APPENDIX 19A—SUBSTANTIVE PUBLIC COMMENT LETTERS

This appendix includes all comment letters in their entirety that contain substantive information.

NOTE: SPECIFIC NAMES AND ADDRESSES HAVE BEEN REMOVED AT THE REQUEST OF THE COMMENTOR FOR CONFIDENTIALITY PURPOSES.

Jack Morrow Hills Supplemental DEIS Substantive Web Comments

Comment Number 11

First	*Herschel*	***Last Name***	*Hinesley*	***Confidential?***	*n*
Affiliation	*Wyoming Prospectors*				
Address	*PO Box 147*				
Address2	*1408 Main St*				
City	*Relaince*				
State	*Wyoming*				
Zip Code	*82943*				

CATEGORY	*COMMENT*
Other	This area has some unique deposits of gold which to my knowledge has not been determined as to where it originates from. If the area is shut down to mineral activity Im sure this will include gold mining. What will become of the existing claims that are in place already. There is a big portion of the north east corner that have existing claims in it, my claim being one of them, and I wouldnt like to see it shut down.
Heritage Resources Management	I have looked over and read the SDEIS on Jack Morrow Hills and feel that the perferred alternative will be good for all and hope that this is the way that the judgement will go. I am a gold prospector and have a claim and access to other claims in the area. I would hate to see this part of our countries heritage be omitted in history because of this EIS.
Recreation Resources Management	There is a lot of people I know that use this area for gold prospecting. If this area is shut down to mineral exploration it would eliminate this recreational resourse for a lot of peolpe.
Minerals and Alternative Energy	The minerals that concern me is the gold that is in the area. I have a cliam there and wouldnt like it to be shut down because of this study being done. My claim is enjoyed by a lot of different people that belong to the Wyoming Prospectors Association that are small miners and keepers of the land picking up the trash

1

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and beer cans left by some of the peolpe riding thru the area hunting that want to shut this area down to all mineral activity.

Comment Number 18

First	*David*	*Last Name*	*Mildrexler*	*Confidential?*	*n*
Affiliation					
Address	*422 East Pine St*				
Address2					
City	*Missoula*				
State	*Mt*				
Zip Code	*59802*				

CATEGORY	*COMMENT*
Land and Water Resources	Livestock do not belong in this area. I encourage for a buy out of public grazing allotments. This area is not fertile enough to support cattle and sustain a healthy vegetation community. It is bad the cattle and the vegetation. Remove the cattle and restore the land.
Minerals and Alternative Energy	I ask you to consider a no-alternative to mineral development in this area. It may not be worth it at all to allow mineral extraction from this area. I think that the Red Desert Hills should be protected from future leasing.
Recreation Resources Management	Oil development and wells degrade from the the recreational quality and experience. I ask for protection of recreation resources to take precedence over extractive industries.
Travel Management; Access; and	No new road buiding should be allowed. I ask for any projects that require new road building to be dropped. We have scarred our public lands with roads, and the effects have been devastating. Access should be guided by the idea of having as a remote experience as possible. So access will be by foot to many areas. This is better for the natural resources, and is a form of recreation that is ironically becoming more popular and desired, as the areas that provide this experience dwindle.

2

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Special Management Areas	I strongly urge for the protection of the seven areas being studied for wilderness protection to be managed for eventual addition to the wilderness system. Any actions that degrade these areas are not acceptable.
Land and Water Resources	In general, land and water resources should not be degraded by the mineral extraction practices. Especially areas that are particularly sensitive or vulnerable to contanimation or other negative impacts, no mineral development should be allowed.
Land and Water Resources	The Wild Horse population should be given full protection, as all the wildlife should. Understanding the needs of the wild horses and how mineral extraction projects will effect them is a prerequisite. Please fulfill you duty of carefully studying any proposed actions for their impacts on the wild horses before allowing projects to proceed.
Land and Water Resources	Any projects that will degrade water quality should not be allowed.
Land and Water Resources	The wildlife are absolutely more important that mineral resource extraction. Please protect these species, from the migratory herd of antelope, to the rare desert elk population with all of your efforts. Do not allow any mineral development projects to proceed that will harm our wildlife populations. I strongly urge for a clear statement that protection of wildlife and their habitat takes precedence over all mineral development plans.
Land and Water Resources	Vegetation resources should be managed with great respect. I stronlgy encourage for careful consideration of the impacts mineral extraction will have on vegetation interactions. Projects should not be allowed to significantly affect vegeation in any way. All projects should be carefully monitored, if allowed at all.

