100,457

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8
999 18TH STREET - SUITE 300
DENVER, CO 80202-2466
Phone 800-227-8917
http://www.epa.gov/region08

Ref: 8EPR-N

MAY 23 2003

Renée Dana, Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

RE: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan/Green River Resource Management Plan Amendment
CEQ #030054

Dear Ms. Dana:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 4321, et. seq., and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Region 8 office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the referenced Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan (CAP).

SDEIS Alternatives - Background Information

The general planning area covered by the SDEIS includes BLM lands northeast of Rock Springs, Wyoming including portions of Sweetwater, Sublette, and Fremont counties. The total planning area is approximately 622,000 acres and there is a "core area" within the planning area that encompasses 80,000 acres. The Green River Resource Management Plan deferred certain leasing decisions to the CAP for Jack Morrow Hills.

This document provides analysis for four alternatives including a no-action alternative. Alternative 1 is a maximum development alternative. Alternative 2 is a minimal development alternative with emphasis on improving and protecting habitat for wildlife and sensitive plant and animal species; improving riparian areas and water quality; and protecting historic, cultural, and Native American sites. Alternative 3 (the preferred alternative) would provide opportunities for

Printed on Recycled Paper

development while ensuring resource protection. Additionally, in Alternative 3, mitigation requirements necessary to ensure the stability of the sensitive resource indicators would be determined through an adaptive management approach to resource use and protection.

Background Information on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and EPAs Comments

EPA's initial DEIS review, rated the Jack Morrow Hills DEIS an EC -2 (Environmental Concerns, Insufficient Information) due largely to 1) the document did not identify or present all environmental impacts in a clear format and 2) the document lacked supporting information in the preferred alternative to open additional acreage to fluid mineral leasing in the core area. EPA also requested that a reasonable environmental preservation alternative be included in the EIS.

In addition, EPA's detailed comments were related to five general areas of concern in the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS.

- Consistency with the decision deferrals identified in the Green River Resource Management Plan (GRRMP);
- Proposed land use decisions made in the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan (CAP) without supporting information available;
- Delineating impacts to natural resources;
- Using the adaptive management approach to integrating fluid minerals development while protecting crucial elk habitat and other sensitive environments in the planning area; and
- Incorporating issues identified during scoping.

EPA's Review Findings of the SDEIS

Document Readability - It is very evident that the SDEIS is much easier to read and understand. Making sure that the document can be easily understood is a fundamental element of the public process which NEPA documents provide.

Scoping Issues/Preservation Alternative - BLM was very responsive to EPAs recommendation to provide a preservation alternative in the SDEIS. This alternative is very helpful in providing the public with a sense of the relative differences that exist between a range of alternatives. This alternative provides the reader with information concerning the cost of greatly reducing oil and gas development and alternatively what increased development means to increases in impacts to natural resources.

Wyoming Sage-Grouse and Habitat - The SDEIS, including the Biological Assessment evaluates the impact to the greater sage-grouse and habitat. Wyoming Fish and

Game will soon be issuing the final Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) should incorporate the objectives and goals of that conservation plan and include additional mitigation or conservation procedures that were not included in the SDEIS.

Adaptive Management/Consistency With Green River Resource Management Plan - The SDEIS has expanded the discussion on the adaptive management approach to resolve the potential conflicts between oil and gas development and wildlife habitat in the "core area." Although the adaptive management approach has been outlined in this document (Appendix 17), the approach still remains very conceptual. The adaptive management presented in the SDEIS postpones developing the specific delineation of thresholds, funding mechanisms, monitoring plans, a decision tree for future adaptive management decisions such as leasing, and a public participation plan. The document does recognize that these are important elements of the adaptive management approach, but defers the identification of these adaptive management elements until after the CAP is completed. It is essential that these elements be provided in the FEIS in order to remove some of the uncertainty concerning the magnitude of potential impacts to wildlife and habitat.

Although it is not a requirement that the entire adaptive management plan be provided in the CAP, including these basic elements of an adaptive management plan is important because the Green River Resource Management Plan (GRRMP) deferred future oil and gas leasing until more site specific and detailed information could be supplied. The GRRMP made it very clear that these analyses were needed before leasing decisions could be made and anticipated that this information would be collected and provided in the CAP. Instead of supplying the information identified in the GRRMP, BLM has proposed to employ the adaptive management process proposed here. Therefore, it is important to at least clarify the essential elements of the adaptive management plan that will eventually provide the information identified in the GRRMP.

The site specific and detailed information required by the GRRMP will not be provided until the adaptive management plan is implemented and monitoring information is collected and analyzed. This approach implies that important decisions concerning removing lease suspensions and opening new areas to leasing cannot be done in this document, but must wait until site specific and detailed information is provided for new production areas under the proposed adaptive management program. An example of this inconsistency is provided by Map 54 which shows all of the areas that will be open to new leases. This map implies that leasing decisions have already been made prior to the adaptive management process being in place and without additional site specific and detailed information being provided in the CAP. Although the SDEIS text briefly discusses phasing oil and gas development and lease decisions, it is still not clear how BLM would be able to implement a phased approach to oil and gas leasing and development under an adaptive management approach.

Since the preferred alternative in the SDEIS does not clearly address the timing of removing lease suspensions or opening new areas to leasing, EPA suggests constructing an adaptive management decision tree. The FEIS should be clear on how BLM will integrate leasing decisions as a result of the adaptive management process. The intent of the adaptive management process should be to provide information that will lead to decisions concerning where oil and gas development is appropriate, and if it is appropriate, to proceed with the proper stipulations identified by the adaptive management process. It is important the oil and gas industry, as well as the general public clearly understands how BLM intends to proceed with future leasing decisions.

In summary, EPA suggests that the FEIS expand Appendix 17 to provide the following information concerning adaptive management.

- Delineate impact thresholds for resource indicators.
- Provide information for funding mechanisms covering monitoring and other activities to carry out the adaptive management process. This information should include costs and BLM budget projections for this activity.
- Outline monitoring plans. For example, in order to prepare an adequate budget proposal, BLM will need to determine the monitoring data to be collected, length of monitoring periods and frequency of data collection and cost of analysis and report writing .
- Provide an adaptive management decision tree for removing lease suspensions and future leasing decisions.
- Provide a public participation plan.

We appreciate the improvements this document presented beyond the original DEIS and BLM addressed many of our comments. Unfortunately, our rating system does not show improvements within each rating. Although, we still have some concerns, EPA would still like to fully acknowledge the effort that was spent to improve this document. Based on the procedures EPA uses to evaluate the potential effects of proposed actions and the adequacy of the information in the SDEIS, the Proposed Actions identified by the SDEIS for the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan, will be listed in the Federal Register in the category EC-2. The EC-2 rating means that EPA has determined that the SDEIS has some degree of uncertainty concerning the preferred alternatives potential for impacts to natural resources such as the Greater Sage-Grouse and deer and elk herd and their habitat. Consequently, the FEIS should include the adaptive management elements that were listed above. We have enclosed a summary of EPA's rating criteria and definitions.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Gregory Oberley at (303) 312-7043.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Cody
Director, NEPA Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection
and Remediation

cc: Bill Daniels, BLM Cheyenne
Darla Potter, Wyoming DEQ

5

100,458

100,458

BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

JACK MORROW HILLS CAP SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS

PUBLIC HEARING

09 April 2003
Rock Springs, Wyoming, USA

BUNN & ASSOCIATES
Registered Professional Reporters Worldwide
310 South Main Street
Post Office Box 297
Lusk, Wyoming 82225 USA
In USA 1-800-435-2468 Worldwide 001-307-334-2423
Worldwide Telefax 001-307-334-2433
E-mail: BUNNWORLDWIDE@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 2

APPEARANCES:
MARTIN G. GRIFFITH, Hearing Officer
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003
PH: 307-775-6093
FX: 307-775-6082
e-mail: Marty_Griffith@blm.gov
RENEE A. DANA
Resource Advisor
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
PH: 307-352-0227
FX: 307-352-0328
e-mail: renee_dana@blm.gov

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

ARTHUR ANDERSON 5110 Bowie Drive
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82005
ERIC ADAMS Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
606 Beaswell
Green River, Wyoming 82935
WILLIAM L. ALLEN Post Office Box 6143
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
AARON ALPERN Wyoming Public Radio
Laramie, Wyoming 82701

MARK ANSELMI

LUCRECIA "MONINA" AVILA 419 C Street
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
LARRY BAESLER 415 Montclair Drive
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Page 3

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
JASON BALDES Wind River Alliance
1000 West Horsetooth Road
C-8
Fort Collins, Colorado
80526
RICHARD BALDES Wind River Alliance
Post Office Box 888
Fort Washakie, Wyoming
32514

RICHARD BIRD Post Office Box 553
Lander, Wyoming
AUTUMN BLACKBURN Post Office Box 277
St. Stephens, Wyoming

KENNETH BLACKBURN, JR. 113 Goat In Lodge Road
St. Stephens, Wyoming 82524
MARTIN K. BLACKBURN Post Office Box 128
St. Stephens, Wyoming 82524

WELDON BLACKBURN Post Office Box 277
St. Stephens, Wyoming
MAC BLEWER Post Office Box 327
Lander, Wyoming 82520

SCOTT BOETTCHER Friends of the Red Desert
1220 Hilltop Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

LACHELLE BOETTCHER 1220 Hilltop Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
ERIC BONDS 1603 Sheridan
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

LEE BONHAM

DRU BOWER Petroleum Association of Wyoming
GARY BURSTAN

Page 4

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
MARTHA CHRISTENSEN 29 Corthell
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

DON CHRISTIANSON

TOM CHRISTIANSEN 351 Aztec Avenue
Green River, Wyoming 82935
KATHARINE COLLINS 810 Bushnell Avenue
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

CAROL DAMBERG Post Office Box 700
Green River, Wyoming 82935
JOE DeCORA Rock Springs, Wyoming
SHIRLEY DeLAMBERT 22 Eden North 1st. East
Eden, Wyoming 82932

DEBBY DELLAI-BOESE 2125 Westview
Rock Springs, Wyoming
CAROL DICKENSON Post Office Box 943
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82902

MARIAN DOANE 245 Wyoming Street
Lander, Wyoming
PATRICIA DOWD
FRED EALES 1250 West Foothill
Rock Springs 82901

JOHN FRAHER 1609 Pioneer Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
KIM FLOYD Sierra Club
2903 Carey House Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
STEVE FOSTER Reliance, Wyoming
DIANE FOSTER
W.R. FRINT 1295 Infinite Hills
Green River, Wyoming 82935

Page 5

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
DUDLEY GARDNER 436 Bridger
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

JEFF GEARINO 2155 Pennsylvania Boulevard
Green River, Wyoming 82935
GENE GEORGE Yates Petroleum
111 West Second Street
Suite 400
Casper, Wyoming 82601

KATHY GILBERT 1314 Tenth Street
Rock Springs, Wyoming
JESSE HADDEN
JEFF HARRYMAN 1113 Windriver Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

DON HARTLEY Southwest Wyoming Industrial
Post Office Box 1865
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

LEONARD HAY Rock Springs Grazing
Association
Rock Springs, Wyoming

DAN HEILIG 601 South Fourth Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
ROB HELLYER Lander, Wyoming 82520
JIM HELLYER
SHIRLEY HIELSEN 1729 Steele Street
Laramie, Wyoing 82070

BILL HILL Black Butte Coal Co.
Post Office Box 99
Point of Rocks, Wyoming
82942
KEVIN HOLDSWORTH Post Office Box 428
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

KEVIN HOLDSWORTH

2 (Pages 2 to 5)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 6

1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
2 GENE JUGLER
3 KATE KELLY Post Office Box 630
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941
4
JEFF KESSLER
5
ROYCE KILLSANTOP Post Office Box 9100
6 Arapahoe, Wyoming 82510
7 BART KOEHLER The Wilderness Society
Post Office Box 1620
8 Durango, Colorado 81302
9 NEIL KOURBELAS 3317 Clyman Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
10
DEBBIE LABBE 1019 Laramie
11 Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
12 NEIL LABBE Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
13 LEONARD LIPPMAN 210 Fallview Drive
Green River, Wyoming 82935
14
CHARLES M. LOVE
15
BILL LUTSCH 1921 House Avenue
16 Cheyenne, Wyoming 82007
17 HOLLIS MARRIOTT 655 North Cedar
Laramie, Wyoming 82072
18
AARON McCALLISTER Post Office Box 48
19 Farson, Wyoming 82932
20 PAT MEEHLE 1037 Cypress Circle
Rock Springs, 82901
21
LAURIE MILFORD 904 South 8th Street
22 Laramie, Wyoming 82073
23 SANDY MITCHELL
24
25

Page 7

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
ERIK MOLVAR Biodiversity Conservation
Alliance
Post Office Box 1512
Laramie, Wyoming 82073

JOCELYN MOORE 407 Fryer Drive
Marietta, Georgia 30060
TIM MORRIS Bento Resources
CLAIRE MOSELEY PLA
1430 Grant Street, B-305
Denver, Colorado 80203
DALE NEWLAND Post Office Box 24
M&M Avenue
Eden, wyoming 82932
FLOYD B. OSBORNE Post Office Box 933
Fort Washakie, Wyoming
82514
PAMELA A. PECHULIS Post Office Box 20732
Cheyenne, Wyoming
82003-7016
NATHAN PERRY
MICHAEL S. PETROVICH 63 Quadrant Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

CATHY PURVES Post Office Box 1387
Lander, Wyoming 82520
KAYNE PYATT 616 Elisa Avenue
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

JARED SUN RHODES NATC
Post Office Box 8727
Ethete, Wyoming 82520

LAUREN RIS 2260 Baseline Road
Boulder, Colorado 80302
GEORGE A. SAMPLE 87 M&M Drive
Farson, Wyoming 82932

Page 8

1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
2 LYN SHANAGHY U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi
Post Office Box 12470
3 Jackson, Wyoming 83002
4 RANDY SHIPMAN People for the USA
Post Office Box 1331
5 Rock Springs, Wyoming
82902-1331
6
PAT SMITH Senator Craig Thomas
7 2832 Foothill Boulevard
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
8
BILL SPILLMAN 814 Connecticut Avenue
9 Rock Springs, Wyoming
10 BRIAN STRAMPE 307 Event Drive
Green River, Wyoming 82935
11
JEFF STRANGE Halliburton
12 Rock Springs, Wyoming
13 FRANK W. SYMINGTON
14 DONALD C. THATCHER 2833 Silver Creek Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
15
CRAIG THOMPSON 808 Rose Crown Circle
16 Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
17 RILEY G. TUHOSKI 1445 North Riverbend Drive
Green River, Wyoming 82935
18
BETTY WILKINSON Post Office Box 1331
19 Rock Springs, Wyoming 82902
20 JACK VAN BAALEN 516 South 12th Street
Laramie, Wyoming
21
TED WARE Post Office Box 1770
22 Rock Springs, Wyoming 82902
23 DENISE WILM Post Office Box 374
Rock Springs, Wyoming 92902
24
BRUCE WOODWARD 1414 State Highway 430
25 Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Page 9

1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
2 ANGIE YOUNG 1365 1/2 North 9th
Laramie, Wyoming 82073
3
JoANN ZAKOTNIK Eden, Wyoming 82932
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

3 (Pages 6 to 9)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

INDEX

Page

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS 12

PUBLIC COMMENTS

By Pat Mehle 15
By Erik Mellor 18
By Shirley Harkins 22
By Jack Van Dalen 23
By Eric Bonds 25
By Laurie Milford 27
By Jeff Kessler 29
By Patricia Dowd 29
By Hollis Marriott 31
By Angie Young 33
By Martha Christensen 35
By Kathy Gilbert 37
By Carol Duelberg 40
By Michael Fetterman 43
By Shirley DeLambert 42
By Cathy Furney 44
By JoAnn Zalesak 49
By Larry Bender 51
By Sandy Mitchell 53
By Lauren Ely 56
By Debby Dyke-Boner 60
By Marian Dixon 63
By Bill Lubesh 66
By Susan Woodward 67
By Arthur Anderson 69
By Scott Boettcher 71
By Leonard Lippens 74
By Don Nelle 75
By Bud Kuether 78
By Susan Dubois 81
By Max Hirsen 83
By Randy Shipman 87
By Floyd Osborne 88
By Richard Boldes 90
By Craig Thompson 91
By Gene George 94
By Jocelyn Moore 96
By John Finlan 99
By Kevin Hedeworth 100
By Tim Morse 103
By Martin Blackburn 106
By Jim Brown 108
By Dexter Wise 112

INDEX
(Continued)

Page

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Continued)

By Don Hartley 112
By Leonard Hay 112
By Dudley Gardner 116
By Lee Boeham 118
By Katharine Collins 120
By Kim Floyd 122
By Jeff Harryman 125
By Claire Moseley 126
By Bill Spillman 129
By Joe DeCora 131
By Lucrecia Monina Avila 132
By Diane Foster 133
By Kayne Pyatt 135

CLOSING REMARKS 135

BEFORE THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
JACK MORROW HILLS CAP SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting was held pursuant to Notice and Invitation at the Western Wyoming College, Rock Springs, Wyoming, commencing on the 9th day of April, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. MT and concluding at 10:15 p.m. MT.

TRANSCRIPT PROCEEDINGS

MR. GRIFFITH: I would like to get started. Thanks.

It looks like we're pretty full tonight. I would like to ask if we get full and we have folks come in, that we consider, if you are going to speak, wait outside until you are called. But we'll deal with that when it comes up.

My name's Marty Griffith, and I'm with the Bureau of Land Management in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I'm the Branch Chief for Renewable Resources Group there.

My roll tonight is to be the Hearings Officer for this meeting. My job is basically to kick this meeting off, keep it running, keep the speakers timely, and make sure that everyone that has signed up

to speak is heard.

You are here this evening to convey to the BLM your thoughts and concerns regarding the Jack Morrow Hills Supplemental Draft EIS Coordinated Activity Plan. We're here to listen to you.

We want to hear what you have to say concerning this Plan. This is not a question-and-answer session.

It is a listening session. The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations provide for an Agency preparing an EIS to hold a hearing to give the public opportunity to submit information to the Agency for further consideration in its analysis of the effects of the proposed action on federal lands.

Okay, any questions so far on how we're going to proceed tonight?

(Whereupon, no response was had.)

MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. I was here three years ago when we had the first round of this.

It is somewhat familiar to a lot of us. Tonight our proceedings of the hearings are being recorded by Linda Anderson --

Linda, do you want to raise your hand?

-- with Bunn and Associates out of Douglas. And my timekeeper tonight is Bryan Klyce

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 14

1 (phonetic) with the firm of Booze-Allan.
2 And because of the number of speakers we
3 have tonight, I am going to limit each speaker to
4 three minutes. And I will be strict about that.
5 I don't mean to be a tough guy, but in
6 fairness to everybody, I've, I've got to do that. So
7 Bryan will be watching that, and when three minutes is
8 up I'll, if you are still going, I'll have you stop.
9 So please respect that. Okay.
10 Let's see if there are any last-minute
11 preliminaries.
12 Renee, anything?
13 (Whereupon, inaudible comments were had,
14 after which the following occurred:)
15 MR. GRIFFITH: Great. I would like to,
16 first off, if there are any Representatives here,
17 congressional reps or local government that are here
18 and want to speak, I would like to give them the first
19 opportunity.
20 Do we have any such folks? No?
21 Okay, then that not being the case, I've
22 had some requests from folks that, that have traveled
23 some distance, or have a, kind of a time limit, and I
24 am going to go ahead and give them the courtesy of
25 going first. Okay.

Page 15

1 Thank you. When you come up to speak,
2 please spell your name, say your name and spell it
3 slowly so that Linda can get that.
4 And if you do represent an organization,
5 say the name of that organization as well. I think
6 with that we can get started.
7 Our first speaker tonight, this person
8 has a real short time line so I'm going to let this
9 person go first. Pat Mehle.
10 I apologize. I have a time with
11 butchering names.
12 M-e-h-l-e?
13 MR. MEHLE: That's me. I'm not on that
14 short of a time schedule.
15 My name is Pat Mehle, M-e-h-l-e. I'm a
16 local resident, and I've lived here all my life.
17 Three minutes is not a lot of time to
18 speak. I'd like to say, first off, that I've compared
19 this set of alternatives to the set of alternatives
20 from 2000, and I can say this, this analysis is head
21 and shoulders far above what the other one was.
22 The preferred alternative reflects a
23 good balance, well-thoughtout equilibrium that
24 represent all views. And I do support it to the
25 limited degree that I have seen it.

Page 16

1 Something that I would like to speak
2 about, though, in the short time that I have is the
3 economics of it. I know that Jeff Gearino's name was
4 on it, from the Casper Star, and I've been following
5 his articles on this for the last several years.
6 The first Plan of 2000 of the BLM, they
7 -- And I'm translating all this into the amount of gas
8 and oil out there, or just gas in terms of trillion
9 cubic feet. And everything is going to be in
10 trillions, just to keep comparing apples to apples and
11 oranges to oranges.
12 The original Plan estimated that there
13 was a-tenth of one trillion cubic feet in the Jack
14 Morrow Hills, which was going to be developed with
15 around 100 gas wells, as I recall, and probably more
16 coalbed methane wells. It was going to take an area
17 that was less than two percent of the whole study
18 area.
19 Since then, according to Jeff's
20 articles, and I've saved the clippings of these, it's
21 hard to figure exactly how much oil and gas is out
22 there, but it is into the trillion. Jeff Gearino has
23 said that there is one trillion, 4.1 trillion, 15
24 trillion, 20 trillion, 100 trillion, and last week 150
25 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Page 17

1 And I don't think that they are all
2 correct. Just looking at the figures, I am thinking
3 that perhaps four trillion is the correct amount out
4 there.
5 That correct, that particular amount,
6 just with the taxes alone, would be enough to supply
7 our school funding for the entire Sweetwater County
8 for 25 years at four trillion cubic feet. And it will
9 also supply 100 jobs.
10 And not counting the additional tax base
11 caused by the evaluation of property out there,
12 another interesting figure, --
13 And I see that I have 30 seconds left.
14 -- and that was from the 50 stripper
15 wells out there and a little bit of other property out
16 there. That is different. One-0-two, I believe it is
17 supplies.
18 Three thousand dollars a year just for
19 the building recipient. I would like to say that that
20 oil and gas development pays their fair share here.
21 They are not just greedy people that are
22 taking money out of the county there. They are
23 putting money back in by supplying jobs and supplying
24 our tax base.
25 I wish I had more time to go into how

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 18

1 many schools close because of economic situations. My
2 time is up. Thank you.
3 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Pat. Three
4 minutes goes by pretty fast, and I know that, so it's
5 pretty tough to stick within that.
6 Thank you, Pat.
7 Our next speaker is Erik Molvar with
8 Biodiversity Conservation from Laramie.
9 MR. MOLVAR: My name is Erik, E-r-i-k,
10 Molvar, M-o-l-v-a-r.
11 A SPECTATOR: Excuse me. Do you suppose
12 we could control that microphone a little bit better
13 for us folks that don't hear quite so well?
14 And then it won't be a problem for us,
15 as usual.
16 MR. MOLVAR: Is that loud enough?
17 A SPECTATOR: You've got to speak into
18 it.
19 MR. MOLVAR: Okay. I'm with the
20 Biodiversity Conservation Alliance.
21 And the first thing that I would like to
22 mention is that the BLM, in its 1990 Wilderness
23 Inventories, made some mistakes. It left out the
24 Pinnacles out of the Wilderness Inventory, and that
25 was the area that was supposed to qualify for

Page 19

1 wilderness character.
2 And the new Jack Morrow Hills EIS, they
3 do recognize that the Pinnacles has wilderness
4 characteristics, and I appreciate the BLM in
5 correcting that mistake. But in the Draft EIS a
6 number of new mistakes are made.
7 The Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
8 has done an intensive inventory of the Jack Morrow
9 Hills, and have found tens of thousands of additional
10 acres of wilderness which have all the qualities of
11 the current DEIS, and yet the BLM refuses to recognize
12 the wilderness characteristics of these areas. The
13 Draft EIS needs to recognize these wilderness
14 characteristics, and it needs to have an alternative
15 that recognizes all of these proposed wilderness areas
16 for wilderness.
17 The second thing that I would like to
18 say is that the Steamboat Mountain elk herd and their
19 critical calving areas are a very important and
20 sensitive area. It, it is a known fact, and a
21 scientific study conducted by Fred Lindsey and others
22 at the University of Wyoming, that the Steamboat elk
23 herd, the elk avoid areas within 1.5 kilometers of a
24 road.
25 So despite the fact that in Jack Morrow

Page 20

1 Hills there, there might be only two percent of the,
2 the area that is actually bladed and bulldozed, the
3 impacts of that blading and bulldozing extend much
4 farther. Essentially the choice is this: You can
5 either have elk, or you can have oil and gas
6 development on that same area.
7 And so oil and gas development must be
8 kept out of these critical calving areas.
9 Third I would like to kind of speak
10 broadly on the fact that the entire Red Desert is
11 pretty much all leased out to oil and gas already.
12 And what this means is essentially the BLM has, the
13 BLM has taken the position of essentially no
14 management of oil and gas in the Red Desert at all.
15 They lease everything. It is
16 essentially like the Forest Service saying to the
17 timber companies, "Go on. Log as much as you want,
18 wherever you want, and we'll just clean up after
19 you're through."
20 This is not management. The BLM has a
21 multiple-use mandate that the BLM must manage for use
22 such as wildlife, such as recreation, such as
23 wilderness.
24 Where in this planning area, where in
25 this entire Red Desert is the BLM managing for these

Page 21

1 resources as a top priority? What we are seeing is
2 that oil and gas is a top priority, and this is simply
3 not a beneficial thing.
4 The Jack Morrow Hills is a very special
5 area. It has some of the best wilderness in, in the
6 whole Red Desert.
7 It has the most outstanding wildlife
8 habitat. It has some of the most sensitive wildlife
9 habitat in the area.
10 This is a place where oil and gas does
11 not belong. Oil and gas industry has already got
12 Siberia Ridge, they've got Windmill Draw, they've got
13 dozens of oil fields.
14 They've got thousands of wells already.
15 Why do they need 200 more in the Jack Morrow Hills?
16 And the last thing that I would like to
17 say is that, to Ted Murphy and anybody else that works
18 with the BLM on a day-to-day basis, you do not work
19 for the oil and gas industry. You work for the people
20 of the American public, and it would be well if you
21 guys remembered that, and started managing our public
22 lands accordingly.
23 Thank you very much.
24 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Erik.
25 Shirley Hielsen, or Hielsen. Hielsen.

