

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 Ann Del Valle and my address is CR 571, House 171, El Rito, NM 87530. My husband and I are landowners in Rio Arriba County. We are both retired and enjoy working on our property and fishing in the area.

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.

These parcels are very near the areas where we hike and fish and take our dogs for walks. We would certainly notice the presence of oil and gas drilling. The quality and quantity of our water is not only important to us, but to those who live downstream from us. We have been in drought conditions for quite a while. In El Rito, we have been told to limit our water usage for the last two years and our trees are suffering. In fact, many of the trees we see on Highway 554 are brown and dying. Fracking uses millions of gallons of water and our water is scarce.

The drought has increased the fire danger. We recently had a lightning-caused fire near Coyote this summer in the Santa Fe National Forest. The last thing we need in Rio Arriba County is flaring, which is often involved in fracking.

We know someone who works at the Abiquiu Dam and were impressed to know that the water flow protects wildlife miles and miles down the river. We need to protect the water in the Abiquiu Dam! We don't need spills affecting the groundwater or waterways in our area. And we don't need earthquakes affecting the fault lines beneath the dam.

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.

And these parcels, which are in the same geologic and geographic area as 22 other parcels that were deferred, also need to be deferred in order to protect the Rio Chama Watershed east of the Continental Divide. I could list many other reasons, but the water stands high in significance to us.

Sincerely,



Ann Del Valle
P.O. Box 326
CR 571, House 171
El Rito, NM 87530