



OIL SHALE AND TAR SANDS RESOURCES

DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT (PEIS)

MARCH, 2012



BRIEFING TOPICS

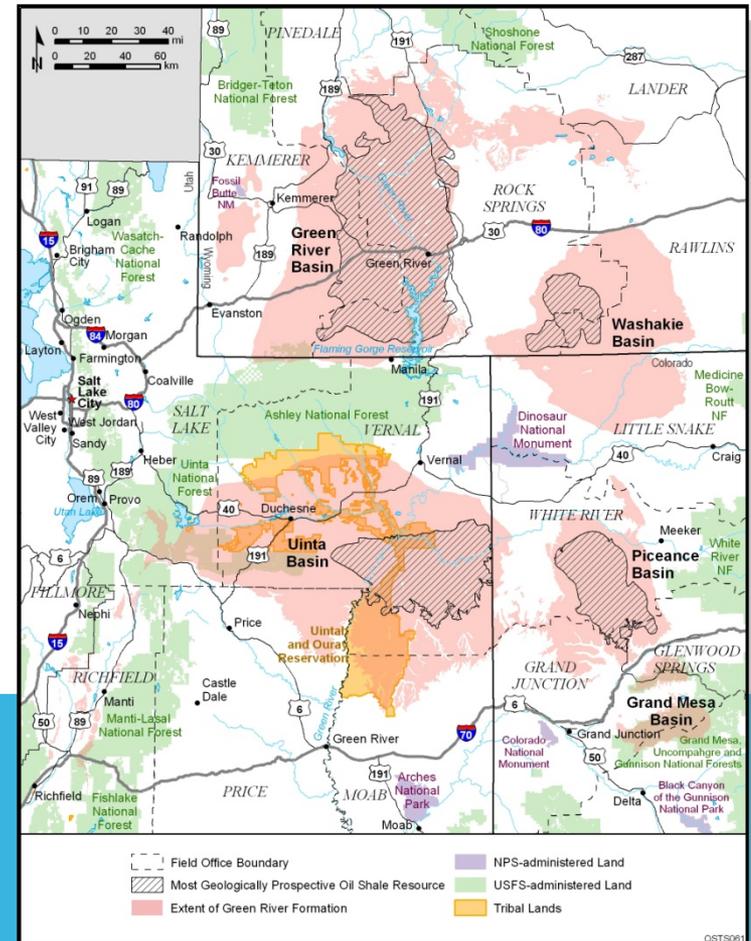
- Purpose and Need for the PEIS
- Defining the Study Area
- Alternatives
- Cooperating Agencies Preferred Alternatives
- BLM Preferred Alternative
- Schedule





ALLOCATION DECISIONS

- Resource allocation decisions affect only lands under the jurisdiction of BLM
- National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service lands will not be analyzed
- BLM does not make allocation decisions for other federal agencies





PURPOSE AND NEED AND PROPOSED ACTION

Purpose & Need: To reassess the appropriate mix of allowable uses with respect to oil shale/tar sands leasing and potential development.

Proposed Action: The BLM proposes to amend 10 land use plans in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming to describe the most geologically prospective areas managed by the BLM in these states where oil shale and tar sands resources are present, and to decide which portions of those areas will be open, and which portion of those areas will be closed to application for commercial leasing, exploration, and development of oil shale and tar sands resources.



National Geographic Magazine 1918



POTENTIAL LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Colorado

- Glenwood Springs/Colorado River Valley RMP
- Grand Junction RMP
- White River RMP

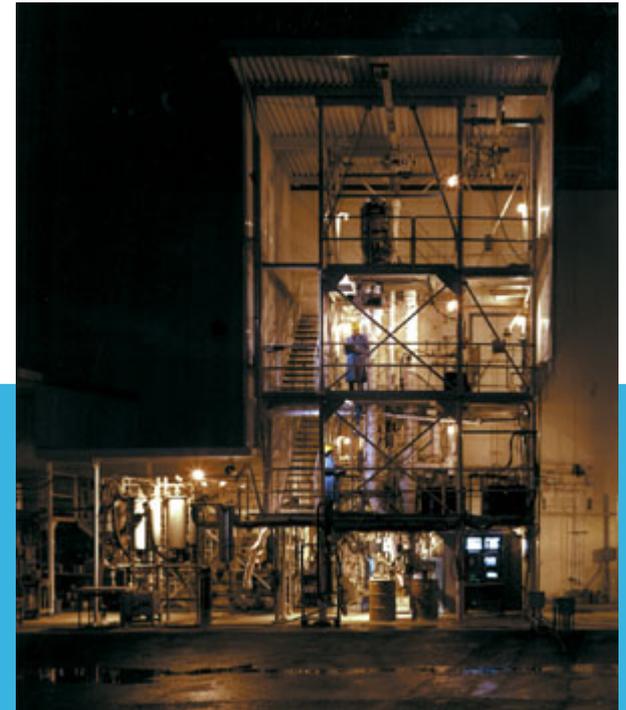
Utah

- Vernal RMP
- Price RMP
- Richfield RM
- Monticello RMP

Wyoming

- Kemmerer RMP
- Rawlins RMP
- Green River RMP (Rock Springs FO)

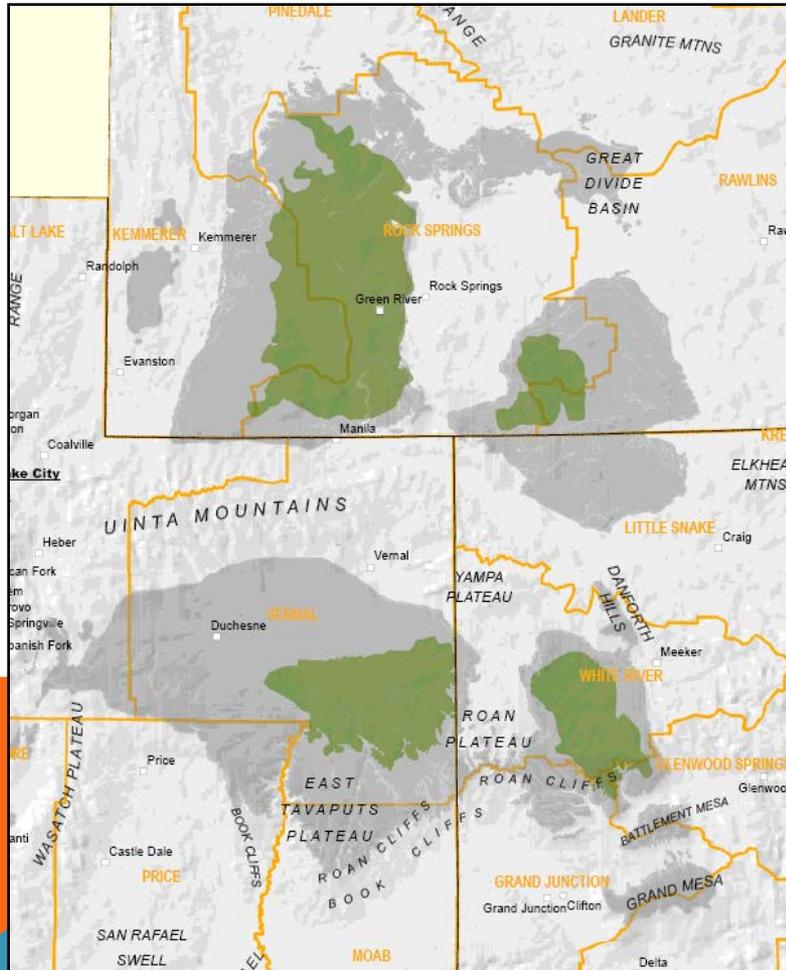
Surface Retort



Source: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory



DEFINING THE OIL SHALE LEASING STUDY AREA



Maximum extent of the Green River Formation Basins (shown in gray)

