

# WILD RIVERS EXPEDITIONS

San Juan River Journeys Since 1957

1 May 2006

Gene Terland  
Acting Director  
Utah State BLM  
PO Box 45155  
Salt Lake City, UT 94145-0155

Re: San Juan River Area Lease Permits

Dear Mr. Terland,

I'm reluctantly writing this letter in protest of the proposed San Juan River Area Oil and Gas Lease Permits. We prefer not to have to protest federal actions, but did not become aware of said lease proposal until this week. (In the future, please include Wild Rivers Expeditions on your public distribution of notice for oil and gas leases in the San Juan River watershed.) Our concerns are twofold:

First, the proposed development in parcels 283 and 297 are adjacent to the San Juan River, where our business, Wild Rivers Expeditions, has been conducting commercial river trips since 1957. Oil and gas development in the river corridor would further impair the scenic values along that stretch of river, reducing its value to our customers who would otherwise seek to launch from Montezuma Creek.

Second, drilling in these parcels, and those along primary tributaries to the San Juan, would magnify the potential for rig-related water pollution, such as that which would result from an oil spill. Such pollution, by way of direct deposition into the river, or in transport to the river by spring run off or flash flood, could jeopardize the river's ecology, its value to recreational users, and, again, our business.

Wild Rivers Expeditions has been conducting commercial river trips on the San Juan River since 1957. Our business provides work for over a dozen people in Bluff and our clients—which number in the thousands each year—form a critical revenue base for our business, restaurants, hotels and the tax base. These jobs and revenue are directly dependent on our clients' desire to visit the San Juan River for values that would be threatened by the proposed leases. We are as close to a sustainable business as San Juan County has, and we plan to be here long after the current oil and gas boom has passed. In the interim, we hope you'll consider modifying the proposed lease schedule such that it does not jeopardize the values upon which our company, our employees, the Bluff economy and our clients depend.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you if you wish to do so.

Respectfully,



Taylor McKinnon  
Co-owner, Wild Rivers Expeditions  
PO Box 118 / 101 Main St.  
Bluff, UT 84512  
435.672.2200

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