3

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Comment Number 21

First	*Greg*	*Last Name*	*Hansen*	*Confidential?*	*n*
Affiliation					
Address	*729 Arapahoe*				
Address2					
City	*Thermopolis*				
State	*Wy*				
Zip Code	*82443*				

CATEGORY	*COMMENT*
Recreation Resources Management	To whom it may Concern: It is of my opinion that the Green River RMP Amendment definitely needs to include OHV friendly modifications for the Greater Sand Dunes areas. Back when first introduced, The Green River Resource Management Plan closed the Sand Dunes and Buffalo Humps Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to motorized vehicles. The Sand Dunes and Buffalo Hump Wilderness Study Area's have long been recognized by academia and the public of being unique and valuable lands. Does this mean they should be off limits to OHVs and public use? NO! Proper management is the key! Not closure! From Appendix 2 of GREEN RIVER LAND USE PLAN (S) OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS Western Portion SAND-18–The western portion of the Greater Sand Dunes area is bounded on the east by the Sand Dunes WSA boundary and on the west by the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC boundary. SAND-19–The portion of the area that overlaps the WSAs is closed to OHVs, including over-the-snow vehicles and some mechanized vehicles, to maintain the unique naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities. This area is very similar to the St. Anthony WSA in Eastern Idaho, which is also managed by the BLM. I'm looking for some consistency

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as to how our public lands are being managed!

OHV use is allowed in many Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), including the entire Saint Anthony dunes system and WSA designation does not automatically preclude OHV use either. The mandate to the agency is to preserve the wilderness characteristics of a WSA, and OHV use on ever-shifting sands certainly doesnt permanently alter those characteristics.
All evidence of mans intrusions are erased by these ever-shifting sands within a matter of minutes. Excluding over-the-snow vehicles is absolutely ludicrous, as once the snow melts, there is no evidence left behind.

I hold the BLM responsible for PROPERLY managing my public lands, NOT closure!
I would highly recommend this be investigated and changes made accordingly, as to open these closed areas for public OHV use in this amendment.

Sincerely,

Greg Hansen
Thermopolis, Wyoming

Comment Number 22

First	*Jason*	***Last Name***	*Wirth*	***Confidential?***	*n*
Affiliation					
Address	*231 Nord Ave*				
Address2					
City	*Chico*				
State	*CA*				
Zip Code	*959288*				

CATEGORY	***COMMENT***
Recreation Resources Management	To Whom it may concern: My name is Jason Wirth and Im the parts manager at Chico Honda Motorcycles in Califomia. It has come to our attention that

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there are lands currently closed to OHV use and the BLM may close more. Proper managment of the land and resources of Utah is vital to the growth of the tourism and Off road community. In recent years off-roaders have become vigilant in enviornmental issues, learning to respect and leave nature as untouched as reasonably possible. Californias BLM is currently facing more than one lawsuit brought by OHV users and businesses that they support. These lawsuits charge mis-managment and premature closure of land for reasons that hold to legal weight. These closures have prompted familys to vacation and camp in other places costing the California economy an enormous amount of money. We hope that the Utah BLM will make an effort to work closely with all individuals involved and make land decisions based on the masses and true enviornmental issues, as oppossed to scare tactics and misinformation often used to close the publics land.

Sincerely
Jason P. Wirth
Chico, CA

Comment Number 24

First	*Paul*	***Last Name***	*Giovale*	***Confidential?***	*n*
Affiliation					
Address	*433 M Street*				
Address2					
City	*Rock Springs*				
State	*Wyoming*				
Zip Code	*82901*				

CATEGORY	***COMMENT***
Recreation Resources Management	I wish to voice my concern of the closed portions of the sand dunes. I feel that a study needs to be done to validate the closer. I along with many others feel that the killpecker sand dune area is a great

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resource and could be a great draw for tourism for the area. I travel many times a year to other sand dune areas to enjoy the outdoors, and spend time with my family.