Study area focuses on the most

- geologically prospective oil shale resources, and
- likely to be the first targets for development (shown in green)

Colorado and Utah

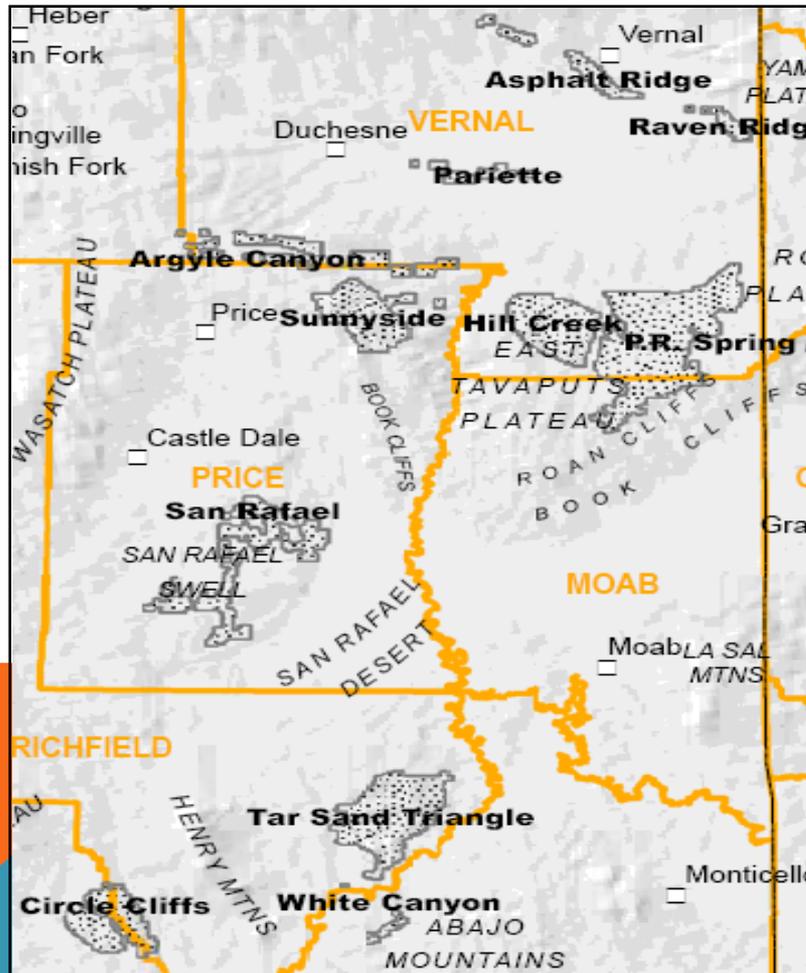
- yield is >25 gal/ton and thickness is >25 ft.

Wyoming

- yield is >15 gal/ton and thickness is >15 ft.



DEFINING THE TAR SANDS LEASING STUDY AREA



Eleven designated Special Tar Sand Areas (STSAs).

Study area focuses on the STSAs except within:

- GSENM (Circle Cliffs STSA); and
- Capitol Reef and Canyonlands National Park (Circle Cliffs).

COMMON ASPECTS OF ALL ALTERNATIVES



- Planning/Development horizon is 20-year timeframe.
- Lands within the study area will not be opened to OS/TS leasing to the extent required by:
 - Laws and Regulations
 - Executive Orders
 - Land Use Plan Designations
 - Administrative Withdrawals
- PEIS analyzes impacts at a programmatic level
- Additional NEPA analyses will be conducted prior to commercial leasing and development.
- Current RD&D leases total approx. 30,720 acres. If an initial RD&D lease holder relinquishes its lease, that acreage, including the PRLA acreage would be available for consideration for future leasing by another party.



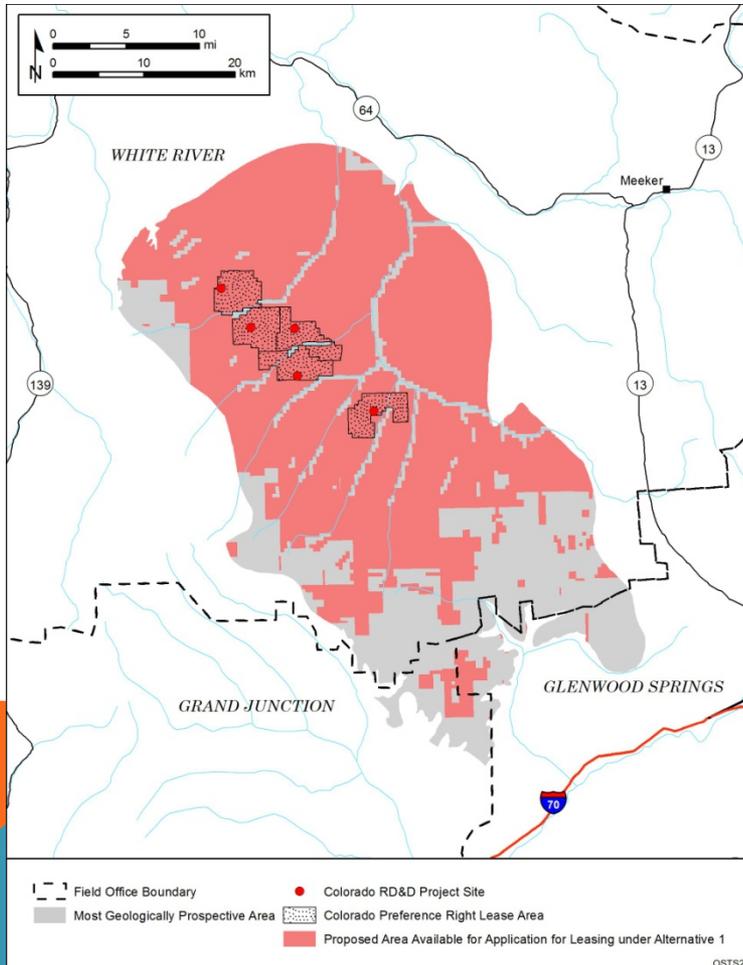
ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION*

- No existing land use plans would be amended.
- Lands available for lease under the 2008 Oil Shale/Tar Sands Plan Amendment decisions would remain available for future leasing consideration (1,977,914 acres oil shale; 431,222 acres tar sands).
- Comprise the most geologically prospective oil shale and special tar sands areas administered by the BLM, including split estate lands where the Federal government owns the mineral rights, but excluding lands that are exempted by statute, regulation, or Executive Order.
- Split estate lands within the Hill Creek Extension of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation would potentially be available for leasing.