6 (Pages 18 to 21)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 22

1 MS. HIELSEN: I have a very short
2 message, but one that I am very – I, I really believe
3 that we should do this. I am here to ask that the
4 exploitation of the Jack Morrow Hills be curtailed.
5 Introduction to the area of oil and gas
6 development would adversely affect the entire area,
7 disrupting wildlife and flora. It is an area sacred
8 to the Native American Indians, also.
9 And the introduction of roads to support
10 the development will influence now our unique
11 wilderness experience, along with world-class wildlife
12 viewing. Please consider maintaining this wild area
13 as it now exists.
14 And then I would like to put two cents'
15 worth in for handicapped people. I have been told by
16 many that this will close it to handicapped people.
17 Well, it won't, because most of the
18 areas that we would like to visit are accessible by
19 road. And it only takes about three miles at the most
20 to get into these areas.
21 If I can do it on two crutches, most
22 anybody can do it. And somebody told me, also, that
23 there is wheelchair access to some of these places.
24 So I would like to see it preserved,
25 because our children and our grandchildren, and those

Page 23

1 after this, need to have some wilderness left in this
2 world that is so full of everything that we all need.
3 And I don't mean – We haven't seen any mansions along
4 the road as we came up here, so I'm not sure that
5 Wyoming people are making a whole lot of money off of
6 this gas and oil exploration.
7 That is all I have to say.
8 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Shirley.
9 The next speaker is Jack Van Baalen.
10 MR. VAN BAALEN: I'm Jack Van Baalen,
11 J-a-c-k, Van, like a moving van, V-a-n, and Baalen,
12 which is capital B, as in "boy," a-a-l-e-n.
13 We've all heard a lot about the Jack
14 Morrow Hills area. I think it is worth taking a
15 minute or two to just tick off some of the attributes.
16 It has hundreds of thousands of wild
17 animals, 350 wildlife species, the largest migratory
18 game herd in the lower 48 States, 1,700 rare desert
19 elk, 50,000 mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, black
20 bear, badgers, coyotes, owls, eagles, spergens, hawks.
21 The list goes on: Seven wilderness
22 study areas, the largest active sand dunes in North
23 America. It is a magnet for hunters, fishermen,
24 wildlife enthusiasts, sacred places for worship of the
25 Shoshoni and the Ute Tribes.

Page 24

1 It is proposed now for oil and gas
2 development that would convert this treasure into an
3 industrial oasis. If you think it won't do that,
4 think about 6,000 to 10,000 gas wells over the next 20
5 years, with the probability of methane development,
6 more roads, lines, utility lines, fragmenting wildlife
7 plus scaring the landscape.
8 If any of you have seen the Jonah
9 natural gas field, they want to turn this area into a
10 Jonah national, well, a gas field. That's what it is
11 going to look like.
12 It's sort of like saying we're going to
13 build an oil refinery next to Old Faithful, but that
14 won't destroy Old Faithful. No one but an oil baron
15 would do that.
16 And what do we get in return? We get
17 nine weeks of natural-gas supply and 39 minutes of oil
18 supply.
19 And that's only if oil, the removal of
20 gas and oil were extracted, and the plan doesn't do
21 anything near that. So I think that the BLM has some
22 more thinking to do about development of these oil and
23 gas wells in this area.
24 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Jack.
25 And again a reminder to please state

Page 25

1 your name and then spell it for Linda.
2 Okay, Eric Bonds.
3 MR. BONDS: My name is Eric Bonds,
4 E-r-i-c, B-o-n-d-s. And I am a Wyoming native, and I
5 use, love, and cherish the Jack Morrow Hills.
6 And really all I want to say right here,
7 over and over and over again, is to protect it,
8 protect it, protect it, protect the Jack Morrow Hills.
9 Protect its amazing desert elk herd.
10 Protect these incredible animals.
11 Protect them.
12 Protect all the scenic beauty of the
13 Jack Morrow Hills. Protect it.
14 Protect all of its wild places and its
15 wildlife, and give the mountain cluver, an animal
16 threatened with extinction, give this bird the
17 protection that it needs. Give the pygmy rabbit,
18 another animal that is being driven to extinction,
19 being driven off the face of the earth, give this
20 animal the protection that it needs.
21 Protect the burrowing owl. Protect the
22 flannelmouth sucker.
23 Protect the sage grouse and the sage
24 grouse lek. Protect mountain lions.
25 Protect black bears, which I have seen

7 (Pages 22 to 25)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 26

in the Jack Morrow Hills. Protect the ferruginous hawks.

Protect the sage thrasher. Protect the sage sparrow.

Protect them. Protect them. Protect them.

Protect all the wilderness lands in the Jack Morrow Hills, wilderness areas that have WSA status and those that do not. Do an adequate inventory of all of these lands.

Also, you know, really take seriously the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance's inventory of some of those lands. Especially protect the Pinnacles area and give this area WSA status.

And just, point blank, just keep any further oil and gas development out. It just doesn't belong here.

Protect this area. Protect this area.

Further developing the Jack Morrow Hills will not increase Wyoming's wealth. It will not make us any richer than we are now.

It will only really create our poverty. I do believe that.

This area is a national treasure. It is a state treasure, and it needs to be treated as such.

Page 27

So protect it. Protect this place.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Eric.

Laurie Milford.

MS. MILFORD: My name is Laurie, L-a-u-r-i-e, Milford, M-i-l-f-o-r-d. I am a small-business owner in Laramie.

Last year in April I visited the Red Desert for the first time. I was overwhelmed; overwhelmed by its beauty, by its wildlife, plants, its wide-open space.

There wandering gloriously without aim I saw some amazing things: petroglyphs, ferruginous hawks, horned toads, wild horses, cacti in bloom. With a husband in the Park Service, I've seen and lived in some beautiful places: Joshua Tree, Zion, Rocky, Dinosaur, the Tetons.

The Red Desert matches them all. Wyomingites barely know what we have here, one of the last best places on earth.

For the Jack Morrow Hills I would ask the BLM to adopt the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative in full. We have a choice before us.

Protect the Jack Morrow Hills now, or lose them forever. Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Laurie.

Page 28

Jeff Kessler.

MR. KESSLER: Hi. My name is Jeff, J-e-f-f, Kessler, K-e-s-s-l-e-r.

I am from Laramie, speaking on behalf of myself. I was here three years ago, too, and said this: BLM has had numerous opportunities to protect what's special about the Jack Morrow Hills, and they keep failing to do it.

And with the supplemental document, and the prepared action, they are failing to do it again. We've talked about the wild places that are here, the big game, sage grouse, vanishing wildlife like the mountain cluver, a lot of rare plants, and I'm talking of rare plant communities that are exceptional, great scenery, cultural and historical values.

And I just have a question for BLM. What do you want, mermaids?

What's it going to take for you to protect this place? That's all.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Jeff. I feel like going fishing this weekend.

Patricia Dowd.

MS. DOWD: Thank you. I'm Patricia, P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a, D-o-w-d, and I live in Centennial, Wyoming.

Page 29

Last August I had the privilege of exploring the Red Desert, and my stance on the importance of protecting and maintaining the standard ecosystem were reaffirmed. Along the way to the Desert I saw 40 to 50 elk roaming in the early morning light.

The elk were incredible as they raced through the northern boundary of the Red Desert. We arrived near Honeycomb Buttes, and it was a magical experience.

And the beauty and grandeur of the Desert reminded me why I love Wyoming's wild places. A barreled horse stood alongside the road, and in the distance a cloud of dust filled the landscape.

When I looked through a pair of binoculars to see what was causing the dust, I saw a herd of wild horses galloping in the distance. Throughout my trip, on occasion I looked through binoculars to see more herds of wild horses, birds of prey, deer, of course, pronghorn, and many of the other species that folks here have talked about this evening.

But other views weren't so pleasant. Looking to the distance and seeing oil and gas wells, and the plight of industrial development in the

8 (Pages 26 to 29)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 30

1 desert, filled me with a sense of sadness.
2 Although I recognize the need to end
3 dependence of foreign fuel, and understand the
4 economic implications of developing minerals in
5 Wyoming, I strongly believe that there are some places
6 where industrial development just doesn't belong. One
7 of those places is in the heart of the Red Desert.
8 Industry is currently chomping at the
9 bit to develop the Jack Morrow Hills. I strongly
10 encourage the Bureau of Land Management to listen to
11 the public comments, including those heard this
12 evening, which calls for the protection of this
13 incredible landscape.
14 Again, that is the protection of this
15 incredible landscape. The time is now to protect
16 crucial wildlife habitat, encourage responsible
17 recreation, expand wilderness study areas.
18 The long-term protection of the Red
19 Desert far outweighs the short-term implications of
20 development. I fully support and encourage the Bureau
21 of Land Management to adopt the Citizens' Wilderness
22 and Wildland Alternative for manag-, excuse me, for
23 future management of the Jack Morrow Hills.
24 And I have 60 seconds. And one other
25 comment.

Page 31

1 I live in Centennial, which is a long
2 way from Rock Springs, and I strongly encourage the
3 Bureau of Land Management to consider having hearings
4 in Laramie. Thank you for considering my comments.
5 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Patricia.
6 Hollis Marriott.
7 MS. MARRIOTT: I'm Hollis Marriott,
8 H-o-l-l-i-s, M-a-r-r-i-o-t-t. I'm from Laramie, and
9 I'm speaking as an individual.
10 I moved to Wyoming 25 years ago for a
11 summer job, and I never left. One of the main
12 attractions for me here is the great outdoor
13 recreation.
14 I enjoy hiking, mountain biking,
15 primitive cart camping, and nature studies. I stay
16 away from national parks and other such popular areas,
17 and I love to wander out in the basins of lesser-known
18 mountain ranges in Wyoming, of which there are many,
19 fortunately.
20 The 25 years that I have been here,
21 though, several of these areas where I like to go have
22 been opened up, as I would like to think of it,
23 because of mineral development. For example, the
24 Green River Basin up around Pinedale, the area along
25 the Utah boarder west of Flaming Gorge, and some of

Page 32

1 the breaks areas west of Baggs.
2 And now, thanks to all of these new
3 roads and some new and better roads, there is all
4 kinds of access now. And these areas really aren't so
5 remote anymore.
6 In fact, some of them define networks of
7 roads and paths and everything else. And now another
8 one of my favorite hangouts is scheduled for
9 development: the area south from South Pass Road,
10 through the South Pass Highway, including Oregon
11 Buttes, Steamboat Mountain, Killpecker Dunes, the
12 tri-territories area that's now called the Jack Morrow
13 Hills.
14 I would like to see these areas and
15 others made off-limits to development completely. You
16 really can't have limited development of a given area
17 because, for one thing, I know from experience that
18 the BLM doesn't have the resources to enforce
19 restrictions.
20 And once you get development started, it
21 is all too easy to keep expanding as time goes on.
22 And so I would like to see more areas closed
23 completely to development so that we can keep some
24 remoteness, some feeling of remoteness in the basins
25 of Wyoming.

Page 33

1 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Hollis.
2 Angie Young.
3 MS. YOUNG: My name is Angie Young,
4 A-n-g-i-e, Y-o-u-n-g. I would just like to say that
5 the Jack Morrow Hills is a unique and special place,
6 and has some special values.
7 And you have heard a lot about it
8 already, but in all this while I have had contact with
9 many species. That also includes a large cluster of
10 wilderness-quality lands of beauty unparalleled in
11 Wyoming.
12 In addition, there are many important
13 historical and cultural sites in the study area. But
14 despite these, and all the other special values of the
15 Jack Morrow Hills, the BLM has chosen to focus on oil
16 and gas development as the predominant use of the
17 area.
18 And I think that, you know, large-scale
19 oil and gas in the Jack Morrow Hills is just
20 inappropriate for all of the reasons you've heard
21 tonight. And also, we have desert ecosystems in the
22 area that are extremely fragile, and they won't handle
23 well.
24 The roads and the development are going
25 to scar the landscape for a long time, if not forever.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 34

For these reasons I wholeheartedly support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation Alternative.

Among other things, this Alternative would call for trading and buying out mineral leases while preparing for further oil leasing, oil and gas development, and large-scale mining. It would prevent new roads and development in roadless areas.

It would increase the size of some wilderness study areas, establish new wilderness study areas for lands identified as qualifying by the Citizens' Inventory. And I would recommend that all deserving WSA and wildlife be designated as wilderness areas by Congress.

The Wyoming citizens need to continue in a responsible way, while increasing protections for historical, culturally important sites. It will also insure that, the long-term survival of the Red Desert elk herd, the huge pronghorn antelope herd, and the 350 other wildlife species that inhabit the area.

And lastly, in the past few weeks I've been working to get people from Southeast Wyoming to come to this meeting, and it has been extremely difficult because it's a lot to ask. In speaking to people from Laramie, Cheyenne, and Rawlins, I found

Page 35

that the great majority were interested in attending a meeting on the issue, but were unable to make the trek because they had to work or they had other, you know, responsibilities in the towns where they live.

I feel like the BLM, in light of this, must seriously reconsider their decision to exclude the public of Southwest Wyoming. Many of these people that I spoke to feel like they do have a say in the issue, and that they would benefit, both they and, and the Agency would benefit from some type of interaction.

Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Angie.

Martha Christensen.

MS. CHRISTENSEN: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am Martha Christensen, M-a-r-t-h-a, C-h-r-i-s-t-e-n-s-e-n. I'm from Laramie.

I've lived in Wyoming for some 35 or 40 years. I took a science class out to Killpecker Dunes and up Steamboat Mountain.

They were at the science camp for just the summer. People from all over the country, New York, a fellow from Scotland, they and all of us immensely enjoyed that hike.

I've been there four or five times

Page 36

since, and always see something new to think about, to be thankful that it's there even. Vivi Holzinger (phonetic) wanted me to go with her on a camping trip out there just for old-time sake, but she died before she was able to get there.

She would want to know that it was preserved, as would her brother, J. David Love. You've heard about the 350 species of animals.

I don't know how many species of plants are out there. They are in a unique place because it's a desert surrounded by the Continental Divide.

It's like no other place in the world, and that is no exaggeration. It's like no other place in the world.

The plants and the animals are unique; at least the individual and subspecies, and many of the species as well. My real profession is, is a mycologist.

I've had students and myself have sampled soil with fungi in that great basin. We have -- I've scribbled them down.

We've identified, described one new genus, standimonium (phonetic), from, from these soils. First in the whole world; a new genus with two species from this area.

Page 37

Another species described subsequently was from a desert in Egypt, and about six new species in aspergillus spectabilis bicolor. And I named one for Jim Bridger because we found it just north of here, aspergillus Bridgeri (phonetic) campestris bicolor, I guess I mentioned.

My colleague in Denmark looked at aspergillus campestris and says, "It's a little chemical factory. It produces a great array of secondary metabolites."

Penicillium, cephalosporium are examples of secondary metabolites. We must protect the area just because we don't know it.

We need to keep it, at least until we have analyzed the species that are there. But more than that, it needs to be preserved for itself and for future generations. Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Martha.

Kathy Gilbert.

MS. GILBERT: My name is Kathy Gilbert, K-a-t-h-y, G-i-l-b-e-r-t. I am on the Rock Springs City Council.

I am a reporter for a local newspaper. I also serve on the Board of several historical organizations.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

Page 38

Tonight I am here to talk to you as a fourth-generation native of Rock Springs, and a fourth-generation desert rat. My dad worked for Mountain Fuel Supply Company for my whole life, as long as I can remember.

The very first wells that were drilled by Mountain Fuel were in Jack Morrow Hills; in Nitchie Gulch, to be exact. I can remember the days when I would go to work with my dad, and going out to Nitchie Gulch with him was always a treat.

He had a Jeep that was especially made for traveling in that area. It had huge balloon tires so that they wouldn't mark the desert.

They were extremely careful not to leave anything there that hadn't been there before. It has been a long time since I have been to Nitchie Gulch.

A couple of years ago I got to go on an archeology dig with some friends out there, and I wanted to cry. There were roads everywhere already.

And now we're talking about more roads, more wells, more generation stations, and we don't need them. I don't know how much gas and oil is out there.

I don't believe it's enough to lose what we do have out there. I have friends who have come

Page 39

from back East and gone with me out there to the desert, some friends from New Hampshire who had never seen an elk, an antelope, or a wild horse.

And when a herd of wild horses crossed the road in front of us, I just stopped and then started to go on, and they screamed, "Wait, wait, wait." You know, they had never seen this.

They wanted a photo. It was the same with the elk.

And it -- And our money that comes in from tourism and from hunting I think will far outweigh the little bit of gas and oil that might be out there. And the little bit of gas and oil is going to go away.

And if we let it, the elk will, the wild horses will, and the pronghorn will. And that is where our money really lies.

I truly believe that. And all of the new Draft that the BLM has done is better than the last one was, but it still misses a lot of the target.

And one of the things is that BLM always tells us that they will control; that they will monitor. Well, I agree with whoever the lady was that said that the BLM doesn't have the staff to monitor.

They can't look closely enough. And the

Page 40

thing about it is, we already have one Jonah Field.

I've seen that. I don't like it, and I certainly don't want another one. Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Kathy.

Carol Damberg.

MS. DAMBERG: Hi. My Carol Damberg, C-a-r-o-l, the last name is D-a-m-b-e-r-g. I am speaking as a local citizen.

However, my background is in land management and wildlife biology. In general, I have to say that I think that the EIS the BLM has put together has missed the boat completely.

I do not think that it provides a balanced or responsible management of this incredible Red Desert area. I am very disappointed with it, and I don't feel like there is adequate short-term or long-term evaluation of the two cumulative impacts of permitting the amount of oil and gas development projects they are proposing in the Preferred Alternative, let alone the other alternatives.

They are on a continued belief that all roads, pads, and extractions of by-products can be mitigated for. Having worked in this field for quite a few years, I disagree.

And this is why I resent the fact that,

Page 41

if you think of this (demonstrating) as the Red Desert, that we are taking our vistas, our wildlife habitat, our cultural history, and we're dissecting it and we're fragmenting it. And we're simply destroying it at the short-sighted gain of the gas and mineral industry.

What about the economic analysis which takes into account the damage to our wildlife and habitat and wildlife populations which now have to deal with the pieces which we are proposing to create? What about the cost and time of trying to put these pieces back together again, which took hundreds if not thousands of years to create?

We all know how much it costs to try to put pieces together again, if in fact they can be put back together again. Yes, I could glue this picture back together, but the fact of the matter is that it will never look and it will never function the same as it once did.

The concept is very simple. It was much easier for this to be stored in the future as a long-term, and it had a great deal of, much more integrity before I tore it up (demonstrating).

How would these pieces be stored and not completely lost in the future? What right does the

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 42

1 BLM have to dictate that all we will leave for our
2 future generations is pieces and damaged goods?
3 Just like an antique painting, the value
4 of places like Jack Morrow Hills will only increase
5 over generations. If it is protected and maintained,
6 its value will increase exponentially.
7 And it already has. But they have to
8 have monetary gain to insure future protection?
9 Does the tourist dollar associated with
10 Jack Morrow Hills today, it may never match those
11 proceeds from oil and gas. I don't know.
12 But that is the bottom line. How many
13 people have to visit the area, and how much money will
14 it give this generation?
15 That is what all their decisions are
16 being based on right now. Yes, we need development
17 and some of our natural resources, but not every last
18 one of them.
19 We need responsible development, and we
20 need balanced development. And I don't see that
21 happening with the BLM.
22 And I don't think it's necessary to
23 jeopardize this incredible area just for oil and gas
24 development. And Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Wild
25 bees and birds are by right not the property of the

Page 43

1 people who are alive today, but the property of
2 unknown generations whose lands we have no right to
3 squander."
4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Carol.
5 Michael Petrovich.
6 MR. PETROVICH: Good evening. My name
7 is Michael S. Petrovich, M-i-c-h-a-e-l, S, period,
8 P-e-t-r-o-v-i-c-h.
9 I, too, bring a message, just like the
10 lady there with the two crutches, from William Michael
11 Wallace and Trent, my son. They want this place left
12 alone.
13 I have a three-year, four-month-old baby
14 boy. I still consider him a baby.
15 He is not a baby anymore. When I go out
16 there with him, and he asks me why these barrels have
17 been left, and these barrels were there from 30 years
18 ago when I first came, and they are still there.
19 My son, Trent, asked me why this
20 pipeline is going across the sand dunes. It was there
21 30 years ago; it is there still today.
22 The damage was done 30 years ago. I
23 don't want to see it; my children don't want to see
24 it, any more of that damage.
25 I am here to speak for my children, for

Page 44

1 my grandchildren, pray to God I have them. I, too, am
2 a fourth-generation Wyoming native, and I am from this
3 town.
4 I love this state with my heart. I love
5 everything in this state.
6 But the greed and the love of the dollar
7 bill is bleeding this state dry. Leave it alone.
8 Please, let me go home to my children
9 and tell them that you are concerned enough to leave
10 this place alone. That is all that I ask.
11 Thank you.
12 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Michael.
13 Shirley DeLambert.
14 MS. DeLAMBERT: My name is Shirley
15 DeLambert, S-h-i-r-l-e-y, capital D, Capital L,
16 a-m-b-e-r-t. My husband and I have been ranchers and
17 farmers out in Eden Valley for about 30 years.
18 We are one of the younger ones out
19 there, but we feel it is our home. And we run our
20 cows out on the BLM.
21 I was also instrumental in helping --
22 Well, not instrumental, but I helped with the Jack
23 Morrow Hills CAP. And as a child I was taught by my
24 parents that I need to learn to share, and so the
25 multiple-use concept is something that we need to do.

Page 45

1 We need to share this land, and we need
2 to do it with everything that there is. The elk, they
3 have increased in numbers over the years.
4 The wild horses have increased in
5 numbers over the years. We have ACECs out there to
6 protect the elk birthing grounds.
7 We have wilderness areas. And these
8 wilderness areas that we have are probably the same as
9 these other ones that people are wanting to put into
10 wilderness areas.
11 They are much the same thing. We have
12 grazing out there.
13 We also need oil and gas, because it is
14 multiple-use, the same as anything else. I just
15 wonder how many of you here drove to this meeting in a
16 car fueled with oil and gas.
17 And we shouldn't go overseas for this
18 kind of stuff. Also, I've been reading editorials and
19 things on the different things, and they are saying
20 that it will only create 100 jobs.
21 Well, you know what? If it was your
22 company and you didn't get, you were going to be laid
23 off because there were 100 jobs that needed to be got
24 rid of, I bet it would be a different story with you.
25 And there are 600,000 acres out there,

12 (Pages 42 to 45)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

Page 46

1 and there are going to be 100 layoffs this year. I
2 don't think that 600,000 acres, that we are going to
3 take up the whole Jack Morrow Hills.
4 And from the comments that I've been
5 hearing, there are so many things out in Jack Morrow
6 Hills: different plants, the elk and everything else.
7 You know what? They have been there for a long time.
8 And we're still, we're stewards of the
9 land. We're going to protect the land the best we
10 can.
11 So these pipelines, these other things
12 that are out there, you just want to remember the elk
13 have increased in numbers and not decreased.
14 Thank you.
15 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Shirley.
16 Cathy Purves, or Purves.
17 MS. PURVES: Thank you. My name is
18 Cathy Purves, Cathy with a C, Purves, P-u-r, v, as in
19 "Victor," -e-s.
20 I am the Western Wyoming Field Director
21 for the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, and I'm based out
22 of Lander. As the oldest and largest conservation
23 organization for hunters and fishermen and
24 recreationist of the state, the Federation is
25 concerned about the decrease in wildlife habitat

Page 47

1 across Wyoming.
2 Between lands being pragmatic for
3 subdivisions, and the tremendous increase in oil and
4 gas wells, and coalbed methane drilling, large tracts
5 of our open spaces, those spaces that most of us in
6 this room hold very dear, are rapidly disappearing.
7 Where will the wildlife go once their habitat shrinks
8 so much that it can't support wildlife populations
9 anymore?
10 What happens to the big game herds of
11 elk, mule deer, and antelope that inhabit this desert
12 area, this unique Jack Morrow Hills? Our hunters are
13 concerned that it appears that no particular agency is
14 looking out for the wildlife anymore.
15 The BLM's Preferred Alternative for the
16 Jack Morrow Hills encourages the continued loss for
17 the wildlife habitat. The Game and Fish Department
18 has no control over public lands, or managing agencies
19 and therefore they have little affect as to what
20 happens to wildlife populations other than
21 manipulating their hunting opportunities.
22 The Jack Morrow Hills has hundreds of
23 wildlife species, as we've heard, including the
24 nonmigratory desert elk herd. This elk herd is the
25 largest desert elk herd in the United States, a rare

Page 48

1 treasure.
2 Recent studies are now showing that
3 these elk are affected by the increase in roads,
4 compressor stations, well pads, noise, traffic, et
5 cetera. And they are affected because they live in a
6 fragile type of ecosystem.
7 They just have their sagebrush habitat
8 for their survival. Tourism and recreation are
9 important.
10 Hunting is important to this state. The
11 Federation is not against oil and gas development.
12 We realize that oil and gas, and coalbed
13 methane pay many people's bills, especially here in
14 the southwestern part of the state. And we do
15 recognize the importance of oil and gas in our lives.
16 But the Jack Morrow Hills is only a
17 small portion of this multi-million-acre federal land
18 that is open to leasing, and this spectacular
19 600,000-acre area is worthy of protection. We ask
20 you, if it was not the hiking, the wildlife viewing,
21 the recreation potential in your back door here, would
22 you be living here?
23 If you could not come to this area
24 anymore, would you still come here? The economy for
25 the Jack Morrow Hills is certainly important.