I ride atvs and do so responsibly. I and my family feel that there needs to be a voice for the recreationalist in the area. I feel all too many times that our rights to enjoy public land gets trampled on.

I dont know all the ins and outs of the reasoning for the closures, however if you would like to send me more information on it that would be great. My address is included.

I am glad to hear that no more of the land will be closed, however I would like to see more of the sand dunes opened up to ohv use.

I appreciate your time and if I can be of any help please contact me.

thanks
Paul

Comment Number 25

First	*Phillip*	***Last Name***	*Jacques*	***Confidential?***	*n*
Affiliation					
Address	*3950 Goodpasture lp*				
Address2	*#C131*				
City	*Eugene*				
State	*Or*				
Zip Code	*97401*				

CATEGORY

Recreation Resources Management

COMMENT

I have recently become aware of the green river RMP amendment that you are considering in you state for the purpose of reviewing restrictions on the sand dune area located in the south west corner of Wyoming. I feel as though this is a great opportunity for recreational activities in your state and could

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increase commerce for the merchants in the local area. Many large sand dune areas in other states including Oregon, California, Arizona, and others operate recreational dune areas for off highway vehicles. These events attract a large amout of tourism and some small economies thrive on this business. Most of these areas that require maintainence are cared for by local OHV clubs with agreements with the local BLM. Costs for operating such areas could not be much more than the cost of enforcing the closure of these public lands. I encourage you to take this opportunity to consider the impact on the residents of Wyoming and the tourism that the use of this area will provide.

Thank you for your consideration
Phillip L Jacques

Comment Number 26

First	*Mark*	*Last Name*	*Beaty*	*Confidential?*	*n*
Affiliation					
Address	*9535 Timber River*				
Address2					
City	*Elk Grove*				
State	*CA*				
Zip Code	*95624*				

CATEGORY	*COMMENT*
Recreation Resources Management	RE: Jack Morrow Hills coordinated activity plan / Green River RMP amendment

To Whom It May Concern:

It is of my opinion that the Green River RMP Amendment definitely needs to include OHV friendly modifications for the Greater Sand Dunes areas.
Back when first introduced, The Green River Resource Management Plan closed the Sand

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Dunes and Buffalo Humps Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to motorized vehicles. The Sand Dunes and Buffalo Hump Wilderness Study Area's have long been recognized by academia and the public of being unique and valuable lands. Does this mean they should be off limits to OHVs and public use? NO! Proper management is the key! Not closure!

From Appendix 2 of GREEN RIVER LAND USE PLAN (S) OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

Western Portion
SAND-18–The western portion of the Greater Sand Dunes area is bounded on the east by the Sand Dunes WSA boundary and on the west by the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC boundary.

SAND-19–The portion of the area that overlaps the WSAs is closed to OHVs, including over-the-snow vehicles and some mechanized vehicles, to maintain the unique naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities.

This area is very similar to the St. Anthony WSA in Eastern Idaho, which is also managed by the BLM. I'm looking for some consistency as to how our public lands are being managed!

OHV use is allowed in many Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), including the entire Saint Anthony dunes system and WSA designation does not automatically preclude OHV use either. The mandate to the agency is to preserve the wilderness characteristics of a

WSA, and OHV use on ever-shifting sands certainly doesnt permanently alter those characteristics.
All evidence of mans intrusions are erased by these ever-shifting sands within a matter of minutes. Excluding over-the-snow vehicles is absolutely ludicrous, as once the snow melts, there is no evidence left behind.

I hold the BLM responsible for PROPERLY managing my public lands, NOT closure!
I would highly recommend this be investigated and changes made accordingly, as to open

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these closed areas for public OHV use in this amendment.

Regards,

Mark Beaty

Comment Number 34

First	*edward*	***Last Name***	*taylor*	***Confidential?***	*n*
Affiliation					
Address	*3320 gauntlet drive*				
Address2					
City	*west covina*				
State	*ca*				
Zip Code	*91792*				

CATEGORY	*COMMENT*
Recreation Resources Management	To Whom It May Concern: It is of my opinion that the Green River RMP Amendment definitely needs to include OHV friendly modifications for the Greater Sand Dunes areas. Back when first introduced, The Green River Resource Management Plan closed the Sand Dunes and Buffalo Humps Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to motorized vehicles. The Sand Dunes and Buffalo Hump Wilderness Study Area's have long been recognized by academia and the public of being unique and valuable lands. Does this mean they should be off limits to OHVs and public use? NO! Proper management is the key! Not closure! From Appendix 2 of GREEN RIVER LAND USE PLAN (S) OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS Western Portion SAND-18–The western portion of the Greater Sand Dunes area is bounded on the east by the Sand Dunes WSA boundary and on the west by the Greater Sand Dunes ACEC boundary.

