

- **New: NPS – Aztec Ruins National Monument (NM – Rep. Tom Udall)** Manana Inc., an energy company, has provided documentation of its legal right to conduct operations in the monument and its intent to drill a Fruitland Coal natural gas well within the monument boundary. It is proposing a location adjacent to the North Ruins, the third largest archeological site in the monument. The monument is conducting internal scoping and considering other possible locations that might be recommended as alternatives. The monument is also processing requests from ConocoPhillips in their interest to develop two new wells, and from XTO Energy, Inc, to extend a gas gathering line to tie in with an existing line already within the monument.
- **No Change: NPS – Petrified Forest NP (AZ – Rep. Rick Renzi), major potash deposit identified.** A new study by the Arizona Geological Survey (AZGS) identifies the size and distribution of a world-class potash deposit in the Holbrook Basin of east-central Arizona, including the southern portion of Petrified Forest National Park and much of the lands Congress authorized for park expansion in 2004. Public release of the study awaits impending approval from the governor's office. Potash is an essential ingredient in fertilizers. This deposit underlies 600 square miles east of Holbrook, AZ, and was first identified in the 1950s, but not developed because it was not viewed as economically competitive. In the last three years, there has been a ten-fold increase in potash prices with additional rises in the last few months pushing the price up another 50-100%. Calculated tonnage for the entire deposit is 682 million to 2.27 billion metric tons. Approximately 20% of the deposit lies below Petrified Forest National Park and is closed to mining. An additional 30% underlies lands covered by the Petrified Forest Expansion Act of 2004. This discovery will obviously have an impact on land values within the Expansion Act boundaries. At present, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates U.S. potash resources at six billion tons, the bulk of which is found at depths greater than 6000 feet. U.S. farmers used 5.2 billion metric tons of potash in 2007; 80% of that was imported. U.S. potash production is limited to Michigan, New Mexico (largest U.S. producer), and Utah.