Page 49

1 In 2000, $3.9 million was spent by
2 hunting species; in 2001, $2.6 million. That is in
3 the Jack Morrow Hills area alone for four game
4 species.
5 Please consider the Wildlife and
6 Wildlands Alternative for the Wildlife Federation
7 support. Those economic contributions need to be
8 considered.
9 Thank you.
10 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Cathy.
11 JoAnn Zakotnik.
12 MS. ZAKOTNIK: My name is JoAnn,
13 J-o-A-n-n, Zakotnik, Z-a-k-o-t-n-i-k. I am commenting
14 for our business of livestock.
15 My family has been ranching in this area
16 for 45 years. We have BLM Livestock Permits on
17 private property in the Jack Morrow Hills area.
18 We feel very privileged to be able to
19 live, work, and play where we can enjoy the wildlife
20 and beauty of the area, including in the Jack Morrow
21 Hills. I am speaking to support the Preferred
22 Alternative.
23 We feel that this alternative is truly
24 multiple-use. It includes recreation, livestock
25 grazing, wildlife, and allows for the development of

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 50

1 mineral resources, while conserving the uniqueness of
2 the area.
3 The manage-, management objectives of
4 the Preferred Alternative meets watershed, wildlife,
5 recreation, and livestock grazing management
6 objectives. The Preferred Alternative will allow the
7 BLM and Permittees, through complication,
8 coordination, and cooperation to reach agreement on
9 the livestock allotment activity plans that need to be
10 revised or developed.
11 We feel that the Preferred Alternative
12 will allow us to continue the working partnership that
13 has been established between the BLM and our ranch for
14 the last 20 years. We also look forward to working
15 with other interested parties to help continue the
16 multiple use in the Jack Morrow Hills.
17 The high potential for development of
18 oil and gas resources in the Jack Morrow Hills has
19 been most controversial. We believe that the
20 Preferred Alternative allows for responsible oil and
21 gas development.
22 Existing rules, laws, and regulations
23 already limit and control how mineral production is
24 conducted in the state. There are many safeguards in
25 the Plan to ensure that any potential mineral activity

Page 51

1 will be carried out with sensitivity for the
2 environment.
3 That intense adoptive management plan
4 portion of the Preferred Alternative, with
5 modifications, will help insure proper litigation as
6 requirement for development. Wildlife, recreation,
7 livestock grazing, historical and cultural sites, and
8 oil and gas have existed in this area for years.
9 Still, we consider it pristine. All of
10 these have made valuable contributions to the local
11 and state economy, while allowing us to live, work,
12 and play in Sweetwater County.
13 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, JoAnn.
14 Larry Baesler.
15 MR. BAESLER: My name is Larry Baesler,
16 L-a-r-r-y, B-a-e-s-l-e-r. I'm from Cheyenne, and I'm
17 here tonight because I'm an avid hunter and fisherman.
18 And I'm speaking as a sportsman and an
19 advocate of the wildlife resources, and especially
20 those found in the Jack Morrow Hills. Some folks who
21 don't know or don't care about Wyoming's Wildlife call
22 Jack Morrow Hills a wasteland, and one that is
23 expendable when it comes to a mineral development for
24 our energy needs.
25 And my response to that is simple:

Page 52

1 Wildlife knows no wasteland. There are unique and
2 fragile lands in the Red Desert, and accumulation of
3 wildlife, and it can be attested to by the fact that
4 we have huge herds of pronghorn antelope, mule deer,
5 elk, and all the other species that others have
6 listed.
7 Three hundred and fifty species exist in
8 that land, and we need to make sure that those species
9 are protected. The current Preferred Alternative that
10 the BLM is proposing has the oil and gas and the
11 mineral development as its main focus.
12 Now, I would be the first to admit, like
13 folks said, I came here in a car, and I know that I
14 need gas, and I want fuel for my house. And we need
15 that, and that comes from energy development.
16 And when you have any development, you
17 have to pay a price for that. However, the price is
18 too high when it comes to the Jack Morrow Hills.
19 That is a price that probably most of
20 us, all of us should be willing to pay. I don't want
21 to have to apologize to my grandchildren for our
22 willingness to sacrifice an area like the Jack Morrow
23 Hills, and the wildlife populations that are found
24 there.
25 And all that in the grand scheme of

Page 53

1 things is a rather insignificant amount of oil and
2 gas. I don't want to have to answer their questions
3 when they ask me, "What was Wyoming like before CBM?
4 "Why didn't you make sure that some of
5 the unique land and places in the Red Desert were safe
6 for us to see and enjoy? Why didn't you make sure
7 that I could hunt sage grouse?
8 "Or why didn't you make sure that I
9 could hunt the Red Desert elk? Or why didn't you see
10 this coming, and do something about it?"
11 Well, I see what's coming, and I think
12 that we can do something about it. And for that
13 reason I would like to ask the BLM to adopt the
14 Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative in their management
15 plan for the Jack Morrow Hills.
16 And along with that, I would like to
17 make, ask that the BLM make the protection of wildlife
18 in Wyoming and a lot of places as a preferred
19 management plan throughout the State of Wyoming.
20 Thank you.
21 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Larry.
22 Sandy Mitchell.
23 MS. MITCHELL: My name is Sandy
24 Mitchell, S-a-n-d-y, M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l, and I am
25 speaking for myself.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 54

My background is an ecologist. I'm trained professionally as a biologist, and I am a teacher at Western Wyoming College.

I am going to talk to you about one of the species that lives in the Jack Morrow Hills area, which is the greater sage grouse. It was once abundant throughout the Intermountain West.

In the last 50 years, however, the sage grouse has been extricated from five states and one Canadian providence. The BLM's own literature says that, quote, "At risk in six other states."

Currently Wyoming is home to the largest population of sage grouse in the world. Populations in Wyoming have, however, also declined.

Conditions of it within that same period, 20 to 40 percent statewide, more than 80 percent in some populations, and some populations are completely extinct in Eastern Wyoming. While sage forestial was once dominate in the western landscape, there were over 240 million acres of this area, most of this has been altered by human activity.

Estimates of complete loss of sagebrush-dominated habitat exceeds 60 percent. The remainder have been greatly impacted by human activity.

Page 55

Excessive livestock grazing, grazing itself, as well as treatments designed to make the land more productive for livestock grazing have negatively impacted the habitat. The habitat has also suffered excessive fragmentation by roads, power lines, pipelines, and fences, many of these associated with the oil and gas development.

The habitat has suffered further fragmentation and destruction as a result of fires, both prescribed and wildfires, which have become more common with cheat grass and other exotics have moved in. Encroaching human habitation in the form of suburban sprawl, and little ranchettes that are so popular now, also fragment and destroy the sagebrush habitat.

Sage grouse, or known as sagebrush obligates, nest under sagebrush, surviving the winter eating almost nothing but sagebrush, and taking shelter from inclement weather and predators in sagebrush stands. And finally, sage grouse parallels the destruction and fragmentation of its sagebrush habitat.

Extended data from Northeast Wyoming, the Powder River Basin, suggests, and I quote, the impacts to sage grouse from CBM development includes a

Page 56

direct loss of habitats from all production activities, along with direct effects from new power lines, and significantly higher amounts from human activity, doing both initial development and production.

Cumulative impacts of CBM and all activities is just starting to be observed. Studies in the Powder River Basin demonstrate that leks, when CBM wells are closer than two miles, are negatively impacted.

The drill site itself yields traffic and associated --

MR. GRIFFITH: Time's up. I'm sorry. Thank you.

Lauren Ris.

MS. RIS: My name is Lauren Ris, L-a-u-r-e-n, R-i-s, and I'm here on behalf of the National Wildlife Federation. The National Wildlife Federation and its members here in Wyoming and throughout the country are deeply concerned about the land in the Jack Morrow Hills and elsewhere in Wyoming's Red Desert.

Also, my remarks are of the wonderful values found in the Jack Morrow Hills' wildlife habitat. I would like to echo that the Jack Morrow

Page 57

Hills contains important habitat for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn.

The area provides a crucial habitat for all three big-game species, as well as calving areas for both elk and mule deer. Maintaining this habitat and the migration route between them is paramount to sustaining viable big-game herds in the Jack Morrow Hills.

The construction of roads and other construction associated with mineral development will reduce winter ranges, winter relief areas, and calving grounds to industrial zones. The animals will be driven off these lands, and their numbers will wane.

The Jack Morrow Hills also provides habitat for many species that are already disappearing from the landscape. Both the sage grouse and the mountain cluver have experienced precipitant decline in the country.

Those factors in the decline of these birds include the roads and other structures associated with oil and gas development. Fortunately, the Jack Morrow Hills are still home to significant populations of both species.

The future health of those populations, however, is dependent on making the right decisions

15 (Pages 54 to 57)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

1 today to preserve and protect their nesting, breeding,
2 and wintering habitat. It is perhaps too late for
3 still listing the mountain cluver.
4 The sage grouse may yet avoid that fate
5 if the Agency makes the right decisions now.
6 Unfortunately, the BLM's Preferred Alternative for
7 management of these lands provides little built-in
8 protection for the wildlife resources on the Jack
9 Morrow Hills.
10 Instead, the Agency proposes to conduct
11 a landscape development experiment on how much
12 development wildlife can tolerate in these crucial
13 habitats. Under the Preferred Alternative, oil and
14 gas development will go forward on much of the Jack
15 Morrow Hills.
16 BLM will monitor its impact on other
17 resources, including wildlife, and adjust the Agency's
18 management of development as needed. This development
19 of the management strategy is based upon a number of
20 assumptions, none of which are true.
21 First, this strategy assumes that the
22 BLM will have significant, sufficient resources to
23 monitor adequately the impacts of the oil and gas
24 development. Past experiences with the BLM monitoring
25 program demonstrates that the cost of monitoring often

1 outstrips the Agency's available resources.
2 Second, strategy assumes that the BLM
3 will be able to identify that moment just before the
4 threshold is crossed and damage to other resources
5 become irreparable. Yet the Draft Environmental
6 Impact Statement for Jack Morrow Hills admits the
7 BLM's preference for the adapted management
8 alternative is based in part on the fact that the
9 Agency lacks sufficient information to understand the
10 true impacts of gas and oil development.
11 In our experience, limits on oil and gas
12 development become less restrictive rather than more
13 so. For these reasons, together with the concerns
14 raised by many others at this hearing, we give our
15 support for the Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative for
16 the Jack Morrow Hills.
17 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you.
18 Okay, I'm going to do an unscheduled
19 event here, but I think that we will all appreciate
20 it. We've been engaging in here for a little over an
21 hour.
22 We've got probably at least that much
23 more to go. I teach class on the side, and I've
24 learned that if we don't give folks a break about
25 every hour we start losing attention, especially mine.

1 So what I want to do is take this strict
2 five-minute break, okay? The next speaker is Marian
3 Doane, so be ready.
4 Five minutes.
5 (Whereupon, the participants took a
6 brief recess and returned, after which the following
7 occurred:)
8 MR. GRIFFITH: Looks like there are a
9 few left, or maybe are lingering, but I guess I'll
10 have to start. I had a special request for somebody
11 that needs to get home.
12 I am trying to honor those. I had
13 mentioned that Marian Doane would be next, but
14 actually we have Deb Dellai-Boese --
15 MS. DELLAI-BOESE: Boese. Boese.
16 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you. You're up.
17 MS. DELLAI-BOESE: My name is Debby,
18 D-e-b-b-y, Dellai, D-e-l-l-a-i, Boese, B-o-e-s-e. I
19 am representing myself and my desert and your desert.
20 Okay, this afternoon when I picked up my
21 grandson from preschool, the one that is here and
22 wanted to come down and talk to you, I told him that
23 we would be going to a very important meeting tonight.
24 And as expected from a 5-year-old, his first reply
25 was, "Why?"

1 And I told him that we would be
2 discussing the value of the desert, and how we, how
3 important it is, and how we can take care of it. And
4 I think his reply sort of epitomizes a lot of things.
5 He said, "Well, if we keep hurting the
6 desert, one day it will just get up on its legs and
7 walk away." And I think that probably says a lot,
8 because it can just get up and walk away, whether you
9 believe it or not.
10 And money today will be soon gone
11 tomorrow. Let's leave the desert here.
12 I love the desert. I can't even begin
13 to tell you.
14 I'm from here. I'm 54 years old.
15 And I say that because in all of those
16 years I have loved it, and I took this position from
17 my father and from my grandfather. The Continental
18 area is a patch grid.
19 If you have ever been up there, there
20 used to be a challenge in getting lost up there.
21 There isn't now.
22 You can close your eyes and feel the
23 grid and I am sure you would find your way out. In
24 the past I thought how insignificant I was compared to
25 this universe, and now I know that what justification

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 62

1 comes with my feigned humility just pacifies my
2 accepted action.
3 In truth, I do know how important I am.
4 I do know how significant I am, because I value the
5 choices that I make.
6 It is true that eventually the universe
7 of the cosmos will ballance out versus your decisions
8 and your actions, but who will be accountable then for
9 the legacy that we leave to our children? Oil and gas
10 companies do need to be aware of our land and
11 heritage.
12 It is not just a matter of money. This
13 is our state. We need to lay claim to our rights.
14 BLM, you need to protect our rights, and
15 not be an anonymous entity hidden away and insulated
16 from us. Perhaps the better question is: Where are
17 your values?
18 All right, next. Freedom has a higher
19 power, and that is the choice here between the desert
20 and the wilderness, or to become plagued by the values
21 of others.
22 The price of the Jack Morrow Hills will
23 be your heart, but it will be the gain for all of the
24 gas and oil company stockholders. Didn't he say four
25 trillion, something like that?

Page 63

1 Thank you.
2 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you.
3 I want to thank you all for sticking to
4 the time. It's gone very well tonight. I know that's
5 tough at times, but we appreciate it.
6 Marian Doane.
7 MS. DOANE: Hi. My name is Marian
8 Doane. That's M-a-r-i-a-n, D-o-a-n-e.
9 I am a natural scientist and a Lander
10 native. I have spent many a months out there on the
11 Red Desert and the Jack Morrow Hills.
12 I also believe that being a native is
13 not something that I really need to bring up, but
14 tonight I want to bring it up to make a point. You
15 see, my Great-Great-Great Uncle, Lieutenant Gustavus
16 Doane, first saw the Red Desert when he was stationed
17 on the Green River while a bridge was being built
18 across the railroad.
19 In his journals in 1868, there in his
20 journals he writes how the Red Desert inspired him to
21 explore. But before he had the chance to get into the
22 desert in any depth he was sent to Fort Ellis,
23 Montana, where he found a desire to explore into the
24 Yellowstone area with Washburn, Langford, and the
25 Hayden Expeditions.

Page 64

1 My point is that these great men had
2 foresight and saw the need to protect one of this
3 world's most precious gems. I believe that if Uncle
4 Gus would have had the chance to see the Red Desert
5 more closely before he saw the Red Desert, or the
6 Yellowstone area, he would have realized that this
7 area is the southern acre to the greater Yellowstone
8 ecosystem, and we probably would not have to worry
9 about these sensitive areas because they would already
10 have been protected.
11 Gustavus did not cross the Red Desert
12 again until 1877 with the Hayden Survey, where Hayden
13 remarked in his journals about the aspen groves, the
14 birthing grounds of the desert elk, and the amazing
15 habitat changes. But by the time the Yellowstone
16 boundaries had been drawn, by that time the
17 Yellowstone boundaries had been drawn, and Yellowstone
18 had been a national park for over five years.
19 Now we know how important this area is
20 to the great-, greater Yellowstone ecosystem. We know
21 how important this area is to the 350 wildlife species
22 that live out there.
23 We know how critical and sen-, we know
24 how critical and sensitive these habitats are. We
25 know how much historical significance this area holds

Page 65

1 for all peoples of this nation.
2 And now we know just how these special
3 values can be disrupted and destroyed by development.
4 There are many examples, and there are many reports
5 that show the data on the disturbance levels on the
6 different development out there.
7 For example, the ongoing UW report on
8 the desert elk says elk move on an average of 1.86
9 miles when disturbed along the roads. We also know
10 how development can play havoc on the sage grouse, the
11 mountain cluver, and raptors, just to name a few.
12 We know all this. But some seem to
13 choose to ignore the facts, saying there is not enough
14 data to tell what the impacts would be.
15 The BLM wants to let industry in, and
16 learn, quote, from the outcome or the actions over
17 time, close quote. Thank you.
18 I'm afraid that many of these species
19 can be wiped or, or impacted hard enough to make
20 recovery very difficult if we wait to learn from our
21 mistakes. I support the Citizens' Wildlife and
22 Wildland Alternative.
23 Like our forefathers, I believe that if
24 we don't protect this area today, it will be gone
25 tomorrow. Thank you.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Marian.
Bill Lutsch or Lutsch.
MR. LUTSCH: Good evening. I'm Bill Lutsch, B-i-l-l, L-u-t-s-c-h.
There are so many good reasons why this land is, is so valuable to us. I think we've heard a lot about the animals and species that are there.
Really, if you haven't been out there, you need to go out there and see it. It is far, far from a wasteland.
The Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative is why I'm here tonight. I wanted to just share this with you real quick, and then we'll move on.
The Plan allows for responsible hunting, recreation, off-road vehicle use, grazing, and continued access on designated roads. The alternative also assures the long-term survival of the elk, pronghorn antelope, and mule deer, and all those species we've heard about.
It also calls for the restoration and the protection of wildlife habitat that is damaged. It prevents new roads and development in wilderness areas, and establishes the wilderness study areas where appropriate.
It also protects culturally significant

areas for all of our Native Americans. It provides continued and increased protection for nationally recognized historic trails.
And for all these reasons and many more, I hope that the BLM protects the Jack Morrow Hills. Thank you.
MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Bill.
Bruce Woodward.
MR. WOODWARD: Thank you. My name is Bruce Woodward, B-r-u-c-e, W-o-o-d-w-a-r-d.
I am a local resident here. I'm also, by training, a biologist.
I've spent over 3,000 days studying plants and animals in the deserts across America. I've written EISs on desert, on impacts of desert systems.
Some of the studies that I've done in these desert systems look at the impacts of either developing roads or using dirt roads, and how that impacts plants and animals. One of the reasons that we have this type of meeting -- And I appreciate the BLM offering us this, and offering the public an opportunity to contribute to this process.
One of the reasons that we do that is to get our input, and, and to give us an opportunity to

comment on the adequacy of the analysis. And I would like to point out two places where I think that the analysis is inadequate.
The first, and it's been mentioned by a couple of people already, is that we're not giving serious consideration to the dispersion and the number, the dispersion and the number of well sites, and the proliferation of roads, and how that may impact wildlife. There's lots of studies out there that suggest that it will have a significant, or could have a significant impact on the wildlife populations.
And like some of the other people have said, I don't want us to get to the point where we see that there is a significant impact, we can see significant decreases in sizes of populations of these species, and it is too late, and we can't do anything about it. The, many of the people that have gotten up here today and have spoken have given heartfelt testimony about how much they enjoy the desert, and how much they love to go out there and experience the solitude of the desert.
And that is also something that I do not think has been seriously considered by the BLM. And so I would ask you to consider those inadequacies that I have raised, and I would endorse the Wildlands and

Wildlife Alternative.
Thank you.
MR. GRIFFITH: Okay, thank you, Bruce.
Arthur Anderson.
MR. ANDERSON: My name is Arthur Anderson, A-r-t-h-u-r, Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. I'm a retired wildlife biologist, the President of the High Plains Audubon Chapter out of Cheyenne, and I've had, I've enjoyed the Red Desert for, area for almost 30 years.
I had a friend in Rawlins who introduced me to the Red Desert in a sage grouse hunt in 1974, and ever since 1974 I've spent at least two or three weekends out in the Red Desert, mostly in the Rawlins area and out in the Wamsutter area. But I've seen a lot of changes in the last 30 years in the Red Desert.
Back 30 years ago the uranium industry was the big thing out there. They were exploring with bulldozer blades and backhoes, and you can still see the pits where the mining occurred and the blades, especially around here, if you see it is layered in and around the road.
Those scars are still there and are probably going to be there for many, many generations. Oil and gas operation, the same thing.

They were blazing seismic roads across the Red Desert. Thankful-, thankfully they are not doing that anymore.

But there is still a lot of impact due to their operation. And there are many roads, especially out there by the Wamsutter area.

That one just keeps on staying and staying. And the wildlife out there, it's still one of the better places in the world to preserve wildlife and enjoy recreating with them and hunting them.

Sage grouse population has been smitten over the last 30 years. I think a lot of that impact is due to the oil and gas exploration, and probably girding rangelands out there from sheep to cattle.

Cows have a lot larger impact on the riparian habitats than the winter sheep operation had out there. We need to do something.

These resources cannot continue to take the impacts that are occurring out there or we're going to lose them. I enjoy the area out there, the solitude, the few choice friends I take out hunting every year, and I would like to keep it for future generations.

And to do that I think it's very important to protect areas like the Jack Morrow Hills

area. I recommend that the BLM adopt the Citizens' Plan for Wildlands and Wildlife.

Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Arthur.

Scott Boettcher with Friends of the Red Desert.

MR. BOETTCHER: Scotty Boettcher, S-c-o-t-t-y, B-o-e-t-t-c-h-e-r. I've been a long-time resident of this area.

I was born in Rock Springs and raised in the Red Desert. You know, oftentimes when speaking with the general public about this issue I notice that we have issues with the multiple-use provision.

We truly do need to share. This land does need to be shared.

But when you were a little kid and you shared your toy with somebody and they broke it, did you give it back to them? I sure as heck didn't.

And that is so many of the reservations that we deal with. You know, we talk about reclamation on this land.

This land does not reclaim well. You can still see impacts from 200 years ago, when the very first people first set foot in this area.

It does not reclaim well. You know, we

talk about hunting opportunities out in this area.

Just how, how important is this area to the local population? Every year 3,300 applicants put in for this area.

They have about four-percent chance of drawing. Why do they do that?

If I put in this year, I'll draw when I'm 45, 50. Not very good odds.

But we do it for the hunting opportunity. We have this beautiful chunk of land that supports enormous elk.

It is wonderful. So many times in wildlife management we're reactive.

Now is our chance to be proactive. We know that the desert elk herd will be affected.

We know that the sage grouse will be affected. Now is our chance to be proactive.

We know this, and we can stop it. The Friends of the Red Desert, which is the organization that I am representing tonight, you know, we set up a local shop here in town.

It is down on Ninth Street, and we've had great success in talking to people. We hear these stories, you know, "I remember back in 1935, you know, I was up there with my dad."

And those are the kind, that is the kind of heritage we need to preserve in this area. You know, we also hear about the economics.

You know, let me ask you: What has the oil and gas industry economics done for this area? Our population is down.

We are 18,000 people. I am not against oil and gas development, but where is it leading us?

Our school enrollment is down. People do not come here for a job; they come here for a lifestyle.

And they do value the wildlands and the wildlife that we have here. I want to thank the BLM for giving us this forum.

I want to thank them for hearing our concerns on this issue. And I also just want to express a point.

You know, every once in a while I will sit around a campfire and think about the future. And I want my kids to have the opportunity that I had here growing up.

And, Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm afraid they're not going to have that. Now is our chance where we can say to our children and our future generations, "You will have this wildlife. You will

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 74

have these wildlands, and it will be all yours to access."

This is public land. It is ours. Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Scott.

Leonard Lippman.

MR. LIPPMAN: I'm Leonard Lippman, L-e-o-n-a-r-d, L-i-p-p-m-a-n. Now you are going to hear the rest of the story.

Approximately 20 years ago, in an act of extraordinary foresight, the Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office sponsored a seminar right here in Wyoming on the subject of terrorism, of all things. And to help make that seminar a success, they invited a General of the Israeli Army to come out here.

And the General flew into Cheyenne and met with Governor Ed Herschler. And it fell to me to drive out to Cheyenne and drive him back to Rock Springs.

Well, when we passed through Sweetwater County he spotted some wild horses off there on the right, and was curious about them. And I told him they were wild horses.

"You mean they don't belong to anybody?"

"That's right."

Page 75

He said, "Well, let's go see them." So we drove to the right and went into the Red Desert, and went up to the northern part of the Red Desert, around the area of the Jack Morrow Hills.

We got out. We walked around.

And he was just utterly fascinated. And he said to me, "You know," he said, "This is exactly like the Sinai. This is exactly like Israel."

And up until that point I was looking at the desert as kind of a, the enemy. He said, "You know, this is special. This is like holy ground."

Oh, that was a bit much for me. I'm not particularly all that religious.

But he said, "You know," he said, "Jesus and Moses and Mohammad, they could not have evolved who they were, who they became, in any other terrain other than land like this." He said, "The desert challenged them.

"It strengthened them. And it does that to us as well."

He said, "It was in the desert that they found security, safety, solitude, serenity. It is where it inspired them to seek the spiritualism within them."

And I have to tell you, that was a

Page 76

revelation for me, because I always had thought of the desert as the place you sweep out of our house. Well, enough said on that subject.

We all know the Jack Morrow Hills is special. We all know about the statistics, and we all know about the species.

But now we know something about us as well. And let me ask you about economics.

As far as economics, what is the human spirit worth? Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Leonard.

Dan Heilig.

MR. HEILIG: My name is Dan Heilig. The last name is spelled H-e-i-l-i-g.

And I'm a citizen from Lander, Wyoming. And I just want to begin my brief comments by identifying what I believe are some terribly significant flaws in the BLM's Environmental Impact Statement.

I didn't have to turn very far into the document to find the first one. One Page 2 dash-2, in the section that describes management categories, and those are things like air and heritage resources and watersheds and water quality and so forth, there is one very important resource that is missing.

Page 77

It is wildlife, w-i-l-d-l-i-f-e, wildlife. Now, this is an extremely important omission, because management categories are used by the BLM's own explanation to define the range and content of alternatives, and also to prescribe management actions.

And I think that the failure of the document containing this management category is, can be perceived as a fatal flaw.

The other omission or observation that I would like to make is that the document, particularly the Preferred Alternative, does not satisfy or meet the stated purpose or need for the Plan. The Plan was called for in the Green River RMP to address and resolve conflicts between various uses in the area, mainly energy development and everything else.