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SAND-19–The portion of the area that overlaps the WSAs is closed to OHVs, including over-the-snow vehicles and some mechanized vehicles, to maintain the unique naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities.

This area is very similar to the St. Anthony WSA in Eastern Idaho, which is also managed by the BLM. I'm looking for some consistency as to how our public lands are being managed!

OHV use is allowed in many Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), including the entire Saint Anthony dunes system and WSA designation does not automatically preclude OHV use either. The mandate to the agency is to preserve the wilderness characteristics of a WSA, and OHV use on ever-shifting sands certainly doesnt permanently alter those characteristics.
All evidence of mans intrusions are erased by these ever-shifting sands within a matter of minutes. Excluding over-the-snow vehicles is absolutely ludicrous, as once the snow melts, there is no evidence left behind.

I hold the BLM responsible for PROPERLY managing my public lands, NOT closure!
I would highly recommend this be investigated and changes made accordingly, as to open these closed areas for public OHV use in this amendment.

Sincerly,
Edward Taylor
West Covina, CA

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Comment Number 39

First	*Emilene*	***Last Name***	*Ostlind*	***Confidential?***	*n*
Affiliation	*UW Student*				
Address	*1727 Palmer #4*				
Address2					
City	*Laramie*				
State	*WY*				
Zip Code	*82070*				

CATEGORY	*COMMENT*
Minerals and Alternative Energy	No oil or gas drilling should occur within the JMH. Much of southwestern Wyoming is already open to drilling and its not too much to ask to preserve this one small piece of the west from the destructive forces of mineral extraction. According to the Wyoming Outdoor Council, if all the gas and oil was extracted from the JMH, it would provide the United States with only 9 weeks of gas and 39 minutes of oil. The delicate desert, however, would take centuries to recover from the roads, pipes, ponds, and disturbance of the drilling process. I want the JMH to be free of development when I take my kids and grandkids there to play in the sanddunes and climb around on the rocks.
Recreation Resources Management	Minimal impact recreation should be emphasized. ORVs should be restricted. Hunting, hiking, camping, rock climbing, wildlife viewing, and exploring should be emphasized with expansion of the wilderness study areas to provide an authentic desert experience.
Travel Management; Access; and	Motorized travel should be restricted to designated roads and should be kept out of Wilderness Study areas all together. Existing non-designated roads should be closed to traffic and reclaimed a natural state. Maps should be posted at entrances to the Jack Morrow Hills to facilitate visitors in their tour of the region, so that they will not be tempted to drive off roads. Roads should only be allowed in areas where they will have the least environmental impact.

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Land and Water Resources	As Americas legacy to future generations, protection of native wildlife species such as antelope, deer, elk, coyotes, bears, cougars, badgers, hawks, falcons, eagles, sage grouse, lizzards and snakes should be a high priority in the JMH CAP. Roads, ORV use, and mining should be restricted in the JMH to protect the wildlife. Large predators should be a focus and the wild horse population should be maintained only at a low level.
Visual Resources management	The JMH is a beautiful landscape that should be preserved just for its natural and existence value. Air quality should be improved and manmade structures including unecessary roads should be removed.

Comment Number 46

First	*Keith*	***Last Name***	*Campbell*	***Confidential?***	*n*
Affiliation					
Address	*1115 Sherry Dr.*				
Address2					
City	*Riverton*				
State	*WY*				
Zip Code	*82501*				

CATEGORY	*COMMENT*
Minerals and Alternative Energy	Instead of trying to prohibit all drilling, other alternatives should be considered as mitigation. Oil Companies exploring for minerals should seed barrow pits along road, abandoned well sites, and any other disturbed ground. Mines including gold should return the land to its original condition. Mining and oil drilling should not be prohibited as the Red Desert area is neither unique nor a high altitude climate where it can take years to recover from mans intrusion. Good range reclamation can be accomplished in 5 to 7 years in this area. All that is needed is two wet springs in five years after seeding. Unfortunately, in this desert environment, that is about normal.

