

## HOW TO WRITE A LEASE PROTEST: Tips to Making it Easy & Effective

**Must be Received by 4:00 pm on Monday, May 18th**

A protest is not hard to write. It can be as short as 1-2 pages! Below are some ideas of what to talk about in your protest. Also, on the back is the format you need to follow when you write your protest. *Thank you for being involved!!*

- Request that specific parcel be removed from the June 2<sup>nd</sup> lease sale.
- The value and worth of the land to you personally.
  - How do you know the land? What is the value of the area to you and your community – recreation/scenic? Hunt, fish, camp, or hike there?
- Perhaps you are concerned about impact to air and water quality or impacts to your future recreational opportunities.
- If possible, details are very helpful to the BLM – specify and justify places for protection and explain the negative consequences of energy development activities in the area. For example:
  - The proposed well pads and construction of associated pipelines and roads, as well as the increase in noise, water and air pollution will independently and cumulatively impact a wide range of species. The increased human activity, from truck traffic to the presence of machinery and workers, will also likely result in wildlife conflicts – ranging from possibly changing movement patterns to poaching.
- Information to consider including in your protest:
  - Not all stretches of Wyoming's landscape have the same value to wildlife – some areas are more important for survival. The proposed lease parcels overlap crucial ranges for mule deer
  - The overall area is prized for elk and deer hunting, playing a vital role in maintaining the state's outdoor heritage and economic diversity. The associated **Hunt Areas** are 112 for antelope, 32 for elk, and 102 for deer – all of which are limited quota and produce high quality animals.
  - A thriving elk herd is found in the Little Mountain area, providing a once-in-a lifetime opportunity for trophy quality bull elk. In fact, a person has only about a 6% chance of drawing an elk license for this area. Energy development in this area would bring new roads, which would reduce cover security for the elk, increase elk vulnerability, and decrease trophy size elk
  - Identified by the BLM's resource management plan as a highly significant resource area worthy of protection, the leasing of this area defies the agency's own management designations.
  - Since 1990, the area has benefited from more than \$2 million in riparian habitat restoration projects funded by various private groups (Trout Unlimited, Bowhunters of Wyoming, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, etc.) and state and federal agencies.
  - The area is already heavily leased, do not lease more! Operators should focus on developing their existing leases responsibly, as is their legal right.

Don't be afraid to tell BLM what is bothering you about the agency's management decisions, in a respectful manner. You don't need to be a wildlife biologist, geologist, or a lawyer to insist that something is wrong. Protecting scenery, recreation, and aesthetic values are among BLM's most important legal duties. BLM State Director can suspend the offering of specific parcels at a lease sale if he believes that the protests are well-grounded ... such as when there is strong public opposition. These are the public's lands and resources – we have a right to participate in decisions in how they are managed.

## Example Format for Protest Letter

Date

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

Re: Protest of June 2, 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Sale

Protest of 1 parcel. Specific parcel protested include: Parcels WY-0906-076

Dear Director Simpson:

I hereby protest the inclusion of the above referenced parcels in the lease sale advertised by the Bureau of Land Management. I request the above parcels be withdrawn from sale because they: 1) \_\_\_\_ and 2) \_\_\_\_.

Your text  
Your text  
Your text

Respectfully,

*Signature*

Your name typed  
Your contact information

copy to: \*\* Governor Dave Freudenthal  
BLM – Rock Springs Field Office  
Wyoming Game & Fish Department & Commission  
Senator Barrasso's Field Representative, Pati Smith  
Wyoming State Representatives and Senators - local  
Sweetwater County Commission

Note that protests must be filed via traditional mail or can be faxed (307-775-6203). BLM will not accept protest sent via email.

**Your letter must be RECEIVED before 4:00 pm on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Send to:**

Bureau of Land Management - Wyoming State Office  
Attention: Don Simpson  
5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, WY 82009

OR send as a fax to 307-775-6203

**\*\* AND send a COPY of your letter to Dwayne Meadows**, copies will get sent to these people to increase pressure to remove this parcel from the auction block!  
707 South 15th, Laramie, WY 82070 OR send an email to [dmeadows@trcp.org](mailto:dmeadows@trcp.org)