



Amy Kleiner-Roberts
Director of Government Affairs
Outdoor Industry Association
4909 Pearl East Circle, Ste. 200
Boulder, CO 80301
(303) 327-3511

December 3, 2008

Selma Sierra -State Director
Utah State Director, Bureau of Land Management
440 West 200 South, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155

*Re: Protest of Bureau of Land Management's Notice of
Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale to Be Held on
December 19, 2008*

Greetings,

In accordance with 43 C.F.R. 3120.1-3, the undersigned
businesses and organizations hereby timely protest the
December 19, 2008, offering, in Salt Lake City, Utah, of the
following parcels involving public lands in Utah.

RCHES AREA

Wilderness Characteristics
Coal Canyon: 187, 210, 211
Diamond Canyon: 210-212
Dome Plateau: 242-244

Citizens' Wilderness Proposals
Diamond Canyon: 209-212
Dome Plateau: 242-244

CANYONLANDS AREA

Wilderness Characteristics
Hatch-Lockhart-Hart: 201-204
Hatch Wash: 201

Citizens' Wilderness Proposals
Hatch-Lockhart-Hart: 201-208, 231

Other Areas

Canyon Rims Recreation Area: 202-208, 231

DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT AREA

Wilderness Characteristics, Proposed

Daniels Canyon: 144

Citizens' Wilderness Proposals

Moonshine Draw: 144

Other Areas

Adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument: 101, 130, 131

GREEN RIVER

Wilderness Characteristics

Desolation Canyon: 159

Labyrinth Canyon: 163, 176, 177

Citizens' Wilderness Proposals

Desolation Canyon: 155

Duma Point: 167, 168, 170, 171

Labyrinth Canyon: 163, 175-177

PRICE-EAST

Wilderness Characteristics, Proposed Final

Desolation Canyon: 335, 337-343, 345, 355

Jack Canyon: 349

ACECs, Proposed Final:

Nine Mile: 83, 86-87, 327-330, 332-341, 343, 345

Citizens' Wilderness Proposals

Desbrough Canyon: 86, 87, 335-338

Desolation Canyon: 86-87, 337-343, 345, 349, 355

WHITE RIVER AREA

Wilderness Characteristics,

Cripple Cowboy: 295

Lower Bitter Creek: 112

White River: 106, 109-111, 136, 137

Wilderness Characteristics, Proposed Final

White River: 106, 109, 110

Citizens' Wilderness Proposals

Bitter Creek: 295

Dragon Canyon: 158

Lower Bitter Creek: 112

Sunday School Canyon: 90, 91, 93, 94, 96, 97

White River: 106, 109-111, 136, 137

The parcels identified in this protest are located in areas which are primary recreation destinations for millions of Americans. These BLM lands are a major driver behind our nation's recreation economy and the outdoor industry is very concerned that the federal policies and priorities regarding consumptive and non-consumptive use of our public lands are out of balance. Recreation currently contributes \$5.8 billion to Utah's economy, supports 65,000 jobs across the state, generates nearly \$300 million in annual state tax revenues and produces \$4 billion annually in retail sales and services across Utah. Recreation accounts for 5 percent of Utah's gross state product. We urge you to more carefully consider the recreational economic value of healthy public land and incorporate this value into your decision-making process here.

The parcels bordering Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Park and Dinosaur National Monument threaten lands that for many years have received our nation's highest level of protection and are iconic for many Americans. While we appreciate your recent withdrawal of certain parcels, we urge you to pull all of the parcels in the vicinity of the national parks in keeping with the original request of the National Park Service.

We are also very concerned about the proposal to lease parcels along the Colorado River and White River corridors as this will certainly have a negative impact on the recreational experiences of the many visitors to these areas as well as be detrimental to the guides, outfitters and outdoor recreation businesses that depend on these rivers for their livelihoods. It seems evident that whatever short-term economic benefit results from drilling in these areas will be greatly outweighed over the long-term in the economic benefit derived in keeping these areas pristine for recreational use.

Outdoor Industry Association and its member companies have a long history with the state of Utah and the BLM in continuously raising concerns about negative impacts to recreation that will result from energy development in the Desolation Canyon area and to the recreational use of the Green River. Our businesses and livelihoods rely on the remote nature of these stretches of river and their abundance of wildlife, natural quiet, clean air, dark skies and wild qualities. We are seriously concerned that our customers will quickly choose other places to spend their time and money if areas along the Green River corridor are opening to drilling. We fear if the lease sale proceeds with these parcels included, the Desolation Canyon areas

will become just another stretch of river sandwiched between an industrial area and the round-the-clock hum of human development. Gas wells could be placed near the river corridor and within view of the river and earshot of visitors. We are also concerned wells may infringe upon the proposed Wild and Scenic River boundary.

Finally, Outdoor Industry Association and National Outdoor Leadership School filed comments raising fundamental concerns about the Resource Management Plans recently developed for the Moab, Monticello, Price, Vernal and Richfield areas. We believe these RMPs are fundamentally flawed as they do not reflect the socioeconomic impacts of intense resource development and off-road vehicle travel on non-motorized recreation and those businesses that depend on such recreation. This lease sale is based in part on those RMPs and therefore the true cost of leasing lands such as these continues to go unmeasured and unaccounted for in the BLM's decision making process.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

The undersigned businesses and organizations request the following appropriate relief: (1) the withdrawal of the listed protested parcels from the December 19, 2008, Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

This protest is brought by and through the undersigned businesses and organizations. Members and staff of these organizations and businesses reside, work, recreate, or regularly visit the areas to be impacted by the proposed lease sale and therefore have an interest in, and will be affected and impacted by, the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Outdoor Industry Association

Black Diamond Equipment

National Outdoor Leadership School

Catalyst Communications

Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center

Deckers Outdoor Corp.

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