

**For Immediate Release: August 20, 2008**  
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### BLM to hold wild horse and burro adoption at Colorado State Fair

The Bureau of Land Management will hold a wild horse and burro adoption on Wednesday, August 27, during the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo. This adoption is open to the public, and will be on a first-come – first served basis. BLM will feature about 12 animals for adoption, including saddle and halter trained mustangs, fillies, colts, and burros. The highlight of the adoption will be a free drawing for "Cupid", a yearling, halter trained gelding. The drawing will take place at 6:00 p.m. and the adopter must be present to win.

The BLM booth will be open from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on August 27. Animals available for adoption will be in the livestock pens at the rodeo arena and can be shown to interested adopters on request. Adopted animals can be picked up at the Wild Horse Inmate Program in Canon City from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on August 29. If you prefer free delivery (within 150 miles of Canon City), your adopted animals will be delivered within 10 days. (Adopters will be required to purchase an admission ticket to the State Fair in order to take part in this adoption.)

Any adopted stallion 2 years of age or older will be accompanied by a gelding voucher. Upon submission of a valid gelding invoice from a veterinarian, the BLM will reimburse the adopter \$50. Pictures of the animals available can be viewed on BLM Colorado's Web site at: [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/wild\\_horse\\_and\\_burro.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/wild_horse_and_burro.html). Please call the Royal Gorge Field Office at 719.269.8539 if you have questions.

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**August 14, 2008**  
**Contact: Steven Hall, 303-239-3672**

### Roan Plateau lease sale earns \$113.9 million--highest return in BLM history

LAKESWOOD—The long-anticipated Roan Plateau lease sale netted \$113.9 million, making it the highest grossing onshore oil and natural gas lease sale in BLM history in the lower 48 states. A total of 54,631 acres in 31 parcels were sold. The previous high for a BLM oil and natural gas lease sale in Colorado was \$11.8 million in February 2006.

The Bureau of Land Management Colorado State Office conducted the lease sale, with 31 bidders participating among approximately 100 in attendance. The State of Colorado will receive 49 percent of the lease sale proceeds, as well as 49 percent of future royalties from oil and natural gas production on the Roan. No money from the sale will be dispersed until the BLM Colorado State Office resolves protests to the lease sale, including protests from various environmental groups and the State of Colorado.

The Roan Plateau lease sale culminates an eight year, public planning effort by the BLM. Legislation

introduced by the Colorado Congressional delegation in 1997 transferred the Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 and 3 to the BLM. The Transfer Act stated “beginning on the date of enactment of this section, or as soon as practicable, the Secretary of the Interior shall enter into leases” for development and production of oil and natural gas. Since then, the BLM has worked with local and state government, constituent groups and the public to craft one of the most environmentally sensitive resource management plans authorizing oil and natural gas development in the BLM’s history.

“Today’s lease sale does not authorize drilling. Additional environmental analysis and public planning will occur prior to any drilling on the Roan Plateau,” said BLM Colorado State Director Sally Wisely. “Future environmental analysis and planning will ensure that the public’s tremendous natural gas reserves in the Roan Plateau are recovered in an economically and environmentally responsible manner.”

Key elements of the Roan Plateau plan include:

- Development on top of the plateau will be confined to existing road corridors, with disturbance limited to approximately 1%, or 350 acres on top.
- More than 50 percent – 38,470 acres - of the planning area is stipulated no surface occupancy.
- Development on top of the Plateau will be conducted in a staged, ridge-by-ridge approach, with well pads more than ½ miles apart to minimize wildlife habitat fragmentation.
- Leases for the top of the Plateau will require operators to enter into a single federal unit, with consolidation of planning and operations under a single unit operator. This more efficient approach reduces impacts to other natural resources by consolidating infrastructure and providing for a more orderly, planned development.

The federal government has paid \$2.39 billion in mineral royalties, bonus payments and rental fees to Colorado since 1922. In 2007, the state received \$123 million in federal mineral payments.

Statewide, BLM accounts for about 11.5 percent of new oil and gas wells. In 2007, the state of Colorado processed 6,368 applications for drilling permits, with 733 on federal lands or federal minerals. The remaining wells are on state-owned or private lands.

Summary of sale:

Number of parcels sold: 31  
Number of acres sold: 54,631.190  
Average bid per acre: \$2,084.05  
High bid per acre: \$11,800.00  
High Bonus Bid: \$25,252,000.00  
Total Bonus bid: \$113,853,914.00  
Total Revenues: \$113,940,215.50

High bidder: \$11,800.00/acre bid  
The Sellmar CO DBA Sellersearch

High bidder: \$25,252,000.00 Total Bonus  
The Sellmar Co DBA Sellersearch

For full sale results, including bidders' names, click [here](#).