*Same as 2008 Oil Shale Tar Sands PEIS Record of Decision



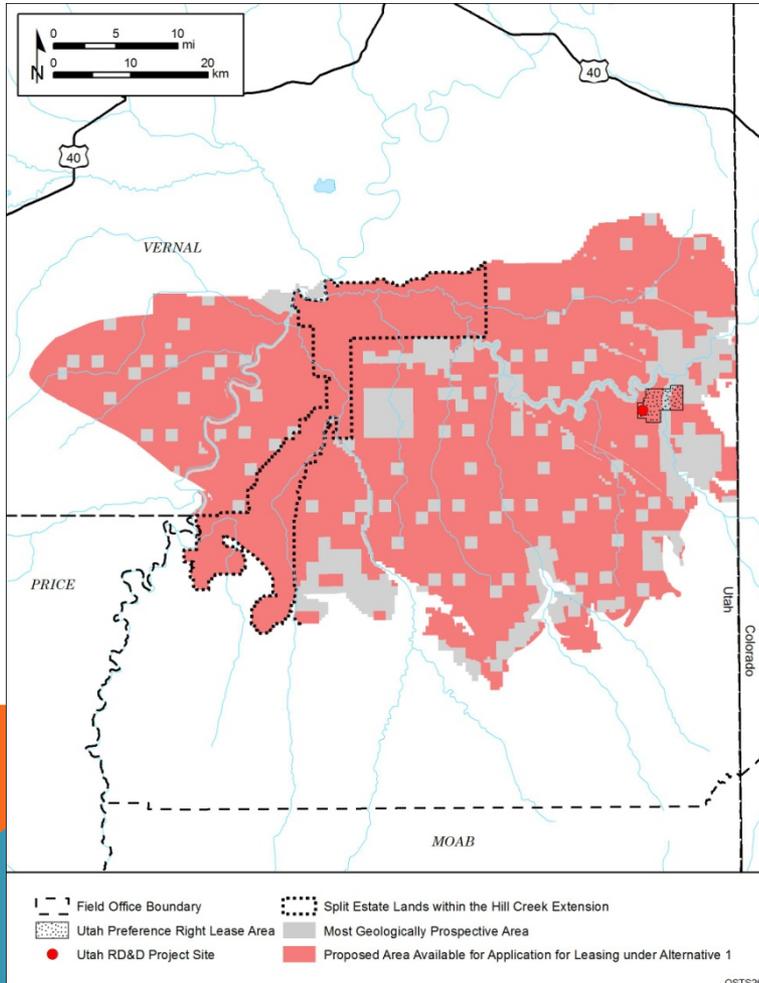
ALTERNATIVE 1 – OIL SHALE NO ACTION COLORADO



**Lands Proposed
To Be Available For
Commercial
Leasing
346,609 acres**



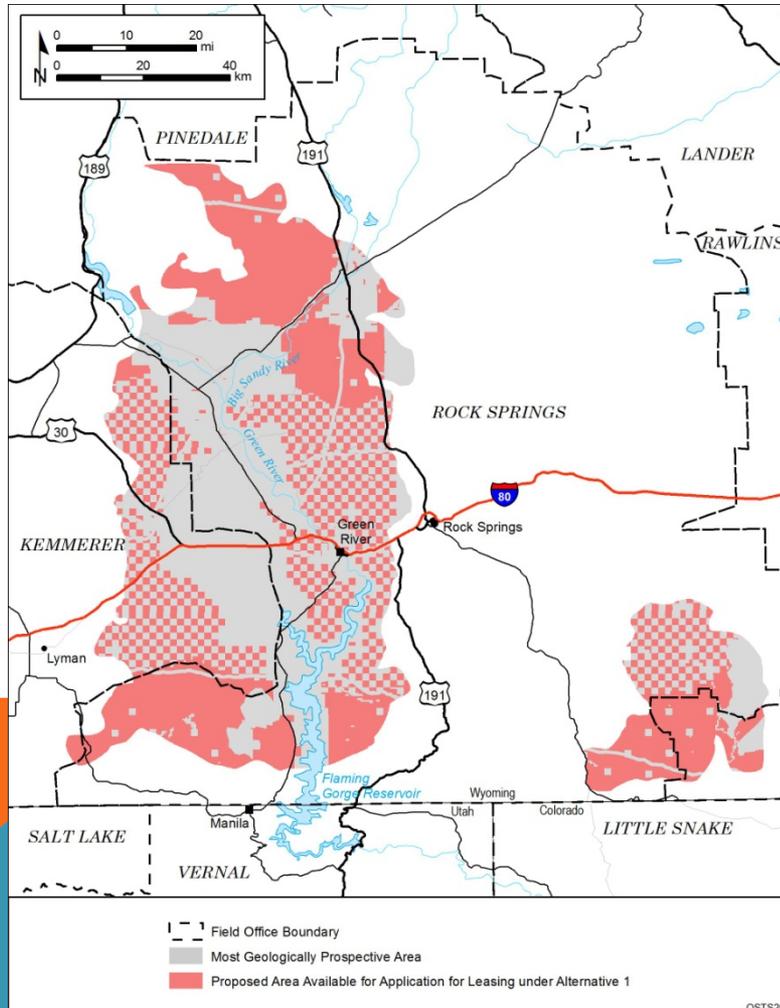
Alternative 1 - Oil Shale No Action Utah



