



# Bureau of Land Management

UTAH  
NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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## **BLM Announces Preparation of Master Leasing Plan and Plan Amendments to the Moab and Monticello Resource Management Plans**

*Public is encouraged to participate in the planning process*

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Canyon Country District announces its intention to prepare a Master Leasing Plan (MLP), plan amendments to the Moab and Monticello Resource Management Plans (RMPs), and a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM has determined that additional planning and analysis are necessary for considering new leasing of oil and gas and potash on about 783,000 acres of public lands within the planning area.

The outcome of the MLP process may be to identify new leasing stipulations, establish best management practices, and specify development constraints. A change to the leasing stipulations and conditions would require amendments to the RMPs. The EIS will analyze likely mineral development scenarios and alternatives with varying mitigation levels for leasing.

The planning area covers about 783,000 acres in east-central Utah, encompassing west-central Grand County south of Interstate 70 and a portion of northern San Juan County. The western boundary is along the Green River and the northeastern edge of Canyonlands National Park. To the south of Moab, the boundary includes the area between Canyonlands National Park and U.S. Highway 191. The planning area encompasses a mix of land uses including a variety of recreation uses, livestock grazing, potash production, and oil and gas development. Interest in oil, gas, and potash exploration and development is high in the area, as evidenced by the recent submission of over 170 potash prospecting permit applications encompassing over 350,000 acres and expressions of interest to lease oil and gas encompassing over 120,000 acres within the planning area.

The RMPs for the Moab and Monticello Field Offices were completed in 2008. Since that time, BLM has implemented a reformed leasing process that involves additional planning and environmental analysis for areas having a high potential for resource conflicts prior to new leasing. The preliminary resource issues currently identified include the following: air quality and climate change, cultural resources, paleontological resources, recreation, riparian resources, socioeconomics, soil and water, special status species, special designations (National Scenic and Historic Trails), vegetation, visual resources, wildlife and fisheries, and wilderness characteristics.

The BLM recognizes the importance and value of the public's input during the planning process and encourages citizens who have an interest in the public lands within the planning area to provide their issues and concerns. Public scoping meetings are scheduled in Monticello (Monticello High School, March 27 from 5-7 p.m., Moab (Grand Center, March 28 from 5 – 7 p.m., and Salt Lake City (Salt

Lake Public Library, April 3 from 6 – 8 p.m.). More information about the Master Leasing Plan process is available on the BLM website at: <http://www.blm.gov/21jd>.

For more information about becoming involved with the MLP process or to submit comments during the 60-day scoping period, please use the following contact information: MLP Comments, BLM Canyon Country District, Brent Northrup, MLP Project Manager, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532, phone - (435) 259-2100, email - [BLM\\_UT\\_MB\\_Comments\\_2@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_UT_MB_Comments_2@blm.gov).