

11.11.2008

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 DECEMBER 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 would hereby like to 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 I request the above parcels be withdrawn from sale for the following reasons:

*I'm sure that you have received a ton of letters on this subject, and I more or less agree with what everyone else has said about hunting and so forth, but I have a unique perspective and will take up your time with this one issue, the pollution of Luminosity. Several times during meteor showers I have camped out in the dark areas on and near Little Mountain, which is a place with a minimum amount of artificial lighting, thus making it ideal for viewing a dark night sky. Near a town, or, as in the possible future case here, drilling rigs outrageously illuminating the night sky, thus blotting out what is my birthright as a critter to enjoy. Across our nation and around the world, nighttime darkness is harder and harder to find, though a wave of interest is forming.*

*Night flying birds and bats are also adversely affected by night lighting. I would refer you to the November, 2008 issue of National Geographic, and the cover article entitled "The End of Night: Why We Need Darkness". I worked for Halliburton for a short time. In that time I sometimes worked on well pads through the absurd hours of the night. This was not good for the health, safety, or attitude of anyone on the site. Day work would have been better in every way. While there I occasionally looked around and noticed that though we were well lit up where we were working, several of the flood lights were carelessly and randomly pointing off into space and doing no one at the site any good at all. I came to view this as the profligate, macho, and brainless waste that is so typical of the oil and gas industry. If drilling is to be allowed near Little Mountain, it should certainly be a requirement that no work after dark should be allowed: Lights Out! This would help us to protect this more and more uncommon resource of a dark sky, and provide workers with a safer environment, and maybe make them happier, too.*

Respectfully,



Thomas R. Gagnon  
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copy to: Governor Dave Freudenthal

**BLM - Rock Springs Field Office  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Commission  
Senator John Barrasso's Field Representative, Pati Smith  
Wyoming State Representatives and Senators - local  
Sweetwater County Commission**