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Jesse Juen

US Bureau of Land Management

New Mexico State Office

PO Box 27115

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

August 8, 2014

Dear Director Juen;

I am a resident of Abiquiu in Rio Arriba County. I, my family and my guests are all avid hikers. I am writing to protest the inclusion of 13 parcels in the Santa Fe National Forest that are up for lease sale in the October 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale/ Farmington Field Office. These parcels are NM-201410-001, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, 015. I am requesting that these remaining parcels, east of the Continental Divide, be deferred for the same reasons as the other twenty-two parcels in the same geologic and geographic location.

I personally value the awesomeness of the night sky in much of Rio Arriba County as well as the profound quiet and minimal traffic that make living here such a peaceful experience. The aesthetic beauty of an area like ours is actually far more fragile than it appears on the surface and based on what I have observed elsewhere the industry's attempts to "reclaim or return a site to its original appearance" fail miserably. I relocated here in Rio Arriba Co. from an area in Pennsylvania near active wells, and I witnessed first hand the steady relentless parade of heavy trucks operating day and night. The majesty of the fragile high desert and the wildlife that inhabits it is worth far more to both tourists and neighbors left undisturbed than the value of the gas that will be actualized from these wells.

As a resident, I respectfully practice water conservation techniques in my home, as all New Mexican's are encouraged to do. But the fracking process offends decent water conservation techniques twice, creating an insulting affront to the environment and the citizens of the Rio Chama Watershed. First, there is the enormous volume of water required by the oil and gas production techniques, and second, the toxic waste-water creates a disposal nightmare, and it has the potential to poison our drinking water and the water of our downstream neighbors. The gas companies operating in New Mexico have a poor safety record for the high number of recorded toxic waste-water spills since 2011, and their impact on waterways and ground water supplies. Millions of gallons of waste-water will be produced and there is no reference in the BLM Assessment as to how they will dispose of it. Waste-water spills combined with fragile, deeply eroding soil, and seismic activity surrounding the Abiquiu Reservoir fault lines brought on by injection waste-water

disposal wells is a formula for disaster. A 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.

In closing, I restate my request to defer the remaining 13 parcels in the Santa Fe National Forest which pose the same problems as their neighboring parcels which have previously been deferred and the same risks to the Rio Chama Watershed east of the Continental Divide. Please take these leases off the table.

With grave concern,

 Belle C. Hollon
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