

May 2, 2005

Ms. Sally Wisely
State Director, Utah BLM
324 South State Street Suite 300
P. O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City UT 84145-0155

SUBJECT: Parowan Gap BLM Leases

Dear Ms. Wisely:

I just heard that the BLM is considering leases around the Parowan Gap area for Gas and Oil testing and possible development. As Utah's Poet Laureate, I believe it is my responsibility to represent all of the arts for the state. In this capacity, I do not distinguish between who the artists were or when they created their art. I have visited Parowan Gap many times, and was first introduced to the splendid rock art there by Utah's first Poet Laureate, David Lee, then a resident of Paragonah and long-time Department Chair of Languages and Literature at Southern Utah University.

We both agree that the artwork in the Parowan Gap represents some of the finest rock art anywhere in the region. Personally, I consider Parowan Gap to be an ancient Art Gallery and worthy of the same respect and protection we, as Utahns, would give to any other Art Gallery or Museum. I do not believe that most Utahns would even consider searching for gas and oil in the immediate vicinity of any of our galleries or museums.

Therefore, I must respectfully request that the Bureau of Land Management hold off on granting any such leases until more specific study can be completed on the potential impact to the rock art of the Parowan Gap. Should there be any--and I do mean "any"--negative impact on the artwork at Parowan Gap, then I must, as the state's appointed ambassador for the arts and humanities, argue against such leases.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kenneth W. Brewer
Utah Poet Laureate (2003-2008)

I can be reached at this email address: kwb1941@hotmail.com
or by phone at: 435-752-5494