



Southwest Wyoming Rehabilitation Center
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FAX FACE SHEET w/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

Date: 11-14-08 From: LORRIE TRAVIS
To: Don Simpson Acting State Director

FAX phone #: 1-307-775-6203 Number of Pages:

RE: Protesting Lease Sale Little Mtn Area

Comments:

If checked - please complete the following:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF FAXED INFORMATION:

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Fax to: 307-362-4615 Attention: Rehabilitation Department

FAX RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

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RECEIVED
NOV 14 2008
BY 775-6203

Date 11/13/08

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: 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 on October 17, 2008. I request the above parcels be withdrawn from sale because they: 1) We feel this area has not had enough time to fully recover and continues to be fragile from the fires of 2000. This area also offers a great deal of history and is worth preserving, as a resource for generations to come. 2) The potential loss of wildlife and habitat in this area is a great concern because the loss of habitat and wildlife is happening in the Jonah Field near Pinedale WY.

We have a few concerns that we would like to express about the potential sale of 18,000 acres in the Little Mountain area.

The roads on off 191 south and in the Little Mountain area are in poor shape as well as the road through Big Fire Hole canyon. During the 1970 the road through Big Fire Road Canyon provided travelers with a roller coaster ride. It hasn't been to many years that the road beds were repaired then resurfaced. Culverts were put in to allow for drainage to prevent the road bed from being washed away. We have been noticing the road is beginning to offer the roller coaster ride again. The county roads are in the worst shape we have ever seen around the Little Mountain area. We are concerned because we travel down to the Little Mountain area on a weekly basis. Are the roads being damaged from the heavy equipment being transported to and from the drilling sites?

These roads are the same ones used to advertise the scenic Flaming Gorge tour loop. Approximately 5 years ago off the scenic Flaming Gorge tour loop visitors were treated to the placement of concrete markers depicting the Historic Cherokee Trail that came through Southwest Wyoming. This trail crosses Little Mountain running parallel to both Sage Creek and Current Creek and not too far from the present Devon drilling rig. The rig sits a top of the Current Creek Ranch. This drainage empties into the Flaming Gorge. A few miles south of the Cherokee Trail visitors are able to view a small isolated out cropping of rocks that hide a historic petroglyphs site. The entire Little Mountain area offers a history lesson of our past. In this same area there are Native American graves, graves of homesteaders, and stories that identify the troubles between the sheep rancher and cattlemen. When

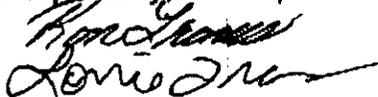
family members come to Rock Springs for a visit, the Little Mountain area, and the history it holds is one of the places we will travel to first. Whether we fish at Flaming Gorge, search for the sage chicken lek, or drive through the area in search of the wildlife that is so abundant in the area.

In the summer time our grandchildren from California look forward to going out to the Little Mountain area. This area is truly a gem for Sweetwater County in both history and beauty. All you have to do is drive south of Rock Springs for one hour and you will be treated to the rugged beauty that it holds.

In 2000 the worst fire ever for this area happened. Our family was able to document the loss of habitat that occurred by the pictures we took throughout the week. We watched as if the entire east and west sides of Little Mountain were being destroyed by the fire. Although, this area was heavily damaged we see the grasses slowly returning. This area will never really be as it was within our life time. Juniper stands were destroyed and thousands of acres of habitat were lost.

We believe that this area is too fragile to consider the sale of 18,000 acres of Land in the Little Mountain area. Both the east and west sides of Little Mountain have been devastated by the fires. The last resource management plan was completed in 1997 approximately three years before the fires burned. We believe that all the Little Mountain area needs to be reevaluated and any and all sales be stopped permanently. If a new resource management plan were to be developed many of these concerns would need to be reconsidered. This area offers so much whether you are a history buff, or sportsman, angler, hiker, or photographer, etc.

Respectfully,



Ron & Lorrie Travis
3664 Wilson Way
Rock Springs, WY 82901

copy to: ** Governor Dave Freudenthal
BLM – Rock Springs Field Office
Wyoming Game & Fish Department & Commission
Wyoming State Representatives and Senators
Sweetwater County Commission