And because each of the alternatives allows for development and continued leasing, and continued oil and gas, one can reasonably anticipate further development or further conflicts. So I think the BLM needs to take a serious look at those problems, and try, to try to find some way to perhaps include a new alternative that actually meets and resolves, or meets the purpose and need, and resolves the lengthy conflicts that will result from additional

20 (Pages 74 to 77)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 78

1 development in the area.
2 Before I change the topic I want to
3 endorse and embrace the Citizens' Wildlife and
4 Wildlands Alternative. That Alternative should be
5 included, included in BLM's final Environmental Impact
6 Statement and sent out for additional public review.
7 One other thing about the BLM.
8 BLM manages 18 million acres in the State of Wyoming,
9 and an additional 23 million acres of federal in the
10 middle of the state. Ninety-five percent of that land
11 in the middle of the state is open for oil and gas
12 development.
13 There are thousands of wells being
14 drilled. Ten- to 15,000 wells are likely in Southwest
15 Wyoming in the next decade.
16 Do we really need to drill in the
17 500,000 acres of federal in the Jack Morrow Hills?
18 Thank you very much.
19 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Dan.
20 Bart Koehler, with the Wilderness
21 Society.
22 MR. KOEHLER: My name is Bart Koehler.
23 That's B-a-r-t, K-o-e-h-l-e-r.
24 I am here tonight to speak on behalf of
25 the Wyoming members of the Wilderness Society, and for

Page 79

1 the entire membership of the organization. For the
2 Record, the Wilderness Society strongly supports the
3 Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative.
4 Forty-nine percent of the lands managed
5 by the BLM are already open for oil and gas. This
6 home-grown alternative would bring a better balance to
7 this great part of the state.
8 If I could read my notes. I've been
9 scratching on most of this.
10 I've had the great fortune of being able
11 to live and work in Wyoming for many, many years. And
12 I know that there are places in the heart of the
13 desert where you can stand and marvel at the miles and
14 miles of landscape before you.
15 There are very few places wild and
16 wide-open like these left in the lower 48 States of
17 America. Three years ago we were here testifying in
18 this very same room, and so far it is very clear that
19 the BLM and Dick Cheney have not been listening.
20 I remember one Wyoming leader who always
21 listened to calls for conservation. He grew up in
22 this town, and his name was Congressman Teno Roncalio.
23 Sadly, he passed away a little over a
24 week ago. It was an honor to know Teno.
25 And I'm certain that if he were alive

Page 80

1 today, he would be standing up for protecting the
2 heart of the Red Desert. I believe that protecting
3 this great place would certainly be a fitting tribute
4 to Teno.
5 Wyoming citizens have worked hard to
6 protect the Red Desert for decades and decades and
7 decades and decades. And when we get to the point of
8 filing ground protections by Congress for this great
9 place, I hope we get our Wyoming in history a little
10 straighter.
11 I hope that we quit referencing that
12 wonderful place out there as "Jack Morrow Hills."
13 Jack was a low and no-account scoundrel; two-bit
14 hoodlum.
15 And I say that because I would like to
16 see the place named after true heros, two world-class
17 outlaws who were roaming that place long ago named
18 Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.
19 Finally, every time I go to the desert I
20 am thunder-struck. Boar's Tusk, Killpecker Dunes,
21 Steamboat Mountain, Oregon Buttes, the Honeycombs;
22 great places, great names.
23 Think about all of this for a second.
24 Out there in the Red Desert is freedom.
25 Out there is America the beautiful.

Page 81

1 Today we still have a chance to protect this great
2 place and do as a pioneer in Wyoming and a wilderness
3 leader, Olaus Murie, called for 50 years ago: He
4 said, "God bless American. Let's save some of it."
5 Thank you.
6 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Bart.
7 From the Wind River Alliance, tonight's
8 speaker is Jason Baldes.
9 Anyone? Richard? Okay.
10 A SPEAKER: Yeah, he's coming.
11 MR. BALDES: My name is Jason Baldes on
12 behalf of the Wind River Alliance. And that is
13 J-a-s-o-n, B-a-l-d-e-s.
14 We would like to support the Citizens'
15 Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative, but even that has
16 some flaws. Even as tribal members, and as a Shoshoni
17 tribal member, our original Reservation included all
18 of the Red Desert and 44 million acres throughout
19 Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, and Northern Colorado.
20 Our ancestors were using our land long
21 before Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Our
22 cultural sites in that area are very important to us.
23 And in, in that Alternative we would
24 like to see more collaboration with Tribes on our
25 cultural sites in some sort of categorization of the

21 (Pages 78 to 81)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 82

1 importance of those areas, depending on our Shoshoni
2 and Arapaho Tribes. And I think it's up to the BLM to
3 come to the Tribes, as we are sovereign nations, and
4 include us in the alternatives.
5 And we would like to see Jack Morrow
6 Hills, as well as a lot more of the Red Desert,
7 protected. Thank you.
8 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Jason.
9 Mac Blewer.
10 MR. BLEWER: Thank you. My name is Mac
11 Blewer. That's M-a-c, B-l-e-w-e-r.
12 I want to say after all of these great
13 speakers, I've seen lightning play across the Great
14 Divide Basin from Oregon Buttes. I've seen hawks soar
15 over the Sand Dunes and Steamboat Mountain.
16 I've seen meteors fall over the
17 Pinnacles. I've seen a lot of things in the desert.
18 And I've traveled a lot through this
19 country and a lot through the world, and I know this
20 is a world-class landscape. We need to protect it.
21 And as Mr. Koehler said, Wyoming
22 citizens have been trying to protect this for a long
23 time. You think that we could get it right after 105
24 years since the first proposal was advanced by
25 Congress to protect it as a winter game preserve.

Page 83

1 Since then there has been attempts to
2 make it North American antelope range, a wild horse
3 refuge, a national monument, a national wildlife
4 refuge, a national park by Wyoming Governor Leslie
5 Miller in 1935. We'll get it right sometime, I'm
6 sure.
7 I, I oppose this Plan totally because I
8 think there is no balance in it. Where, where is the
9 balance in this Plan?
10 Ninety-four percent of BLM lands are
11 open to mineral leasing and development. BLM
12 estimates that there will be 10,000 to 15,000 oil and
13 gas wells in Southwest Wyoming by 2010; 51,000 coalbed
14 methane wells in the Powder River Basin by 2010.
15 The Plan is also fairly weak. As a
16 gentleman earlier in the evening stated, if we drilled
17 every acre in the Jack Morrow Hills area using the
18 highest estimate in the Cook Report, which is highly
19 questionable, we would only have enough for nine weeks
20 of natural gas and 39 minutes of oil.
21 I also think that the Plan would call
22 for a large-scale industrialization of the Jack Morrow
23 Hills area. I do not believe for a minute that
24 industry is going to stop at 205 oil and gas wells.
25 Once they are in there, they are in

Page 84

1 there. And why is the Preservation Alternative, the
2 Preservation Alternative, why does it call for
3 160-plus oil and gas wells? What kind of a
4 preservation alternative is that?
5 Lastly I think -- Well, not quite
6 lastly. But there should be a -- I think that BLM
7 should look very seriously into a trade of oil and gas
8 Leases in the area.
9 A lot of this area was leased a long
10 time ago, before we knew about crucial wintering for
11 elk, antelope, and deer; before we knew about the
12 cultural sites and the historic sites. The BLM says
13 that a trade is not reasonable for oil and gas Leases.
14 Well, I think that it is not reasonable
15 to not consider a trade. To, to wrap up, I support
16 the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative.
17 I'm not against oil and gas development.
18 I drive a car as well, but I think that some places
19 should be left alone.
20 It is our patriotic duty to protect
21 this, the Jack Morrow Hills. Let's protect some of
22 it.
23 I fully endorse the Citizens' Wildlife
24 and Wildlands Alternative. Thank you.
25 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Mac.

Page 85

1 Randy Shipman.
2 MR. SHIPMAN: My name is Randy Shipman.
3 I'm the President of the Rocky Mountain Region People
4 for the USA.
5 In general, what I have heard tonight,
6 my comments are directed at the State BLM Director, if
7 you could give those to him. The People for the USA
8 organizations and individual members have participated
9 in the Jack Morrow Hills CAP for a number of years.
10 I would like to take this opportunity to
11 bring to the fore what General Counsel Nicholas C.
12 Yost and the Council on Environmental Quality had for
13 advice back in 1981 involving the scoping process.
14 Although that process of the Jack Morrow Hills CAP is
15 now history, I believe much of what the 1981
16 Memorandum had to say still holds true today, given
17 the fact that the BLM have ignored, to date,
18 addressing specific issues brought forth by
19 participants in this planning process over the years;
20 some, in our opinion, holding jurisdictional
21 conflicts.
22 To quote from the Memorandum: Some
23 cooperating agencies are still holding back at the
24 scoping stage in order to retain a critical position
25 for later in the process. They either avoid the

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 86

1 scoping sessions, or fail to contribute, and then
2 raise objections in comments on the Draft EIS.
3 We have seen that tonight already. We
4 cannot emphasize enough that the whole point of
5 scoping is to avoid this situation.
6 As we stated in "40 Questions and
7 Answers About the NEPA Regulations," if the new
8 alternative or other issue was not raised by the
9 commenters during scoping, but could have been,
10 commenters may find that they are unpersuasive in
11 their efforts to have their suggested alternative
12 analyzed in detail by the lead agency. And that's
13 Question 29-b.
14 The Memorandum goes on to state, under
15 "Advice for Public Participants," quote, scoping is a
16 new opportunity -- Remember, this was written some 20
17 years ago. -- "for you to enter the earliest phase of
18 the decision-making process on proposals that affect
19 you.
20 Through this process you have access to
21 public officials before decisions are made, and the
22 right to explain your objections and concerns. But
23 this opportunity carries with it a new responsibility.
24 No longer of -- No longer may
25 individuals hang back until the process is almost

Page 87

1 complete, and then spring forth with a significant
2 issue or alternative that might have been raised
3 earlier. You are now part of the review process, and
4 your role is to inform the responsible agencies of the
5 potential impacts that should be studied, the problems
6 a proposal may cause that you foresee, and the
7 alternatives and mitigating measures that offer
8 promise.
9 As noted above and in "40 Questions and
10 Answers," no longer will a comment raised for the
11 first time after the Draft EIS is finished be accorded
12 the same serious consideration it would otherwise have
13 merited if the issue had been raised during scoping.
14 Thus, you have a responsibility to come forward early
15 with known issues.
16 I think the aforemen-, -- That was a
17 closed quote, by the way. I think the aforementioned
18 advice is as pertinent today as it was over 20 years
19 ago.
20 Individuals and organizations such as
21 ours have played by the NEPA and DEQ published
22 guidelines to no avail on specific subjects of
23 interest to our memberships and organizations. I've
24 got two sentences left.
25 We will again be submitting the same

Page 88

1 written comment for your consideration pertaining to
2 the Jack Morrow Hills SEIS, while making note that our
3 concerns may not yet be ripe for consideration, but
4 nonetheless should have been publically addressed at
5 some stage during this NEPA process.
6 Thank you.
7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Randy.
8 Floyd Osborne.
9 MR. OSBORNE: I'm Floyd Osborne, capital
10 F-l-o-y-d, O-s-b-o-r-n-e. I'm a member of the
11 Shoshoni Tribe.
12 I'm a former Shoshoni Board Preservation
13 Officer. I was here three years ago for the hearing
14 up in Lander.
15 Tonight I wish to oppose development.
16 And I don't wish to be against the environmentalist.
17 But let me remind you that this was my
18 people's land over 12,000 years ago. This was a
19 migration route for the Shoshoni and Ute, Bannock,
20 Cochiti Tribes, and all of the Shoshoni bands.
21 And it is uncertain yet, but this could
22 have been the place where the Ute, the Shoshoni, and
23 Aztec-speaking language people went their separate
24 ways. There were many bands.
25 But getting back to the Red Desert, as a

Page 89

1 gentleman talked about Moses and Mohammad and Jesus
2 went into the desert, we can relate to that, because
3 some of our people came here to meditate, to fast, to
4 seek visions, and to communicate with the spiritual
5 world in their way. We have special bonds.
6 We have close bonds with the natural
7 environment, the mountains. They weren't Jack Morrow
8 Hills.
9 Our people had different names. This
10 wasn't the Red Desert.
11 This was "The Place of Many Ponies."
12 And the Shoshoni, being called by the Aztecs as a
13 horse people, we gave our right to the, to the wild
14 horses.
15 So again, development is, is good.
16 Saving the environment is good.
17 But it's kind of hard to go to bed at
18 night and focus on the Creator, because he is the one
19 that put these here for us. And these migration
20 routes were covered by many people.
21 Thank you.
22 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Floyd.
23 Actually my next card is Jason Baldes,
24 but he already spoke. There was a previous --
25 MR. BALDES: Actually, Jason took my

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 90

1 place.
2 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. So you are
3 Richard?
4 MR. BALDES: I'm Richard.
5 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay, Richard Baldes.
6 MR. BLADES: I think that I am going to
7 be brief. I want to support the, the Citizens'
8 Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative.
9 I also want to support everything that
10 Mac Blewer said, so I won't talk about those issues.
11 I'm a fish and wildlife biologist by trade, and so all
12 of those are very important.
13 But what I do want to talk about is the
14 Native American cultural sites. The BLM has done a
15 poor job, and this Plan is a poor design.
16 In visiting with some of the
17 archeological people in the BLM at the scoping
18 meetings in Rock Springs and again in Lander, there is
19 no plan for protecting these cultural sites. And as a
20 matter of fact, in the Plans there is more protection
21 for the Oregon Trail, and the same concern is not
22 given to any of the Native American sites.
23 It is ridiculous. The Native American
24 sites, and the important areas for spiritual reasons
25 were here long before the Oregon Trail.

Page 91

1 Give me a break. And so they are not
2 very good.
3 The reasons that I think maybe that I
4 want to speak highly for the Jack Morrow Hills and the
5 Red Desert, I think that Floyd and Jason probably
6 said, you know, that was all Shoshoni in there, and I
7 am an enrolled Shoshone. My son, Jason, that just got
8 up and spoke, is an enrolled Shoshoni.
9 That little guy right there, 19 months
10 old that Jason is holding, that is why I am here. I
11 want him to be able to see what's in the Red Desert.
12 That's what it's all about. And the
13 development that we're seeing in the Red Desert and
14 other places that we stay, we have some developments
15 that are going on in the Reservation that we're
16 concerned about.
17 We sure as hell don't want to see any
18 coalbed methane development on the Wind River
19 Reservation like the BLM has done in the Jack Morrow
20 Hills, I mean, in the Jonah Fields and the Powder
21 River Basin. I'll stop there.
22 It is for that little guy.
23 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Richard.
24 Craig Thompson.
25 MR. THOMPSON: My name is Craig

Page 92

1 Thompson. And please don't start the clock until I
2 spell my name for you.
3 C-r-a-i-g, capital T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n. Let
4 me begin by thanking all of you in the audience who
5 have made such meaningful comments.
6 I've been to dozens of these hearings
7 through the years, literally dozens of these hearings,
8 and I don't think that I have ever heard a collection
9 of more meaningful comments than have been made this
10 evening. And I applaud all of you for that.
11 And I respect those comments, and I have
12 learned from them. And I include Mrs. Zakotnik, Mrs.
13 DeLambert, your comments as well. Thank you very
14 much.
15 The guidelines for this evening talked,
16 asked us to talk about the scope and the adequacy of
17 the Supplemental Draft EIS, and I want to begin by
18 telling you that I do not consider the
19 preservationist's alternative a conservation
20 alternative, which was my understanding that, the
21 directive that the BLM had. And I also want to talk
22 about the adequacy.
23 I've seen one major flaw in this, and
24 that major flaw is the inadequate treatment of the
25 cumulative impact. Cumulative impact is a big deal.

Page 93

1 Every proposal proposes to take just a
2 little bit. Every Environmental Impact Statement is
3 just going to take a little bit, just a small
4 fraction.
5 And what we end up with is a fragmented,
6 unmanageable area that has great impacts on wildlife,
7 and that is one of my great concerns. Professor
8 Christensen and Dr. Woodward are certainly more
9 qualified than I am to talk about the scientific
10 values that are out there, but I do want to go on
11 Record as saying that I don't want to lose the
12 environment in the Jack Morrow Hills and in the Red
13 Desert a little bit at a time.
14 I think that there are scientific values
15 out there that we need to discover; we need to study.
16 I am unaware, for example, of a single comprehensive
17 water-quality study.
18 I am unaware of biological studies that
19 have looked at the tops of those mesas. And as my
20 time is drawing rapidly to a close here, I want to say
21 something about economics.
22 You know, rich people and affluence will
23 soon be forgotten, but the generations that come after
24 us, those people are going to remember what we saved
25 for them, not what we spent today. And so I ask you,

24 (Pages 90 to 93)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 94

1 I urge the BLM to adopt the Citizens' Wildlife and
2 Wildlands Alternative.
3 I am asking you for nothing more than to
4 make a decision worthy of the landscape that we have
5 left. Thank you.
6 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Craig.
7 Gene George with Yates Petroleum.
8 MR. GEORGE: Thank you. Gene, G-e-n-e,
9 last name is George, G-e-o-r-g-e.
10 I am here to represent Yates Petroleum
11 Corporation. Yates Petroleum Corporation does have
12 federal lease holdings in the Jack Morrow Hills, as
13 well as throughout the Rocky Mountains.
14 It is an interesting thing. Yates
15 Petroleum agrees that you should protect the wildlife.
16 Yates Petroleum agrees that you should
17 protect the cultural resources. Yates Petroleum
18 agrees that we should protect the land so that the
19 ranchers, who spoke very eloquently, can maintain
20 their livestock.
21 All of the species that exist out there
22 that have been named, all of the characteristics that
23 have been praised are there after 50 years of oil and
24 gas exploration in the area. I think it speaks well
25 of the fact that we can go there, extract the

Page 95

1 resource, and come out, and you still praise the
2 characteristics of the landscape.
3 If we are so lucky as to find an
4 additional accumulation of oil and gas, there will be
5 additional requirements. We will have to analyze for
6 those cumulative impacts.
7 Phase development is not something that
8 is economic. It is not something that is necessary,
9 because all development is phased by the NEPA
10 analysis.
11 If you attempt to decide where one
12 activity occurs versus another, it forces the BLM to
13 make an arbitrary and capricious stud-, or decision.
14 It is not possible for them to desist.
15 I think that the very current grazing
16 managers are great. The grazing lessees are great
17 managers of those lands.
18 And again, you are praising those lands
19 after their grazing them for some hundred years.
20 Economics: One of the fallacies in your
21 economic analysis is that it says that the number of
22 mining and mineral jobs have decreased, but the value,
23 the earnings per person has increased by 27 percent.
24 Finally, the oil and gas industry has
25 been in Wyoming for over a 100 years. We've produced

Page 96

1 seven billion barrels of oil, 28 trillion cubic feet
2 of gas, and yet we have a wild and scenic state that
3 is the destination of choice for millions of people.
4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Gene.
5 Jocelyn Moore.
6 MS. MOORE: Good evening, Mr. Griffith.
7 I just want to say that you are a very brave man for
8 sitting in the front.
9 I appreciate the opportunity to comment
10 on this proposed development plan. My name is
11 Jocelyn, J-o-c-e-l-y-n, Moore, M-o-o-r-e.
12 I am a resident of 407 Freyer Drive in
13 Marietta, Georgia.
14 Tonight I keep hearing the words "Public
15 land," so as an owner of this publically owned land, I
16 want to share my thoughts and concerns regarding
17 proposed development and its impact on what is really
18 a nationally owned resource. I think that everyone
19 that's in the room must be from Wyoming.
20 My first trip to Wyoming was in 1966,
21 when I traveled through this state with my father and
22 mother and my family. And I returned 35 years later,
23 in 2001.
24 My son asked to go to Wyoming. We made
25 a 2,000-mile trip to this state for several reasons.

Page 97

1 The first was for the scenery, the
2 vistas that stopped at the horizon and not at the tree
3 line like they do in Georgia. The second was the
4 opportunity to experience a wilderness that has been
5 long gone from the urban areas on the Eastern
6 seaboard.
7 And the third reason was the incredible
8 wealth and variety of the large wild animals:
9 buffalo, elk, bison, moose. And we were not
10 disappointed in our treks to see Wyoming's unspoiled
11 lands.
12 In fact, we fell in love with Wyoming.
13 We made a second journey here in the summer of 2000.
14 We went to Wyoming's Wind River Range,
15 and went out with and outfitter. And we also toured
16 the Red Desert.
17 But throughout Wyoming we've noticed the
18 lingering presence of the fire damage and the
19 blackened outlines of the trees. And every time we
20 left these protected environments where we were, it
21 was, we were salted when we returned to the urban
22 environments with the signage and massive development.
23 But my point here is not that we
24 traveled across the Mississippi and the Great Plains
25 to see industrial sites and pump jacks and eroded

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 98

areas and desecrated lands. In the tourism material that we got from the State of Wyoming before we came here, they had a real colorful brochure that boasts of the ruts left by the metal wagon wheels from the trains that carried the first families through, to and through Wyoming.

You know, these first families have been gone, but their ruts remain. And truly this is a land which is very slow to heal.

And my fear is that the proposed development in the Red Desert and its fragile ecosystem that has evolved over thousands and millions of years is going to be irreversibly harmed by this proposed damage. If the wagon wheel is going to leave a rut that will exist for more than a century, what is the impact of a drilling pad or bulldozer on an impervious surface going to be?

And I'm also concerned about potential for contamination. No system, no industrial processes are foolproof or accident proof.

There is always a possibility for contamination of the soil, and also for the water resource. You know, every region of the United States has a characteristic native plan.

In the East, Georgia is very, very

Page 99

different than Wyoming. And someone else referred tonight about the pioneers and Native Americans are the visionaries that protected Wyoming.

Thank you.

And I think as a property owner and as one of the public that own these lands, I would just really encourage you not allow this proposed industrial development.

Thank you very much.

MR. GRIFFITH: Welcome to Wyoming. Thank you for coming.

John Fraher.

MR. FRAHER: My name is John Fraher, F-r-a-h-e-r, and I live in Rock Springs. I was raised in Rawlins and was acquainted with the Red Desert as a kid when I went out with friends to bring out supplies to their sheepherders.

I was a District Petroleum Engineer for the U.S. Geological Survey here in Rock Springs from 1968 to 1982. I would guess that our office had regulatory authority on almost every well ever drilled in the Jack Morrow area.

I am told that the great bulk of written comments received opposed oil and gas operations in the study area. My question is: Based on what

Page 100

information and what historic facts did these writers come to their objections?

I can't remember a single instance of lasting or serious damage caused by drilling in the vast area we are studying. The core reason for environmental analysis is to predict the future.

A key part of forward projection is studying what has happened in the past. In my opinion, the history of oil and gas operations has not been fully addressed in the Supplementary document.

Even more damning is that most of the comments received consist of, "We don't want any oil development here," a classic example of not letting facts get in our way. Something that must be factored in the equation is that more modern methods of clean operations are now being used than during my time.

Therefore, we must arrive at the conclusion that future petroleum operations in the Jack Morrow Hills poses even less risk than we have seen in the past. I put a challenge to you folks here: Take out your scissors and a map of the Jack Morrow Hills and cut out the outline.

Notice how I did this. Cut out the outline of the Jack Morrow Hills Study Area.

Now attempt to place this outline of the

Page 101

600,000 acres on a map of any one of our 49 states in our U.S. and tell me where less adverse consequences of people or their environment would be caused. The only limit to this exercise is that you place this outline in an area on the other maps that has a good potential for developing oil and gas this country needs to keep the Arabs at bay.

And I know I had to scratch a great deal off. I know that this is stressing you a great deal.

Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, John.

Okay, it's now been another hour since our last break. We have 17 speakers left to go.

That is just a little bit under an hour. Would you like to take another break?

(Whereupon, inaudible conversation was had among the participants, after which the following occurred:)

MR. GRIFFITH: Okay, let's keep going. Our next speaker is Kevin Holdsworth.

MR. HOLDSWORTH: Thank you, Dennis. Kevin Holdsworth, H-o-l-d-s-w-o-r-t-h.

I was not born in Wyoming, but my son was. But I appreciate this opportunity to speak tonight.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 102

I've learned from my years in Wyoming that it is not necessarily designation that makes a place wild. It is possible to have some human activity, some, and still have what I would call an aesthetic wilderness.

Above all there needs to be space and only a few signs of humanity. Wyoming continues to be a paradox, a state of vast distances, open space, but a state that is remarkably industrialized in places.

For instance, those of us who love the Wind River Mountains, and I suspect that is everyone in this room, have watched the development in industrialization of the Western Piedmont where once there were just deer and antelope playing, and some sheep and a few cattle. Now we have dust, lights, rigs, roads, pads, year-round activity.

Look down on the Jonah Field from the high country or the air, and the extent of the change becomes evident. Obviously that development means jobs.

We need jobs, certainly. And to some extent, mineral development pays my salary.

But it is just as obvious to me that we ought not develop every part of the BLM land in Wyoming. This is why I believe that the Jack Morrow

Page 103

Hills is one place that ought to be free of industrial development.

Sure, we can manage Jack Morrow for multiple-use. sportsmen, ranchers, photographers, hikers, hunters, off-road vehicle enthusiasts and sightseers can continue to use this area with negligible impacts.

What we don't need is 200 wells. Two hundred wells means roads, dust, power lines, noise, fences, groundwater pollution, habitat losses, disruption, and more than likely it is the gateway to far more wells.

The majority of the public comment on this issue favored a conservational alternative. I would urge the Bureau to reconsider the issue, and keep industrial development out of this part of the Red Desert, and adopt the Citizens' Wildlands and Wildlife Alternative.

Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Kevin.

Tim Morris, representing Berco Resources.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. It is Tim Morris, M-o-r-r-i-s.

Page 104

I represent Berco Resources. We're a small, privately owned company with offices here in Rock Springs.

Our owner was raised on a Wyoming ranch near Buffalo. Berco Resources is a current operator of the Nitchie Gulch Field.

It is the only significant versing field in the EIS area. It is located in the south-central portion of the EIS outline.

Our leasehold covers approximately 10,000 acres, or approximately 1.6 percent of the 220,000-acre EIS area. Our versing leased property is not close to any known cultural sites, sage grouse leks, raptor nests, mountain cluver aggregation areas, big-game birthing areas, or big-game crucial habitat or wild horse herd management areas.

Nitchie Gulch contains 30 of our County's 36 currently producing wells in the entire Jack Morrow Hills EIS area. Four others are in the township immediately to the north, and there are two other producing wells in the remaining 600,000 acres.

The field has been producing since 1962. The existence of this field has not significantly affected other resources in the area.

And our future plan will not

Page 105

significantly affect other resources in the area. Infields are identified low-risk and low-impact, infield development, drilling location within its existing field area.

These infield locations are low-risk. These are what we drill between or adjacent to previously drilled locations.

These wells will be relatively low-impact, and we will be drilling in an established producing field area. We are both committed to exercising its valid existing rights to further develop these properties in a timely and environmentally perfect manner.

I have been plotting with the terms of this EIS and other regulations. It is most likely that we will proceed with our proposed infield development at a modest pace of two to three wells per year, utilizing one drilling rig at a time.

Some of our employees have worked in the Nitchie Gulch Field area for more than 20 years, and the fact of the matter is that the elk in the Nitchie Gulch Field can and do coexist. The elk herd has been able to flourish while the field and its associated human activity have been occurring.

