

August 11, 2014

Jesse Juen, Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
PO Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Juen:

My name is Jaye Buros and I am writing to protest the proposed sales of parcels NM-201410-001, 004 thru 015 that will be offered up for lease in the BLM Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, October 22, 2014.

My interests in protesting the sale of these parcels are three fold. I am a resident of Rio Arriba County, living in Abiquiu, New Mexico for twenty-five years. I taught school in the Abiquiu Elementary School for ten years. I now own and operate the Rising Moon Gallery and Art Center, a non-profit.

I moved from New Hampshire to Abiquiu because of the open land and pristine environment. As a resident and a school teacher I learned to appreciate and value the culture and heritage of this area. From my students and parents I learned the history and traditions that are treasured still today by the people who live here. I learned about acequias and the importance of the water to the farmers. I have enjoyed the food grown by these farmers.

Each hydraulic fracturing well takes millions of gallons of water away from the people who have farmed this land for centuries. These are the people who put food on our table. People whose income is dependent upon the land and the amount of food that can be produced. The water used in drilling a well is forever lost, polluted with the many chemicals used in the process, many of them carcinogenic.

The geology of the parcels proposed for sale is the same geology as in the parcels that have already been deferred. There are numerous examples of underground waters, and individual wells that have been poisoned as a result of hydraulic fracturing. In 2012 there were 700 self reported accidents.

Our farmers in the last two years have experienced a reduction in their acequia water. The following quote is from the National Weather Service for the State of New Mexico.

"The start of the 2014 calendar year was extremely dry. January statewide precipitation was well below normal to nonexistent with only 4% of normal! This was the driest January on record going back to 1895, with a statewide average of only 0.03 inches.

February was an improvement, but still well below normal at only 27% normal precipitation. That makes the first two months of 2014 the driest on record, with only 16% of normal precipitation, and a statewide average of just 0.20 inches. March was better, but below normal, at 64% of the statewide average. For the first three months of 2014, statewide average precipitation was 34% of normal, at 0.67 inches. This was 1.32 inches below normal, the 3rd driest on record. April received 53 percent of normal. This made statewide precipitation for January through April only 41 percent of normal - the 7th driest four month start to any year. The average deficit across the state is -1.61 inches. May came in as the 'wettest' month of the year, at 89% of normal. June turned drier with a statewide average of 55% of normal. That makes 2014 at 56% of normal precipitation, a statewide deficit of 2.18 inches below normal, and the 13th driest first six months on record. Initial July rainfall totals are much better, with significant rainfall over much of the state. July will be the first month this year with above normal precipitation."

Although July's rainfall was above normal to expect that the drought is over in New Mexico is inconsistent with the data.

To approve the sale of parcels when the EA states that production resulting from these parcels would have no net gain to the oil and gas companies makes no sense. The sale of these parcels and subsequent drilling of wells in the Santa Fe National Forest will increase fire hazards with the burning of hydrocarbons, pollute the air, impact the growth of the forest trees and risk our water resources.

The Rio Chama, not only feeds Abiquiu Lake but ultimately feeds into the Rio Grande which provides water to the people in Albuquerque. To risk our water for "no net gain" per the EA is unreasonable.

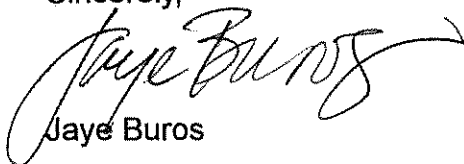
Oil and gas development would disproportionately impact the population of Rio Arriba County a county that is one of the poorest counties in the State and has the least infrastructure to support increase demands on limited resources.

The Santa Fe National Forest Finding of No significant Impact (FONSI) is unwarranted because of a lack of sufficient study. The geology of the parcels deferred by the BLM and the geology of the parcels within the national forest are the same.

I request that you defer the remaining 13 parcels in this Lease Sale. The BLM Farmington Field Office has the authority, as the sale agent, to defer these remaining parcels. These 13 parcels in the Santa Fe National Forest pose the same issues as their neighboring parcels that have been deferred and the same risks to the Rio Chama Watershed east of the Continental Divide.

Certainly taking the time to update studies, that are many years old, that were used as the basis for the finding of no significant impact with these thirteen parcels would make sense given the drought that is being experienced by the State of New Mexico, especially when the EA states there would be "no net gain to the oil and gas companies".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jaye Buros", written in black ink.

Jaye Buros

PO Box 56

Abiquiu, New Mexico, 87510

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