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## Salazar blocks Bush nominee over drilling

Eagle County Congressman Mark Udall had tried to delay Roan Plateau energy I

**Jennifer Talhelm**  
**Associated Press Writer**  
**Vail, CO Colorado**  
**June 28, 2007**

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WASHINGTON — Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., says he will block the confirmation of President Bush’s nominee to head the Bureau of Land Management until the administration gives Colorado more time to review a plan that allows gas drilling on the Roan Plateau.

“They will not get a BLM director until we come to some resolution on this issue,” a frustrated Salazar told reporters in a conference call Thursday. “I will not allow the Western Slope to become a sacrificial zone for the rest of the nation.”

Bush last month nominated James Caswell, a veteran public land official from Idaho, to head the Interior Department agency, which manages one-eighth of the land in the nation.

Caswell’s nomination must be confirmed by the Senate, and it can be held up by one senator with objections.

Salazar’s move is the latest attempt by Colorado Democrats to hinder a plan approved earlier this month that authorized up to 1,570 new natural gas wells on the Roan. The western Colorado landmark is rich in gas and oil shale reserves and beloved for its pockets of pristine backcountry and abundant wildlife.

Meanwhile, other legislative attempts to delay two western Colorado energy initiatives failed in one case and succeeded in another Wednesday.

U.S. Reps. John Salazar and Mark Udall, D-Colo., were unable to get a vote on an amendment to del leasing on the Roan Plateau after a last-minute, \$10 million price tag was attached to the measure. Salazar blamed the Bush administration for the maneuver.

“In effect, the Bush administration is using exaggerated estimates of uncertain oil and gas revenue as force additional oil and gas drilling on the West, and while they have won today’s round, they will not win the long run,” Salazar and Udall said.

Marc Smith, executive director of the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States, said the administration’s approach may sound reasonable, “except when you look at it in the light of all the other projects that Udall has said he thinks ought to go slow.”

“He pretty much thinks everything ought to go slow,” Smith said. “It’s code-speak for ‘we hope a different administration will feel differently about redeveloping our domestic energy resources.’”

Udall won House approval of an amendment barring the Bureau of Land Management from issuing leases for commercial-scale leasing of oil shale and offering commercial oil shale leases during the 2008 fiscal year.

A natural gas drilling site, showing newly-built roads last summer, atop the Roan Plateau near Rifle.



**Peter M. Fredin/AP Photo**

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Glenwood Post-Independent Reporter Dennis Webb contributed to this report.

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**Prices will go up thanks to Salazar & Udall!**  
 The story says, "(Senator) Salazar's move is the latest attempt by Colorado Democrats to hinder a plan earlier this month that authorized up to 1,570 new natural gas wells on the Roan. The western Colorado rich in gas and oil shale reserves."

The story says, "He (Congressman Udall) pretty much thinks everything ought to go slow," Smith said. " for we hope a different administration will feel differently about redeveloping our domestic energy resou

Thanks to our Democrat Senator Salazar and our Democrat Congressman Udall, we will probably have le available for our use.

Naturally, that means with less gas available, prices will undoubtedly continue to skyrocket.

Why do we keep electing those who don't give a damn about us and are always trying to stick it to us?

Wake up, people!

by [WorstNightmare](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2007 00:09:20 PDT [repo](#)

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