

Date: November 12, 2008

Don Simpson, Acting State Director
Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
2008 NOV 17 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Re: Protest of Dec. 2, 2008 Competitive Oil and Gas Sale

Protest of 14 parcels. Specific parcels protested include: Parcels WY-0812-177, WY-0812-178, WY-0812-179, WY-0812-180, WY-0812-181, WY-0812-182, WY-0812-183, WY-0812-186, WY-0812-187, WY-0812-188, WY-0812-189, WY-0812-190, WY-0812-191, and WY-0812-192.

Dear Director Simpson:

I hereby protest the inclusion of the above referenced parcels in the lease sale advertised by the Bureau of Land Management of October 17, 2008. I request the above parcels be withdrawn from sale because they: 1) will destroy forever the beauty of the Wyoming open spaces, and 2) forever destroy the scenic habitat for Wyoming's wildlife.

Director Simpson, in your position you have an obligation to do what is right for the people of Wyoming and the future of Wyoming. Wyoming has a beauty and serenity that cannot be found in the rest of the country. Wyoming has its own culture with a people proud of who they are, where they've chosen to make their home, and who will protect what is of value to them at all costs. By allowing these 14 parcels – or ANY parcels of land – on Little Mountain, you will single-handedly be destroying a culture, a heritage, and one of our country's remaining treasures.

Director Simpson, have you been to Little Mountain? Have you stood at the top of the mountain and looked all around? Have you ever witnessed the breath-taking beauty of the Flaming Gorge below and mountain ranges in the background? Have you ever camped or hiked with your children or grandchildren or friends on that mountain? Have you ever sat in the sun at the top of Little Mountain and listened to the peacefulness? Have you ever hiked on Little Mountain and come upon a herd of elk? If not, try it sometime.

Sadly, decisions our country are now driven by greed and corruption. Oil-field companies from out-of-state have more right to our land than do the people who live and work here. Pinedale is a prime example. The once quaint and inviting Western town of Pinedale is no longer. Oil and gas have destroyed the ambience and innocence of Pinedale that will never ever return. That said, it's common knowledge that Sweetwater County is not the most appealing space in the state, so please, for heaven's sake, don't take the treasures we do have away from us.

Director Simpson, why are the voices of the oil-field CEOs more important to you than the people's voices? In the brochure, "Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development: Recommendations for Responsible Oil and Gas Development", the last page provides a very disturbing statistic. To quote, in 2007 "Despite receiving more than 75,000 comments, 98

percent of which objected to the BLMs proposal, the BLM moves forward with its plan to lease all lands in the Roan Plateau planning area in Colorado". I don't understand this. Though obviously we aren't talking about Colorado, the principal is the same. Why don't the leaders of the BLM listen? Is it greed? Are the leaders being bought and blackmailed? Are the leaders lacking in morals and ethics? What's the problem? Aren't the people of Wyoming (and Colorado in this quote) paying the leaders' salaries? Why does this happen?

In conclusion, I know you have a difficult decision to make. However, making the right decision for the people of Sweetwater County will always pay off. There is no doubt that the intelligence exists to create new sources of energy that won't deplete the remaining treasures we have. The problem is that the oil field and gas company executives and government leaders are suppressing that intelligence to pad their pockets. If you stand tall, stand up to the corruption, stand up for what is right, it may finally force others to do the right thing. You have a chance to be known in the Wyoming – and even the country's – history books as the man who saved Wyoming and the country. Or, you can be the man who destroyed it all. You have to be the one to look your children and grandchildren, and the people of Sweetwater County, in the eye. The choice is yours.

Respectfully,



Kristy Nielson
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307-382-6136
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copy to: Governor Dave Freudenthal
BLM – Rock Springs Field Office
Wyoming Game & Fish Department & Commission
Senator Barraso's Field Representative, Pati Smith
Wyoming State Representatives and Senators – local
Sweetwater County Commission

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Dear Director Simpson:

I hereby protest the inclusion of the above referenced parcels in the lease sale advertised by the Bureau of Land Management of October 17, 2008. I request the above parcels be withdrawn from sale because they: 1) are a source of recreation and sport for Wyoming residents and visitors, and 2) are the home to many species of wildlife.

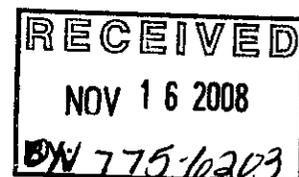
The parcels of land specified above, and ALL of Little Mountain, are priceless treasures in Sweetwater County. Little Mountain provides a source of recreation and activity like no other in this area. If Little Mountain succumbs to oil and gas wells, its value is gone forever.

I have to ask you, Director Simpson, if you've ever been to Little Mountain? Have you seen the breathtaking views of the Flaming Gorge below? Have you camped or hiked or hunted there? Have you ever taken visitors there to show off what we have in Wyoming that no others have? Before you make a decision that could destroy these lands for eternity, we'll be happy to show you around. We all know that Sweetwater County doesn't have the appeal of Jackson, so please don't take the best thing we have away from us.

I also have to ask you why the BLM doesn't heed the advice of the people it serves? Why did the BLM overrule the 73,000 people in Colorado regarding the Roan Plateau planning area? Is it greed? Corruption? Something sounds very fishy. Also sounds like the Bush administration is playing dirty pool...they're just plain dirty.

In closing, as someone else in this community said, you have to be the one to live with your decision. If you let the money-hungry oil and gas companies take over all of our land, you'll be the guy in the history books that will be known as the person who destroyed Wyoming. Or, you could be the "good guy" who saved what Wyoming is and what it stands for. You have to be the one to look people in the eye. We'll see if you do the right thing.

Respectfully,
Mitch Nielson
Mitch Nielson



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