United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
http://www.blm.gov

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3120 / (UT-922)

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AUG 0 7 2008

DECISION

Red Rock Forests c/o Western Resource Advocates 425 East 100 South Salt Lake City, Utah 84111	: : : :	Protest of the Inclusion of One Parcel in the November 21, 2006 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Protest Denied

On October 6, 2006, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provided notice that 280 parcels of land would be offered in a competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled for November 21, 2006. The notice indicated that the protest period for the lease sale would end on November 6, 2006. By errata sheets dated November 6, 14, and 17, 2006, 25 parcels listed in the notice were deferred from the sale and one parcel listed in the notice was deleted from the sale. The lease sale was held on November 21, 2006.

By letter to BLM dated and hand-delivered on November 6, 2006, the Red Rock Forests, Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons, High Uintas Preservation Council, and Utah Chapter of Sierra Club (collectively RRF) submitted a timely protest to the inclusion of Parcel No. UT1106-002 in the lease sale. The Parcel is located on public lands administered by BLM's Vernal Field Office.

Protest

In its protest, RRF makes certain arguments that the Parcel should not be offered for lease sale. Each argument is based on RRF's assumption that the Parcel is located on lands within the boundaries of the Ashley National Forest.

BLM Response

Parcel No. UT 1106-002 is not located on lands within the boundaries of the Ashley National Forest. The Parcel is located on BLM-administered public land adjacent to the boundary between that public land and the Ashley National Forest. Since all of the arguments made in the RRF protest are based on the incorrect assumption that Parcel is located on lands within the Ashley National Forest, the RRF protest fails to show any error in the inclusion of the Parcel in the lease sale. Consequently, the protest to the inclusion of the Parcel in the sale is denied.

BLM has received an offer on the Parcel, but the Parcel is also the subject of another protest. Depending on the resolution of the other protest, BLM will issue or not issue a lease on the Parcel.

Appeal Rights

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 C.F.R. Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, the notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the address shown on the enclosed Form) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition for a stay pursuant to 43 C.F.R. Part 4, Subpart B § 4.21, during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay must show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall be evaluated based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal, petition for stay, and statement of reasons also must be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Office of the Solicitor, Intermountain Region, 125 South State Street, Suite 6201, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138, at the same time the original documents are filed in this office. You will find attached a list of those parties who purchased the subject parcels at the November 21, 2006 sale and therefore must be served with a copy of any notice of appeal, petition for stay, and statement of reasons.

Selma Sierra
State Director

Enclosures
1. Form 1842-1 (2pp)
2. List of purchasers (1p)

cc: List of purchasers (1)
James Karkut, Office of the Solicitor, Intermountain Region,
125 So. State St., Ste 6201, SLC, UT 84138

Form 1842-1
(September 2005)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION ON TAKING APPEALS TO THE INTERIOR BOARD OF LAND APPEALS

DO NOT APPEAL UNLESS
1. This decision is adverse to you,
AND
2. You believe it is incorrect

IF YOU APPEAL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED

1. NOTICE OF APPEAL.....

A person served with the decision being appealed must transmit the notice of appeal in time for it to be filed in the office where it is required to be filed within 30 days after the date of service. If a decision is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, a person not served with the decision must transmit a notice of appeal in time for it to be filed within 30 days after the date of publication (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413).

2. WHERE TO FILE NOTICE OF APPEAL.....

Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, P. O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0151 or
Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

WITH COPY TO SOLICITOR...

and
Regional Solicitor, Room 6201, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

3. STATEMENT OF REASONS

Within 30 days after filing the Notice of Appeal, File a complete statement of the reasons why you are appealing. This must be filed with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC, Arlington, Virginia 22203. If you fully stated your reasons for appealing when filing the Notice of Appeal, no additional statement is necessary (43 CFR 4.412 and 4.413).

WITH COPY TO SOLICITOR.....

and
Regional Solicitor, Room 6201, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

4. ADVERSE PARTIES.....

Within 15 days after each document is filed, each adverse party named in the decision and the Regional Solicitor or Field Solicitor having jurisdiction over the State in which the appeal arose must be served with a copy of: (a) the Notice of Appeal, (b) the Statement of Reasons, and (c) any other documents filed (43 CFR 4.413). If the decision concerns the use and disposition of public lands, including land selections under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended, service will be made upon the Associated Solicitor, Division of Land and Water Resources, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. If the decision concerns the use and disposition of mineral resources, service will made upon the Associated Solicitor, Division of Mineral Resources, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

5. PROOF OF SERVICE.....

Within 15 days after any document is served on an adverse party, file proof of that service with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC, Arlington, Virginia 22203. This may consist of a certified or registered mail "Return Receipt Card" signed by the adverse party (43 CFR 4.401(c)).

6. REQUEST FOR STAY.....

Except where program-specific regulations place this decision in full force and effect or provide for an automatic stay, the decision becomes effective upon the expiration of the time allowed for filing an appeal unless a petition for a stay is timely filed together with a *Notice of Appeal* (43 CFR 4.21). If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal (43 CFR 4.21 or 43 CFR 2804.1). A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the *Notice of Appeal* and Petition for a Stay **must** also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay. Except as other provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (1) the relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (2) the likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (3) the likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (4) whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Unless these procedures are followed your appeal will be subject to dismissal (43 CFR 4.402). Be certain that **all** communications are identified by serial number of the case being appealed.

NOTE: A document is not filed until it is actually received in the proper office (43 CFR 4.401(a)). See 43 CFR Part 4, subpart b for general rules relating to procedures and practice involving appeals.

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43 CFR SUBPART 1821--GENERAL INFORMATION

Sec. 1821.10 Where are BLM offices located? (a) In addition to the Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C. and seven national level support and service centers, BLM operates 12 State Offices each having several subsidiary offices called Field Offices. The addresses of the State Offices can be found in the most recent edition of 43 CFR 1821.10. The State Office geographical areas of jurisdiction are as follows:

STATE OFFICES AND AREAS OF JURISDICTION:

Alaska State Office --------- Alaska
Arizona State Office -------- Arizona
California State Office ------- California
Colorado State Office -------- Colorado
Eastern States Office -------- Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri
and, all States east of the Mississippi River
Idaho State Office ---------- Idaho
Montana State Office -------- Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
Nevada State Office ---------- Nevada
New Mexico State Office ---- New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas
Oregon State Office ---------- Oregon and Washington
Utah State Office ---------- Utah
Wyoming State Office -------- Wyoming and Nebraska

(b) A list of the names, addresses, and geographical areas of jurisdiction of all Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management can be obtained at the above addresses or any office of the Bureau of Land Management, including the Washington Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

List of Purchasers for November 2006
Red Rock Forests Protested Parcels

Sonja V. McCormick
1481 S Preston St
Salt Lake City, UT 84108