



GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS
Jaylyn Hawks (Chair) · Mary McGann (Vice Chair)
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Patrick Trim · Curtis Wells

September 19, 2017

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

We write today in support of Master Leasing Plans (MLPs), an important tool that has allowed our county to optimize our public lands.

The Moab MLP was the product of collaboration and numerous meetings between Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service, as well as the communities and businesses that are most affected by their management decisions. Over 75 local businesses, as well as Grand County and City of Moab, supported the MLP.

Grand County, Utah has world-class national parks and recreation resources which support thousands of jobs locally and drive the State of Utah's \$12 billion outdoor recreation economy. Responsible oil and gas development also brings benefits to our county and provides important revenue to the community.

The Moab MLP strikes a meaningful balance between protecting our magnificent public lands – the national parks and highly scenic lands managed by the BLM – and providing ongoing opportunities for responsible oil and gas development.

Given the investment of time and energy by so many crucial stakeholders in achieving a positive outcome with the MLP, it is critical that BLM now implement the MLP in accordance with the protections that were adopted in that plan. This means including the measures that are designed to protect our area's national parks, recreation resources, and scenic public lands while also supporting the oil and gas development that is important to our community.

In the lease sale scheduled for March of 2018, there are approximately 13 parcels / 9,500 acres proposed for oil and gas leasing in the Moab MLP area. Under the Moab MLP, these parcels are open to leasing, but with various protections to avoid and limit impacts on national and state parks, recreation resources, and other values. This includes "no-surface occupancy" stipulations on one parcel directly north of Dead Horse State Park and several others near the Hatch Point Road that are within the viewshed of Canyonlands National Park.

We urge you to uphold the decisions made in our locally-driven leasing plan to allow our county to continue to support and enjoy all the benefits of our nearby public lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jaylyn Hawks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grand County Council Chair