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

11.11.2008

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

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 I request the above parcels be withdrawn from sale for the following reasons:

1. It is irresponsible.

1a. The greater Little Mountain Area has long been the recreational hot spot for not only Sweetwater County residents, but for many folks across Wyoming and throughout the Rocky Mountain region. The outdoor recreation opportunities this area affords are priceless. From hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, biking, wildlife viewing and an abundant of other outdoor activities, this area is extremely valuable to the heritage that Wyoming residents pride themselves on. The impact of the proposed energy developments would have irreversible affects that would prove detrimental to not only the recreational opportunities, but to the many species of wildlife that are native to this area. Some of the species this development would affect include deer, elk, and antelope, all of which are managed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as Special Management Hunt Areas, with Limited Quota tags issued annually. This greater Little Mountain Area is truly one of the most desired hunting areas in the entire State of Wyoming, for residents and non-residents alike. It is extremely disheartening to think that a pristine landscape such as this, with the vital habitat resources it has, could be permanently scarred by increased human activity through energy development. It goes without saying that the effects of this proposal would negatively influence the wildlife and the recreational opportunities this area currently offers.

2. There must be some limitations.

2a. I understand that it is a difficult task assigned to the Bureau of Land Management in managing the "Public's Land" especially in a nation such as ours which was founded and built on free trade and capitalism. The pressures and the dollars at stake for the proposed development of the greater Little Mountain Area is probably more than I can realistically fathom. From an office 2,000 miles away in the heart of our nations' capital, to the energy developers who stand to profit substantially, I must admit, I am not at all surprised at this proposal. It is the day and age that we live in and it is all around us. We live in a society that thrives on greed and instant gratification. I may not have a solid understanding of "All" the politics involved, but I do know the importance of this area is great enough that many of us in Southwest Wyoming refer to it as "our own backyard". Whether it is the hope of being fortunate enough to draw one of the premiere hunting permits issued annually, or being ten years old and learning how to tie a bowline on your first overnight Boy Scout outing, this area is used by many, for all the right reasons. Areas like this provide the legacy that makes living in the West like no other place in these great United States of America. The effects of this proposal, if approved, will be felt for many years to come. Felt so much, that I can confidently say, things would never be the same. It is our responsibility to be

good stewards of the land and conserve appropriately for future generations. We are charged with this duty and held accountable accordingly. This is not the right place for proposed oil and gas development. Not today. I urge you to remove these above mentioned parcels from the December 2, 2008 Competitive Oil and Gas Sale.

Respectfully,

Joshua W.D. Coursey
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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