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Comments: I am writing in support of the potential lease to the BLM of USFS parcels for potential oil and gas development. While my opinion is in all likelihood in the minority I still strongly feel that I should voice my opinion.

Several of the current newspaper articles have been severely slanted and neglected to inform their readers of the actual impact on the local land, water, wildlife and residents of the Slater Creek Valley. While I understand that in the past there have been bad actors in the industry who have not responsibly and respectfully developed these resources, I have no doubt that the policies and procedures in place have addressed those problems.

Additionally, I know that the current lease holders have met and, in some cases, exceeded those policies and procedures.

The BLM & USFS have a mandate to manage for multiple uses. This means that regardless of the opinion of the loudest and most numerous in the room the land managers of federally owned land have a responsibility to address not only the nays but also the ayes. Are the concerns of the voices decrying the oil and gas industry valid? To a certain extent, mostly because they have been ill-informed and have failed to do their own research and instead listen to the loudest voices.

Current operational standards for oil and gas development utilize smaller footprints for the drilling and pumping sites than ever before. The directional drilling advancements allow for far less surface damage that requires mitigation and rehabilitation than ever before. The USFS in this ranger district has a No Surface Occupancy standard and some BLM parcels do as well. As such this means that the USFS lands administered by this ranger district will have no surface impact. All sites MUST be reclaimed to a stringent set of standards. Failure to do so is not only expensive but the company runs the risk of no longer be able to operate.

Economically this will most certainly improve the financial condition of not only Moffat County but also Routt County. With the looming shutdown of the power plants and the loss of revenue to both counties perhaps the nays should look further into the future as to how many county services will be provided without that revenue. Should this parcel sale be successful and the lease holders be successful productive wells those taxes will flow through to the county. Additionally, there will be additional jobs as well as the trickle down effect of local purchases which will further increase income due to sales tax collection.

The potential oil and gas projects will be far less impactful to the land, water, and wildlife than yet another housing development. The potential revenue to continue to provide essential services to residents and visitors of both counties should not be discounted.