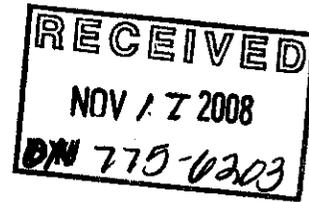


November 16, 2008

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



RE: Protest of Dec. 2, 2008 Competitive Oil and Gas Sale  
Protest of 14 parcels: Specific parcels protested include:

WY-0812-177	WY-0812-182	WY-0812-189
WY-0812-178	WY-0812-183	WY-0812-190
WY-0812-179	WY-0812-186	WY-0812-191
WY-0812-180	WY-0812-187	WY-0812-192
WY-0812-181	WY-0812-188	

Dear Director Simpson:

I am writing this letter to request that the above parcels in the lease sale advertised by the BLM on 10/17/2008, be withdrawn from sale, or have "no surface occupancy" stipulated up front before the leases are sold.

I understand that in the Green River Resource Management Plan approved in 1997 that:

1. The area where these parcels are located were identified with no stipulations and were available for lease. I
2. That oil & gas companies or others have the right to request these parcels be auctioned for lease.
3. That the Red Creek area was set aside where no leases were to be allowed.
4. That the Current Creek area was established for lease with "no surface occupancy" stipulations.
5. The Little Mountain area was identified by the RMP as a highly significant resource area worthy of protection.

I also believe the following:

1. The cultural value of keeping these tracts pristine far outweighs the value of their unmitigated development. The area where these parcels exist include critical habitat to sustain the native elk, deer, antelope, sage grouse and many other indigenous species. The big game herds are particularly valuable to Wyoming, to Wyomingites, and to the general population of the country as a whole. This area is sought by sportsmen in Wyoming as one of the best opportunities in the state. Elk area 31 and area 102 for deer are among the very hardest areas to draw in the state, thus one of the best opportunities for seeing the most and largest number of animals.
2. The monetary value of the wildlife resources I believe far outweighs the cost of the oil and gas leases. Because the wildlife resources are truly self sustaining, their monetary value provides income year after year. Making a quick calculation of just the value of resident big

game permits is approximately \$25,000/yr. For an "infinite" period of time, this certainly is more than the price the oil and gas companies will pay for the leases. Especially if the leases go for the minimum of \$2.00/acre! For 18,050 acres available in this lease, the value of the lease at minimum is \$36,100. Certainly the monetary value of the wildlife far out weights the one time value of the leases and the one time additional cost of directional drilling to recover the resources. It is hard to understand that the Little Mountain area, is in a sense, up for auction at the starting price of \$2.00/acre! In my mind, Little Mountain is priceless, the volume of oil and gas resource available in these leases there value to Wyoming is miniscule.

3. Currently there is a glut of natural gas production in Wyoming. Certainly, with the thousands of wells already drilled in the last few years, and the existing leases purchased yet to be developed, there needs to be a better balance struck between our State's natural treasures and the permanent changes (roads, well pads, pipelines, waste pits, habitat fragmentation, and poaching, etc ) to these scenic and wild places that oil and gas development bring. Little Mountain is certainly one of the most treasured locations in the state.

4. A lot has changed since the GRRMP was completed I 1997. The Energy Policy and Conservation Act was re-authorized, President Bushes executive order to expedite and accelerate energy projects on public land, Energy Policy Act exempts certain oil and gas projects from portions of the clean water act, safe drinking water act, and the resource conservation recovery act. A huge amount of Wyoming has been leased since 1997, a figure of 12 million acres of leases was the figure indicated at a recent pubic meeting. Oil and gas companies already have years of leases to develop. Why dump millions of acres of leases in such a short period of time? This tends to create large boom and bust cycles which by themselves create unstable communities and further impacts on the land and its wildlife.

5. If allowed, oil & gas development imposes permanent disfiguration of the land. Even with the best intensions and reclamation efforts, mankind cannot match millions of years of evolution and what God and nature has provided. We do have a choice. Oil and gas development at the least monitory extraction cost, or oil and gas extraction still at economically efficient costs, but in ways that protect our most important public scenic and wildlife resources as well. The difference is greed. The last time you heard, how many billions in net profit were oil companies making, and how many hundreds of millions of dollars were top executives getting in just bonuses?. If these leases are allowed to go to auction, and go to action w/o surface occupancy stipulations, permanent loss to our country will occur. If these leases are removed from auction, nothing permanent occurs. The oil and gas resource stays in the ground, the leases can be requested again in the future, there are no permanent consequences. At a recent public meeting, it was stated that oil and gas companies are required to pay a reclamation bond of \$10/lease or \$25,000 for all their leases in the state, or \$150,000 for all their leases in several states. If this is true, do you really think any substantial reclamation will be completed? Why not base company's future ability to obtain new leases based upon their reclamation record of the leases they have held in the past?

6. I have not heard any organization in favor of allowing these leases to go to auction. Not our Governor, not the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., certainly no wildlife conservation organization, and I find it hard to believe that BLM personnel are actually in favor of it. I am

sure the oil and gas interests are for it. Looking at maps of how much of Wyoming is already leased, it gives you the impression that oil and gas interests already have more leases than can possibly be drilled in the next several decades.

7. For years, conservation organizations have spent much effort and money (perhaps as much as \$2,000,000) enhancing the habitat in the Little Mountain and Current Creek area. Allowing these leases, or these leases without NSO stipulations, would be a direct slap in the face of all those who participated in those conservation activities.

**Summary**

There is a growing animosity between conservationists, and the BLM/oil and gas industry in Wyoming. Allowing this auction to continue as requested by industry will only fuel the flames. Politics in the last eight years have dictated how and how fast the BLM responds to oil and gas requests. Many believe that much of the blame or fame of the politics involved have been and will be laid ultimately at the footsteps of Dick Cheney, due to his positions and association with the oil and gas industry, and the perception that many of the directives to the BLM for opening up oil and gas leasing came from his direction. But more importantly, he was one of Wyoming's congressmen for 10 years!. Being a sportsman, and also spending so much time in Wyoming, he must know how important keeping the Little Mountain area as pristine as possible is to his home State!. Our Vice President will not take a phone call from me, but he will from you. If you have any doubts about weather the leases of Little Mountain should go up for auction, and that development of Little Mountain was really the intended result of the directives of the present administration to the BLM, I would urge you to make that or a similar phone call. Please.

Oil and gas development and reclamation is compatible with multiple use of federal land in many locations in Wyoming. Oil and gas development on Little Mountain is not. It really is that simple. In my mind, the whole discussion boils down to the word greed. If we as citizens of Wyoming and the United States, and of the world value the one time minimal cost of directional drilling more than the priceless and timeless value of Little Mountain and its wildlife, surely we have lost our way.

Respectfully,

*Brian K. Strampe, P.E.*

Brian K. Strampe, PE  
 Wk: 307-872-2426  
 Hm: 307-874-8950  
 302 Evans Dr.  
 Green River, WY 82935

cc: Governor Dave Freudenthal  
 BLM – Rock Springs Field Office  
 Wyoming Game & Fish Department & Commission  
 Senator Barrasso's Field Representative, Pati Smith  
 Wyoming State Representatives and Senators – local  
 Sweetwater County Commission