

* Utah Rivers Council * Center for Biological Diversity* American Whitewater *
 * Adventure Bound River Expeditions * Red River Canoe Company *
 * Living Rivers * Colorado Riverkeeper * Holiday Expeditions *
 * Red River Adventures * Western River Flyfishers * NRS * Keen Footwear *
 * Western Wildlife Conservancy * World Wide River Expeditions *
 * Desolation Outfitters * Oneway Boatworks *

SENT BY FAX

December 3, 2008

Selma Sierra -State Director
 Utah State Director, Bureau of Land Management
 440 West 200 South, 5th Floor
 P.O. Box 45155
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155

UTAH STATE OFFICE
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 2008 DEC -4 AM 10:58
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Re: *Protest of Bureau of Land Management's Notice of Competitive Oil and Lease Sale to Be Held on December 19, 2008*

Greetings,

In accordance with 43 C.F.R. 3120.1-3, the undersigned businesses and organizations hereby timely protest the December 19, 2008, offering, in Salt Lake City, Utah, of the following twelve parcels involving approximately 22,056.77 acres in the Price, Vernal, and Moab field offices:

Price Field Office: UTU86888 (UT 1108-361), UTU86889 (UT 1108-368), UTU86890 (UT 1108-369), UTU86891 (UT 1108-370) (4 parcels)

Vernal Field Office: UTU86972 (UT 1108-103), UTU86975 (UT 1108-106), UTU86976 (UT 1108-109), UTU87000 (UT 1108-136), UTU86701 (UT 1108-137) (5 parcels)

Moab Field Office: UTU86887 (UT 1108-159), UTU86893 (UT 1108-162), UTU86894 (UT 1108-163), UTU86894 (UT 1108-166), UTU86894 (UT 1108-167) (5 parcels) 8690 1

86903

We the undersigned businesses and organizations submit this protest on the above twelve parcels since all of these parcels are located adjacent to or in the corridor of the

Green River, and White River. All of our businesses and organizations depend upon a healthy, natural, free-flowing Green and White River and therefore our livelihoods depend on the permanent protection of these iconic rivers.

As explained below, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) decision to sell the twelve parcels at issue in this protest will harm our business and livelihoods.

The undersigned businesses and organizations request that BLM withdraw these twelve lease parcels from sale. Alternatively, the agency could attach unconditional no surface occupancy stipulations to each parcel and proceed with the sale of these parcels.

The grounds for this Protest are as follows:

A. LEASING THESE PARCELS FOR OIL AND GAS WILL HARM OUR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Many of our businesses and organizations operate on the White River and Green River. Clients on these trips come for the unique experience that they can have nowhere else in the country – passing through a land of scenic and geologic marvels with views unimpeded by modern developments. The fact that these rivers are located in areas with no evidence of our modern world, especially oil and gas wells, is what makes them such a unique and attractive experience.

All of our businesses depend on the White and Green Rivers remaining as they are today. Any change to this environment, by allowing oil and gas drilling within the river corridor or even within sight of the river will have a negative impact on our businesses and our livelihoods. Unlike many groups and individuals who support or oppose oil and gas leases due to philosophical reasons, offering these parcels for oil and gas drilling will have a direct and negative impact on our bottom line. There will be

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fewer people from across the country who will want to visit these areas if there are oil and gas wells marring the scenic views.

Therefore, we are urging the BLM to withdrawal these twelve parcels from the December 19, 2008 oil and gas lease offering in order to preserve these unique rivers as they are today and in order to allow us to maintain our livelihood.

B. THESE PARCELS SHOULD ALL HAVE AN UNCONDITIONAL NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY STIPULATION.

All twelve of these parcels are located adjacent to a river or in a river corridor. These parcels all contain several stipulations, some of which are due to their location adjacent to a river or in a river corridor. Specifically, stipulations VFO-14 in the Vernal Field Office, MBFO-NSO-12 in the Moab Field Office, and PFO-NSO-5 in the Price Field Office require a no surface occupancy either for the entire parcel or just for the area of the 100 year flood plain.

While we commend the BLM for including this stipulation, we are sorely disappointed with the fact that the BLM allows for an exception. All of these stipulations have a statement that allows for an exception to no surface occupancy. Therefore, it appears that the BLM is attempting to protect the river corridor with the stipulation. Unfortunately, in reality the BLM could allow anyone that owns the parcel to build within the corridor or even right next to the river if they filed for and received an exception to the NSO clause. This is absolutely unacceptable.

Therefore, if the BLM does not remove these parcels, it must place an unconditional no surface occupancy on all twelve parcels.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

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The undersigned businesses and organizations request the following appropriate relief: (1) the withdrawal of the twelve protested parcels from the December 19, 2008, Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale until such time as the agency has complied with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act or, in the alternative (2) withdrawal of the twelve protested parcels until such time as the BLM attaches unconditional no surface occupancy stipulations to all protested parcels.

This protest is brought by and through the undersigned businesses and organizations. Members, staff, and clients of these organizations and businesses reside, work, recreate, or regularly visit the areas to be impacted by the proposed lease sale and therefore have an interest in, and will be affected and impacted by, the proposed action.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Danenhauer
River Solutions Manager
Utah Rivers Council

Dee and Sue Holladay
Owners
Holiday Expeditions

Mark Singleton
Executive Director
American Whitewater

Tom Kleinschmidt
Owner
Adventure Bound River Expeditions

Theresa Butler
Owner
Red River Canoe Company

John Weisheit
Living Rivers

John Weisheit
Colorado Riverkeeper

Michelle Harrington
Rivers Conservation Manager
Center for Biological Diversity

Jeff Stagg
Owner

Chris Enlow
Keen Footwear

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**Carl Dec
Owner
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**Kirk Robinson
Director
Western Wildlife Conservancy**

**Herman Hoops
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Owner
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TO: Bureau of Land Management – Utah State Office

FROM: Utah Rivers Council, Center for Biological Diversity, American Whitewater, Adventure Bound River Expeditions, Red River Canoe Company, Living Rivers, Colorado Riverkeeper, Holiday Expeditions, Red River Adventures, Western River Flyfishers, NRS, Keen Footwear, Western Wildlife Conservancy, World Wide River Expeditions, Desolation Outfitters, and Oneway Boatworks.

RE: Protest of Bureau of Land Management’s Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale to Be Held on December 19, 2008

FAX #: (801) 539-4237

DATE: December 3, 2008

PAGES: Five

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