



**WESTERN RESOURCE**  
ADVOCATES

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## Drilling Delayed on More Than 900 Acres

YAMPA, CO --The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sided with conservation groups and pulled 907 acres of lands important to wildlife from its November 13, 2009 oil and gas lease sale. Western Resource Advocates, a Colorado-based organization, had filed a protest of the leasing plan on behalf of the Colorado Environmental Coalition.

The disputed parcel is adjacent to the Black Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area on the Routt National Forest. The lands, located in eastern Moffat County, are traversed by deer and elk moving from summer feeding areas to winter range. They contain stream habitat for the imperiled Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, which is isolated to 5% of its historical range due primarily to predation by non-native fish species, drought and habitat degradation. The Black Mountain parcel also provides nesting and staging habitat on the annual migration route of the Rocky Mountain population of sandhill cranes.

"We appreciate BLM's recognition that leasing could impact big game habitat, cutthroat trout streams, and the greater sandhill crane," said Western Resource Advocates' Lands Program Director, Mike Chiropolos. "I'll never forget a family trip to northwest Colorado when my sons and I witnessed a majestic flock of cranes taking flight and soaring over our heads. "

The BLM will now reconsider whether oil and gas leasing in the area is consistent with its stewardship mission for public lands.

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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 [www.westernresourceadvocates.org](http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org).*