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Fwd: PROTEST OF ELKO LEASE PROJECT

2 messages

Joe carter <motmot777@hotmail.com>
 To: office depot <ods00964cpc@officedepot.com>

Mon, Jul 7, 2014 at 12:53 PM

ATT. AMY LEUDERS cc/GARY JOHNSON

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: joe carter <motmot777@hotmail.com>
Date: July 6, 2014 at 1:39:17 PM MDT
To: "~~motmot777@hotmail.com~~" <wildhorses@icloud.com>
Subject: PROTEST OF ELKO LEASE PROJECT

in regard to the Elko District Oil&Gas Lease Sale slated for Sept: 9,2014

I hereby, register Protest for the following reasons:

1. The Negative Cumulative Effects to commence drilling on Public lands could far outweigh any Gas/Oil production benefits.

2. ECONOMIC

The downside of economic expansion is increased population and increased pressure on finite Resources such as WATER, Recreation, open space and demands on Government Resources. Any economic benefit would be short-lived and enure to the benefit of few private companies.

3. NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL SITES

Less than 15% of the entire Elko District has been inventoried for Cultural Resources as of Dec. 2013. The District contains over 17,700 known Prehistoric-era and Historic-era archeological sites. Most of the proposed Locations for the Oil/Gas Sale HAVE NOT been inventoried.

4. WATER

A small portion of Precipitation that falls within the affected sub-basins infiltrates into the ground and resurfaces at Springs.

According to BLM Data, there are about 1000 Springs on BLM land within the Sub-Spring Area and about 50, in and within, two miles of the PROPOSED LEASE PARCELS...

Some Springs reach flows as high as 7000 gallons per minute, However, MOST discharge LESS than 0.5 gallons per minute. 0.5 Springs are barely measurable and highly vulnerable to drying.

These are CRUCIAL to Wildlife and Livestock Herds.

WATER is an IRREPLACEABLE resource. BLM cannot produce CLEAN Water.

Beneficial uses, according to BLM's Environmental Assessment include

Irrigation
 Riparian Vegetation
 Municipal , Domestic Use
 Livestock... cattle, sheep Horses
 Recreation
 Wildlife

Water is diverted from Streams and a large portion is consumed directly from Surface and shallow groundwater by Riparian vegetation and provides Livestock and Wildlife with forage and Habitat. Livestock and Wildlife depend on these for life-sustaining Drinking water.

5. CONTAMINATION

If contamination of Fresh-water aquifers occurs from Oil and Gas development, changes in Ground Water QUALITY could impact Springs and RESIDENTIAL WELLS. Direct impact would be shortly after the start of Construction activities, however, stabilization of soil to prevent erosion can take years (if ever.)

Impacts to GROUNDWATER would be less evident and occur on a longer time scale. Spills or PRODUCED FLUIDS (eg: salt water, fracking chemicals and condensate, in the event of a breach, overflow or spill from storage tanks could result in contamination of the soil and impact SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN THE LONG TERM (BLM 2013)

6. USE OF CHEMICALS

CURRENTLY WATER USED TO DRILL ONE WELL RANGES BETWEEN 1 AND 6 MILLION GALLONS.

FRACTURING a single well: companies have estimated that they use a ratio of 0.5% Hydraulic chemical fluid mix to 1.5 gallons of water.

THAT TRANSLATES TO

A MINIMUM OF 5,000 GALLONS OF CHEMICALS INTO ONE WELL FOR EVERY 1.5 GALLONS OF WATER USED TO FRACTURE IT. (Paschke 2011)

7. SEISMIC DEVELOPMENT

FLUID INJECTION associated with Routine or Hydraulic Fracturing has the potential to induce Seismic Activity.

Nevada is the 3rd most tectonically active State.

Since 1850 there have been 63 EARTHQUAKES over 5.5 magnitude.

Well Stimulation may be used to enhance Oil Recovery.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING is one of these methods that are reasonably FORSEEABLE for LEASES IN THIS SALE. The Society for Petroleum Engineers (SPE) estimates that over one million Hydraulic Fracturing procedures have been pumped in the US and tens of thousands of horizontal wells have been drilled and fractured.

8. CANDIDATES: THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Greater Sage-Grouse has recently been determined by Fish and Wildlife Services to be "warranted for Listing but precluded by Species of higher priority" and categorized as a Candidate Species.

The BLM is in the process of amending Land Use Plans with Language to be applied to Public

lands with Sage-Grouse.

There is Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) and Preliminary General Habitat (PGH) located within THESE PROPOSED PARCELS.

Some PPH identified as having the HIGHEST Conservation Value to include Breeding, nesting, brood-rearing, and winter concentration areas.

These Areas are being analyzed in the respective NEPA documents.

34 Lease Parcels are within Wild Horse HMAs. If Parcels are developed in the future, Site-Specific Mitigation measures and BMP s would be attached as Conditions of Approval and would be analyzed in a site- site-specific NEPA Analysis.

9. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The cumulative Effects Study Area (CESA) is the area within and NEAR the Proposed Lease Parcels. This Area was chosen because effects associated with the development of Parcels within the Proposed Lease Sale would not likely extend beyond the Area,

As described in the Affected Environment section, there is a considerable portion of Riparian/Wetland Resources in the CESA that are NON_FUNCTIONAL or AT RISK and as such, it could be inferred that RIPARIAN/WETLAND Resources have ALREADY SUSTAINED SUBSTANTIVE CUMULATIVE EFFECT. These IMPACTS would continue to occur under the No action Alternative.

SUBSEQUENT development could INCREASE IMPACTS.

SPECIFICALLY,

DEVELOPMENT would LIKELY result in Negative Impacts to RIPARIAN/WETLAND RESOURCES.

These CUMULATIVE IMPACTS would continue to occur under the proposed action.

The Cumulative Effects on PUBLIC Land and WATER will far out-weigh any Oil/Gas Production.

For these reasons i oppose and Protest this, and any Future Gas/Oil Leases on Public Land. Water in the Arid West is an irreplaceable, Life-sustaining Necessity. The Protection of WATER must take HIGHEST PRIORITY.

Other sources of Energy can be found, WATER and Riparian Areas in the "Hot Desert" must take Highest Priority with Wildlife and the protection of its Wild Vistas, unencumbered by Private Enterprise Impacts.

Keep Public Lands WILD.

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