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	I would like to express support of Alternative 3 where mitigation is emphasized. New ideas through mitigating any proposed development could lead to new ways of improving plant health of the Red Desert and also extracting more minerals.
Land and Water Resources	I dont know what the Friends of the Red Desert are talking about with the large migratory big game herds and the only desert elk herds. Elk migrate from the Wind River Mountains to the Red Desert but there are not that many. The elk in the Red Desert are closely related to the elk in the Wind River Mountains so why are they unique.
Land and Water Resources	Range improvements are needed to maintain the proposed horse population and allow big game numbers to increase. Oil companies doing explorative drilling should be seeding the barrow pits beside the roads to oil wells and any other disturbed ground. See minerals and alternative energy.
Land and Water Resources	Current livestock lease numbers should be maintained inless there is a severe drought. When explorative gas wells are drilled, sometimes these wells may not hit gas. Occasionally these sites can produce artesian wells. The BLM should monitor all sites and consider developing any potential water sources that are found. There is plenty of forage in the Red Desert but a large part is not accessible due to a lack of nearby water.
Land and Water Resources	Earlier I stated that Oil Companies that are developing leases should be seeding disturbed ground near roads and well sites. A mixture of Crested Wheat Grass, brome grass, and a clover would improve forage for wildlife as well as livestock. Similar, suitable native species could be used but Crested Wheat is the most successful grass in the area. Wild Horses are not native so some grasses that are not native could be seeded to feed the horses. Seed the crested wheat far from the endangered plant species. At a great distance this should be a categorical exclusion. Possibly the Wyoming Game And Fish could provide some funding for seeding but the developing Oil Companies should furnish performance bonds on seeding.

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Comment Number 52

First	*Jolene*	*Last Name*	*Catron*	*Confidential?*	*n*
Affiliation					
Address	*915 Washakie Street*				
Address2					
City	*Lander*				
State	*WY*				
Zip Code	*82520*				

CATEGORY	*COMMENT*
Heritage Resources Management	Section 1.5 Planning Issues and Criteria 1.5.1 Planning Issues Issue 3: Effects of Land and Resource Uses on Recreation and Cultural Resource Management “…Principal considerations include providing for suitable and sufficient recreation uses and facilitates (both dispersed and commercial, and particularly in the Greater Sand Dune Recreation Area), visual resource management direction, road designations (transportation planning), and management of cultural and historical resources (the need for protection of Native American-respected places is of particular concern)….” Does the term “Native American-respected places” equal “sacred site”? According to Section 2 of Executive Order No. 13007: Indian Sacred Sites (of May 24, 1996, signed by President William Clinton), “’Sacred site’ means any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site.”

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Throughout this Supplemental Draft EIS, much care has been made to designate Native American sites as “respected places.” I am not an enrolled member of the Shoshone or Arapaho Tribes, thus I cannot speak for them. But as a concerned citizen and enrolled member of the Navajo Nation (whose protection of sacred sites often times comes up against the same kind of bureaucratic lipservice), I posit that these sites are indeed sacred and deserve the protection afforded them by years of federal Indian law, Presidential executive orders and internal memoranda developed by federal agencies, the Bureau of Land Management included.

Section 2.2.2 Heritage Resources Management (Management Actions Common to All Alternatives)
The planning area would be managed to protect important heritage resources (cultural, historic, archaeological, and unique geological features) while allowing for educational research and appropriate interpretive uses.

Native American Sites. Consultation would occur with Native American tribal governments in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) for the protection of recognized traditional uses and cultural values in the planning area.

Surface disturbance and disruptive activities would be prohibited within 100 feet of respected places. Native American respected places (located generally in the Steamboat Mountain, Steamboat Rim, White Mountain Rim, Essex Mountain, Monument Ridge, and Joe Hay Rim areas) and the Indian Gap Trail would be protected by provisions of the NHPA and AIRFA.

In managing respected places, rights-of-way would avoid the actual sites. For related viewsheds, mitigation would be applied to reduce the sights and sounds from an activity. The intent is to provide mitigation in these viewsheds, not to exclude an action or activity.”

