



**WESTERN RESOURCE
ADVOCATES**

For Immediate Release:
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Chaco Canyon Off Limits to Oil and Gas Drilling:

Conservationists and Tribes Succeed in Pulling Parcels from Auction Block

CHACO CANYON, NM --Western Resource Advocates has convinced the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to withdraw eight proposed lease parcels, covering 10,361 acres, from the upcoming October 21 lease auction. These proposed leases are located within five miles of [Chaco Culture National Historical Park](#) in northwest New Mexico, a [World Heritage Site](#) that is one of the top attractions on the "Trail of the Ancients" through the Four Corners region.

"It's hard to imagine a more inappropriate location for gas drilling," said Western Resource Advocates' Lands Program Director Mike Chiropolos. "Visitors from around the world are drawn to this area because of its significance. Their experience of mystery, culture and history would be shattered by industrial development on the park's doorstep."

In proposing these areas for oil and gas development, the BLM failed to consult with the many Pueblo Tribes with ancestral ties to these lands, as required by the [National Historic Preservation Act](#). The Hopi Tribe objected to oil and gas leasing on lands they call "the Place Beyond the Horizon," entitled to protection as a [Traditional Cultural Property](#) under federal law. The rich archeological sites on these lands include ancient masonry dwellings, kivas, middens, and hearths.

To defeat the leasing proposal, Western Resource Advocates worked closely with San Juan Citizens Alliance, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Diné CARE, the Chaco Alliance, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. These groups are working toward permanent protection for Greater Chaco Canyon.

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Western Resource Advocates is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the West's land, air and water. Visit us online at
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