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**Creation Justice Ministries Applauds Release of Master Leasing Plan in Moab**

**Master Leasing Plan a Positive Step Toward Better Stewardship of God’s Creation**

Creation Justice Ministries celebrates the Bureau of Land Management’s release of the Moab Master Leasing Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement.

In Genesis 2:15, God calls on the first people to “till and keep the earth.” Indeed, this is one of the main jobs of humanity. In modern context, tilling and keeping the earth involves active engagement in land stewardship decision-making by stakeholders who need to know and care about what is happening to God’s creation around them.

In the Master Leasing Plan stakeholder process for Moab, it was encouraging to see not only elected officials give input, but also business leaders and everyday citizens. It was particularly important to involve people who facilitate opportunities to experience God’s wild lands through outdoor sports and recreation. The outdoor recreation leaders helped the drafters of the plan understand that when God’s creation in Arches and Canyonlands National Parks are thriving, so do the Moab local communities’ economies and health.

This Master Leasing Plan for Moab will help communities work together to protect, restore, and rightly share God’s creation not only in the Moab area, but also across the nation as other BLM lands undergo their own Master Leasing Plans. As more places undergo Master Leasing Plans, including Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, South Park in Colorado, and Greater Little Mountain in Wyoming, the Bureau of Land Management can use the Moab plan as an example of best practices.

*Creation Justice Ministries represents the creation care policies of 38 Christian communions, including Baptist conventions, mainline Protestants, Historically Black Churches, Peace Churches, and Orthodox communions. Together, we reach more than 100,000 churches and more than 45 million faithful. Learn more at [www.creationjustice.org](http://www.creationjustice.org)*

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