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	How do you mitigate the damage done to a viewshed from the development of roads, wells and pipelines?
	In Section 2. Procedures of EO 13007: Indian Sacred Sites, “Each executive branch with statutory or administrative responsibility for the management of Federal lands shall, as appropriate, promptly implement procedures for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this order, including, where practicable and appropriate, procedures to ensure reasonable notice is provided of proposed actions or land management policies that may restrict future access to or ceremonial use of, OR ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF, SACRED SITES” (emphasis is mine). How would prohibiting surface disturbance and disruptive activities within 100 FEET of a sacred site not adversely affect the physical integrity of that site?
	There is a large disparity between protections planned for other resources (e.g., wilderness study areas, protected species areas) compared to the Native American sites. Overall, Indian sites receive far less recognition, study and protection from harm. There is an importance and sacredness recognized by many tribes of varying areas within the Red Desert. This SDEIS does not address these issues; instead proposes a one-size-fits-all (100-foot buffer) to “respected sites.”
Visual Resources management	In Section 2. Procedures of EO 13007: Indian Sacred Sites, “Each executive branch with statutory or administrative responsibility for the management of Federal lands shall, as appropriate, promptly implement procedures for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this order, including, where practicable and appropriate, procedures to ensure reasonable notice is provided of proposed actions or land management policies that may restrict future access to or ceremonial use of, OR ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF, SACRED

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	SITES” (emphasis is mine). How would prohibiting surface disturbance and disruptive activities within 100 FEET of a sacred site not adversely affect the physical integrity of that site? There is a large disparity between protections planned for other resources (e.g., wilderness study areas, protected species areas) compared to the Native American sites. Overall, Indian sites receive far less recognition, study and protection from harm. There is an importance and sacredness recognized by many tribes of varying areas within the Red Desert. This SDEIS does not address these issues; instead proposes a one-size-fits-all (100-foot buffer) to
Other	Section 1.6 Relevant Statutes, Limitations, and Guidelines The following provides a description of the authorities that apply to the selection and implementation of the management actions for the JMH CAP. Section 1.6.5 Cultural Resources: The Historic Sites Act; The National Historic Preservation Act of 1996; The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979; Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environmental (EO 11593); The National Trails System Act of 1968. This section does not mention (1) “Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies—Subject: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments”; (2) Executive Order No. 13007: Indian Sacred Sites; (3) American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978; (4) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990; (5) Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898; and (6) US Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-164, Subject: Guidance to Address Environmental Justice (EJ) in Land Use Plans and Related National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents (dtd 5/2/02) “Minority Population” is defined

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by Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-164, dtd 5/2/02, from the Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, subject: Guidance to Address Environmental Justice in Land Use Plans and Related NEPA Documents, as either (1) the minority population of the affected area exceed 50 percent, or (2) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population...

In Section 3.10 Environmental Justice, the SDEIS discusses this issue, and clearly states that “...portions of Fremont County would be defined as an EJ population...” it further states that “these areas are not likely to be impacted by actions within the planning area given the geographic distance between the reservation and the planning area.”

This is nonsense. This is like saying people in Riverton or people in Dubois are not impacted by actions taken by the BLM on PUBLIC LAND within Fremont, Sublette, or Sweetwater county. Physical distance from the Red Desert has no bearing on whether Tribes will be impacted by disruptive actions in the Red Desert. The Jack Morrow Hills were originally part of the Wind River Reservation as defined under the 1863 treaty. The area is acknowledged by the BLM itself as used frequently by Native Americans, including the Shoshone and Arapaho, and even Athabascan-speaking tribes, such as the Navajo and Apache.

Their own internal memo states, “The BLM will incorporate EJ considerations in land use planning alternatives to adequately respond to EJ issues and problems facing minority populations, low-income communities, and Tribes living NEAR public lands, working with, and/or using public land resources. The BLM CANNOT summarily dismiss the environmental justice issues of this draft EIS due to physical distance from the proposed action.

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As such, there are other EJ issues that are not addressed within this SDEIS.

