

PRICE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUTS NINE MILE CANYON AT RISK - FAVORS OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT AND ORVs

The Bush Administration's relentless assault on Utah's wilderness-quality lands continues unabated with the release of the final Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Price Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office. Eleven million acres of public land in Utah – many with wilderness quality – will be governed by Resource Management Plans currently being released for 6 BLM Field Offices.

The Price RMP, released on August 29th, for a 30-day protest period, is the fifth plan to be released over the last 6 weeks. Unfortunately this plan, which is far worse than the draft which preceded it, continues the trend of favoring Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) and oil and gas interests over quiet recreation and protection of our precious wild lands.



Desolation Canyon © Ray Bloxham.

The Price Field Office of the BLM manages approximately 2.4 million acres of public lands including such iconic places as the San Rafael Swell, Nine Mile Canyon, Desolation Canyon, Labrynth Canyon and Range Creek. Instead of providing protection for these iconic landscapes the Final RMP for the Price BLM Field Office:

- Only provides protection for 10 percent of the land identified by the BLM as having wilderness character – opening the rest up to damage from ORV abuse and poorly managed energy development;



Muddy Creek in the San Rafael Swell © Ray Bloxham

- In an out right give-away to the ORV community, adds nearly 400 miles of ORV routes over what was proposed to the public in the draft for a total of nearly 1300 miles of route;
- Strips the San Rafael River from consideration as a Wild and Scenic River, so that none of the rivers in the San Rafael Swell get Wild and Scenic River consideration;
- Dramatically increases the potential for devastating damage in Nine Mile Canyon by allowing for energy development in side canyons and by allowing for energy development on the rims and nearby mesas;
- Eliminates three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) – places which previously had been identified as needing special attention in order to protect specific threatened resources (e.g. archaeological, riparian ecosystems, endangered plants & animals, scenic vistas).

Our public lands need to be managed wisely, with care and concern for the future health of the magnificent wilderness-quality lands, unique eco-systems, and cultural and paleontologic resources they contain. Instead of offering this protection, the Final RMP for the Price BLM Field Office is another in this series of fatally flawed plans that will negatively impact our amazing public lands for decades.

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