

Jesse Juen

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

New Mexico State Office

PO Box 27115

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

8/12/2014

Dear Director Juen,

My name is Patti Barger 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.

I am a resident of Espanola, specifically La Puebla, a traditional community of Santa Fe County. In the early 1990's our community protested oil exploration by Giant Oil on our adjacent BLM land at Skull Ridge a valuable site for paleontology as evidenced by extensive excavations by the American Natural History Museum from the 1930's - 1960's. This land also is of value for community use.

Though I am protesting a different BLM parcel, I maintain my belief that multiple use means insuring the future of traditional communities and preserving the health of these lands.

I understand the importance of clean water, and a functioning ecosystem for the health of our community. Without clean water we cannot hope to thrive in our traditional lands. We live with a limited amount of water in our part of the world, and I am concerned about the 2-10 million gallons of water that is used for each well in this process. I highly protest this misuse of the limited resource of water.

Chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing are known to cause cancer, neurological, and other health problems. There have been many examples of spills and groundwater contamination, despite the efforts of private oil and gas companies. The risk of polluting our precious water is too great. If our water is affected it is the residents who will have to live with the consequences, not these companies.

The waters in Gallina and Regina flow into the Rio Chama and any pollution will also affect our neighbors down river all throughout the state.

Our forests are vulnerable to forest fires because of extreme drought, and the hydraulic fracturing process involves many fire risks. Wells have exploded and caught fire, and the flaring of natural gas burn off can cause the dry forest to catch fire. Our forests are a part of our livelihoods and heritage as we use them for firewood, livestock forage, and wildlife habitats as we have for hundreds of years. After a fire burns the exposed soil can cause flooding that and also pollutes our rivers.

I again protest and ask you to defer the 13 parcels up for lease in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale.

Sincerely,



Patti L. Barger

Please send your mandatory response to my address:



30 Placita Road, Espanola, NM 87532