



April 29, 2022

Greg Sheehan
Utah State Director
Bureau of Land Management
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT, 84101

RE: Alternative B-Recreation Resources Preservation: BLM Utah 2022 First Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale (DOI-BLM-UT-0000-2021-0007-EA April 2022)

Director Sheehan:

Outdoor Alliance and Public Land Solutions write today to extend our sincere thanks regarding your decision to move forward with Alternative B-Recreation Resources Preservation Alternative in the BLM Utah 2022 First Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale (DOI-BLM-UT-0000-2021-0007-EA April 2022). By selecting Alternative B, the BLM will “preserve, to the extent practical, the recreational opportunities that could be impacted by development of the parcels.”

As stated in our joint comments to this lease sale, we were “concerned that the BLM would disregard potential impacts from this proposed lease sale on specific recreation assets and other important values” and that “the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of this lease sale could be detrimental to recreation opportunities and the potential for local communities to invest in a recreation economy.”

Consequently, we were very pleased to see the decision to select Alternative B, Recreation Resources Preservation Alternative. The selection of Alternative B acknowledges recreation as one of the “primary” multiple uses of BLM lands and ensures that oil and gas is not prioritized over other land uses, consistent with BLM’s mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. Alternative B also conforms with The Department of Interior’s November 2021 *Report on the Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Program*¹ and “consider[s] what lands make the most sense to lease in terms of expected yields of oil and gas, prospects of earning a fair return for U.S. taxpayers, and conflicts with other uses, such as outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat.”

We urge the BLM to include a Recreation Resources Preservation Alternative in any future lease proposal affecting BLM lands where an oil and gas lease sale may be offered in proximity to any recreation resource. Such a standardized recreation protection alternative is consistent with the BLM’s multiple use mandate and the recommendations in the Interior Department’s *Report on the Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Program*.

¹ *Report on the Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Program*, Department of the Interior, at 12. See <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-on-the-federal-oil-and-gas-leasing-program-doi-eo-14008.pdf>

Once again, thank you for listening to the outdoor recreation community and fulfilling the BLM's multiple use mandate.

Regards,



Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance



Jason Keith
Managing Director
Public Land Solutions

Cc: Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Nada Culver, Deputy Director of Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management
Kate Kelly, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Department of the Interior