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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;

My name is Clara Hittel and I am a resident of Santa Fe, NM. 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.

My friends and I are frequent visitors to the beautiful areas of North Rio Arriba County. We camp, fish and hike many weekends and share a deep love for the beauty of the area. We have hiked and camped in many locations from Angel Fire to Chaco Canyon, and we especially love the Canjilon lakes.

I do not want to see fracking introduced into the areas of the parcels listed above. I believe the introduction of oil and gas production would greatly diminish the beauty and environmental integrity of the entire area in many ways. Toxic waste is produced by these methods and there have been spills that poison drinking water. As a camper I am well aware of the necessity of fire safety; the wells create dangerous flares that can lead to fires and they produce noxious fumes that pollute the air. The necessary sludge pits alone are a crime against the natural surroundings and the entire process is an insult to the wildlife that struggles to survive in these areas.

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. Please defer the remaining 13 parcels in the Santa Fe National Forest; they pose the same issues as their neighboring parcels that have previously been deferred and the same risks to the Rio Chama Watershed east of the Continental Divide.

Sincerely,



Clara L. Hittel, clarahittel@gmail.com

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