**Lands Proposed
To Be Available For
Commercial
Leasing
670,558 acres**



Alternative 1 – Oil Shale No Action Wyoming

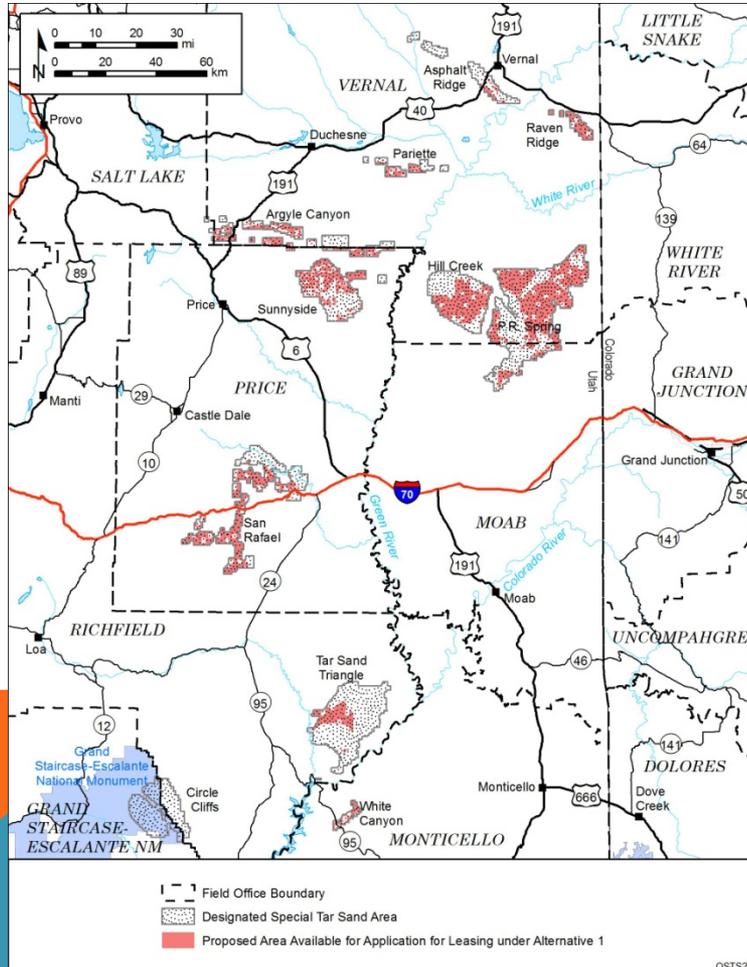


**Lands Proposed
To Be Available For
Commercial
Leasing**

1,000,574 acres



ALTERNATIVE 1-TAR SANDS NO ACTION UTAH



Lands proposed
to be available
for commercial
leasing
431,222 acres



ALTERNATIVE 2(A) – CONSERVATION FOCUS

- **10 Land Use Plans would be amended**
- **Under the terms of the settlement agreement, the DOI/BLM agreed to analyze an alternative that excludes from oil shale/tar sands all of the resource types listed below:**
 - Areas the BLM identifies as having wilderness characteristics
 - The Adobe Town “Very Rare or Uncommon” area
 - Core or priority sage grouse habitat
 - All areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs)
 - All areas identified as excluded from Alternative C in the 2008 OSTIS PEIS



ALTERNATIVE 2(A) – CONSERVATION FOCUS

- **Split estate lands in the Hill Creek Extension of the Uinta and Ouray Reservation will not be available future leasing consideration.**
- **Lands available for future leasing consideration:**
 - 461,965 acres oil shale;
 - 91,045 acres tar sands.



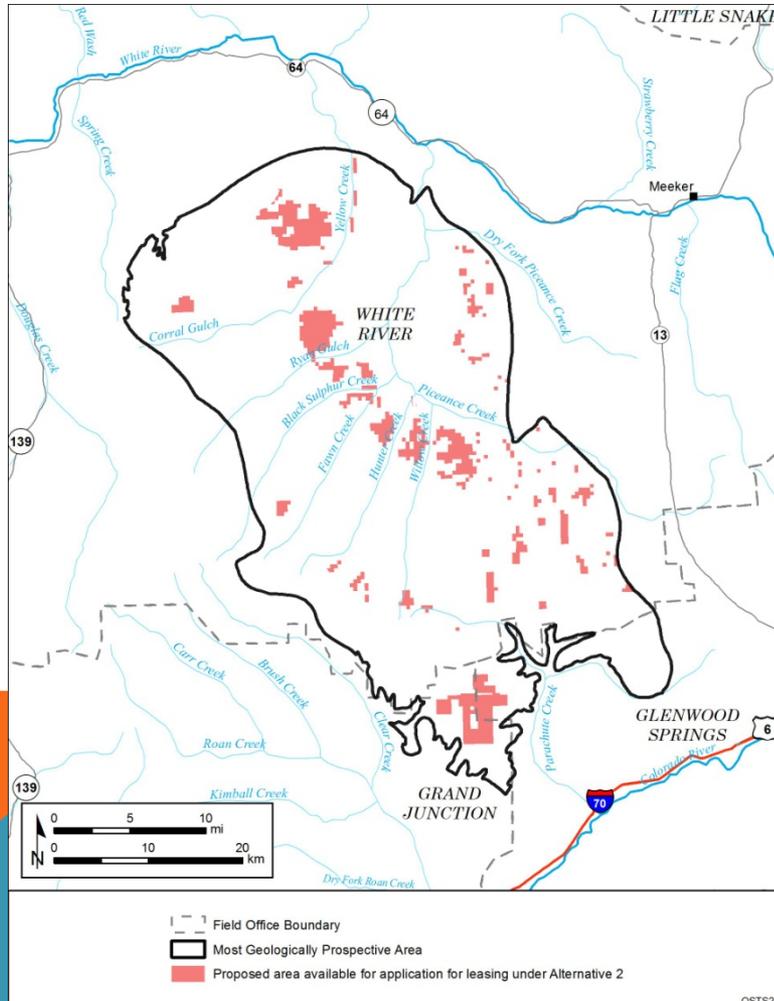


ALTERNATIVE 2(B)-CONSERVATION FOCUS WITH RD&D FIRST REQUIREMENT

- Applies to oil shale resources only
- The BLM will issue a commercial lease only when a lessee satisfies the conditions of its RD&D lease and the regulations for conversion to a commercial lease.
- Lands open for future leasing consideration are the same as those in Alt. 2(a), but only for RD&D leases.
- The preference right lease acreage, if any, which would be included in the converted lease, would be specified in the RD&D lease.



