



PRESS RELEASE – AUGUST 13, 2020

**Utah Bureau of Land Management Decision
Protects Portions of Old Spanish National Historic Trail**

Decision is supported by numerous conservation groups.

Contact: Lynn Brittner
Executive Director
Old Spanish Trail Association
ostamgr@gmail.com
805-729-6588.

PAGE, ARIZONA - The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Utah state office announced August 11 that it will defer all of the controversial 87,000 acres of oil and gas lease parcels in southeastern Utah's red rock country proposed for lease at an upcoming federal sale the week of September 28.

<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-utah-issues-september-oil-and-gas-lease-sale-notice?fbclid=IwAR2YPs1mhd8gjzMdQa1fHqWI97NLTjmeMJY57YWx4lcBf05ZF77R9aSDGIY>

The Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA¹) opposed the proposed sale of parcels in Grand and San Juan counties since 26 of the proposed sale parcels impacted the OSNHT and its trail corridor. OSTA was part of a conservation alliance opposed to the sale of the parcels.

Other members of the alliance include:

- The Natural Resources Defense Council
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
- Coalition to Protect America's National Parks

"In taking this decision, the Utah BLM helped protect one of southwest America's great trails," said OSTA President Paul Ostapuk. "Congress's 2002 approval of the OSNHT placed the trail under the protective provisions of the National Historic Trails Act of 1968. BLM-Utah's decision upholds the protection of the Trail under that act."

"We appreciate BLM-Utah's decision and hope protection of the trail by BLM and other land managers continues," Ostapuk added.

¹OSTA is a 501 (c) 3 organization whose mission is to study, preserve and protect, interpret and educate, and promote respectful use of the Old Spanish Trail (OST), the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) and closely related historic routes. OSTA is the designated volunteer organization for the OSNHT, recognized by both the National Park Service and BLM, under Section 11 of The National Trails System Act (NTSA) of 1968, as amended [16 USC 1250].

OSTA Executive Director, Lynn Brittner, 360 Ranchitos Rd. Corrales, NM 87048-9582 / ostamgr@gmail.com / 805-729-6588

OldSpanishTrail.org