

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

August 11, 2014

Max Rockoff
PO Box 671
El Rito, NM 87530

RE: Proposed sale of parcels NM-2014-001, 004 through 015; scheduled to be offered for lease in the BLM Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale on October 22, 2014

Dear Mr. Juen,

As a concerned citizen living in the Rio Chama watershed, I am writing to ask that the above referenced parcels be withdrawn from the upcoming sale. I feel that I must voice my concerns, which I know echo those of my fellow New Mexicans. Though there may be some short-term profits to be made by the potential Lessees of the offered parcels, to defer to their short-sighted exploitation of a limited resource may have long-term and irreversible consequences.

I agree with many others that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this upcoming sale is not adequately supported by the Environmental Assessment as it now stands.

The extractive process of hydraulic fracturing – the high pressure, deep well injecting of huge quantities of water and potentially dangerous chemicals – has been associated with many environmentally damaging occurrences. The industry involved in this practice has been secretive about the chemicals used, many of which are poisonous or carcinogenic. The risk of ground water and underlying aquifer contamination is very real. There is scientific evidence linking fracking to increased seismic activity in geologically sensitive areas such as the Rio Chama watershed. Contamination of this drainage system would have dire consequences for everyone downstream, in all walks of life.

The ecosystem in which the parcels lie is both fragile and vulnerable. The surface impacts of road building and site development would be huge, and irreversible. The surrounding forests are drought stressed and at risk of wild fire. Industrial development will impact traditional land use and further endanger many species of animals.

I find it short-sighted of the BLM to have determined that there is more land-use value in the dangerous extraction of non-renewal resources, than the continued health and vitality

of the people, traditional land use, local economy, and protection to what is known to be a fragile ecosystem.

Please remove these parcels - NM-201410-001, 004 through 015 – from the October 22, 2014 sale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Rockoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Max Rockoff
PO Box 671
El Rito, NM 87530