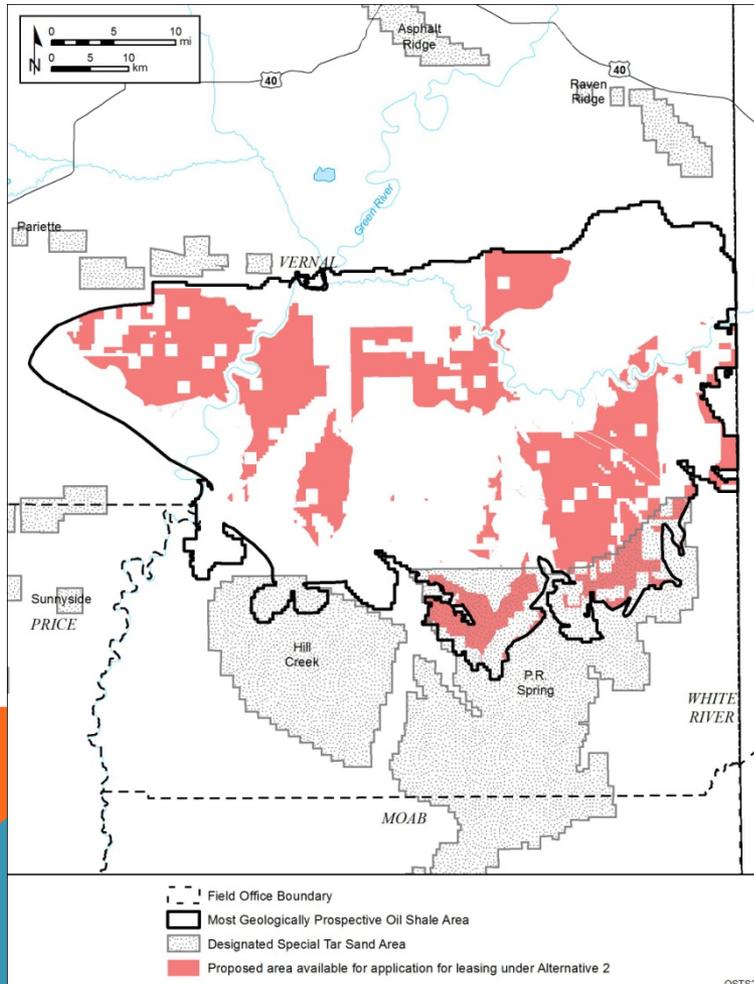
ALTERNATIVE 2(A) AND (B)-OIL SHALE CONSERVATION FOCUS-COLORADO



Lands proposed
to be available for
commercial
leasing
35,308 acres



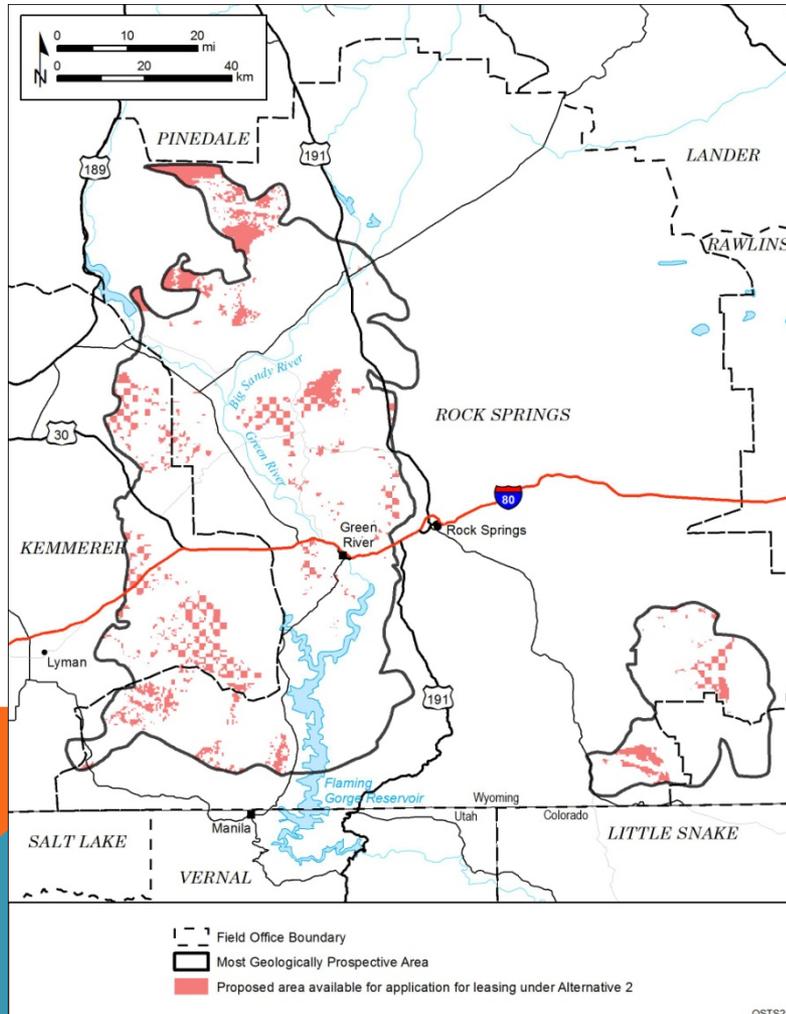
ALTERNATIVE 2(A) AND (B)-OIL SHALE- CONSERVATION FOCUS-UTAH



Lands proposed
to be available
for commercial
leasing
252,181 acres



ALTERNATIVE 2(A) AND (B)-OIL SHALE CONSERVATION FOCUS-WYOMING



Lands proposed to be
available for
commercial leasing
174,476 acres

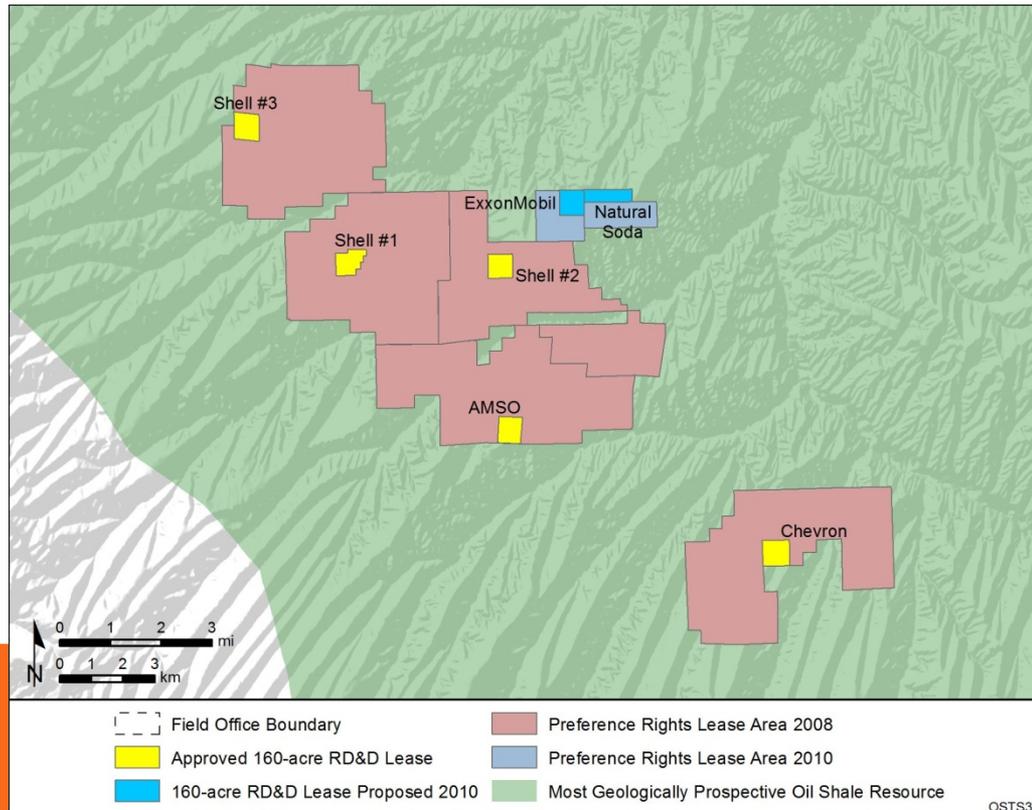


ALTERNATIVE 3 – OIL SHALE RESEARCH LANDS FOCUS

- 10 Land Use Plans would be amended.
- The only public lands identified as available for commercial leasing would be those where there were existing RD&D leases at the time the ROD for the 2012 PEIS is signed (to avoid pre-judgment, analysis includes 3 pending RD&D lease areas). Total acreage available for potential future leasing of oil shale under this alternative would be 32,640 acres.
- Would limit leasing availability to the existing lessees (or to future RD&D holders of existing RD&D leases, in the event an initial RD&D lease holder relinquishes or transfers its lease).
- For tar sands, this alternative would analyze foregoing leasing tar sands, except for one tar sands lease currently under consideration.



