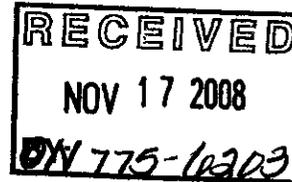


11.11.2008

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 I request the above parcels be withdrawn from sale for the following reasons: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. Common Sense Responsibility & Stewardship

The Little Mountain area of southwestern Wyoming is the crown jewel in this high desert portion of the state. Sweetwater County alone has close to 11,000 square miles of land, there are plenty of existing leases within the County, why exploit Little Mountain? People from this area of Wyoming hold the Little Mountain ecosystem in high regard, roots run deep from many generations, people respect this area for its wildlife diversity, excellent hunting opportunities and overall beauty of the area. I do not want to see drill rigs, well heads and new gas field access roads in this pristine environment, the thought of it makes me sick. I ask that the BLM use some common sense here, there is plenty of land in Wyoming that is suitable for exploitation by oil and gas companies. This is absolutely not one of them.

2. Land Value

The Little Mountain area is PRICELESS. There is not a dollar figure that can be placed on this area, regardless of what oil and gas operators are willing to spend for the lease rights. The odds of drawing a hunting permit for the chance to hunt this area are close to lottery odds. People expect, and rightly so, that if they do obtain the chance to hunt this area that it will be a high quality experience and worth the wait. If this area is allowed to be drilled that high quality experience is gone. Not only gone for our generation but the irreparable scars will haunt all future generations as well. Many NGO groups and individuals have spent millions of dollars and countless volunteer hours on habitat projects to not only sustain the area, but to enhance it. All this will be for naught if this area is allowed to be exploited. There are plenty of places in Wyoming that oil and gas extraction is allowable, this is absolutely not one of them. Little Mountain is priceless.

Respectfully,

Tory L. Thomas  
2607 Westridge Drive  
Rock Springs, WY 82901

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(307)350-4793 Cell  
tskkt@msn.com

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**