DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
2008 NOV 17 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

November 10, 2008

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

Re: Protest of Dec. 2, 2008 Competitive Oil & Gas Sale including 14 specific parcels protested: 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 am writing this letter 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 I request the above parcels be withdrawn from the sale. Reasons for the requested withdrawal include the following:

I have observed a map of the listed parcels, and The Little Mountain area, where most of these leases lie, is a very important area for public outdoor recreation in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. Hunting, fishing, camping, and scenic enjoyment are some of the many activities enjoyed by visitors to the area. The area lies close to, and includes a portion of the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area which can show as much as two million visitor days use per year, mainly in pursuit of outdoor recreation focusing on scenery and wildlife enjoyment.

Over the past twenty years, many habitat restoration projects have been conducted in the area. These include projects funded by private groups such as Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, and Bowhunters of Wyoming, as well as public funding from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and your own agency, the Bureau of Land Management. These projects have benefited a wide variety of wildlife species. Aspen treatments have benefited mule deer and elk. The proposed lease parcels overlap some crucial ranges for pronghorn, mule deer, and elk. Riparian and watershed areas have been enhanced to benefit the Colorado River cutthroat trout, a highly sensitive fish species. Sage Grouse, another sensitive species, thrive in many areas around Little Mountain. The possibility of increased development in and around these projects could cause degradation of valuable habitat enhancements.

Much of the area is already leased, and as can be noted in other areas of southwestern Wyoming, namely the Pinedale Anticline and Jonah Field developments, energy development activities that could occur in the Little Mountain area can cause increased human, vehicle, and construction activities, wildlife and recreational conflicts, and impacts to water and air quality. Responsible development of existing leases should be encouraged prior to leasing more of the area.

I believe the suspension of the offering of these specific parcels is warranted, and your attention to these comments is appreciated.

Respectfully,

Pam Kerr

Pam Kerr
570 Easy St.
Green River, WY 82935

Cc: Senator John Barrasso Field Office