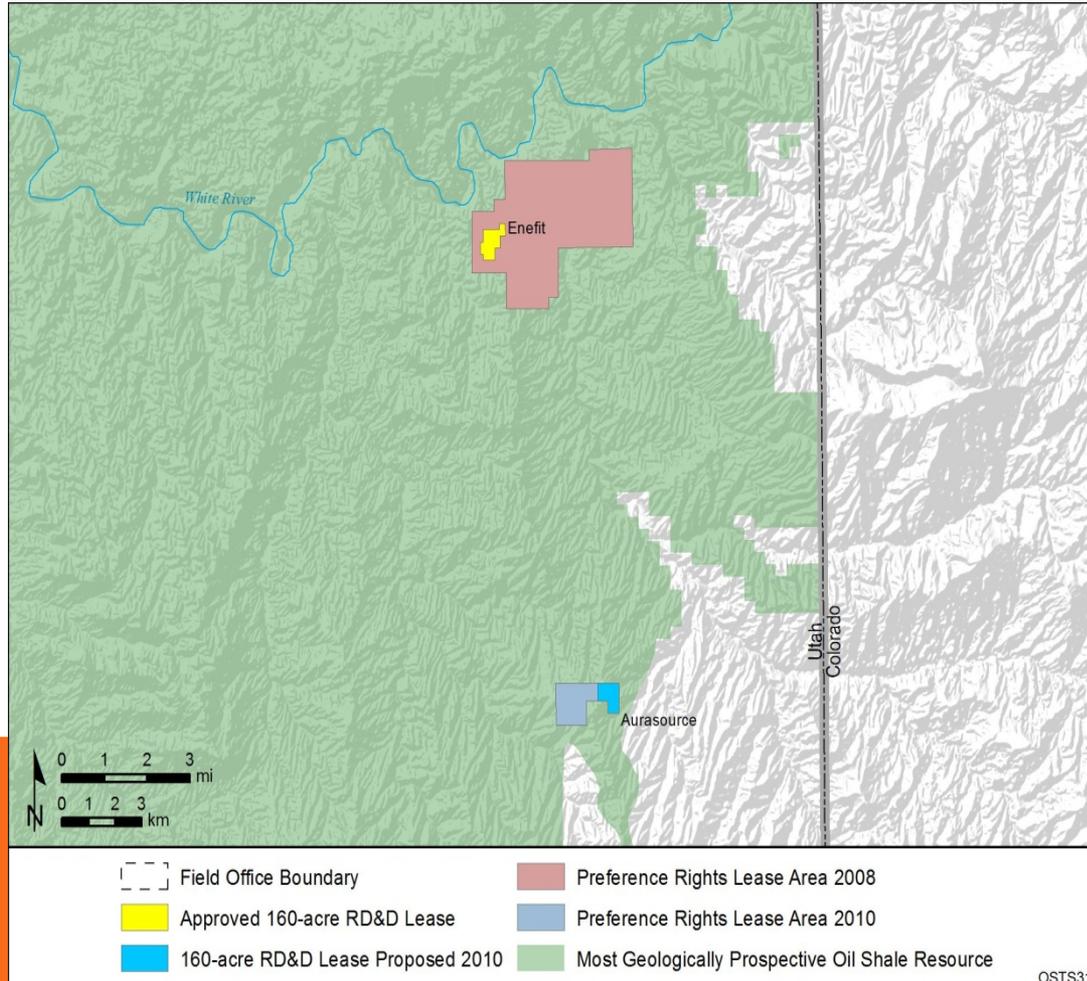
Alternative 3 – Oil Shale-Research Lands Focus-Colorado



Lands proposed to be
available for commercial
leasing
26,880 acres



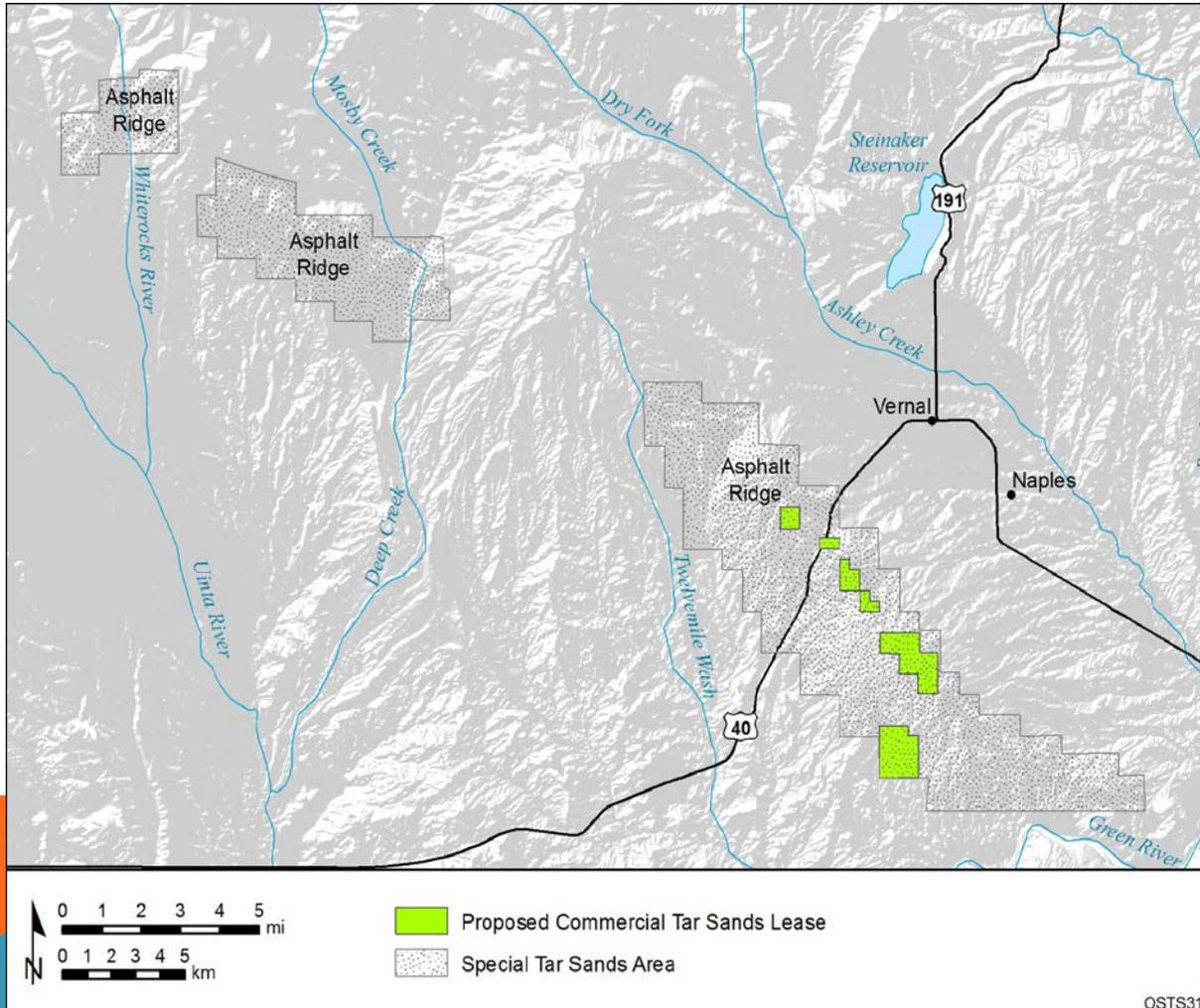
ALTERNATIVE 3-OIL SHALE-RESEARCH FOCUS-UTAH



Lands proposed to be available for commercial leasing
5,760 acres



ALTERNATIVE 3-TAR SANDS-RESEARCH LANDS FOCUS-UTAH



Proposed tar sands lease covers approx. 2,100 acres



ALTERNATIVE 4(A)-MODERATE DEVELOPMENT

- 10 Land Use Plans would be amended.
- Would analyze an alternative that excludes from oil shale/tar sands the resource types listed below:
 - The Adobe Town “Very Rare or Uncommon” area
 - All areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs)
- Split estate lands within the Hill Creek Extension of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation would potentially be available for leasing.
- Any areas opened for oil shale and tar sand leasing would be managed to protect sage grouse habitat and lands with wilderness characteristics consistent with the approved field office land use plan.

