

485 Rhode Island Place
Green River, WY 82935
September 11, 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: 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 I request the above parcels be withdrawn because they are especially scenic and comprise critical wildlife habitat.

Little Mountain is a special area to all of us in Sweetwater County. It would be a shame for it to become an industrialized landscape marred by oil and gas wells. I have hunted on Little Mountain; it was the place where I shot my first blue grouse many years ago. People come here from all over the country to hunt trophy elk and deer. It is so popular your odds of drawing an elk tag on Little Mountain are miniscule. No one would ever bother to travel here to hunt if we devote it to oil and gas development, and we would lose an important economic and natural resource. There are hundreds of thousands of desert sagebrush acres around Sweetwater County that are better suited for oil and gas development. Of course we all need oil and gas, but we don't have to destroy our most pristine areas to accomplish that.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Governor Freudenthal, and the citizens of this region all agree this area should be off-limits to oil and gas development. There are few other untouched forested lands around Sweetwater County. I urgently request the above parcels be withdrawn from the sale.

Respectfully,

Ron Harper
Ron Harper

Copy to: Governor Dave Freudenthal
BLM-Rock Springs Office
Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Commission
Senator Barasso's Field Office
Wyoming State Representatives and Senators-local
Sweetwater County Commission

