

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

August 12, 2014

Dear Director Juen,

My name is Geraldine Martinez and I am a landowner and business owner in Rio Arriba County. My address is 20852B Highway U.S. 84, 87510. I was born and raised in Rio Arriba County and raised my children in Rio Arriba County.

My husband and I lived in Coyote, where I taught school, as well as in Gallena, until I retired. He worked at the Ranger Station there until he retired. I have deep roots in that area and care very much about what happens to those communities—to the people and the environment. Big trucks running on that road day and night would disrupt the communities, as would generators and bright lights.

I am aware that 13 parcels in the Santa Fe National Forest are up for lease sale in the October 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale through the BLM Farmington Field Office. I am writing to ask that these 13 parcels (NM-201410-001, -004, -005, -006, -007, -008, -009, -010, -011, -012, -013, -014, -015) be deferred for many reasons.

I believe that Rio Arriba County is too fragile for drilling, fracking, and flaring. Fracking uses millions of gallons of water and risks poisoning our water and the water of users downstream. We have been living in draught conditions for a few years now and using our precious water in this way would not be wise.

We had a lightning-caused fire near Coyote this summer in the Santa Fe National Forest. Flaring, commonly used in fracking, can cause fire danger and adversely affects air quality.

There are fault lines beneath Abiquiu Reservoir. We know that fracking in Oklahoma caused earthquakes. We should not put the Abiquiu Reservoir at risk.

The finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the October 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale is not adequately supported by the Environmental Assessment as it now stands. At least 30 spills in 2011 and 2012 impacted a waterway or groundwater supply. I am concerned about spills and the carcinogens in many of the fracking products.

There are numerous other reasons to defer these parcels, which are in the same geologic and geographic area as 22 other parcels that were deferred. I have just named a few in this letter. We need to protect the Rio Chama Watershed east of the Continental Divide.

Sincerely,

  
Geraldine Martinez  
P.O. Box 508  
20852B Highway U.S. 84  
Abiquiu, NM 87510