Thank you again for the opportunity.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 106

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Tim.
Martin Blackbush (sic).
MR. BLACKBURN: That's Martin Blackburn, M-a-r-t-i-n, B-l-a-c-k-b-u-r-n.
MR. GRIFFITH: I wasn't even close, was I?
MR. BLACKBURN: That's all right. I'm here representing the Young Warriors' Society of the Wind River Range Reservation, which consists both of Shoshoni and Arapaho members.
I've spent considerable amount of time speaking with a lot of our elders on both Shoshoni and Arapaho. And the reason why I'm here, I'm speaking on behalf of my ancestors and the environment and wildlife out there.
These are sacred sites that are out there. They have been there since time immemorial.
They go back a long time. And from what I've been told, these sacred sites were protected by spirits.
And this is seen and unseen things that are out there, the things that we are related to and how we see life. And we have further encroachments with these developments.
They disrupt these spirits. They

Page 107

disrupt these animals, these animals that go on a natural path.
Their natural cycles of life are disrupted by a lot of these developments, a lot of the noise. And, you know, I think that this is one of the biggest open ranges that we have in North America, and I think that it should stay like that.
There are a lot of caverns, caves, altars, sacred areas that are still in use today, such as the Oregon Buttes and other places. I can't point them out.
It is not my place to point them out. But there is also these medicinal plants out there that our people have used and relied on for centuries.
You know, it has been our survival, which is why we are still here today. What I hear is that the coalbed methane, the effects of the coalbed methane, and I've seen what it has done to a lot of other lands.
The animals that depend on that water out there, the aquifers are affected by that. And our medicinal plants out there are affected by that.
So, you know, I think that any further encroachments would disrupt that life, that life, that lifestyle and that cycle of life. I feel -- I agree

Page 108

with what Jason Baldes said earlier, that, you know, the BLM should approach the Tribes, you know, to get their input on it.
And as a Young Warriors' Society, a lot of our younger people are coming together and we're speaking out more, and raising more awareness about these issues like this because this only affects, not only us, but it affects other Tribes throughout North America that are still protecting these sacred sites. We've been protecting these sacred sites since 1492.
That has been our homeland security, right there. We are still hanging on.
But like I said, you know, I speak for all living things. Of course, you know, we are doing pretty good.
I've been in the military. I've seen these other countries, and, you know, we're not so bad off.
Thank you.
MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Martin.
Dru Bower, for the Petroleum Association of Wyoming.
MS. BOWER: My name is Dru Bower, D-r-u, B-o-w-e-r, and I represent the Petroleum Association of Wyoming. We are still analyzing the document, and

Page 109

will provide written comment to you by the comment period deadline.
We will say that the scope of the analysis is better than what we saw on the Draft of 2000. I've heard several times tonight that we're not against oil and gas development, just not in Jack Morrow Hills.
And I felt compelled to address that. I must remind you that minerals are where they are.
We can't move them to where they are more pleasing, or where they do not overlap with other resources. And Wyoming is fortunate enough to have an abundance of natural resources; not only mineral but our wildlife, our cultural resources, et cetera.
It is our obligation to make sure that we can manage those resources for a balance. That balance does not come at the exclusion of oil and gas development.
We look at, also, we talk about the elk numbers. Many in the oil and gas industry are hunters and sportsmen as well.
The elk numbers have increased significantly in Jack Morrow Hills, even while there has been oil and gas development in the area. I think that is a testimony to how we've managed the area.

28 (Pages 106 to 109)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 110

I've heard several times tonight in several studies that I have not read that states because of human activity that will hurt the elk; therefore, additional oil and gas activity will therefore have more people, which therefore will disperse the elk, and possibly cause population decrease.

I've also heard the same argument in the same sentence by the same people say that we want increased recreation and tourism. Will not that increased recreation and tourism have the same effect of human activity on this same desert elk herd?

The oil and gas industry would have probably, after the wells were drilled, less human activity than recreation and tourism. And I believe that is something that should be looked at and analyzed in the document.

Trails, they talk about the expansion for the protection meas-, or the protection around trails up to three miles on either side. The Petroleum Association of Wyoming believes that should not be addressed in this Plan.

That should be addressed in the Trail Management Plan that the current, that is ongoing with the Bureau of Land Management. Once that's gone

Page 111

through public review and amended to the RMPs, it should pertain to Jack Morrow Hills as well.

The current quarter-mile should stay where it is. I also want to say that the wild horse herd is where we have problems.

We are not against the wild horse herd, but the Bureau of Land Management does not have the money in their budget to manage horses. It is the horses that will have a bigger impact on the desert elk herd, the sage grouse, and other wildlife in Jack Morrow Hills than oil and gas activity at 200 wells would ever have.

You are looking at a current activity level of 153 wells. Under the Preferred Alternative they are only allowing up to 205.

You are not going to see much increased activity than what you have today. In ending, all I want to say is remind the public that minerals are where they are.

We can't move them. The reason we developed those minerals is because you need them.

We would not develop them if we had nowhere for those minerals to go. And my time is up.

Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: I hate interrupting these

Page 112

ones with great momentum, but we have to. Thanks.

Denise Wilm.

MS. WILM: My name is Denise Wilm, D-e-n-i-s-e. My last name is Wilm, W-i-l-m.

I am a resident of Rock Springs, and I enjoy fishing. And I am concerned about the Jack Morrow Hills because drilling for oil near bodies of water can contaminate the water and hurt the fish.

Please consider this idea, and please protect this land. Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Denise.

Don Hartley, with the Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association.

MR. HARTLEY: I'm Don Hartley, D-o-n, H-a-r-t-l-e-y. I'm the Executive Director of the Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association, an association of many of the major taxpayers and employers in Sweetwater County.

I would like to thank you for another opportunity for view, review and recommend on the Supplemental Draft EIS for Jack Morrow Hills, or dated activity plan. That's the time.

That is the time. I would like to compliment the BLM in general, and thank Dana in particular for the work that they've put into this

Page 113

comprehensive document.

It gives us an insight into the area in which we have those available. And I, for one, I recognize that the BLM had to do that with the direction and the misdirection of their bosses in Washington, D. C.

One of the things that's noted in the information provided in the Appendix to the Economic Study is an interesting number to me. In 1979 there were 10,500 miners in this region.

In 1999 there were 4,800 miners in this region. There's been a dramatic decline in the high-paying jobs in the mining industry in our community.

One of the reasons why that is not as noticeable as it might be is because of the success of the gas and oil industry that's had in our area. The loss of those jobs in the mining industry are reflected in our children leaving, in our schools closing in a less and vigorous local economy.

One of the things that we do have in our local economy is the gas and oil industry. As Dru mentioned, they need to drill where the minerals are, and one of the places where some of them are, not a dramatic quantity, is in the area that is in the Jack

29 (Pages 110 to 113)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 114

1 Morrow Hills.
2 And unless I am misunderstanding that,
3 the Jack Morrow Hills are not in the Red Desert. They
4 are just west of the Red Desert.
5 The Jack Morrow Hills was homesteaded.
6 It's been grazed by livestock, overgrazed by horses,
7 it's had mineral explo-, exploration, oil and gas
8 development, hunting, off-road use vehicles,
9 recreation for over 100 years.
10 And I think it is a compliment to all of
11 those people that have operated on that land for 100
12 years that most of the people here tonight think it's
13 pristine. We support the Preferred Alternative as
14 determined by the BLM, and look forward to continuing
15 to working with Ted and your staff on this project.
16 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Don.
17 Leonard Hay, with the Rock Springs
18 Grazing Association.
19 MR. HAY: Leonard Hay, L-e-o-n-a-r-d,
20 H-a-y. Back in 1944 the Park Service wanted to get
21 rid of some elk, and we agreed to take them.
22 In the agreement they had to consult the
23 landowner and, before they brought them in. Now, the
24 first elk was 40 head in 1944, and then there were
25 five other movements of elk.

Page 115

1 And we were consulted with all of them,
2 and we as landowners agreed to it. Now the, the
3 numbers were set.
4 The official numbers for the Game and
5 Fish were 500 head. There are some 1,800 head up
6 there now.
7 And the livestock are down some 60, 65
8 percent. And, and actually the oil and gas business
9 has been operating.
10 The general public has been out there,
11 and even the BLM will admit to you that the ranges out
12 there are the best. Well, they are mostly young
13 fellows in the BLM there.
14 But I've lived out there for 88 years,
15 and the range is the best it's been out there. Sure,
16 there is less stock, more horses, but they are going
17 to get those down.
18 Now, if, if right after World War II, if
19 we just said, "We're not going to import any more
20 oil," -- America has a lot of coal, probably as much
21 as any country in the world, and a lot of natural gas,
22 but oil, we don't have that much.
23 And if we had said, "We're going to quit
24 importing foreign oil," right the day World War II was
25 over, at that time today we would be completely at the

Page 116

1 mercy of those people that are not our friends over
2 there. And the Rock Springs Grazing Association
3 comprises two million acres.
4 Fifty percent of it's deeded alone, 52.4
5 percent of it's deeded, and it is the boundary of all
6 of that desert of the Jack Morrow Hills. I agree that
7 the Red Desert is completely different than the Jack
8 Morrow Hills, but it is, the south boundary is the
9 full length of the Jack Morrow Hills.
10 And we have always allowed hunting and
11 fishing, and never charged. The hunters don't even
12 have to get permission to hunt.
13 And, and we completely support the
14 multiple use of the BLM. And that's the only answer
15 for 630,000 acres.
16 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Leonard.
17 Dudley Gardner.
18 MR. GARDNER: My name is Dudley Gardner,
19 D-u-d-l-e-y, G-a-r-d-n-e-r. And I'm a historical
20 archeologist, and I came to speak about the cultural
21 resources.
22 And I actually came to participate in
23 one of Wyoming's favorite sports, and that is Kick the
24 BLM. So that is why I am here.
25 Southwest Wyoming has long been

Page 117

1 described as a miserable place by people wanting to be
2 somewhere else. Many have cursed the desert as little
3 more than sand or dirt.
4 In 1865, Samuel Bowles wrote: "The area
5 is hot and dusty and parched by day, and cold and
6 shivering and parched by night."
7 In 1868, a man simply called Connecticut
8 Robaugh (phonetic), working here, "Camped and stopped
9 for the night in dirt, dust, and sand."
10 Andrew Rolle said, "The water's
11 miserable, and many places cannot be used, being fatal
12 to man and beast."
13 And then my all-time favorite, Howard
14 Cunning (phonetic) said, "The water is so bad whiskey
15 won't help it." These cues were given by people
16 passing through; were not people staying.
17 They were travelers that cursed the
18 desert, and they left an imprint. They gave an
19 impression about the area that others picked up on,
20 seeing the desert as worthless, but this is not so.
21 For too long an important fact was
22 ignored. The region has been home for the Shoshoni
23 and the Ute, who didn't just survive; they thrived in
24 this region.
25 People have lived in this area for

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 118

1 10,000 years. That means permanent residents, not
2 fixed, but moving around, maybe moving from place to
3 place.
4 But they've lived here for 10,000 years.
5 They left behind a record of their lives: a lost
6 button, a lost cuff, a discarded bottle wherever the
7 travelers dropped them.
8 The historic items reflect the lives of
9 people traveling through and not living here. Native
10 Americans left much more.
11 They left behind the records of their
12 lives in the form of petroglyphic tools and mining
13 debris that tell us about their diet and investments
14 to an environment that too few people understand. The
15 cultural resources in the desert are fragile.
16 They need to be protected and preserved
17 carefully so that the lives of people who lived here
18 are not part of the past, but they are part of the
19 present and the future in understanding how to live in
20 fragile environmental niches.
21 Thank you.
22 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you.
23 Lee Bonham.
24 MR. BONHAM: My name is Lee Bonham. I
25 am an old-time resident of Rock Springs, and I would

Page 119

1 like to reiterate the comment that was just made.
2 The archeological material of this area
3 is fragile. It is irreplaceable, and we haven't
4 barely scratched the surface, especially in the Jack
5 Morrow Hills area.
6 The Indians view that man is a custodian
7 of the land, and not its master or its exploiter.
8 Defines you.
9 I think it will be the view of most
10 anthropologists. I'd like to point out, too, since I
11 have some knowledge of geology, that there is a
12 technology possibility that hasn't really been
13 explored here of possibly exploiting some of our
14 resources without doing all of this damage we see if
15 we go up toward Lander and, and view some of the old
16 oil fields strewn with junk, or going to Jeffrey City
17 and are afraid to take the back roads because of the
18 remaining uranium tailings that are scattered around
19 the road from trucks that, that weren't too well
20 packed.
21 And several years ago I spent a summer
22 walking transects through Medicine Bow Par-, Medicine
23 Bow mt-, Medicine Bow National Forest in the back
24 country way off the road where all the damage is.
25 Take a real good look out there.

Page 120

1 The exploiters have been very busy in
2 the Medicine Bow Forest, just as busy as they would be
3 up in the Jack Morrow Hills. And they had left an
4 ungodly mess for the Forest Service to clean up.
5 I believe that is just about it. Thank
6 you.
7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Lee.
8 Katharine Collins.
9 MS. COLLINS: My name is Katharine
10 Collins, K-a-t-h-a-r-i-n-e, Collins, C-o-l-l-i-n-s,
11 and I am a resident of Rock Springs. Not too many
12 years ago, and about a dozen years before that, I
13 regularly interviewed BLM personnel.
14 And it was probably about from a-half to
15 three-quarters of my job, the same job that Jeff
16 Gearino is doing tonight. And it was, it was, it was
17 a very enjoyable part of the job.
18 But it, the impression that stays with
19 me was the undercurrent in many of the interviews,
20 sometimes off the Record, probably more on than off
21 the Record, the lack of resources, the lack of
22 personnel, the impossibility of monitoring. And many
23 questions and issues would come back to that, to that
24 fact.
25 I believe, I feel that BLM has never had

Page 121

1 the resources to, to properly monitor the use of, of
2 our public lands' resources. I used to talk to
3 Leonard Hay about in 1939 when the Taylor Grazing
4 started, --
5 MR. HAY: Thirty-four.
6 MS. COLLINS: -- 1934, excuse me, there
7 was one director and one secretary, and that is all
8 the personnel in, in the office here.
9 But, of course, that was before the
10 minerals came up with the same purview. So I think it
11 is relevant then.
12 But I think it's fair to say that, that
13 they really don't have the resources needed. And
14 since the Preferred Alternative for the management of
15 the Jack Morrow Hills is major, it is gas, it is a
16 predominate use as far as gas and oil development, I,
17 I just feel that that puts the fragile area that we
18 call Jack Morrow Hills into a, into risk.
19 And I think that I can safely say that
20 with the current atmosphere of budget cuts in order to
21 finance past cuts, we're not going to have a lot more
22 resources to monitor these lands. And I mention that
23 they are facing serious deficits with the war in Iraq,
24 and the certainty that we are going to be there for a
25 number of years.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

And with that increased responsibility, I don't think that we are going to have more resources for the Interior Department. And just yesterday I learned that the Interior Department, which BLM is a part of, will see its budget stretched even further because the Interior is sending a team to Iraq to help reconstitute the government of Iraq.

And this team will help, will help, will help Iraq survey its own lands and its own resources. And, you know, it really makes me wonder how well they are going to be able to manage our own resources.

So I, I really do support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative, and I hope that the BLM will give it serious consideration. Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Katharine.

Kim Floyd, with the Sierra Club.

MR. FLOYD: Thank you. My name is Kim Floyd, K-i-m, F-l-o-y-d.

I'm here this evening, was asked to come here this evening and give the comments on behalf of the Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club. While we do agree, and I'll try not to be repetitive to a lot of the things that I've heard tonight, I do want to put on the Record a few things that came to our knowledge

through the State of Wyoming.

And the first one is that if everybody doesn't know, and the BLM doesn't know, Wyoming, in general, categorizes economic development in the state of Wyoming. And it is no secret to probably anybody in this room that in Wyoming our number-one economic indicator is the extraction of minerals, whether it be oil, natural gas, coalbed methane.

And that just stands to reason, especially on BLM land, considering 17 million of the 18 million acres are leased in the State of Wyoming. But unlike any other state that we can find in the country, our number-two economic indicator is a category, and this is the State's category, not ours, is the category called "Hunting, angling, recreation, and tourism."

In the State of Wyoming, and the last available figures that I could get, in 1999 this category brought in $1.324 billion into the State of Wyoming. And what they told us was it has marginally increased, not a big increase, but since 1999 this category has increased.

And I guess my point being, well, we all know that the extraction of minerals is very important to the State of Wyoming. While it is our number-one

economic indicator, it is a nonrenewable resource.

It is going to go away, while we have sitting in our future here in the State of Wyoming a resource of wildlife, recreation, hunting, tourism, a non-, it is a renewable resource. And if we play our cards right here in the State of Wyoming, and protect some of these places like the Jack Morrow Hills, we can preserve this wildlife heritage, this recreational heritage that we have and hold so dear here in the State of Wyoming.

Another, just very briefly because I'm running out of time, another thing that I would like to say, and this is again another state figure, came in Ron Arnold's office when he was the Director of State Land, fifty-three percent of the State of Wyoming is public land, whether it be national forest land, state trust land, or BLM land.

Fifty-three percent of this state is public land. But, yeah, we can only access the recreation between 18 and 20 percent of that 53 percent of that land.

And that is for a lot of different things, blocked land, and that sort of thing. But we would ask that the BLM not accept the pre-, the alternative that they are looking at, and take a good,

hard look at this Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative.

Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Kim.

Jeff Harryman.

MR. HARRYMAN: My name is Jeff Harryman, J-e-f-f, H-a-r-r-y-m-a-n, and I'm just speaking as a citizen of Wyoming. And I want to say right off that I support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative, and I'm opposed to the BLM EIS because they do leave out wildlife and cultural sites and that.

I think that, that the development in the Jack Morrow Hills of oil and gas is not only inappropriate, but I don't think it makes economic sense, in that we get such a low price for our gas here in Wyoming. And I'm going to quote from an AP article.

It says: The limited storage of pipeline capacity helps to hold the Wyoming natural gas to around one dollar per thousand cubic feet. That is just 25 percent of the national average.

The industry itself estimates that the 75-percent spread between Rocky's prices and the national average added up to $1 million per day in

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 126

1 lost revenue opportunities to the State of Wyoming.
2 Thank you.
3 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Jeff.
4 Claire Moseley.
5 MS. MOSELEY: I thought that I was going
6 to be last.
7 MR. GRIFFITH: (Inaudible.)
8 MS. MOSELEY: I guess. I am Claire
9 Moseley, C-l-a-i-r-e, M-o-s-e-l-e-y.
10 I'm with Public Lands Advocacy. Even
11 though I live in Denver, I've spent more time in
12 Wyoming over the last 25 years than probably in
13 Denver.
14 I just wanted to say that I've enjoyed a
15 lot of the stories tonight, a lot of heartfelt
16 sentiments there, and also the history lessons. I
17 think it's very interesting.
18 But I'm not going to talk about that. I
19 thought, frankly, I thought the hearing was about the
20 EIS, and so that is really what I came here to
21 discuss.
22 And despite what a lot of you may think,
23 I think the BLM is tending to overmanage the oil and
24 gas program here in the Red Desert. I think that the
25 goals and the objectives that have been identified in

Page 127

1 the EIS clearly support oil and gas activities.
2 When you think about 620,000 acres and
3 we're looking at a total of, well, according to BLM a
4 total of about 200 wells being drilled, fewer than
5 that, less than half of that being producing, I think
6 of the fact that we are looking at stage leasing to
7 ameliorate the impacts.
8 The impacts are minimal. I mean, they
9 are so minuscule that you would never even notice.
10 And I find it really amusing, in a way,
11 that everybody is so blown away by this proposal.
12 Everything is out of proportion.
13 I don't think it's a balanced plan. I
14 think that some of the ideas that BLM has contained in
15 there, like signed-back Leases, where in the world
16 would BLM get the funds to do that?
17 They are going to monitor to find out
18 whether they can issue Leases in an area that hasn't
19 been leased already. And when will that get done, and
20 where will the funding for that come from?
21 I don't see it happening. I think it's
22 really sort of a pipe-dream.
23 The whole thing seems to be a pipe-dream
24 to me. I'm really concerned about monitoring.
25 And believe it or not, we, the oil and

Page 128

1 gas industry, does support monitoring of the facts.
2 Maybe not for the same reason as some other folks, but
3 we rely on the facts.
4 We depend on facts. We're not trying to
5 get off on you or anything else.
6 We support decent monitoring, something
7 that the BLM has never done in the 25 years that I've
8 been working in this business.
9 Time's up and I have so many notes left.
10 But let me just finalize by saying that I do not
11 support the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity
12 Plan.
13 I don't support the Preferred
14 Alternative. I don't support any of the alternatives.
15 And I certainly don't support the
16 Citizens' Alternative. I suggest that BLM go back to
17 the drawing board and look at the facts and try to
18 come up with something a lot more reasonable.
19 Thanks.
20 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Claire.
21 Kevin Holdsworth.
22 (Whereupon, inaudible conversation among
23 the participants was had, after which the following
24 occurred:)
25 MR. GRIFFITH: How about Bill Spillman?

Page 129

1 MR. SPILLMAN: Well, this is my least --
2 My name is Bill Spillman. This is my least favorite
3 thing to do, public speaking.
4 You've got the Jonah's Field. You've
5 heard a lot about that today.
6 This was published in the paper. Every
7 quarter mile, half mile, there is a pad, pad, pad.
8 One ninety-one, this is the mountains.
9 This is all the way over to the Wyoming Range
10 (demonstrating).
11 This is what they are proposing for the
12 Jack Morrow Hills. Industrialization, they are going
13 to turn it into a park.
14 These pads are scraped bare. Where are
15 the elk going to go?
16 Are they going to go to Bairoil and
17 drink beer? I don't think so.
18 The fact that we are even speaking about
19 increased development and increased activity in the
20 Jack Morrow Hills in the middle of a four-year drought
21 is, you know, that speaks a lot to the BLM management
22 and their viewpoint toward the whole issue. I lived
23 in Superior for ten years.
24 We used to drive out to the Jack Morrow
25 Hills on an afternoon just for something to do. Black

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 130

1 Butte, now Black Butte, you come to Black Butte,
2 there's a (sic) open-pit coal mine that stretches for
3 a couple of miles a couple hundred feet deep.
4 You can't get to the butte. In 2001,
5 BLM, the Jack Morrow Hills were supposed to be in the
6 middle of a wall with any activity.
7 BLM had pumper trucks out at the base of
8 Steamboat Mountain and were conducting seismographic
9 surveys. It was never in the papers.
10 The only people who knew about it were
11 the people in Superior. And when this finally started
12 leaking out, and the BLM got contacted, they packed
13 their stuff up and went, and nobody ever heard
14 anything about it.
15 BLM has proved their management style
16 this year by keeping activity going at Trapper's Point
17 around Pinedale. All winter long they had 85, 85
18 requests to continue activity against their own rules
19 for field development in that area, and I think they
20 approved like 80 of them.
21 You know, the land can be used to death.
22 I've been on top of every ridge between Steamboat
23 Mountain, Aspen Mountain, the Continental Divide, all
24 out there.
25 I don't think the rangeland is in such

Page 131

1 good shape. Zergo (phonetic) Mesa and the southern
2 base of Jack Morrow Hills area is being hauled off in
3 the last ten years by a rock/gravel mining operation.
4 There is a spring that has been there
5 for 10,000 years, anyway. Evidence of the tribes have
6 been documented there for 9,000 years.
7 We're messing around with this area that
8 we're going to turn around to the Petroleum
9 Association of Wyoming. We're going to suck it dry.
10 Well, they've got their 95 percent.
11 Give me my one percent so that I can have multiple use
12 so I can go out on the Red Desert to Jack Morrow Hills
13 and do what I want to do.
14 MR. GRIFFITH: Time's up.
15 MR. SPILLMAN: Okay. Thank you very
16 much.
17 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Bill.
18 Joe DeCora.
19 MR. DeCORA: Joe DeCora, J-o-e,
20 D-e-C-o-r-a, Sweetwater County. I'm going to be short
21 and simple.
22 Thank God Bruce Babbitt is gone. And I
23 support the Preferred Alternative, multiple use.
24 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Joe.
25 Lucrecia Monina Avila. Close?

Page 132

1 MS. AVILA: Yes, close. My name is
2 Monina, M-o-n-i-n-a, Avila, A-v-i-l-a.
3 I am from Mexico. I came to Wyoming 12
4 years ago, and I went hiking.
5 And I said, "Oh, my God. I am from
6 here. I am from Wyoming."
7 This is why I came to Wyoming. And two
8 months later my daughter was born.
9 And when I was in the hospital I asked
10 the nurse, "Can I go for a walk? Because why wait
11 here?"
12 And I just went for a walk, and I just
13 could not believe what I was seeing. There was
14 wildlife.
15 Well, my point is that I come from
16 Mexico. And the town that I come from is Mesa Planeta
17 which means "land of the Earth."
18 And we don't have one single deer. Not
19 one.
20 And can you imagine coming to Wyoming
21 and the wildlife? I just could not picture that.
22 We have to save our land. And if we
23 don't respect our land, then we are not being
24 Christ-like.
25 And I'm not talking about dollar signs.

Page 133

1 I'm talking about God knows how we're going to pay for
2 it.
3 I think I'm going to stop there. I
4 could talk more. Thank you.
5 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you.
6 Diane Foster.
7 MS. FOSTER: Diane Foster, D-i-a-n-e,
8 F-o-s-t-e-r. I'm from Reliance, Wyoming.
9 I am a Sweetwater County native, and
10 like it or not, folks, underneath, the BLM has to
11 strongly consider the economic impacts. Sweetwater
12 County, their economy is derived from the oil and gas
13 industry.
14 Maybe not directly. In the tax base
15 it's directly.
16 The oil and gas industry produces the
17 most taxes that provide the jobs for a lot of people
18 who have stood up here and spoke tonight that pay your
19 paychecks. If you are a teacher, where do you think
20 money comes from? It is the tax base.
21 Where does the majority of the tax base
22 come from? Oil and gas industry, minerals industry.
23 So you need to think about this stuff.
24 And like it or not, Sweetwater County is never going
25 to be a tourist mecca.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 134

Tourism doesn't even register on the pie chart when you look at the tax base. You know, get real.

Either you're employed in the oil/gas industry or minerals industry, or work for a business that is there because the trickle-down effect from the oil and gas industry and the minerals industry. We're either going to survive here or we're not.

