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To: Wyo BLM From: Mark Anselm

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• Comments:

protest letter Little Mtn Leases

MARK ANSELM
1924 PARKVIEW AVE
ROCK SPRINGS, WYO

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WYOMING STATE OFFICE
5353 YELLOWSTONE ROAD
CHEYENNE, WY 82009

To whom it may concern:

I protest the following parcels that are listed in the August 4, 2008 Wyoming BLM Lease Sale: WY-0808-156, WY 0808-157, WYO-0808-158, WY-0808-159, WY-0808-164 And WY-0808-165. These areas should not be leased for energy development because They contain critical wildlife habitat. I have hunted out there since the late 1960's. Starting with my father before I could drive.

The area has never recovered from the Power Line that was put thru in the 1960's.. Coupled with the massive fires over the last ten years it doesn't need to be disturbed. My partner and I have had elk tags the last three years in Elk area 31(Little Mtn) and Have really enjoyed ourselves. He is an 81 year old Pioneer hunter who has lived here all His life and enjoys the scenic and recreational value that Little Mountain has to offer.

PLEASE DO NOT GO FORWARD WITH THIS LEASING PROPOSAL!

Sincerely,



Mark Anselmi
307-362-2525

7-14-08

Lifelong (53 yrs) Resident of Rock Springs



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82006

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July 15, 2008

Lance Porter, Field Manager
Rock Springs Field Office, Bureau of Land Management
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, WY, 82901

Dear Lance,

This letter is meant to clarify the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's position concerning currently proposed or future energy leases in the Little Mountain Ecosystem (LME). Consider these our final comments on lease numbers 0808-156 -159, 0808-164-165, 0808-171-176, 0808-179-181 and any future energy leasing plans for the LME. The Department acknowledges your efforts to remove a portion of the above from lease availability and support that decision, but believes these efforts are not sufficient to protect wildlife resources in this area. All of the above leases occur within our definition of the LME, which is bounded by Wyoming Highway 430 on the east, Interstate Highway 80 on the north, Flaming Gorge reservoir on the west, and the Wyoming state line on the south.

As your agency is aware, this area contains extremely valuable, unique, and sensitive wildlife habitats. Much of the above defined area represents all life-stage habitats for many high profile or sensitive terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species that occur within your field office and southwest Wyoming. The above lease list, and remaining un-leased parcels within the LME, contain critically important yearlong or seasonal habitats for one or more of the following: greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbits, midget faded rattlesnakes, Great Basin gophersnakes, Colorado River cutthroat trout, elk, mule deer, pronghorns, moose, aspen-obligate passerines and small mammals, and pinyon/juniper-obligate passerines and small mammals. There are a minimum of 41 terrestrial species of greatest conservation need (SGCN - as outlined in the Wyoming CWCS Plan) that have been documented in the LME.

The public expects natural resource managers to maintain the LME in a functioning condition. This area and the wildlife it supports are highly prized in their existing state by both residents and nonresident publics. Our agencies, in cooperation, have spent over two decades attempting to restore watershed and habitat function throughout this area to support an extremely diverse and unique assemblage of wildlife species. The fragile nature of habitats in this area and poor soil stability suggest impacts related to energy development are incompatible with management objectives in the Rock Springs RMP and wildlife populations.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has recently become aware of large-scale plans to develop energy resources throughout the LME. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has significant wildlife, wildlife habitat, wildlife-related recreation, and watershed function concerns in this area. Consequently, we oppose current plans for development and strongly encourage BLM to proactively reduce expected cumulative impacts of these developments on wildlife populations through withdrawal of current and future energy lease sales within this area, including the August 2008 leases mentioned above. This step will modestly lessen expected impacts to wildlife from current development plans, maintain some habitat function, and is a responsible acknowledgement of significant wildlife resource values. At a minimum, we recommend any additional leases within the LME have an NSO stipulation attached to them to protect wildlife habitat.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your consideration.

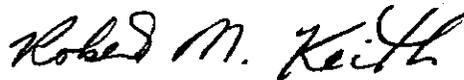
Respectfully,



Mark Zornes,
Wildlife Management Coordinator, Green River Region
Wyoming Game and Fish Department



Kevin Spence,
Habitat Biologist, Green River Region
Wyoming Game and Fish Department



Robb Keith,
Regional Fish Supervisor, Green River Region
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Cc: Emmerich, Stelter, Lockwood, DeCecco, Rudd, Fowden