

# Cisco Desert Master Leasing Plan

## INTRODUCTION

In an effort to accelerate completion of Master Leasing Plans (MLPs), BLM-Utah will begin the planning work for the Cisco Desert MLP in late summer 2015 by conducting class I and II cultural resource inventories in the coming months. Completed archaeological inventories help the BLM better understand and characterize the density and distribution of cultural resources in an area, which assists the Bureau in making well-informed decisions about public land uses like oil and gas leasing and development. The BLM expects to start the public planning process for an environmental assessment in 2016.

## BACKGROUND

In 2010, the BLM initiated an aggressive plan to reform its oil and gas leasing program. Under leasing reform, the BLM uses Master Leasing Plans (MLPs) to conduct in-depth, planning-level reviews of areas with oil and gas development potential that are or may be opened up to leasing. The MLP process creates certainty for developers by providing the thorough analysis required to support BLM's oil and gas leasing determination for lands within MLP planning boundaries.

The plans establish frameworks for how future development could proceed in a given area when oil and gas drilling and rights-of-way permit applications are received. As such, MLPs facilitate the responsible exploration and development of oil and gas resources, while ensuring protection of the area's resources and resource uses.

Once the in-depth MLP process is complete, new oil and gas leasing and development projects can move forward and the American people can be confident that energy resources on public lands are being developed responsibly in the right ways and the right places.

By accelerating its efforts to complete MLPs in several key areas in eastern Utah, the BLM is striving to deliver on the promises made by leasing reform—to provide certainty for developers and to ensure that America's energy resources are responsibly developed.

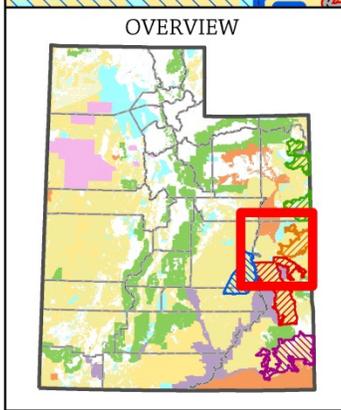
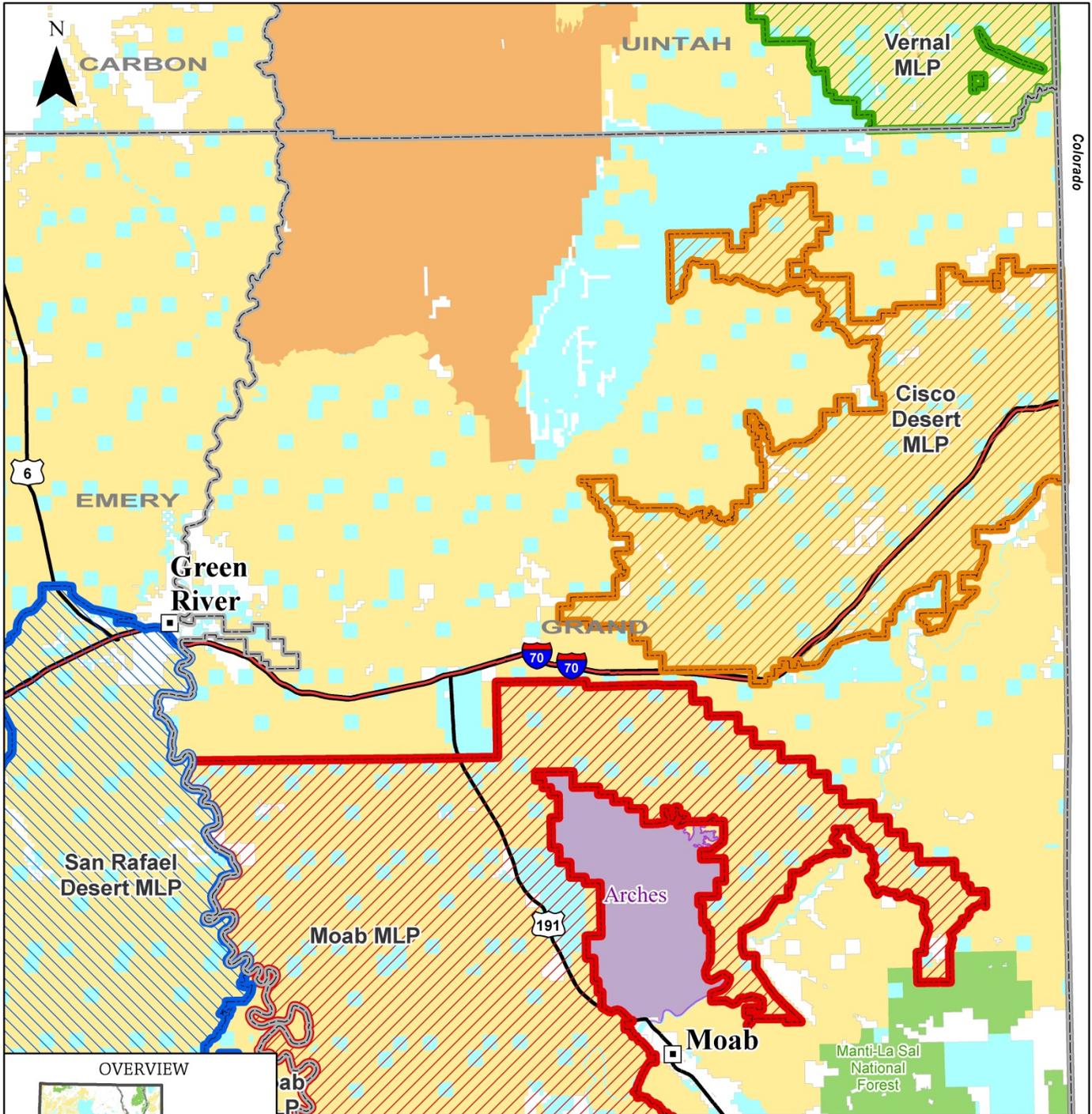
## CISCO DESERT MLP AT A GLANCE

- The Cisco Desert MLP consists of 320,000 acres in Grand County in southeast Utah. Completing this MLP may resolve long-standing lease protests and provide “curative NEPA” for leases which were placed in suspension due to litigation.
- By providing this “curative NEPA” and also offering certainty to developers, the Cisco Desert MLP—once completed and implemented—will support the long-term, environmentally responsible development of energy resources in the planning area.
- BLM-Utah expects to begin conducting BLM-funded class I and II archaeological inventories in the planning area in late summer or early fall 2015. Class I reports compile known information about archaeological, historic, and traditional cultural sites. Class II inventories test predictions about site distribution and sample the study area with intensive on-the-ground surveys.
- As with other MLPs in Utah, oil and gas leasing nominations for lands within MLP boundaries have been deferred pending MLP completion.



Cisco Desert Master Leasing Plan - Oil and Gas  
Bureau of Land Management - Utah

August 2015



- County Boundary**
- County Boundary
- Utah Master Leasing Plans**
- Cisco Desert MLP
  - San Juan MLP
  - Moab MLP
  - San Rafael Desert MLP
  - Vernal MLP

- Surface Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
  - BLM Wilderness Area
  - US Forest Service (USFS)
  - USFS Wilderness Area
  - National Park Service
  - Indian Reservation
  - State
  - Private

