

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

Must be Received by Nov. 17th

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 parcels be removed from the December 2nd 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 antelope, elk, and mule deer and includes important riparian/watershed areas for Colorado River cutthroat trout (CRCT). The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has been petitioned 3 times to designate the CRCT as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Partly because of habitat restoration efforts in these watersheds, which would be compromised by development activity, the USFWS has thus far declined to list the species.
 - The 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, 31 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 Acting 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, Acting State Director
Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Re: Protest of Dec. 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 hereby 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 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

Your letter must be RECEIVED before 4:00 pm on Monday, Nov. 17th. Send to:
Bureau of Land Management - Wyoming State Office
Attention: Don Simpson
5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, WY 82009
OR send a fax to 307-775-6203

** If you mail a COPY of your letter to Daly Edmunds, copies will get sent to these people! Box 1806, Laramie, WY 82073 OR send a fax to 307-637-6629