If you want to shut off oil and gas industry altogether, do it. Move somewhere else, and the rest of us will have to leave, too, because there's not going to be anything to keep us here.

I'll talk about the wildlife in the area. The rare desert elk herd that was planted there, as Leonard said, starting back in the '30s, it's sad.

You know, I've been out on tours with the BLM to the Jack Morrow Hills area, and people on the tour, you have to literally point out the existing gas wells to them because they couldn't see them. Things can be done without that much of an impact.

And I strongly support multiple use, and I strongly urge BLM to manage their resources. The wild horse herds are not true wild horses.

They are decendents of stock that

Page 135

belonged to my grandfather, to Leonard Hay, and to his grandfather. They are not true wild horses.

And they need to be managed. They are the most destructive things out there.

The elk herd flourishes. People talk about seeing the elk herd.

Where do they see them? Because they were driving down the road and there were the elk.

I've been out there, and the elk don't run. I've stopped.

I toured that area here a while back with friends from Oregon, and they looked at it and they said, "Is this what this is all about?"

We came upon some elk, stopped, and looked at them. The elk stood there and looked at us.

You know, you talk about all of these impacts, but what I've seen first-hand doesn't fit with what you're saying. I support multiple use and the Preferred Alternative.

MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. Thank you, Diane.

We've got a last registered speaker here, Kayne Pyatt.

MS. PYATT: My name is Kayne Pyatt, K-a-y-n-e, last name, P-y-a-t-t,and I'm not an expert.

I'm not a scientist. I know very little

Page 136

about what some of you have been talking about.

And I've learned a lot tonight, and I appreciate that. And I came here because I am a lover of Mother Earth.

And I believe that Europeans had a chance one time a long, long time ago when they came to American to learn from the Native peoples how to treat the land as sacred, as sacred, and all species as sacred. And so I love our Great Mother and what she offers.

And I also remember living in Evanston during the oil boom, and people thinking that it was going to reap great benefits. And, yes, it was short-term great benefits, but none of the people who got jobs were from Wyoming.

Most of them were from all over the United States. And they didn't bring their families to go to those schools and open them up.

And as soon as the, the oil boom was over, they left. And they left a mess.

And the oil companies left a mess. And if you don't believe it, go out to some of those areas around Evanston, and I'm sure Rock Springs.

But I just happened to live in Evanston at the time. I just, I support the Citizens' Wildlife

Page 137

and Wildland Alliance Proposal.

And I think it's time -- We can give a message to the rest of the United States that, and a message to the oil companies that it is time to investigate alternative resources and alternative ways of driving our cars and powering our houses. And if we make a statement to the world at a time right now when the Administration of this country is threatening most of our national parks and our wildlife areas, and we make the statement that we citizens of Wyoming stand up for the sacredness of the land, and that we want to preserve that land and the species and the cultural heritage, and we want to pay honor and respect to those people that we stole the land from in the first place, and if we make that statement, we have created a wonderful, sacred turning point in our country.

And I just want to thank you for the opportunity, and I hope that the BLM will reinvestigate and consider the Citizens' Wildland and Wildlife Proposal.

Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Kayne.

Is there anyone else who would like to speak at this point?

35 (Pages 134 to 137)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

1 (Whereupon, no response was had.)
2 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. I want to thank
3 you all tonight for participating in this public
4 process.
5 This is your process. We need your
6 input for this EIS.
7 On a more personal side, I am very
8 impressed by the sincere, heartfelt, even eloquent
9 presentations I heard tonight. Obviously this area
10 means a lot to everybody in this room for a lot of
11 different reasons.
12 It is all part of the American process,
13 and I want to thank you again for coming tonight.
14 Tomorrow we're going to have the same meeting in
15 Lander at the Best Western Inn at 7:00, so if you are
16 interested in coming again, we would welcome you.
17 Again, thank you for coming out tonight,
18 and travel safe. Thanks.
19 (Whereupon, the above BLM meeting was
20 concluded.)
21 I certify the foregoing to be a
true transcript from an audio
22 cassette recording.
23 E-signature: Linda A. Anderson
24 Videographer
25 CERTIFICATION

1 Videographer, do hereby certify that the foregoing
transcript was duly reduced to writing by me at
2 Douglas, Wyoming, USA. I further certify that I am
neither related to any of the parties by blood or
3 marriage, nor do I have any interest in the outcome of
the above matter.
4 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand at Douglas, Wyoming, this 21st day of April,
5 2003.
6 E-signature: Linda A. Anderson
7 Videographer
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

100,457

100,459

BEFORE THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

JACK MORROW HILLS CAP SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS

PUBLIC HEARING

10 April 2003
Lander, Wyoming, USA

BUNN & ASSOCIATES
Registered Professional Reporters Worldwide
310 South Main Street
Post Office Box 297
Lusk, Wyoming 82225 USA
In USA 1-800-435-2468 Worldwide 001-307-334-2423
Worldwide Telefax 001-307-334-2433
E-mail: BUNNWORLDWIDE@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 2

1 APPEARANCES:
MARTIN G. GRIFFITH, Hearing Officer
U.S. Department of the Interior
3 Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
4 5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003
5 PH: 307-775-6093
FX: 307-775-6082
6 e-mail: Marty_Griffith@blm.gov
7
RENEE A. DANA
8 Resource Advisor
U.S. Department of the Interior
9 Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office
10 280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
11 PH: 307-352-0227
FX: 307-352-0328
12 e-mail: renee_dana@blm.gov
13
PUBLIC APPEARANCES:
14
MOLLY ABSOLON 20 Montgomery Street
15 Lander, Wyoming 82520
16 PETER ABSOLON National Outdoor Leadership School
17
JERRY ALEXANDER 2987 (unlegible) Creek Road
18 Lander, Wyoming 82520
19 MARY ALEXANDER 2985 Baldwin Creek Road
Lander, Wyoming 82520
20
RICHARD BALDES Post Office Box 688
21 Fort Washakie, Wyoming
22 DOROTHY BARTHOLOMEW 40 Center Lane
Lander, Wyoming 82520
23
CODY BEERS The Ranger
24 Post Office Box 993
Riverton, Wyoming
25

Page 3

1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
2 TOM BELL 140 Kimberly Court
Lander, Wyoming 82520
3
DEBI BERGER 260 Market Street
4 Lander, Wyoming 82520
5 LARRY BERGER 260 Market Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
6
MARTIN K. BLACKBURN Young Warriors Society
7 Post Office Box 128
St. Stephens, Wyoming 82524
8
SUSANNAH BLETNER 860 South Fourth
9 Lander, Wyoming 82520
10 MAC BLEWER Wyoming Outdoor Council
WOC - 262 Lincoln
11 Lander, Wyoming 82520
12 SCOTT BOETTCHER 1220 Hilltop Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
13
KERRY BROPHY Post Office Box 333
14 Lander, Wyoming 82520
15 MICHELLE J. BROWN 9115 Amoret # 5
Lander, Wyoming 82520
16
PAM BULINE Seminar Group Thermal
17 325 West Main Street
Riverton, Wyoming
18
BRUCE D. CAMPBELL 700 Buena Vista
19 Lander, Wyoming 82520
20 CAROL CAMPBELL 700 Buena Vista
Lander, Wyoming 82520
21
BONNIE CANNON Representative Cubin
22 2515 Foothill Blvd. #205
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
23
JOLENE M. CARRON Post Office Box 1015
24 Fort Washakie, Wyoming
82514
25

Page 4

1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES Continued):
2 ANDREA CEROVSKI 341 Bellvue
Lander, Wyoming 82520
3
QUINN CEROVSKI 341 Bellvue Avenue
4 Lander, Wyoming 82520
5 STUART CEROVSKI 341 Bellvue
Lander, Wyoming 82520
6
DON CHRISTIANSON 2219 Carey Avenue
7 Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
8 SCOTT CLABBY Post Office Box 552
Lander, Wyoming 82520
9
NIKKI COMES RUNNING BUCK 533 Garfield Street
10 Lander, Wyoming 82520
11 JACK CORBETT Pope Agie Conservation District
12 1095 Graham Road
Lander, Wyoming 82520
13
SYD CORRIGAN 568 South Third
14 Lander, Wyoming 82520
15 SHAWNA CRISPIN Post Office Box 1172
Fort Washakie, Wyoming
16 82514
17 WILLY CUNNINGHAM 717 North 3rd
Lander, Wyoming 82520
18
JUDY DARVIS Post Office Box 825
19 Lander, Wyoming 82520
20 JOHN DEAR Atlantic City, Wyoming
21 NANCY DEBEVOISE 334 North Second Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
22
BARBARA J. DICKINSON 938 East View Drive
23 Riverton, Wyoming
24 MARIAN DOANE Friends of the Red Desert
245 Wyoming Street
25 Lander, Wyoming 82520

Page 5

1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
2 PETER DVORAK 220 Mountain View Dr. W.
Riverton, Wyoming 82501
3
CHARLES EDWARDS
4
MICHELLE ESCUDERO 801 South Third
5 Lander, Wyoming 82520
6 JODY FRANCIS
7 SEAN FRANCIS
8 DAVE C. FREITAG 819 Vance Drive
Lander, Wyoming 82520
9
GLEN FREITAG Post Office Box 364
10 Lander, Wyoming 82520
11 MICHAL GARVIN 32 Boulder Flats Road
Fort Washakie, Wyoming
12
MARY GAY 189 Garfield
13 Lander, Wyoming 82520
14 JEFF GEARINO 8155 Pennsylvania Blvd.
Green River, Wyoming
15
CAROL GENARO Lander Desert Rabet
16 Post Office Box 1
Hudson, Wyoming 82515
17
BEN GOSE 43 (unlegible) Avenue
18 Lander, Wyoming 82520
19 SUSAN GOSE Lander Journal
Main Street
20 Lander, Wyoming 82520
21 ELISE HANCOCK
22 BOB HARGIS 5077 Riverview
Riverton, Wyoming
23
SUZANNE HARGIS 5077 Riverview
24 Riverton, Wyoming
25 H. SCOTT HARNSBERGER Post Office Box 465

2 (Pages 2 to 5)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 6

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
DAN HERLIG 601 South 4th
Lander, Wyoming 82520

BOB HELLYER Lander, Wyoming 82520

GEORGE HELLYER Post Office Box 177
Wyoming 82516
JIM HELLYER 560 Lyons Valley Road
Lander, Wyoming 82520

MARTHA HELLYER

LOIS G. HERBST 91 Herbst Road
Shoshoni, Wyoming 82649
PAT HICKERSON 2 Hickerson Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

LANEY HICKS Post Office Box 641
Crowheart, Wyoming 82512
RICHARD HIPP 440 South Third Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

FIDDLIN' HOLLEY 710 Wood Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
HALLE HOLT Lander, Wyoming 82520
MIA HOLT Lander, Wyoming 82520
LILY HOVENDICK Lander, Wyoming 82520
LIZ HOWELL Wyoming Wilderness Association
Post Office Box 6588
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

PATTI HUGHES 25 North Granier Avenue
Atlantic City, Wyoming
JUDY INBERG
JACK (unlegible)
KRISTEN JOHNSON Post Office Box 333

Page 7

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
MARCO JOHNSON 21 Lucky Lane
Lander, Wyoming 82520

STEVE JONES 262 Lincoln Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
SCOTT KANE 801 South Third
Lander, Wyoming 82520

CHELSEA KESSELHEIM 22 Pleasant Run
Lander, Wyoming 82520
KAREN KINGS Post Office Box 20
Fort Washakie, Wyoming

BART KOEHLER Post Office Box 1620
Durango, Colorado 81302
JUAN LADEN 375 Mesker
Lander, Wyoming 82520

JENNIFER LAMB 112 Canyon
Lander, Wyoming 82520
CHRISTINE LICHTENFELS 9 Juniper Drive
Lander, Wyoming 82520

CAROL LONG 2126 Farbes Road
Casper, Wyoming 82601
MEL LONG 2126 Farbes Road
Casper, Wyoming 82601

TY MACK 1993 Baldwin Creek Road
Lander, Wyoming 82520
JONATHAN MARK 2833 Sinks Canyon Road
Lander, Wyoming 82520

JOHN McCULLOUGH Post Office Box 841
Lander, Wyoming 82520
JAZMYN McDONALD Post Office Box 1800
Lander, Wyoming 82520

JOE MEGEATH 343 Canyon Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

Page 8

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
(Unlegible) McClure 560 Wind River Avenue
Lander, Wyoming 82520

SYDNEY MILLER

DAVID R. MILLER State Representative
131 Davis Lane
Riverton, Wyoming 82501

HEATHER MINNICH 440 Unit B Washington Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
DIANA MITCHELL Historic Preservation Commission
256 Rendezvous
Riverton, Wyoming

MELISSA MUELLER 87 Lyon's Valley Road
Lander, Wyoming 82520
SHAUN MURRAY 770 South Fifth
Lander, Wyoming 82520

BARBARA OAKLEAF 800 Vance Drive
Lander, Wyoming 82520
BOB OAKLEAF 260 (Unlegible)
Lander, Wyoming 82520

FLOYD OSBORNE Fort Washakie, Wyoming
82514
KATHY PAPPAS 336 Cascade Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

HENRY E. (Unlegible)

CLAUDIA PEARSON 842 Tweed Lane
Lander, Wyoming 82520
STEVE PEARSON Post Office Box 1172
Lander, Wyoming 82520

FRANK PHELP State Representative
HD 34
375 South Hidden Valley Road
Shoshoni, Wyoming 82645

Page 9

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
STEVE PLATT 980 Cliff Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

GLADYS PUFFE

CATHY PURVES Post Office Box 1387
Lander, Wyoming 82520
DAVE RAYNOLDS 30 Field Station Road
Lander, Wyoming 82520

MAY RAYNOLDS 30 Field Station Road
Lander, Wyoming 82520
JAGOE REID 372 Canyon
Lander, Wyoming 82520

LAURIE SAIN 159 North Second Street #A
Lander, Wyoming 82520
DENIS A. SCHEFCHICK Lander, Wyoming 82520
BOB SCHOLL 342 Parks
Lander, Wyoming 82520

HAROLD SCHULTZ 311 North 17th East
Riverton, Wyoming
JUDY SEBERG 460 West Mountain View Drive
Riverton, Wyoming 82501

RANDY SHIPMAN Post Office Box 1046
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
CHRISS SLIVINSKI
PAUL SMITH 333 Grand View Drive
Lander, Wyoming 82520

BILL SNIFFIN Post Office Box 900
Lander, Wyoming 82520
CASSIE SOLDIER WOLF
FAY (unlegible) SOLDIER WOLF
FLORITA R. SOLDIER WOLF

3 (Pages 6 to 9)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 10

1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued)
2 MARK SOLDIER WOLF
3 AMANDA STUGNER Post Office Box 177
Kinnear, Wyoming 82516
4
MEREDITH TAYLOR 4360 Highway 26
5 Dubois, Wyoming 82513
6 DOUG THOMPSON Fremont County
Commissioner
7
MARK THORNBERRY 710 Wood Street
8 Lander, Wyoming 82520
9 HARRY TIPTON 745 Butte Vista Drive
Lander, Wyoming 82520
10
WARREN C. ULMER Wyoming Atmospheric Research
11 50 Field Station Road
Lander, Wyoming 82520
12
ABBY WARNER 333 Cliff Street
13
TREY WARREN
14
MARK WATKINS 860 South Fourth Street
15 Lander, Wyoming 82520
16 RIARDEN WATKINS 860 South Fourth
Lander, Wyoming 82520
17
STARR WEED, SR. Fort Washakie, Wyoming
18
SONIA WEINSTEIN 750 Lincoln Street
19 Lander, Wyoming 82520
20 PAT WENDT 30 Obrien Road
Lander, Wyoming 82520
21
COLLEEN WHALEN 1050 Dakota Avenue
22 Lander, Wyoming 82520
23 BETTY WILKINSON Fleming Gorge People
for the USA
24 Post Office Box 1334
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82902
25

Page 11

1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):
2 CHERYL WILLIAMS
3 CHARLIE WILSON 250 North 9th
Lander, Wyoming 82520
4
SCOTT WOODRUFF 2024 Mortimore Lane
5 Lander, Wyoming 82520
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 12

1 INDEX
Page
2
WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS 13
3
PUBLIC COMMENTS:
4 By Doug Thompson 18
By David Miller 21
5 By Steve Hameringer 23
By Frank Philp 24
6 By Jennifer Lamb 26
By Sherrie Crapse 28
7 By Bart Wood 29
By Meredith Taylor 32
8 By Dana Mitchell 34
By Henry Dobowski 36
9 By Betty Wilkinson 38
By Richard Baines 40
10 By Peter Absolon 42
By Randy Dugmore 44
11 By Cathy Parvin 46
By Bob Ladas 47
12 By Marco Johnson 49
By Bob Schnell 50
13 By Lacey Skeen 51
By Mark Thornberry 52
14 By Molly Absolon 53
By Fiddler Bailey 54
15 By Sean Frazier 55
By Tom Bell 61
16 By Mark Watkins 62
By Harold Schultz 63
17 By Lois Herbst 65
By Charlie Wilson 67
18 By Kelly Pepper 68
By Peter Dwyer 70
19 By Mac Hinney 72
By John McCullough 74
20 By Jonathan Mark 75
By Mark Soldier Wolf 77
21 By Mary Orr 81
By Nikki Green Running Bear 83
22 By Michael Garvin 85
By Christa Kneelbein 87
23 By Steve Pearson 87
By Scott Bernstein 89
24 By Scott Clabby 91
By Dirt Rankin 93
25 By Steve Jones 94

Page 13

1 INDEX
(Continued)
2 Page
PUBLIC COMMENTS (Continued)
3
By Ty Mack 96
4 By Dave Freitag 97
By Liz Howell 101
5 By Scott Woodruff 103
By Jolene Catron 105
6 By Barbara Oakleaf 107
By Marian Doane 109
7 By Steve Platt 111
By Andrea Carovski 113
8 By Judy Irberg 116
By Martin Blackburn 118
9 By Warren Ulmer 120
By Charles Edwards 122
10 By Jim Hellyer 125
By Carol Lang 126
11 By Laurie Sain 128
By Shawn Murray 129
12 By Christine Lichtenfels 130
By Dave Reynolds 132
13 By Don Heilig 135
By Colleen Whalen 137
14 By Larry Berger 139
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

4 (Pages 10 to 13)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 14

1 BEFORE THE
2 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
3 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
4 JACK MORROW HILLS CAP SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS
5 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
6 Meeting was held pursuant to Notice and
7 Invitation at The Best Western Inn, Lander, Wyoming,
8 commencing on the 10th day of April, 2003, commencing
9 at 7:00 p.m. MT and concluding at 10:30 p.m. MT.
10 TRANSCRIPT PROCEEDINGS
11 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you for coming to
12 the listening meeting for the Jack Morrow Hills
13 Coordinated Activity Plan. Many of you were in Rock
14 Springs last night.
15 It is good to see you again. My name
16 again is Marty Griffith.
17 I'm with the Bureau of Land Management
18 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Over there I'm, for what it's
19 worth, I'm the Branch Chief for the Renewable
20 Resources over there.
21 What we are going to do tonight is give,
22 give everyone a chance to voice their opinion on the
23 Plan itself. We have considerably more speakers
24 tonight than we did last night, so I'm going to cut
25 the time down a little bit tonight.

Page 15

1 Last night we were running at three
2 minutes. We had 55 speakers and we went until 10:30.
3 Tonight we have 80 speakers. Two and
4 a-half minutes. Do the math.
5 We're going to be here a while. I want
6 to ask the group right now, does anyone want less than
7 two and a-half?
8 I wouldn't go under two.
9 A PARTICIPANT: Two.
10 MR. GRIFFITH: Two? Consensus, two?
11 (Whereupon, remarks were made among
12 those present, after which the following occurred:)
13 MR. GRIFFITH: All right, I can do that.
14 We'll do that. Two minutes.
15 Yes, sir.
16 A PARTICIPANT: Five minutes. I say we
17 need to go five minutes.
18 We've got a lot of talking here. We
19 ought to be able to sit here for a while and --
20 MR. GRIFFITH: Well, I'm not going to do
21 five. I'm sorry, sir. We're going to go two.
22 (Whereupon, remarks were made among
23 those present, after which the following occurred:)
24 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay, hold it. Hold it.
25 I'm going to honor a couple of special

Page 16

1 requests for elders. So I've already discussed that,
2 so we're going to do that.
3 So we're going to go two minutes, okay?
4 We're going to have to.
5 Otherwise we're going to be here until
6 about 1:00 in the morning. I'm not trying to
7 undermine the importance of the topic, but -- And
8 we'll be taking a break or two tonight as well.
9 So let's, let's stick to that. As you
10 know, these kind of listening meetings are laid out in
11 the National Environmental Policy Act that allow for
12 this type of public input.
13 I kind of went over the time already.
14 You've already signed in.
15 You've got your name on the cards. Your
16 time is not transferrable to somebody else, and we're
17 only going to go with one official core organization
18 as the official speaker.
19 In other words, if you are with the
20 Sierra Club and you've signed in as the speaker for
21 the Sierra Club, you're it. It doesn't mean that
22 other folks from the Sierra Club can't talk as well,
23 but they will be speaking as individuals, okay?
24 And when you come up -- I'm going to
25 call your name, but I would like you also, for the

Page 17

1 benefit of Linda, our recorder, to say your name and
2 then spell it, please.
3 And then my timer tonight it Bryan. And
4 he did real well, helpful night, to help me keep track
5 of time.
6 Again, we want to keep, keep our
7 comments and testimony on the Jack Morrow Hills
8 Coordinated Activity Plan, okay? Okay.
9 Liz Howell, I'm sorry. Your offer of
10 pizza to give you more time ain't going to fly
11 tonight.
12 MS. HOWELL: I'm an elder.
13 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. All right.
14 Any questions before we start? Good
15 deal.
16 And if you need to take a break before
17 the official break, just get up quietly and go about
18 your business and come on back. Alrighty.
19 The other courtesy I would like to offer
20 is to allow any elected officials to speak toward the
21 top of the list. And I've already, kind of have that
22 arranged, so I'm going to get started.
23 Our first speaker tonight is Doug
24 Thompson, from the Fremont, the Fremont County
25 Commissioner.

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 18

1 Doug.
2 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Marty. This
3 testimony will be on behalf of the Fremont County
4 Board of Commissioners.
5 We speak in support of the Supplemental
6 Draft EIS for the Jack Morrow Hills and the Draft that
7 are in the Amendment. Much concern has been voiced
8 about the need to protect the Jack Morrow Hills or the
9 Red Desert.
10 There is no legal activity occurring now
11 or in the future that is done without regulatory
12 oversight and concern for the physical environment.
13 All uses are planned and will be managed with due
14 attention to their effects on land, water, wildlife,
15 air, cultural sites, and impacts of every other use.
16 Compliance with 29 specific laws and
17 numerous regulations is a further protective filter
18 for the management and coordination of the many uses.
19 Certain management actions are common to all
20 alternatives.
21 These common actions are to maintain and
22 enhance healthy rangeland, proper functioning
23 conditions in riparian areas, desired plant
24 communities, pumping watersheds, water quality,
25 effective fire management, and floodplain mitigation.

Page 19

1 Effects on wildlife, threatened and endangered, these
2 species are a constant consideration.
3 Off-highway vehicle use, travel
4 management, and accesses are of further consideration.
5 Heritage resources, scientific values, Native American
6 sites, protection influences the conduct of any
7 activity.
8 No, Jack Morrow, the Jack Morrow Hills
9 is not without adequate protection. Oil and gas
10 activity seems to be the main focus of concern of the
11 DEIS.
12 Here, too, there is plenty of regulatory
13 oversight. Leases are subjected to a minimum of 12
14 basic criteria, including wildlife habitats, special
15 management areas, unique vegetation, migratory
16 corridors, visual values.
17 The only disturbances analyzed,
18 authorized and monitored on the site's specific basis
19 in compliance with the above-mentioned resource
20 protection criteria (sic). Although Alternatives 1, 3
21 and preferred --
22 MR. GRIFFITH: Time's up.
23 MR. THOMPSON: -- in more than 1,000
24 acres would be available for leasing.
25 This figure in no way indicates the

Page 20

1 disturbance of 400,000 acres. It is protected by the
2 BLM, and under the most aggressive Bureau scenario,
3 205 wells would be drilled.
4 If all 205 wells were drilled in one
5 year, with a maximum initial disturbance of 16 acres,
6 the total disturbance would be 3,280 acres. Put this
7 into perspective, --
8 A SPECTATOR: Time's up.
9 A SPECTATOR: Time's up. Time was up a
10 minute ago.
11 MR. THOMPSON: -- the Jack Morrow Hills,
12 19 percent will never be disturbed.
13 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Doug. This two
14 minutes can be tough, so --
15 A SPECTATOR: We all should have the
16 privilege of speaking the same amount of time he did.
17 MR. GRIFFITH: Understood, sir. That is
18 why I'm going to ask you all to really stick to that
19 two minutes.
20 And, you know, I'm going to give you a
21 little bit of leeway, but not much. We're not going
22 to be able to do three minutes tonight.
23 It is unfortunate. We've got folks that
24 have traveled that need to get back, et cetera.
25 But, you know, this is your call, so

Page 21

1 let's stick to it.
2 Okay, thank you, Doug.
3 Again I remind you to state your name
4 and then spell it for Linda, our recorder.
5 David Miller, a State Representative.
6 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Marty, and thank
7 you for this opportunity to testify on the, on the
8 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I would like to
9 comment on a letter I wrote April 19, 2002, and a
10 letter I wrote before that, on July, January eleventh,
11 2002.
12 Both letters have not had my comments
13 addressed by the BLM. And basically what I addressed
14 in some of those letters is, is we've had multiple use
15 in the Jack Morrow Hills for the last 100 years, and
16 the area is still pristine.
17 We've had mining activities up there.
18 We had a major mine up in that area.
19 We've had gold mining up there. We've
20 had lots of oil and gas activities.
21 The area is still relatively pristine.
22 I don't understand why we need to go save it from
23 Wyoming people, because a lot of the comments come
24 from out-of-state people on these areas.
25 And that's fine. They have that right.

6 (Pages 18 to 21)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 22

But what happens is it takes our tax revenue away from Wyoming. When we became a state, that land was addressed or operated as multiple-use.

The state government, our education system, our kids in this community, their education is paid by the taxes generated off the public lands in Wyoming. If we restrict those public lands, we're not going to have an education system in this state, and frankly, we won't have a state.

