Boundaries



Date: 10/24/2012

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Field Office Boundary | Bureau of Land Management | Indian Reservations |
| Master Leasing Plan Area | BLM Wilderness Area | Military Reservations |
| County Boundaries | US Forest Service | State Parks and Recreation |
| State and Federal Highways | National Park Service | Private |

Land Status

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bureau of Land Management | Indian Reservations |
| BLM Wilderness Area | Military Reservations |
| US Forest Service | State Parks and Recreation |
| National Park Service | Private |



This product map may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and map scales may cause some misalignment of data layers. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

Purpose of Public Meeting

- Inform the public about the preliminary alternatives for the Moab Master Leasing Plan.
- Answer questions regarding the preliminary alternatives and the MLP process.
- Notify the public regarding the next steps in the MLP process and additional opportunities for public involvement.
- Advise the public about providing comments on the preliminary alternatives. The public can provide comments by:
 - 1) Stating their comments to the recorder.
 - 2) Filling out the comment form provided at the meeting.
 - 3) Emailing comments to: blm_ut_mb_mlpcomments@blm.gov
 - 4) Mailing comments to:

Bureau of Land Management
Canyon Country District Office
82 East Dogwood
Moab, Utah 84532
Attention: Moab Master Leasing Plan
 - 5) The preliminary alternatives and other information can also be found on the MLP website at: www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/moab/MLP.html

Comments should be received by May 28, 2014

How To Comment

- Understand that a comment is not a vote for or against one of the alternatives. The BLM must rely on supporting information, not the number of comments received. Therefore, form letters are not useful.
- Comments should be as specific as possible about suggested changes or errors.
- Avoid vague statements or concerns.
- Provide constructive suggestions or solutions with documentation or resources to support your recommendation.
- Identify any key resources that are not taken into account in the preliminary alternatives.
- Offer information as to whether the preliminary alternatives include an adequate range of mineral leasing decisions.

Major Planning Issues

- Mineral Leasing – Oil and Gas, Potash
- Recreation
- Visual Resources
- Wildlife
- Water Resources
- Special Designations
- Wilderness Characteristics

Oil and Gas

- The MLP area has high potential for the development of oil and gas.
- There have been 227 wells drilled in the MLP area out of which, 198 wells have been plugged and abandoned.
- There are 29 active wells within the MLP area.
- Future oil and gas drilling for the next 15 years is projected to average 8.5 well pads per year for a total of 128 well pads.
- Future surface disturbance for 128 projected new well pads and associated infrastructure would be about 1,050 acres.

Projections assume that all potentially productive areas are open for leasing under standard terms and conditions. The projections are modified according to the various mitigation levels provided in each alternative.

Potash

- Most of the MLP area has moderate to high potential for the development of potash.
- Potash development would entail solution mining and processing methods utilizing evaporation and crystallization processing.
- Future annual potash production is projected at 2.4 million tons. Out of this amount, 2 million tons would be processed by crystallization methods and 400,000 tons would be processed by solar evaporation methods.
- A total of 2,400 acres of surface disturbance would result from the construction of solar evaporation ponds. The associated processing plant(s) would result in an additional 1,316 acres of surface disturbance.
- A total of 500 acres of surface disturbance would result from the construction of a crystallization processing plant.

Projections assume that all potentially productive areas are open for leasing under standard terms and conditions. The projections are modified according to the various mitigation levels provided in each alternative.

Recreation

- SRMAs are established to manage intensively used recreation areas. There are about 509,000 acres of SRMAs within the MLP area.
- Focus Areas are Recreation Management Zones for emphasizing particular types of recreation activities. There are about 85,000 acres of Focus Areas within the MLP area.
- Focus areas are established for mountain biking, hiking, backpacking, motorcycle trails, motorized backcountry touring (jeeping), BASE jumping, rock climbing, equestrian use, open OHV use, and canoeing.
- The MLP area receives about 1 million visitors per year and hosts a wide variety of recreational uses.

Visual Resources

- Visitors to the MLP area are attracted by some of the most iconic scenery on the Colorado Plateau.
- The scenic settings are also utilized by filming companies for still advertisement, commercials, and motion picture filming.
- The MLP will consider important view sheds from within National and State parks.
- New visual resource inventory information will be considered in the MLP.
- The MLP will consider new leasing decisions pertaining to the visual resources but will not create new visual resource management classes.

Wildlife

- The MLP area includes important habitat for desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, deer, and elk.
- Special status species within the MLP area include:
 - Mexican Spotted Owl
 - Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
 - Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 - Bald Eagle
 - Golden Eagle
 - Burrowing Owl
 - Ferruginous Hawk
 - Gunnison Prairie Dog
 - Kit Fox
 - California Condor

Water Resources

- The MLP will consider the following:
 - Floodplains, riparian areas, public water reserves, and springs.
 - Water resources along the Colorado and Green Rivers.
 - Important recharge areas for the National Parks.
 - Groundwater Protection Zones.

Special Designations

- The MLP will address the Old Spanish Trail (OST) segments that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- About 15 miles of the OST is identified in the MLP area.
- No WSAs are located within the MLP area.
- The portions of the Green and Colorado Rivers within the MLP area are identified as suitable for wild and scenic river designation.
Currently managed as NSO to mineral leasing.
- Six ACECs are within the MLP area for a total of about 25,964 acres.
Currently managed as NSO to mineral leasing.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

- The BLM has determined that there are about 190,560 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics within the MLP area.
- We will conduct a review of the existing information regarding wilderness characteristics to determine if it is still current.
- The MLP will consider new leasing decisions pertaining to the wilderness values identified but will not designate new lands for management of their wilderness characteristics.

Mineral Leasing Stipulations

- Areas identified with a CSU stipulation are open to mineral leasing but identified resource values require special operation constraints.
- Areas identified with a TL stipulation are open to mineral leasing but surface use during specified time periods is prohibited to protect identified resource values.
- Areas identified with a NSO stipulation are open to mineral leasing but use or occupancy of the surface for exploration and mineral development is prohibited in order to protect identified resource values. The minerals under NSO lands may potentially be developed by directionally or horizontally drilling from nearby lands that do not have the NSO limitation.
- Areas open to mineral leasing are subject to existing laws, regulations, and formal orders; and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form.
- Areas identified as closed are not open to mineral leasing.

Mineral Leasing Stipulations by Alternative

Oil and Gas Leasing				
Stipulation	Alternative A <small>(No Action)</small>	Alternative B		Alternative C
		Alt B1	Alt B2	
Open <small>(acres of BLM)</small>	210,884	7,435	7,435	3,761
CSU/TL <small>(acres of BLM)</small>	440,356	256,785	276,159	95,009
NSO <small>(acres of BLM)</small>	138,103	416,301	441,466	564,990
Closed <small>(acres of BLM)</small>	1,192	102,802	58,267	119,563

Potash Leasing				
Stipulation	Alternative A	Alternative B		Alternative C
		Alt B1	Alt B2	
Open <small>(acres of BLM)</small>	210,884	0	0	0
CSU/TL <small>(acres of BLM)</small>	440,356	60,449	41,078	0
NSO <small>(acres of BLM)</small>	138,103	41,161	15,996	0
Closed <small>(acres of BLM)</small>	1,192	681,713	726,249	0

Moab MLP Milestones and Key Dates