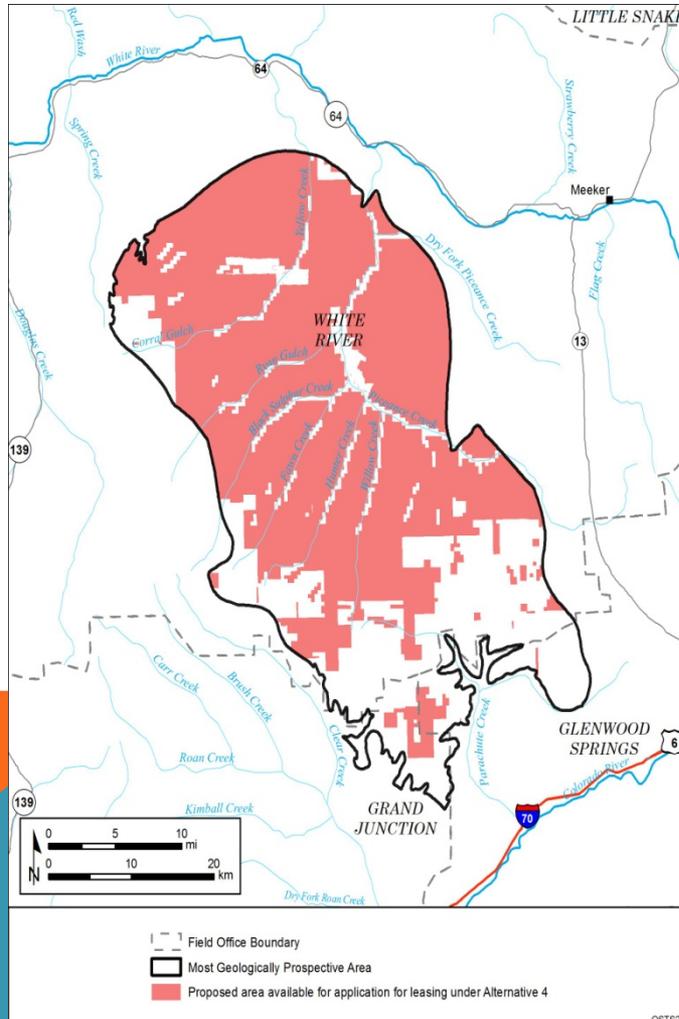


ALTERNATIVE 4(B)-MODERATE DEVELOPMENT WITH RD&D FIRST REQUIREMENT

- Applies to oil shale resources only
- The BLM will issue a commercial lease only when a lessee satisfies the conditions of its RD&D lease and the regulations for conversion to a commercial lease.
- Lands open for future leasing consideration are the same as those in Alt. 4(a), but only for RD&D leases.
- The preference right lease acreage, if any, which would be included in the converted lease, would be specified in the RD&D lease.



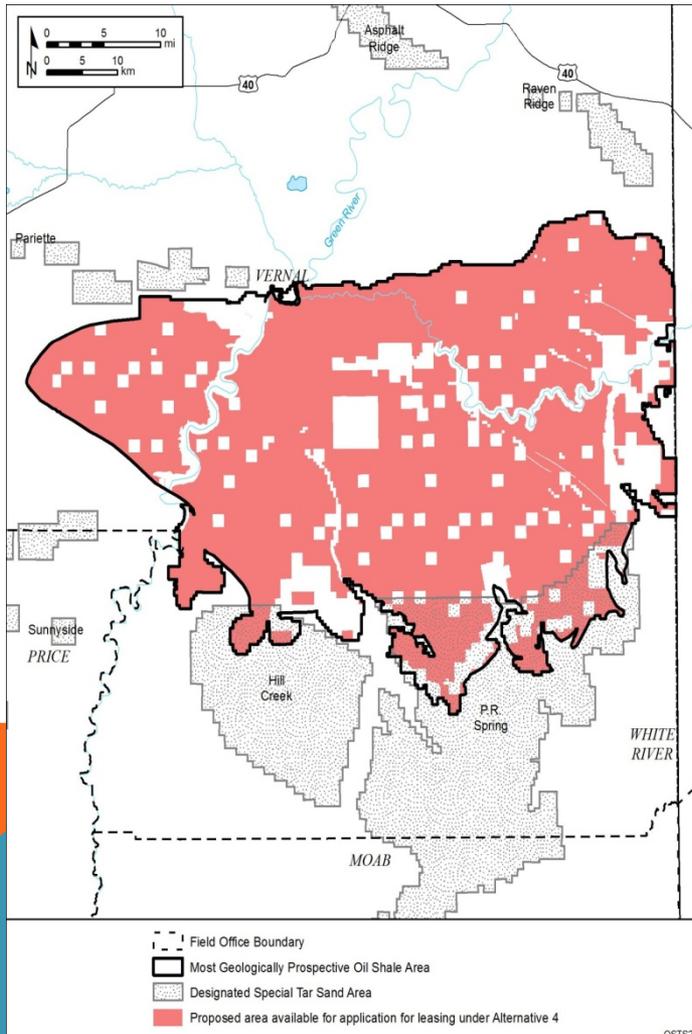
ALTERNATIVE 4(A) AND (B)-OIL SHALE-MODERATE DEVELOPMENT-COLORADO



Lands proposed
to be available for
commercial
leasing
Approx. 321,000-
340,100 acres
depending on level
of protection
applied