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(additional info on the lease sale will be posted online as it becomes available at [www.blm.gov/co](http://www.blm.gov/co))

**August 8, 2008**

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Secretaries Kempthorne and Bodman Clear the Way for State  
of Colorado to Receive Oil and Natural Gas Leasing Revenue  
State to Receive 49 Percent of Current and Future Mineral Revenue Payments from Roan Plateau Area  
Formerly Occupied by Naval Oil Shale Reserves

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman today notified Congress that funds have been obligated and a contract has been let for the Anvil Points clean-up project, clearing the way for the State of Colorado to begin receiving mineral revenue from an area of the Roan Plateau known as Naval Oil Shale Reserves Number 1 and 3.

“Our notification certifies that we have met the legal requirements for allowing the State of Colorado to begin receiving its share of current and future oil and natural gas revenue from a major section of the Roan Plateau,” Secretary Kempthorne said. “Currently, about \$2.7 million is generated each month from leases in this area and the State will now receive 49 percent of these payments as well as its 49 percent share of all future bonus bids, rents and royalties on oil and gas leases in the area.”

"Today's certification marks a day of progress for the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior, and the State of Colorado," U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman said. "Getting to this point has involved the hard work of many dedicated government employees, and it has required a great deal of coordination."

The Anvil Points Fund specifically provides financial resources for the environmental remediation, waste management, and environmental compliance activities associated with the clean-up of spent shale at Anvil Points, a former oil shale research area in Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 and 3 on the Roan Plateau, near Rifle, Colorado. By law, all revenue from oil and natural gas development in this area of the plateau was diverted to the fund.

The money will be used to cover project costs, which include \$15.4 million for environmental remediation; \$39.4 million to reimburse the U.S. Treasury for the Department of Energy's past activities at the site; and about \$10 million for monitoring and compliance activities.

The clean-up contract, let by Interior's Bureau of Land Management, will remove about 300,000 cubic yards of spent shale and safely store the material in a newly constructed repository. The State of Colorado's Department of Health and Environment concurred in the design and location of the proposed repository for the spent shale. The Department of Energy's past activities at the site, for which the U.S. Treasury is reimbursed, include the installation of wells and related infrastructure.

Management of the Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 and 3 was transferred from the Department of Energy

to the Department of the Interior in 1997 by Public Law 105-85. Known as the Transfer Act, the legislation provided for the clean-up and remediation of a small area of contaminated lands associated with a residual pile of spent oil shale. Funding was mandated by establishing a special account in the U.S. Treasury – the Anvil Points Fund – consisting of all receipts from mineral leasing and development authorized by the Transfer Act in the area of the Roan Plateau known as Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 and 3. The fund also was created to reimburse the U.S. Treasury for the Department of Energy's past activities at the oil shale research site.

The Transfer Act's provisions, however, have prevented the State of Colorado from receiving its share of lease revenue in this area of the Roan Plateau – from bonus bids, royalties and rentals – that the State would normally receive under the Mineral Leasing Act until the Secretaries of the Interior and Energy jointly certified that provisions in the law had been met. With that certification completed by today's action, the State of Colorado can begin to received is 49 percent share of oil and natural gas revenues from leases on the Roan Plateau in the area known as Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 and 3.

(See detailed map of oil and gas lease parcels locations on the Roan.)

-- [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov) --

**BLM Moves Roan Lease Sale Location**  
**BLM NEWS RELEASE**  
**BLM Colorado State Office, 2850**  
**Youngfield St., Lakewood, CO 80215**  
**For Immediate Release Aug. 8, 2008**  
**Contact Steven Hall 303-239-3672**

BLM Aug. 14 oil and gas lease sale location moved

LAKESWOOD, Colo – The Bureau of Land Management's regularly scheduled Aug. 14 oil and gas lease sale will be held at the Denver West Marriott, 1717 Denver West Blvd., Golden. The sale starts at 9 a.m., with registration for bidders beginning at 8 a.m. The location change will help accommodate increased public interest in the sale.

The sale will include 55,186 acres in 31 parcels in the Roan Plateau Planning Area, which includes the Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 and 3. Leases on top of the Plateau will require a single federal unit and phased, ridge-by-ridge development, with one operator conducting operations on behalf of all lessees. This allows BLM to exert tight control over oil and gas development, while consolidating infrastructure like roads, power lines and pipelines. More than half of the Roan Plateau will be off limits to surface disturbance to protect wildlife habitat and other natural resources. Disturbance on top of the plateau will be limited to less than 1 percent at any time, or approximately 350 acres, with development confined to existing road corridors.

Leasing on the Roan Plateau follows the direction of Congress in the 1997 Transfer Act. BLM Colorado holds oil and gas lease sales on the second Thursday of February, May, August, and November. These sales are normally held at the BLM Colorado State Office. Lease sale information can be obtained online at [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/oilandgas/leasing.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/oilandgas/leasing.html), at each of the Bureau's field offices, and the Public Room at the Colorado State Office in Lakewood.

(See detailed map of oil and gas lease parcels locations on the Roan.)

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