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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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RECEIVED
CHEYNNE, WYOMING

November 12, 2008

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

Re: Protest of December 2, 2008 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease 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, WY-0812-192.

Dear Director Simpson:

I hearby protest the inclusion of the above listed parcels in the lease sale advertised by the Bureau of Land Management on October 17, 2008. I request that the parcels listed above be withdrawn from sale for the reasons cited below.

These parcels are in an area commonly known as Little Mountain. This area is a vital part of the Sweetwater County and northern Utah wildlife range. It is a significant part of the Green River and Flaming Gorge Reservoir watershed. The Little Mountain area is of special value as one of the southwestern Wyoming's prime recreation sites. I believe that the long-term economic value of the Little Mountain area from sustained hunting, fishing, recreation and tourism far exceeds the short-term value of oil and gas extraction. The esthetic quality of Little Mountain is incomparable in southwestern Wyoming.

I, personally, have a vested interest in the Little Mountain area. I have devoted many hours and a considerable expense in assisting the Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel, along with BLM and Forest service personnel, in restoring and improving wildlife and fisheries habitat on Little Mountain. This area is a prime habitat for the Colorado River Cutthroat trout, a sensitive species. The above agencies have spent a considerable sum of money to restore and protect habitat for this species of trout as well as elk, deer, raptors and other wildlife.

Opening the Little Mountain area to the industrial activity related to oil and gas development will have a detrimental effect on this work due to increased dust, noise, reduced air quality,

siltation of streams from run-off and other activities. The potential for damage to the streams and the Green River due to oil and/or contaminated water spills from improperly monitored production operations is extreme.

I recently toured a drill site on the south end of Little Mountain and found the following environmental hazards: Reserve pit had overflowed its liner

Insufficient freeboard for pit fluids.
Trash in reserve pit.
Dark film w/sheen on pit water.
Reserve pit not completely fenced to exclude wildlife or cattle.
Trash scattered about and blown off location.
Discolored fluids drained on location.
Well head valves not secured.

While these discrepancies were being observed deer and raptors were about the location.

The above-cited hazards show a callus disregard by the lessee for environmental quality and public health and safety dispite the best efforts of the local BLM office to ensure compliance. Pictures and detail of the above discrepancies are being made available to the local BLM office.

Considering the above mentioned concerns I must respectfully insist that these parcels be withdrawn form sale.

Respectfully submitted;

Lee Splett

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