I have several comments specifically to the, to the document. Section 2 dash-1 dash-3 dash-8, buy-back of existing valid leases, that's fine.

But if you want to buy it back from some landowner, how about the money the State of Wyoming is going to lose that supports our education system in this state, pays for our kids' education, supports the University of Wyoming, builds our roads? They need to address that also.

Section 2.3, the No-Action Alternative talks about specific lands which would be, would be withdrawn, and that is all it says in the document. If you look at the map, it's about 80 percent of the land will be withdrawn.

Down to another section, they talk about environmental adjusted as an Executive Order 12898.

Page 23

They address that in another Executive Order, 13212, what is addressed as the Statement of Adverse Energy Impact that the BLM is supposed to address.

I did not find it in that at all.

MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. Thanks, David.

Scott Harnsberger, elected official.

MR. HARNSBERGER: Scott Harnsberger. I'm speaking for the Fremont County Treasurers Office.

That's H-a-r-n-s-b-e-r-g-e-r. I just wanted to point out that in Fremont County the, the assessed value of the county, over 60 percent of our assessed value is made up of natural gas and oil production.

This is very important for the funding of schools, libraries, museums, roads, and bridges. These are things that the County and the School Districts rely on.

And the same is in Sweetwater County. And even if most of the production is in Sweetwater County, the municipalities in Fremont County and the County itself still benefit from that oil and gas production in Jack Morrow Hills.

So to reduce it by a-third, or whatever that's been proposed, we don't want to see that. We want to continue to have good multiple use out there

Page 24

for our citizens of Fremont County and for, for the kids in our school districts.

Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Scott.

Frank Philp, State Representative.

MR. PHILP: Thank you. I appreciate talking to you and being able to speak here.

I support multiple use on Jack Morrow Hills. It, it's real important for our grazing and minerals, and the use of our wildlife.

I think it's all important. As a State Representative, I see the important things that minerals do for our state.

With the revenue, every citizen receives thousands of dollars' worth of services from the State: healthcare for our elderly, education for our children, our community colleges, the University, cities, towns, and counties all benefit from mineral development. It is very important.

I would like to see that continued here. And it has continued, and we can have it all in the State of Wyoming.

We can have development and still have our wildlife and clean water and clean air.

Thank you.

Page 25

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Frank.

Pat Wickerson, or Hickerson. Is Pat here?

(Whereupon, no response was had.)

MR. GRIFFITH: I guess not. Okay.

Our next speaker, then, is Jennifer Lamb.

MS. LAMB: Good evening. Thanks for the opportunity.

My name is Jennifer Lamb, and that is Lamb like the animal. Other speakers tonight are going to emphasize the amazing qualities of the Jack Morrow Hills, so I won't spend time on that.

But what I'm going to do is just ask the BLM and all of us to step back and look at the Jack Morrow Hills in a broader perspective of all the public lands in Wyoming and the future of this whole Plan. The nation has recently become singularly focused on identifying and developing our own sources of energy, and there are some really good reasons for that.

And I appreciate that. And I certainly appreciate the importance of energy to our state's economy.

But there is intense pressure on Wyoming

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 26

1 right now, and that pressure is about satisfying the
2 needs of an energy-hungry nation. It, it's bigger
3 than just Wyoming and our needs.
4 And I really appreciate the BLM's
5 efforts to bring us into this process, but I encourage
6 them to really look at finding a balance. And we can
7 help them do that.
8 And we want them to do that. I urge
9 them to consider the fact that the Green River and the
10 Powder River Basins in the next 10 to 20 years will
11 see another tens of thousands of, of wells drilled.
12 Huge tracts of Wyoming's open space are
13 dedicated to energy development right now. We also
14 need to see that these huge tracts are dedicated to
15 remaining natural.
16 That's important. Wyoming has, has
17 always been about wide open wild places, and we would
18 like to see, I would like to see some of that remain.
19 That is all that I really need to say.
20 I just hate to see us wake up in 50 years and see that
21 all of our public lands have really been given up for
22 a short-term energy push.
23 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Jennifer.
24 Shawna Crispin.
25 MS. CRISPIN: Good evening. Thanks for

Page 27

1 giving me the opportunity.
2 My name is Shawna Crispin,
3 C-r-i-s-p-i-n. I'm not elected; I'm not appointed.
4 I'm here as a private citizen, as I
5 found out about this, the Red Desert and the Plan of
6 the Jack Morrow Hills CAP. I grew up here.
7 I grew up with the Red Desert always
8 being in my life, and I always considered that it
9 would be, always be here, and always be pretty much
10 untouched. The landmarks and the wildlife itself, I
11 remember when I was in high school we went on a field
12 trip where we went and tagged the antelope, and I was
13 so afraid because of the sheer numbers of them.
14 But, you know, that's something to think
15 about. They're not going to be there all this time.
16 As for the Native American spiritual and
17 cultural sites that the Red Desert contains, these are
18 my people. These are where they met and everything.
19 I am so nervous. Excuse me.
20 They traversed that area. It was all
21 barren and unforgiving and harsh, but, you know, it
22 was mineral rich, so why not?
23 It made this area work for the families
24 to give them life and – Oh, my goodness. You know, I
25 talk on the radio, but I am so nervous now.

Page 28

1 These are the places that my family have
2 gone to and met with their southern cousins, their
3 friends, and to gather and to share. I'm not against
4 this Jack Morrow Hills CAP Plan.
5 I am in support of the Citizens'
6 Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative. I believe that
7 there is a balance that we can find that will support
8 the wildlands and support the minerals.
9 There is a balance in there, and we need
10 to make this work there. That is all that I have to
11 say.
12 And I thank Marty and, of course,
13 Richard, of the Wind River Alliance and the Young
14 Warriors' Society, for bringing it to my attention.
15 I'm a mom.
16 I work full-time. I go to school.
17 I came from class. And this is just
18 something that I want to see and have for my daughter.
19 She is only two, but in 10, 20, 30
20 years, when Mother Earth is sucked, purged, and
21 destroyed, what are we going to have left? Are we
22 really going to expect that the earth will really
23 rejuvenate herself?
24 I don't think so. This is something
25 that we really need to work on, these sand dunes,

Page 29

1 these elk, these antelope.
2 If anything, these are things that, you
3 know, you just can't replace. And that is all I have
4 to say.
5 I have to go. Thank you.
6 MMR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Shawna. Good
7 job.
8 You're nervous. How would you like to
9 be the BLM guy?
10 Okay, this is one of the special
11 requests that I am honoring. The next speaker is
12 Starr Weed, Senior, and he would like to do a prayer
13 before he speaks. So he can have a little more time.
14 If you're ready, sir.
15 MR. WEED: Hello, everybody. I'm glad
16 to be here.
17 And I just come here to study things out
18 and see what we're talking about, and then I wanted to
19 say a few, few things. When everything was natural
20 there were no fences around, no roads, and my people
21 just traveled here and there.
22 No roads were around. And I just want
23 to speak tonight about that.
24 And I wanted to pray, because I don't
25 got much time. When I get started, you know, I don't

8 (Pages 26 to 29)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 30

1 know when to quit, so you will have to holler at me.
2 (Whereupon, Mr. Weed asked a prayer in
3 his native tongue of Arapaho, after which the
4 following occurred:)
5 MR. WEED: Now I will just say a few
6 things about respect. Respect the Mother Earth.
7 Respect all the things He has made: the
8 kind birds, wild game, what he made for us. And he
9 also made everything that comes from the ground, like
10 oil and gas we are talking about.
11 He made that, too. He also wants us to
12 respect Him, and He'll respect us and Mother Earth.
13 That's what he wants us to do. And do
14 for one.
15 You know, I have a respect for this land
16 through our religion. It teaches us respect, is our
17 Sun Dance.
18 We respect all of our trees in the
19 mountains. We have a name.
20 All the bird, as we stand up, put in for
21 the Sun Dance, each one of them has a prayer. Before
22 we cut that tree down, we offer a prayer.
23 And any kind of roots, any kind of
24 roots, anyplace, we respect it and we give it a gift.
25 Before we go down and get some roots, we give it a

Page 31

1 gift and then we cut it.
2 And that is the kind of respect that we
3 have for all of the things that He has done. And so
4 we've done that for a long time, until our friends, --
5 I call you our friends. -- until you come.
6 And then from then on we've got a lot of
7 oil coming out of the ground, and we're making use of
8 it for our children. And that's what we're talking
9 about.
10 But we should also have respect for, for
11 digging out things from Mother Earth. We should
12 always have that respect.
13 And from a, all those things, you know,
14 that went against us. The President at that time, he
15 wanted to make this an Indian Religious Freedom Act.
16 And he told the Indian leaders at that
17 time, because there were a lot of things going on, and
18 he wanted to hear from us. And I was on the Council
19 then.
20 And the older members, they, they asked
21 me to be on that. They wanted the Indians to go to
22 Denver and have a big meeting, and to talk about the
23 Indian Religious Freedom Act.
24 And then from then on we've run into
25 problems with the Supreme Court. And they didn't look

Page 32

1 at us.
2 They didn't okay us. They went against
3 us. And we saw that happening.
4 (Whereupon, Mr. Griffith conferred with
5 Mr. Weed, after which the following occurred:)
6 MR. WEED: Yeah, all right. Thank you.
7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you. I wish that
8 we had more time, sir.
9 MR. WEED: I told you to tell me.
10 MR. GRIFFITH: Meredith Taylor.
11 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you. My name is
12 Meredith Taylor, M-e-r-e-d-i-t-h, T-a-y-l-o-r, and I
13 want to just give you just a little bit of a story of
14 once upon a time about this area we call the Red
15 Desert now.
16 There were thousands, probably tens of
17 thousands, or perhaps even hundreds of thousands of
18 pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, and bison that
19 migrated clear from Yellowstone highlands all the way
20 around the Wind River Mountains and the Wyoming Range,
21 down into that sagebrush grassland that we now call
22 the Red Desert, and some call Jack Morrow Hills. Once
23 people got there and saw all the animals, as Native
24 Americans, -- I'm so please to see so many of you here
25 tonight. -- they realized the value of this high

Page 33

1 desert and wanted to see that area protected.
2 And so throughout the last century
3 there's been a number of proposals from National Park
4 that was nominated for the "national park" designation
5 by the Governor Leslie Miller in 1935, and then a
6 national conservation area proposal, and now a
7 national wilderness proposal in the form of the
8 Citizens' Alternative. It's important that we
9 remember why these proposals have come forth.
10 This is really an important area because
11 it is the link with those long migration quarters from
12 the highlands of Yellowstone down onto the desert.
13 And if we break that link, those migrations, the
14 longest in the Lower 48 states, will not continue in
15 the future.
16 So in the interest of balance, let's try
17 to choose a citizens' proposal that will encourage
18 that multiple-use balance for all times, for
19 indefinitely. And the balance that I'm talking about
20 is with that 89 percent of Wyoming and 94 percent of
21 the BLM lands in Wyoming are available for oil and gas
22 leasing, let's go ahead and protect this area as the
23 Citizens' Proposal for Red Desert protection
24 indefinitely.
25 I want to leave this with the BLM. It's

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
buanworldwide@compuserve.com

Page 34

1 the historic 1898 Proposal for the Red Desert, and
2 then the current migration quarters that are
3 documented.
4 And they are on the same lands. And so
5 I will leave that with you.
6 Thank you.
7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Meredith.
8 Diana Mitchell. Diana is with the
9 Historic Preservation Commission, which is appointed
10 by the Fremont County Commissioners.
11 MS. MITCHELL: Hi. I'm Diana Mitchell,
12 and it's D-i-a-n-a, M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l.
13 I'm glad to be here. I would like to
14 say that I've been involved with the Red Desert ever
15 since I was a Wyoming Outdoor Council Board member,
16 and I support their efforts in preserving the area.
17 Although I feel that, you know, the
18 biggest problem that we've had as a Native people is
19 that we've never had our Treaties honored, and this
20 area is a very important area to the Tribes. It has,
21 like, our trails, historic trails that, when we
22 migrated to visit our people in the Wind River.
23 I would like to see a historic trail
24 interpretation program by tribal members done by
25 tribal people. And I would also like to see

Page 35

1 protection for the wild horses.
2 I wrote a letter to the BLM in the first
3 input, and also I would like to have protection for
4 the wild horses. I would call it the Billy Jack
5 Project Inventory and Welfare of the Horses, and an
6 important relationship to the Shoshoni of the horses,
7 because those horses are sacred to us.
8 And that was very important. I believe
9 that we should have an historic preservation policy
10 within the Reservation which would provide a cultural
11 resource protection program and a plan.
12 This way the cultural resource
13 consultants would be working with the Elder Advisory
14 Representatives that the Tribal Council appoints. All
15 the information would be sent to them on developments,
16 and then they would report to the Shoshoni Business
17 Council to get input.
18 And then all of the input that would be
19 received would be gathered in the decision of the
20 ongoing projects that require Permits and Applications
21 we sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Tribe,
22 and to the Agency requesting development on research.
23 The preservation policy would provide the protection,
24 interpretation, and definitions of these sites on and
25 off of the Reservation, and provide mitigation for

Page 36

1 these sites.
2 All the sites would require continued
3 security and would have protection, interpretation,
4 cultural resource protection, interpretation,
5 interpreters, and representatives be trained in
6 archeology, geology, and forestry, and ongoing
7 training for tribal members. A trained interpreter
8 would be working with the Elders and Advisory
9 Representatives.
10 So everybody, let's hang in there.
11 Thank you.
12 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Diana.
13 Nancy Debevoise, or Debevoise?
14 MS. DEBEVOISE: That is so close. My
15 name is Nancy Debevoise, D-e-b-e-v-o-i-s-e, which is
16 lots of fun to spell on the phone.
17 I live in Lander. I love the Red
18 Desert.
19 I have an eight-year-old neighbor who
20 shovels my walk when it snows as a surprise, and then
21 pretends that he didn't do it. He is fascinated by
22 geography, and he knows the names of the mountain
23 ranges and rivers, deserts all over the world.
24 And so I said, "Well, then you must know
25 about the Red Desert." And he had never heard of the

Page 37

1 Red Desert.
2 And so when I explained to him that
3 right in his backyard there was an incredible basin
4 where the water never left and the Continental Divide
5 went all the way around, and that is was home to one
6 of the world's largest systems of active sand dunes,
7 and the Lower 48 states' longest wildlife migration
8 corridor, and the rare desert elk herd, and the wild
9 horses, and thousands of pronghorn. And he said, "Are
10 you making this up?"
11 And I said, "No."
12 He said, "I want to go there right now."
13 I want to make sure that this little
14 boy, and thousands of other children in Wyoming and
15 throughout this country, when they get older, will
16 still be able to see the wonders of the Red Desert. I
17 don't want to see an industrial zone in the Jack
18 Morrow Hills.
19 I want these kids to be able to see a
20 magical place with moving sand dunes and galloping
21 wild horses and strutting sage grouse and herds of
22 pronghorn and hoodoo formations, and one of the last
23 best places to enjoy silence and wide-open spaces and
24 starry skies and holy places. There is a statistic
25 that I think is really scary.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 38

If the whole Jack Morrow Hills area was actually drilled, there would be enough oil and gas to supply the United States with nine weeks of natural gas, nine weeks of natural gas, and 39 minutes of oil. I hope that we don't drill the Red Desert to death.

I want to make sure my young neighbor and other kids grow up in a state that honors its special places. Thank you very much.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Nancy.

Next is Betty Wilkinson, the Flaming Gorge People for the USA.

MS. WILKINSON: It's Betty W-i-l-k-i-n-s-o-n. I appreciate the opportunity to represent People for the USA here tonight.

We've been involved with the Jack Morrow Hills since Day One. We know by studying the laws that social economics, community stability, custom and culture, by law, are as important as wildlife, cultural resources, air and water, and on and on.

The Preferred Alternative has been a much thrashed-out, pains-taking, creative document over the last several years by the BLM and the officers, trying to find some middle ground, balancing all of needs, considering all of the resources affecting the public. It is very clear that

Page 39

interested factions are polarized on the outcome of this project.

On this hand we have resource providers that are responsible for over 70 percent of the tax base in this state, which is why we are one of the three States in America that are operating in the black. On this hand we have organizations and individuals that advocate zero development, and clone for the federal lands.

And somewhere there lies the majority that sits on the sidelines and waits for the outcome. There is no compromise, no effort by preservationists to work together for the greatest good for all for the long term.

It doesn't matter that oil and gas development would occur within a very small area that amounts to less than one-quarter of one percent of the study area within a project that has already been ongoing. It doesn't matter that millions of dollars have been spent by companies using technology that minimizes impacts.

While it is appropriate to protect landscapes and certain resources, there must be a balance to allow permitted activity to move forward. It really is this simple.

Page 40

Activities can take place simultaneously on the same parcels of land, bearing in mind that activity is short-term, and at the end of the project the land will be reclaimed and will be in as good of shape or better than before. I would remind you that this is Wyoming.

This is still Fremont County and Sweetwater County. This is not the Yellowstone ecosystem, and certainly not the wildlands project.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Betty.

Richard Baldes.

MR. BALDES: My name is Richard Baldes, B-a-l-d-e-s. I support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative.

In my opinion of the report is that it is biased for its development. It doesn't surprise me.

I worked for the Federal Government for 27 years, and so I know some of the crap that goes on. And the agency that I worked for was smaller, much smaller than the BLM, and the same kind of bullshit goes on in the BLM.

They consistently favor development. I'm not only concerned about the elk, the sage grouse, the sand dunes, but I'm particularly concerned about

Page 41

the Native American cultural sites and the lack of interest and protection that they've received thus far from the BLM.

In fact, cultural sites, Native American cultural sites receive less protection and less concern than do places like the Oregon Trail. I'm not saying that the Oregon Trail and some of those other sites are not important; they are.

But remember, the Native Americans were in this area two- to 6,000, maybe longer than that. The Oregon Trail, as you know, is fairly recent compared to that.

And also remember that the, most of the Red Desert, or all of the Red Desert was within the 1868 Shoshone Treaty. All of that was Shoshone land.

A SPECTATOR: Eighteen sixty-three.

MR. BALDES: Eighteen sixty-three. Isn't that what I said?

Excuse me; 1863. And then it was changed in 1968.

But like others have said, I have a 19-month-old son, grandson, and I've taken my two sons out there. And I want them to, I want him to be able to enjoy what we've been able to enjoy.

Thank you.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

Page 42

1 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Richard.
2 Peter Absolon with the National Outdoor
3 Leadership School.
4 MR. ABSOLON: My name is Peter Absolon,
5 that's A-b-s-o-l-o-n. And thanks a lot.
6 Thanks for the opportunity. I'm the
7 Assistant Director at NOLS Rocky Mountain.
8 I'm here to represent the National
9 Outdoor Leadership School's position on the Jack
10 Morrow Hills. NOLS has been based in Lander since the
11 school was founded in 1965.
12 For the last 15 of those years we have
13 taught horse-packing horses in the Jack Morrow Hills
14 from our ranch in Boulder, Wyoming, on the west side
15 of the Winds. We will submit detailed written
16 comments on the Draft Alternative to the BLM next
17 month.
18 Tonight I'll just simply summarize our
19 three major points. First, NOLS has participated in
20 planning efforts for the Jack Morrow Hills since they
21 began almost ten years ago.
22 Since that time, nothing but the natural
23 characteristics of the planning area has changed. And
24 our position on the management of the area hasn't
25 changed at all.

Page 43

1 What has changed is the politics that
2 drive this process.
3 Second, we run horses in the Jack Morrow
4 Hills. To our students and instructors it is a really
5 special environment.
6 It is an incredible place to run horses.
7 They learn to travel and camp by horseback in amazing
8 places like Steamboat Mountain and the Pinnacles.
9 We want to be able to continue to offer
10 our students high-quality outdoor education
11 experiences, and we are very concerned that expansion
12 of energy development proposed under all of the
13 Alternatives will impair our ability to do this.
14 There are several aspects of the Preferred Alternative
15 that we support, including positive changes to
16 watershed management, and cooperative approach to
17 grazing.
18 As written, though, none of the
19 Alternatives assure adequate protection of large areas
20 of undisturbed open space that we need to continue to
21 run high-quality horses. We believe that it is vital
22 for the BLM to preserve and support opportunities for
23 other education and responsible recreation.
24 Lastly, we know that many of Wyoming's
25 beautiful places will be affected by our

Page 44

1 Administration's desire to develop energy resources.
2 This isn't a bad thing as long as development happens
3 in an economically desirably sound manner.
4 But we don't believe that, but we don't
5 believe that it should happen everywhere. Some places
6 should just be left alone.
7 The Jack Morrow Hills, in its history of
8 unique ecological and habitat features, and
9 recreation, educational opportunities it offers, is
10 one of those places. We strongly encourage the BLM to
11 draft a true conservative alternative that does not
12 include energy.
13 Thank you very much.
14 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Peter.
15 Randy Shipman.
16 MR. SHIPMAN: I'm Randy Shipman,
17 S-h-i-p-m-a-n, and I am speaking for myself. My
18 original comment will pertain to Section Title 40,
19 1508.7, 1508.8, 1508.14 in the Adaptive Management
20 portion of the Jack Morrow Hills by utilizing any
21 forestry rhetoric, in reality, on a 10-year study that
22 was published in the Forestry Journal.
23 I've got a message for the BLM. We have
24 a whole lot of Americans tonight in Iraq.
25 And this message goes for some of you in

Page 45

1 here. We are all Americans, not Native Americans.
2 They may be when they get home, but we
3 are all underneath this flag. This message is mainly
4 for the Department of Interior, for these type of
5 hearings.
6 There is a First Amendment right in this
7 country that protects everybody. There is a
8 Fourteenth Amendment that also backs that up, and I
9 hope that everybody remembers that from this point
10 forward at this meeting while I'm attending.
11 When do I stop?
12 THE TIME KEEPER: You have about 40
13 seconds.
14 MR. SHIPMAN: Western Wyoming Community
15 College, 17.38 percent of that college's funds comes
16 from tuition. That's it.
17 Forty-one point six percent of that
18 college's funds comes from oil and gas, or comes from
19 local taxes. The remainder is paid from the State's
20 General Fund.
21 Now, 53.2 percent of the 46, of the 41.6
22 percent of that college is local funding, comes from
23 oil and gas. And when I came past the college today
24 and I asked them what would happen if I pulled that
25 52.3 percent out of the college's funds, and I'm

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 46

1 telling you, they told me that would fold like a house
2 of cards.
3 So would the University of Wyoming.
4 Thank you.
5 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Randy.
6 Cathy Purves.
7 MR. PURVES: My name is Cathy Purves.
8 Cathy with a C, P-u-r-v-e-s.
9 I live in Lander. And I've lived in
10 Wyoming most of my life.
11 I am a user of multiple use out there on
12 the public lands. I hike, I ride, I fish, I hunt.
13 Jack Morrow Hills has a history of
14 multiple uses, and currently there is limited use in
15 the Jack Morrow Hills with CBM, oil and gas leasing,
16 hunting, fishing, recreation, ranching. But I want to
17 talk a little bit about recreation, because that is a
18 significant economic impact and contributor to the
19 State of Wyoming.
20 And it is part of the important
21 contribution that the BLM's Preferred Alternative does
22 not consider. The types of recreation include the
23 hiking, the wildlife viewing, the hunting, outfitting,
24 many types of outfitting, as we've just heard.
25 The Preferred Alternative does not

Page 47

1 recognize the second and the most highest economic
2 contributor to the state. In 2000, $1.1 million was
3 spent on hunting, fishing, and trapping in the state
4 of Wyoming.
5 In Jack Morrow Hills, specifically, in
6 2000, $3.9 million was spent hunting mule deer,
7 antelope, elk, and sage grouse, just in the Jack
8 Morrow Hills. In the Year 2001, $2.6 million was
9 spent in hunting these four species just in the Jack
10 Morrow Hills.
11 These are significant amounts of money.
12 We're not talking about thousands of dollars.
13 And just this week in our local
14 newspaper, our state newspaper, our Governor, he
15 stated that, we heard that $1.8 billion of tourism
16 dollars was spent in this state last year. The BLM
17 needs to consider other economic contributions that
18 come on public lands.
19 I support the Wildlands and Wildlife
20 Alternative, and I ask the BLM to please consider
21 addressing this Alternative. Thank you.
22 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Cathy.
23 Juan Laden.
24 MR. LADEN: Hi. My name is Juan Laden,
25 J-u-a-n, L-a-d-e-n.

Page 48

1 There is no "Bin" in front of the Laden.
2 I'm a photographer.
3 I do black-and-white photography, and
4 one of the things that, that I photograph is wild
5 landscapes. And selfishly I would like to see this
6 country maintained without any more development.
7 I don't see that in any of the
8 alternatives. But I think there is a deeper reason
9 for my wanting to be able to photograph wildlands that
10 does not have human development, and, and what that
11 reason is, to me, is that we have a need to see images
12 like that, whether it is going out into the desert
13 ourselves, or even to see a beautiful image painted or
14 photographed.
15 Because it speaks to something of value
16 within us that no money in the world can pay for. And
17 I think that we all forget this too often in this
18 country.
19 If you can't equate something with
20 money, it has no value. And we can't say we want to
21 keep this place just because it's beautiful, and put
22 that in a Management Plan, without saying, "Well, it
23 has some economic value for tourism."
24 You know, we have to put it in money.
25 We can't buy what that, that country gives to us.