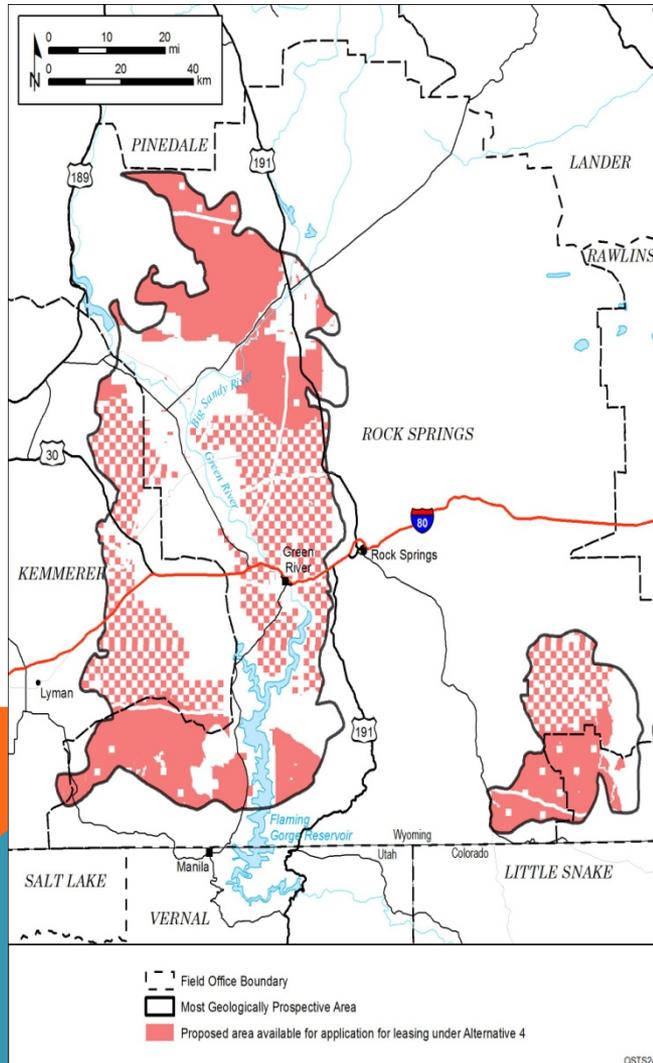
ALTERNATIVE 4(A) AND (B)-OIL SHALE- MODERATE DEVELOPMENT-UTAH



Lands proposed
to be available for
commercial leasing
Approx. 458,400-
655,800 acres
depending on level
of protection
applied



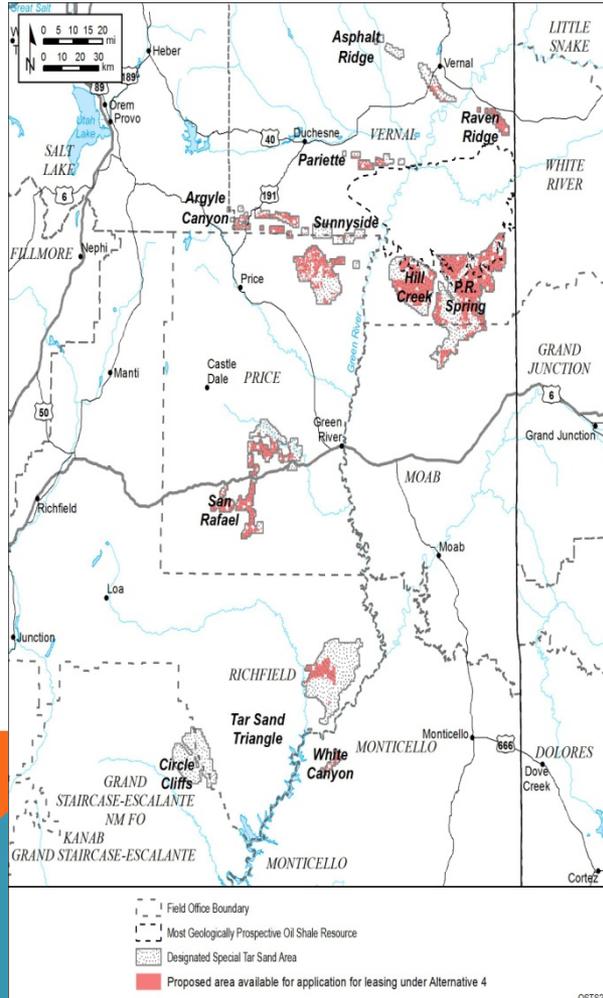
ALTERNATIVE 4(A) AND (B)-OIL SHALE-MODERATE DEVELOPMENT-WYOMING



Lands proposed to be available for commercial leasing
Approx. 692,800-967,400 acres depending on level of protection applied



ALTERNATIVE 4-TAR SANDS-MODERATE DEVELOPMENT-UTAH



Lands proposed to be available for commercial leasing
Approx. 276,700-425,800 acres depending on level of protection applied



COMPARISON TABLE-OIL SHALE

Alternative	Colorado (Acres)	Utah (Acres)	Wyoming (Acres)	TOTAL (Acres)
1-No Action	346,609	670,558	1,000,574	2,017,741
2(a) & (b)- Conserv.	35,308	252,181	174,476	461,965
3-Research	26,880	5,760	0	32,640
4(a) & (b)- Mod. Dev.	321,000- 340,100	458,400- 655,800	692,800- 967,400	1,472,300- 1,963,300



COMPARISON TABLE-TAR SANDS

Alternative	Utah/TOTAL (Acres)
1-No Action	431,224
2-Conservation	91,045
3-Research	2,100
4-Moderate Dev.	276,700-425,800



COOPERATING AGENCIES PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

Cooperating Agency

Preferred Alternative

National Park Service

Alt. 3, RD&D Only

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

none expressed

State of Colorado

Alt. 3, RD&D Only

State of Wyoming

Alt. 1, No Action

State of Utah

Alt. 1, No Action

Duchesne County, Utah

Alt. 1, No Action; Alt. 4 Mod. Dev.

Uintah County, Utah

Alt. 1, No Action

Carbon County, Utah

Alt. 1, No Action

Grand County, Utah

none expressed

Garfield County, Colorado

Alt. 4, Moderate Development

City of Rifle, Colorado

Alt. 3, RD&D Only

Sweetwater County, Wyoming

Alt. 1, No Action

Lincoln County, Wyoming

Alt. 1, No Action

Coalition of Local Governments
(Wyoming)

Alt. 1, No Action



BLM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

- **Alternative 2(b) for oil shale resources**
 - Maintains a focus on RD&D Projects; allows the BLM to obtain more information about technological and environmental consequences before committing to broad-scale commercial development
- **Alternative 2 for tar sands resources**
 - Allows the BLM to obtain more information about technological and environmental consequences before committing to broad-scale commercial development



PEIS SCHEDULE

Draft PEIS	
Scoping Period	April 14-May 16, 2011
BLM and Cooperating Agency Review	October 17-November 25, 2011
Draft PEIS Released	February 3, 2012
90-day Comment period	February 3-May 4, 2012
Final PEIS	
BLM Review	July 15-August 1, 2012
Final PEIS Released	September 14, 2012
30-day Protest Period	Sept. 14-Oct. 14, 2012
Governor's Consistency Review	Sept. 14-Nov. 14, 2012
Record of Decision	By December 31, 2012



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

- Silt, Colorado March 12th
- Salt Lake City, Utah March 13th
- Vernal, Utah March 14th
- Rock Springs, Wyoming March 15th
- Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.



HOW PUBLIC MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED

- Open House Format-Resource Specialists available at each Table to answer questions you may have about the 2012 PEIS and/or to take written comments about the document.
- Written Comment Forms are available.
- All substantive comments received will be considered in developing the Final PEIS.
- Comments may also be submitted at the official OSTs PEIS project Web site: <http://ostseis.anl.gov>

**OIL SHALE/TAR SANDS PEIS
Contact Information**

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