

News Release



IPAMS
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Colorado's 3 Largest Newspapers Support IPAMS Stance on Roan

Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News, Colorado Springs Gazette all oppose Salazar-Udall ban on developing vast energy resources on tiny portion of Roan Plateau

(Denver) – The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) today lauded editorials in Colorado's three largest newspapers supporting limited energy development on the Naval Oil Shale Reserves (NOSR) 1 & 3 as evidence that "facts are finally emerging over emotion and political rhetoric on an issue that affects every Coloradan."

IPAMS has long maintained that the NOSR, which are located on a tiny portion of the Roan Plateau, should be made available for limited energy development in accordance with the Defense Authorization Act of 1997.

"The Salazar-Udall ban on developing the NOSR would cost the state of Colorado \$1 billion in lost revenues and prohibit the development of a vast natural resource—enough energy, in fact, to heat every home in Colorado for the next 20 years," said Andrew Bremner, IPAMS Director of Government Affairs.

"The proposed ban on drilling in this area has been pushed by organizations whose actions could seriously impact energy development in our state, thereby endangering the livelihoods of thousands of Coloradans and, according to a recent study by the Colorado School of Mines and the U.S. Department of Commerce, almost 10 percent of the state's economic output.

"It's good to see that, at least in some quarters, misinformation and hyperbole are finally taking a backseat to what's best for the State of Colorado," concluded Bremner.

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[Click here to read the recent editorials in the *Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, and *Colorado Springs Gazette*.](#)

Quick Facts on the Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 & 3 (located on a tiny portion of the Roan Plateau)

Under the Bureau of Land Management's land use plan for the NOSR's 1 & 3:

- Only 350 acres of disturbance at any given time, and protects 38,427 acres from any development at all, including nearly 23,000 acres of wildlife security areas identified by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

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- Drilling and related activities are limited from December through April in nearly 35,000 acres of critical big game winter range below the rim.
 - A drilling area would have to be restored before work could begin in another area
 - About ½ the public lands on top would be off limits
 - No new roads or pipelines would be allowed on the sides of the plateau visible from I-70
 - Four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) are designated in the plan, covering over 21,000 acres, or 29% of the planning area.
 - Large portions of the ACECs are provided protection from long-term, ground-disturbing activities. These include the entire Parachute Creek watershed, other riparian areas, and large blocks of sensitive habitats for certain vegetation and wildlife.
 - Slopes greater than 20% on top of the plateau are off limits to development, thereby further protecting the canyons and precipices.
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- The plateau top already has 157 miles of roads and 31 wells drilled on private lands
 - The NOSRs hold enough natural gas to heat 4 million homes for 20 years.
 - Conservatively, federal royalties and bonus bids from energy development on the NOSR's would provide \$3.5 billion to Garfield County and the state of Colorado, preventing the state's impending budget shortfalls.
 - Garfield County would receive approximately \$57 million annually for the next 20 years.
 - Colorado stands to gain up to \$1 billion the year that the Roan is leased, and over \$175 million a year in royalties and bonus bids could be realized over a 20 year period.
 - Oil and natural gas development currently occurs on less than 1% of federal lands in the Intermountain West

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IPAMS, founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent oil and gas producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants committed to environmentally responsible oil and gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.