

# A Glance at Energy in Garfield County

## Development of natural gas will continue throughout the region and in the Roan Plateau area.

Under every management plan considered, much of the Roan Plateau Planning Area would be open to energy development.

- Under the most protective scenario BLM ever considered ("Preliminary Alternative F"), 33,000 acres of public lands inside the Roan Plateau Planning Area would have been available for leasing and development.<sup>1</sup>
- Half the Planning Area is already owned or leased by the energy industry.<sup>2</sup>
- Drilling is already occurring at the highest density in the nation on lands inside the Planning Area, with 601 existing wells as of June 2003.<sup>3</sup>
- According to BLM figures, 86% of the gas reserve likely to be developed in the Planning Area over the next 20 years is accessible without drilling on top of the Plateau.<sup>4</sup>

**Industry insiders forecast 10,000 wells for Garfield County over the coming decades, more than exist in Saudi Arabia and Iran combined.**

Garfield County and western Colorado is facing an energy future that will transform large areas of public and private lands.

- The State of Colorado predicts that in 2004 more wells will be drilled than in 2003.<sup>5</sup>
- 10,000 wells could be drilled in Garfield County over the next 20 years.<sup>6</sup>



**Balanced management for the Roan Plateau would protect the species-rich lands on the Plateau's top and cliffs, weighing the value of this undeveloped public land jewel amidst the wide-scale development throughout the region.**

**The vision embraced by citizens and city councils across the county would allow for ample energy development to continue and still keep the Plateau top and cliffs as they are today: bold, dramatic, and undisturbed.**

More 

Join us in promoting this even-handed vision for Roan Plateau.

**SaveRoanPlateau.org**

*Citizens' Campaign to Save Roan Plateau*

Visit us online or call Gregg at 970-243-0002 /Clare at 970-618-1341

## **Roan Plateau Fact Sheet-Energy Development**

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### **The Roan Plateau is an undeveloped public land island surrounded by a growing industrial landscape.**

Garfield County is doing its part to provide energy for the nation.

- Garfield is #1 in Colorado for the number of active drill rigs: In 2003, 23 of 56 rigs in the state were operating in Garfield County.<sup>7</sup>
- As of June 2003, the county had 1,989 active wells.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2003, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission issued 566 permits for drilling on public and private lands in Garfield County, up from 362 in 2002.<sup>9</sup>

Almost all the region's gas reserves are available from public lands open to drilling.

- 94% of the estimated gas reserve in the Uinta/Piceance Basin—including Roan Plateau—is available from public lands that are open to leasing.<sup>10</sup>
- 57% of this reserve is available from public lands that have no additional protections for wildlife or other environmental considerations.<sup>11</sup>

**A balanced plan for the Roan Plateau will protect key natural areas on the top and cliffs and provide for gas development along the base. This even-handed approach safeguards our quality-of-life and promotes diverse economic activity along with gas development.**

**According to BLM calculations, such a plan could access over 85% of the resource likely to be developed in the Planning Area, and still keep the top and cliffs as they are today: bold, dramatic, and undisturbed.**

**TELL BLM TO keep drilling off the top of roan plateau !**

**WRITE : BLM-Roan Plateau Planning/POB 1009/Glenwood Springs, CO 81602  
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EMAIL: Jamie\_Connell@co.blm.gov**

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<sup>1</sup>Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment, Comparison of Six Preliminary Alternatives. BLM, 10/14/02

<sup>2</sup>GIS data on Colorado oil and gas leases. BLM, 2001; GIS data on ownership. The Nature Conservancy, 2001

<sup>3</sup>GIS data from Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. BLM, 2003

<sup>4</sup>Roan Plateau Reasonable Foreseeable Development Memorandum (CO-922 3160). Extrapolation of data from table 2. BLM, 5/30/03

<sup>5</sup>"It's just like old (boom) times," Rocky Mountain News, 1/6/04

<sup>6</sup>"The Gas Century," Aspen Daily News, 11/2/03

<sup>7</sup>Status of the Oil and Gas Industry in Garfield County. Garfield County, 10/31/03

<sup>8</sup>Status of the Oil and Gas Industry in Garfield County. Garfield County, 10/31/03

<sup>9</sup>"Top 10 Stories of 2003," Glenwood Springs Post Independent, 12/31/03

<sup>10</sup>EPCA Study: Scientific Inventory of Onshore Federal Lands' Oil and Gas Resources and Reserves and the Extent and Nature of Restrictions or Impediments to their Development, Table 3-9. U.S. Dept. of Interior et al., 1/03

<sup>11</sup>EPCA Study: Scientific Inventory of Onshore Federal Lands' Oil and Gas Resources and Reserves and the Extent and Nature of Restrictions or Impediments to their Development, Table 3-9. U.S. Dept. of Interior et al., 1/03