Page 49

1 And if we take it away, like many people
2 said, we don't have it in the future for our children.
3 We've already lost so much in this
4 world. That is about it.
5 I want to take some pictures of that
6 beautiful country so that we can all see it.
7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Juan.
8 And I just want to commend the group
9 again for watching that time. I know it is really
10 difficult to put it in a couple of minutes' worth that
11 we all feel for the landscape out there.
12 So again, stay with it. You are doing
13 great.
14 (Whereupon, remarks were made by a
15 spectator, after which the following occurred:)
16 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you.
17 Okay, how about Marco Johnson?
18 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Marco Johnson,
19 M-a-r-c-o, J-o-h-n-s-o-n, and I live in Lander. I
20 support the Citizens's Proposal for the Jack Morrow
21 Hills.
22 As John pointed out earlier, indeed,
23 there is a war going on in Iraq, and there is a need
24 in this country for oil, gas, other types of energy.
25 I consumed energy getting here, like most all of us

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 50

1 did.
2 We all consume energy in some form or
3 another. There are places that we can get that
4 energy.
5 There are also places that need to be
6 and should be set aside so that they are not drilled;
7 they are not exploited for a particular mineral or a
8 particular energy need, whether it is the cultural
9 aspects of the Jack Morrow Hills, the wildlife,
10 recreations, or the deep ecological values that it
11 speaks of us, as Juan Laden talked about.
12 For the Jack Morrow Hills I wish the BLM
13 to go after the Citizens' Proposal, because I find
14 that the proposals that have been put forth are
15 insufficient, given the amount of energy that is
16 estimated that could be recovered in that area.
17 Thank you.
18 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Marco.
19 Bob Scholl.
20 MR. SCHOLL: Hello. My name is Bob
21 Scholl. My name is spelled S-c-h-o-l-l.
22 I've lived in Lander since 1995, before
23 that in Montana for 15 years, and I was born in
24 Connecticut, but had no choice. As a lot of you are
25 sportsmen or photographers or professional guides, you

Page 51

1 want the Red Desert and Jack Morrow Hills protected
2 from oil/gas.
3 And coal development offers the most
4 beneficial, long-term use of this unique area that is
5 not properly addressed in any of the Alternatives. In
6 2003, most places in the Great Divide Basin, the Jack
7 Morrow Hills and the Red Desert, still look out on the
8 same vistas the pioneers on the Oregon Trail, Chief
9 Washakie, and paleo men hunting with the atlatal and
10 speer saw, a wild land, wild land untamed by fences or
11 telephone poles or any sight of man.
12 Every American should have the
13 opportunity to see and feel the lack of men and the
14 potential of the spirit found in the vistas still
15 surviving in the Red Desert in Jack Morrow Hills. The
16 country's public lands are just that, our land.
17 The politicians want to control them,
18 big businesses try to take everything they can from
19 them, but everyone in the country has the right to see
20 them and enjoy them. Completely protecting 600,000
21 acres in the Jack Morrow Hills region of the Red
22 Desert from oil and gas development for its
23 recreational, historical, and wildlife values is the
24 best use of this unique area.
25 I'm not against oil and gas drilling,

Page 52

1 but there are places that must be left alone, such as
2 the case of the Jack Morrow Hills. There is no
3 shortage of natural gas in the United States.
4 The BLM should trade or move current
5 oil, coal, and gas leases to areas not as sensitive as
6 the Jack Morrow Hills. In my opinion none of the
7 current EIS options offer, offer enough protection
8 from oil and gas development in the Jack Morrow Hills.
9 The Jack Morrow Hills should have a
10 simple framework of no new development. Current
11 grazing leases should be continued.
12 Current ATV and four-wheel drive use
13 should be allowed on existing roads, and current
14 wilderness study areas should be active with full
15 protection. The Red Desert and Jack Morrow Hills
16 should be left alone like it is, and the oil and gas
17 exploration or drilling.
18 No national park or monument status
19 should be designated. It should be a place for
20 Americans looking for the real West can still find it,
21 untamed, where nature can still get you if you are not
22 prepared, and the spirit can venture out to experience
23 what it was like to live in the Nineteenth Century.
24 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Bob. It kind of
25 reminded me of that Federal Express commercial.

Page 53

1 Sometimes we have to do what we have to do.
2 How about Laney Hicks?
3 MS. HICKS: My name is Laney Hicks.
4 That's L-a-n-e-y, H-i-c-k-s.
5 My husband, Roche Lindsey, and I live in
6 Crowheart, Wyoming. We are both natives of the
7 Northern Rockies, and we own and operate a ranch.
8 And I am a professional wildlife artist.
9 I'm going to divert here a little bit.
10 I'm a little bit upset at my county
11 officials telling me that I owe my soul to the oil
12 industry. When I pay my property taxes, I pay my
13 share of the school taxes, and the most I pay, you
14 know, of any itemized item on my taxes.
15 And I resent my officials telling me
16 that I owe my soul to the oil industry.
17 (Whereupon, a response was had from
18 spectators, after which the following occurred:)
19 MR. HICKS: In the 30 years that we've
20 lived in this area, we have spoken for protecting the
21 Red Desert on numerous occasions. And we are here
22 again to ask for the Citizens' Proposal on the Jack
23 Morrow area.
24 I would like a prohibition of all new
25 oil and gas leasing and large-scale mining activity,

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 54

1 especially methane gas. We would like a bury-out of
2 mineral leases in the Jack Morrow Hills Plan area.
3 We support recreation, grazing, hunting,
4 and some ORV uses. The wilderness study areas should
5 be designated by Congress.
6 And all the wildlife species, especially
7 antelope and the desert elk, should be protected,
8 along with Native American holy sites. It is truly
9 incredible for me how many times we have been here to
10 ask for protection for this area, but we will be here
11 as many times as it takes.
12 Several times the topic of the present
13 war in Iraq has come up. And I feel like I am a
14 patriotic American.
15 My uncles fought in World War II, my
16 brother fought in Viet Nam and was also in Korea, and
17 my son fought in the Gulf War. But I find it really
18 incredible that my country is involved in a war of
19 aggression on a sovereign nation.
20 My friend, Leonard Hay, a prominent Rock
21 Springs rancher and oil man, told me 30 years ago that
22 the oil industry would take over the Middle East if
23 there was provocation. And they have done just that
24 under the guidance of evil people.
25 Surely with this new supply of oil in

Page 55

1 Iraq, the Red Desert has the opportunity to be
2 protected. We don't have to suck up every drop of oil
3 from every piece of land.
4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Laney.
5 Mark Thornberry.
6 MR. THORNBERRY: Mark Thornberry,
7 T-h-o-r-n-b-e-r-r-y. What I have to say is really
8 simple.
9 I just think that enough is enough. I
10 think that the Jack Morrow Hills is an amazing area.
11 I've spent a ton of time there, and it's
12 worth preserving, not even for human value or anything
13 like that, but for its own intrinsic value. And so
14 that's basically it.
15 And I think that, that we've had enough
16 anthropocentrism even, you know, looking at places to
17 drill, and even some of the alternatives that other
18 organizations have come up for. So I would just say:
19 Leave it alone and let it exist because it needs to
20 for its own sake. Thanks.
21 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Mark.
22 Molly Absolon.
23 MS. ABSOLON: Molly Absolon, M-o-l-l-y,
24 A-b-s-o-l-o-n. Thank you for providing this
25 opportunity for us to express our views on the Jack

Page 56

1 Morrow Hills Supplemental Draft EIS.
2 I want to start out, though, by saying
3 that I feel that I'm here once again, and it's over
4 and over again, same old story. And voices like mine,
5 a lot of voices like mine haven't been listened to.
6 Ninety-three percent of the 12,000
7 comments that were received for the last Supplemental
8 Plan were in support for the Citizens' Alternative,
9 yet none of the alternatives in the current Draft
10 Supplement or the, -- I'm confused on what it is. --
11 the Supplemental Draft Plan, or whatever, -- You know
12 what I mean. -- ensure adequate protection for the
13 natural area.
14 People have been trying to protect the
15 Red Desert for more than 100 years. As the people
16 have pointed out tonight, the area supports incredible
17 natural diversity, also scenic splendor and human
18 history.
19 I'm particularly concerned, though,
20 about the impact of oil and gas on the plants and
21 animals, especially in light of other oil and gas
22 developments surrounding the Red Desert. The animals
23 are, they are locked in.
24 There is development going on in the
25 Green River Basin and in the, in the Great Divide

Page 57

1 Basin to the east and south. In fact, BLM officials
2 have been quoted as saying that southwestern Wyoming
3 will be the greatest natural gas supply in the country
4 by 2015.
5 Oil and gas development blocks historic
6 migration quarters, fragments habitat, and roads, pads
7 and traffic, and the noise of compressors and the
8 presence of humans disturb the animals. To what
9 extent -- Oh, great. Okay.
10 I know we all need oil and gas, and I
11 know that it helps pay for the State's infrastructure.
12 And I know that it fuels my car.
13 I know that I'm not naive to say we
14 should not go anywhere. I do believe that there are
15 places, however, that are special and should be left
16 alone.
17 There are plenty of places to drill. A
18 study by the Department of Energy in January of 2003,
19 the Environmental Policy and Conservation Act, reports
20 that only 85 percent of oil and 88 percent of natural
21 gas found in five major western basins is currently
22 available for leasing, with minimal restrictions.
23 That's a lot of territory open, so I
24 think this place can be left alone. Thank you.
25 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Molly.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 58

Hey, Stewart, could you please close the windows? We have the AC on now, so no sense in wasting energy.

Next speaker, Fiddlin Holley.

MS. HOLLEY: Fiddlin Holley, F-i-d-d-l-i-n, H-o-l-l-e-y. I was going to speak from the heart, but I wrote it down.

But that's from the heart, because I'm too nervous. And so what I am to say is, I've been to the Red Desert several times, and I need to say outright that I am in strong support of protecting the Jack Morrow Hills to its utmost.

I'm tired of seeing oil and gas wells and so-called technology. I think that it's ugly and implemented and scaring the landscape just to provide what's already be stated: Nine weeks of natural gas and 39 minutes of oil.

If there is money to be made from that, I would like to see the money spent on not ruining the environment, but spent on alternative energy resources. And so all I can say is that if we can't leave the Jack Morrow Hills Study Area well enough alone, then I am in support of the Citizens' Wildlife and Wild-, Wildlands Alternative.

I guess my other comment is I've

Page 59

listened to everything, and the only thing that I don't understand is how someone can say that the environment would be in better shape than before. I don't get that.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Fiddlin.

Sean Francis, our youngest speaker so far. Great.

MR. FRANCIS: My name is Sean Francis. I am 15 years old.

That is S-e-a-n, F-r-a-n-c-i-s. I am 15 years old and a sophomore at Lander Valley High School.

I am here to speak on behalf of myself. During the westward expansion, a great numbers of settlers crossed the Red Desert.

For over two centuries the Red Desert has been wild in the eyes of America. It is the home of great herds of antelope and elk.

But the Red Desert is under threat of being industrialized. It is now up to conservationists everywhere, as stated.

The Bureau of Land Management is trying to release a Plan which would ultimately alter the entire landscape of the Jack Morrow Hills area. The main objective is to extract as much oil and natural

Page 60

gas as possible.

According to a geological survey, the resources out there will only meet the demands of the Nation's gas for nine weeks and the Nation's demand for oil for 39 minutes. And I don't think that that is very ethical, if that is the right word to use.

One of my greatest fears right now is that it's going to turn into something similar to what happened in 1849, when people started doing the Gold Rush; that there is going to be abandoned towns out there everywhere. I speak from the heart in saying that this is, in my opinion, a really bad idea.

I don't think it is worth it to develop this land so much for something so small. The Red Desert is one of the few places left in Wyoming where one can go and know that there is no industry for miles around.

It is a vast, full area of history and culture. My greatest fear is to one day see the Red Desert as an industrial garden but on a desert.

Let's not forget in this time of peril that the landscape is a desert, not a playground for industry. Thank you very much.

MR. GRIFFITH: Good job, Sean. I couldn't do that when I was 15.

Page 61

Real good. Great.

The next speaker is Tom Bell.

MR. BELL: My name is Tom Bell, B-e-l-l, as in "Bell Telephone." I speak for myself as a private citizen, and for my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren.

I simply want to say that this country, this world will be a poorer place when the great reaches of the Jack Morrow Hills have been trashed. The oil and gas companies will be richer, but we will be poorer.

I am afraid that Bush-Cheney jabberwock will prevail. Somewhere out there on the horizon is another jabberwock, and it is called the "greenhouse effect global warming."

This man-induced phenomenon is here, it's real, and it is serious. We are already beginning to see the effects of it from drought, glaciers disappearing from all over the world, including the ones in our own Wind River Mountains, new diseases such as the West Nile virus, and unusual weather of more severe proportions in places across the earth.

It is only the beginning. Some of you will still be around in 30 years as it all begins to

16 (Pages 58 to 61)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 62

1 unfold, and you will be wishing for the good old days.
2 Scientists who are really scientists
3 seeking the truth will tell you global warming is
4 here. Let's just take the latest example from
5 science.
6 A scientific journal published by one
7 scientist for scientists is one called simply Science.
8 The latest edition of Science, March twenty-eighth,
9 2003, carried an article which is worth honoring.
10 The article concludes that huge
11 reductions in carbon dioxide from fossil fuel carbon
12 ignitions is going to be required by the middle of
13 this century to avoid disastrous consequences to this
14 one planet, Earth, we all call home. Three scientists
15 collaborated on this study, which was funded by the
16 U.S. Department of Energy.
17 A SPECTATOR: You went over.
18 MR. GRIFFITH: Wrap up.
19 MR. BELL: Okay, one more. What does
20 this have to do with the Desert of the Jack Morrow
21 Hills?
22 The large, high elevation, dry,
23 wind-swept Red Desert is unique in these United
24 States. There is none like it.
25 Why should we allow virtual destruction

Page 63

1 of many of its intrinsic values for just a few short
2 years of oil and gas production? Thank you.
3 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Tom. Thanks for
4 coming in.
5 Mark Watkins.
6 MR. WATKINS: Hi. Thank you for
7 allowing me to speak.
8 W-a-t-k-i-n-s. I find that the Plan is
9 insufficient.
10 It seems as if we have a very, very
11 narrow range of options between the oil and the gas
12 development, a whole lot of oil and gas development.
13 So I am here to speak for the BLM to strongly consider
14 getting behind the Citizens' Alternative.
15 A SPECTATOR: Could you get a little
16 closer so we could hear you better?
17 MR. WATKINS: I'm going to stop here.
18 Thank you.
19 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Mark.
20 Harold Schultz.
21 MR. SCHULTZ: Hi. I'm Harold Schultz.
22 I'm from Riverton, Wyoming. That's
23 H-a-r-o-l-d, S-c-h-u-l-t-z.
24 I am here representing myself.
25 Basically I would like to interject a word of common

Page 64

1 sense in here.
2 We've had some of our elected officials
3 come up and say that if we do not turn the Jack Morrow
4 Hills into Swiss cheese, that the entire State of
5 Wyoming and our two counties are going to dry up and
6 blow away. Well, I don't think so.
7 Basically what you've got to realize is
8 that this Jack Morrow Hills is a small piece of land
9 that is being lapped on three sides by a sea of
10 mega-development. And to quote Ms. Wilkinson, yes, we
11 do need some balance.
12 But one of the things that we can do is
13 protect this area, and that will help balance out
14 everything else that is going on in the southwest
15 quadrant of Wyoming. Now, will the BLM's Preferred
16 Alternative do this?
17 Well, looking at common sense, I don't
18 think so. Because if you look at this, that 205 wells
19 is just a number.
20 If you read the Plan deeply, you know
21 that it isn't going to necessarily stop it. And the
22 BLM has had a tremendous history of granting
23 exceptions to every regulation and standard that they
24 have set.
25 So therefore, what are the chances that

Page 65

1 they are going to set these standards? Zero.
2 So common sense says that the best thing
3 to do is protect it. And probably for this area, the
4 Citizens' Alternative is the best.
5 It may not be the correct solution for
6 every area, but I do believe that it is the correct
7 solution for the Jack Morrow Hills. Thank you.
8 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Harold.
9 Lois Herbst.
10 MS. HERBST: I'm Lois Herbst,
11 H-e-r-b-s-t. I'm a cattle rancher in Hot Springs
12 County, Fremont County, and Natrona County.
13 For the past 96 years I think the family
14 has been operating a cattle ranch, starting with the
15 person from Austria who came here because he respected
16 private property. I support the Preferred Alternative
17 that was worked out by our County Commissioners, BLM,
18 and other people.
19 I know there was a lot of compromise
20 involved in working out that Alternative. I thank
21 everybody who took part in that.
22 I also am a historian and a
23 photographer, and I have been out in the Red Desert.
24 I encountered only one other pickup when my friend and
25 I went from Farson over to Oregon Buttes.

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 66

We got to Oregon Buttes and a snowdrift stopped us, and we had to turn around and go back. But the family that we encountered in the pickup didn't even have food or water with them because they didn't realize that there was no one out there to help them.

So we gave them our food and water, since they had children. But it is beautiful country.

But multiple use is the law of the land, and it's very, since 1961, it's very obvious that the people who worked out the Preferred Alternative know the law of multiple use. I have other things that I would like to say, but I will put them in.

I do appreciate the work BLM is doing, but I think that the wild horses need managed more. And I also think that people should have an understanding.

My friend, Leonard Hay, told me where the rare Desert elk came from, and they were transplanted from Yellowstone to ease the burden of too many elk in Yellowstone. Thank you.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Lois.

Susanna Bletner.

MS. BLETNER: I'm going to pass.

MR. GRIFFITH: You're going to pass?

Page 67

Okay.

Charlie Wilson.

MR. WILSON: I'm Charlie Wilson. I've lived in Lander since 1989.

I own Wind River Pack Goats, a small outfitting company that operates in the Red Desert. Just got handed my tax bill, and so I'm a little woozy.

And I don't feel very well-prepared, but I want to say a couple of things. It is really amazing being in this kind of forum and hearing everyone's comments and building on those.

There's talk about taxes, and personally I'm in favor of preservation and taking care of the land that I work on and that I bring people out to visit. I think that we can find other ways of funding our schools and stuff.

Raise income tax, perhaps? I appreciate the Native American presence, and it is wonderful to hear about the archeological sites out there.

Tomorrow my company has its first trip of the season. We go down to Escalante in southern Utah, a national monument.

And interestingly I was talking to BLM this morning on the phone about my route, if it's

Page 68

disputed. And they said, "The route's fine except for these archeological sites you've put in."

And every time, I mean, without being checked out first, I shouldn't be visiting the archeological sites. And personally I am very appreciative.

I appreciate the BLM. I am proud to be a permittee, a tenant on this land, and I appreciate these organizations are in place to care for these lands.

And I will get that training before I visit those sites. And I hope the same for this land, because I enjoy meeting people up here, and people coming from all over the country to be here.

And again, it's an amazing experience. Thanks.

Oh, I was going to put one more point in. In addition to the elk and the grouse and everything, you should know that there are mudpuppies, lizards, and leopard frogs in the Red Desert.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Charlie. I'm definitely going to have to get my 13-year-old son out there now.

Kathy Pappas.

MS. PAPPAS: Can you hear me? I'm Kathy

Page 69

Pappas, K-a-t-h-y, P-a-p-p-a-s.

And mine is kind of a little speech I directed towards you (speaking to Mr. Griffith). There's not much to say that you haven't already heard.

You've already heard about the devastatingly harmful effects of the oil and gas development and exploration it has on our wildlife and vegetation. You've already heard that we need the Jack Morrow Hills area left as it is, and there is no other place on earth like it.

You've already heard that injuries to our lands leave permanent scars that will outlive each and every one of us in this room. You are supposed to be picturing Martin Luther King right now.

You have already heard pleas from thousands of people to keep this area protected from development. So please listen to what you've already heard, and support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative.

I have lived in Lander for over 30 years, and the Jack Morrow Hills area of the Red Desert is a part of me. I've spent many days and nights out there with only my dog, Boots, for company.

I've walked it for hours on end, once

18 (Pages 66 to 69)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 70

with nothing on but a pair of tennis shoes and a cell phone in one hand and a water bottle in the other because I could. I've made life-changing decisions sitting on a rise looking out into its beautiful nothingness.

I've gone with friends there on group trips. So here is one more plea to add to the thousands.

Please protect this area from any further oil and gas development.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Kathy. Smart lady for carrying that cell phone.

Forgive me, Peter, but I'll take a lash. Peter Dvorak.

MR. DVORAK: Hi. I'm Peter Dvorak, D-v-o-r-a-k.

I speak as a private citizen tonight. I'm 55 years as a resident of the state, and lived about 12 years here in Fremont County.

Once again I've taken a look through the monumental piece of work that the BLM has done. As was mentioned by our very first speaker tonight, there are a myriad of laws, rules, regulations and whatnot that have to be followed.

My anxiety has to do with the fact that

Page 71

they probably will not be used. They have a long history of exceptions and vac-, vacancies and different things that make a good reading Plan not translated well into action.

I would strongly support the idea of the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Initiative, or at least considering greatly increasing the size of the Wilderness Study Areas that are there, doing what we can to protect this unique area. Everybody here has mentioned kids tonight.

I mean, my grandson has been to Disney World, he has been to Lagoon, and there has never been a place that he has been more thrilled with than the Honeycombs of the Red Desert in the Jack Morrow Hills Study Area. I think these are values that are far in excess of the riches that Wyoming could get from resource development.

I think my, my final issue is that I believe the way to keep Wyoming, the culture, the things going on that we have now is that we need to keep the Red Desert and the Jack Morrow Hills as big as possible to enable ranching and recreation to occur in ways that we have grown accustomed to. And that is all I have to say.

Thank you.

Page 72

MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Peter.

Mac Blewer, representing the Wyoming Outdoor Council.

MR. BLEWER: Thank you for the opportunity to testify tonight. My name is Mac Blewer.

I hate these things. I work for the Wyoming Outdoor Council.

It is the oldest and largest, excuse me, oldest independent conservation group in Wyoming. We'll be submitting more detailed comments at a later date, but I would like to say that the Red Desert is a world-class landscape.

And everyone would call that huge chunk of desert between the Sweetwater and the Little Snake River and Coforado, and whether it is the Greater Red Desert, the Red Desert, the Great American Desert, as the pioneers called it, it is a world-class landscape and a national treasure and should be protected. I cannot add too much more than has already been said tonight, but I, I feel the concerns of many that this Plan would open this area to large-scale industrialization.

The BLM's Preferred Alternative does call, supposedly, for the development of 205 oil and

Page 73

gas wells. However, the Agency admits that this figure is just a guideline and it's actually unlikely it will be adhered to.

To quote the Plan, it is impossible to predict how future development will proceed. In particular, the extent and nature of mineral reserves in the planning area are unknown, and are expected to remain unknown for several years.

Although there is a great deal of uncertainty about future development because of uncertainty, and a number of assumptions were necessary to predict the impact associated with the future development. Those assumptions may or may not be correct.

I don't want my tax dollars going to a Plan like that. I think also the crux of the problem is that BLM's refused to look meaningfully at a trade of oil and gas leases in the area.

Most of the area -- Oh, my time is running out. But I will say that the BLM should look at trading oil and gas leases in the area.

I do support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative, which would allow for responsible use and access of the lands, including grazing, recreation, ATV use, hunting, in addition to

19 (Pages 70 to 73)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 74

1 some recreational gold mining, as long as it is not
2 insensitive to environmental areas like elk habitat.
3 I know we need gas and oil, as everybody
4 else, but some places should just be left alone,
5 places like the Jack Morrow Hills. "Multiple use"
6 does not mean "multiple abuse."
7 It does not mean "all uses." Let's
8 leave the place alone. Thank you.
9 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Mac.
10 I would like to take a five-minute
11 break. I will watch my watch, so we will start up in
12 five minutes, so please watch yours and be back.
13 Thank you.
14 A SPECTATOR: Who is the next speaker?
15 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. I'm sorry, our
16 next speaker will be John McCullough.
17 (Whereupon, the participants took a
18 brief recess and returned, after which the following
19 occurred:)
20 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. Again, our next
21 speaker is John McCullough.
22 MR. McCULLOUGH: My name is John. You
23 probably know how to spell it.
24 McCullough,
25 M-c-C-u-l-l-o-u-g-h. Although I'm one of those

Page 75

1 dubious Easterners I heard about earlier, I've lived
2 in Fremont County for over two decades.
3 And I used to go out hiking in the Red
4 Desert a lot. I've had a couple of strokes and I
5 suffer from peripheral vascular damage now, so I can't
6 hike much, but it's one of the few places in the
7 country that I can go out and drive to and to just
8 experience real unique solitude.
9 I'd like to tell you very much, and I'd
10 like to stress that that really is a pretty unique
11 place. I've been all over this country, and I've
12 never seen any other place that I can drive to and be
13 in that kind of solitude.
14 I would like to see that continue. And
15 I am for the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildland
16 Alternative. Thank you.
17 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, John.
18 Jonathan Mark.
19 MR. MARK: Good evening. My name is
20 Jonathan Mark, J-o-n-a-t-h-a-n, M-a-r-k.
21 Like many of us here, I was raised under
22 Wyoming skies. And one of the things that I was told
23 about this area is our undying commitment to the
24 preservation of wildlife.
25 Wyoming is known better than any other

Page 76

1 state for its endless task to prev-, to protect our
2 own natural beauty and pristine. Now with this, with
3 the passing of this Act, and allowing this development
4 on the Red Desert, we are destroying the very essence
5 of what Wyoming is.
6 Besides the soul and the life force
7 behind Wyoming, the numerous wildlife species are also
8 under threat that inhabit the Red Desert. Over 350
9 species inhabit this Desert.
10 And with the development plan of this
11 magnitude even being considered, I'm sorry, I don't, I
12 have a hard time comprehending how it could have even
13 been considered in the first place. To be quite
14 honest, I am a little disappointed in our Bureau of
15 Land Management.
16 I'm a Life Scout of Troop 52, and I've
17 worked with them on a lot of preservation sort of
18 tasks and community projects, and I know that they can
19 do great things. This is not one of those great
20 achievements.
21 And, in fact, we've seen the BLM,
22 indeed, do extraordinary things. But with the passing
23 of this we would see the threat to the Wyoming pride,
24 the threat to the Wyoming wildlife, the reputation
25 being befouled of our federal offices.

Page 77

1 And finally, ladies and gentlemen, this
2 will threaten Wyoming. Thank you.
3 MR. GRIFFITH: Great job, Jonathan. I
4 hope that you don't compete against the East High
5 Speech Team in Cheyenne.
6 You did very well. Thank you. Good
7 job.
8 Mark Soldier Wolf.
9 MR. SOLDIER WOLF: Thank you. I'm glad
10 to be here.
11 I'm here to talk in behalf of myself and
12 the Arapaho people. My name is Mark Soldier Wolf,
13 M-a-r-k, S-o-l-d-i-e-r, W-o-l-f.
14 I'm a veteran of the Second World War
15 before going South Korea. And at that time I
16 represented the whole of the United States, to protect
17 the interest of the United States and its people in
18 this holy land of ours.
19 Right now I can say a lot of you have
20 talked. And I have heard these people talk many
21 times, but yet we come back and repeat these things
22 over and over again.
23 And I think the Agency is wanting to
24 pull the wool over our eyes so that they can open Jack
25 Morrow, Jack Morrow area. We are not for that.

20 (Pages 74 to 77)

Fax 1-307-334-2433 BUNN & ASSOCIATES 1-800-435-2468
bunnworldwide@compuserve.com