As part of the policy/actions outlined in this Instruction Memorandum, it states, “The BLM State and Field Offices will continue to make EJ a mandatory critical element for consideration in all land use planning and NEPA documents. This requirements was established on an interim basis in IM-99-178, dated August 13, 1999.”

Recommendations for outreach include: Share appropriate information about potential high and adverse impacts with minority populations, and/or low-income communities, and/or Tribes through workshops, information meetings, or other forums and solicit feedback and recommendations;

When appropriate, schedule scoping/issue identification meetings in minority and low-income communities or on tribal reservations

There were no public/scoping meetings held on the Reservation in preparation for this SDEIS. Nor were there any workshops of any kind offered to Tribal residents (and especially elders) to help them understand the NEPA process in terms that they can understand. This is clearly in conflict with BLM internal requirements.

20

100,018

Posla Ranch

Horses and Hay
Linda and Leonard Serdiuk
Box 42
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-5027
lserdiuk@wyoming.com

March 13, 2003

We have faith in the BLM to manage the Jack Morrow Hills as expressed in the Coordinated Activity Plan. The preferred alternative provides for multiple use, protection, and oversight.

We have confidence in the dedicated professionals of the BLM. They are Wyoming residents, they know the area better than any one else, they have made educated and concerned recommendations, and we trust them to manage the area.

We would like protection for the seven Wilderness Study Areas and for the National Historic Trails and the Continental Divide Trail to continue.

We feel the most damaging use of the entire area has been the grazing. One of the greatest assets in Wyoming is the vast public land available to all recreational users. The contribution of the ranching community to the economy of the state is miniscule compared to that of outdoorsmen, tourists, and other recreational users.

Sincerely,

Linda and Leonard Serdiuk

100,025

March 24, 2003

Mr. Prill Mecham
Field Manager, BLM
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, WY 82941

Dear Mr. Mecham,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed drilling of wells for coal bed methane in the Red Desert and along the Wind River Range front. Although I live in Colorado, my heart is in Wyoming where I go to renew my spirit on fishing trips and backpacking trips. I have been visiting Wyoming every year since I was a kid, and we started backpacking into the Wind River Range in 1970, and every year since. We frequently visit the Red Desert area for a day or two before or after the backpack to enjoy the isolation, and view the wildlife and historic areas. My concerns are to protect the wilderness aspects of this area, which includes the wildlife corridor between the Red Desert and Jackson Hole, as well as protect the ranchers and water of this area from the same type of problems which have occurred in the Powder River Basin.

I believe that you should delay the environmental analysis of new gas projects until the Management Plan is complete. The current RMP fails to evaluate impacts of Coal Bed Methane, which are severe. Without an updated Management Plan the BLM cannot properly complete an impacts analysis. For the Red Desert I strongly support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative for the Jack Morrow Hills Plan, which would:

1. Allow for responsible recreation, hunting, grazing and off-road vehicle use and access to public lands.
2. Ask for the trade or buy-out of mineral leases in the area.
3. Prohibit all new oil and gas leasing and large-scale mining activities.
4. Prevent new roads and developments in roadless areas, increase the size of some Wilderness Study Areas, establish new WSA's for lands identified as qualifying by citizens' inventories, and recommend that all deserving WSA's and wild lands be designated as wilderness by Congress.
5. Protect Native American holy sites and historic landmarks such as the Oregon Trail.
6. Ensure the long-term survival of the Red Desert elk and pronghorn antelope herds and other wildlife.

Other areas of critical environmental concern are the migration routes for big game between the Red Desert and Jackson Hole. Areas along the Wind River Front should be CLOSED to coal bed methane drilling due to grazing and water concerns.

I urge the BLM to listen to the citizens concerns in selecting a plan which will protect the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the Red Desert and wildlife migration routes.

Sincerely,
Ralph Silkensen

Ralph D. Silkensen 1061 Princeton Dr., Longmont, CO 80503

100,036

Dan and Janet W. Blair
P.O. Box 1640
Dubois, WY 82513-1640
email: danjanbee@wyoming.com

March 27, 2003

Renee Dana, Project Leader
BLM Rock Springs Field Office
280 Hwy. 191 North
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Bob Bennett, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

COMMENTS RE: Jack Morrow Hills Study Area Supplemental DEIS

Dear Ms. Dana and Director Bennett:

We write to urge BLM to select and implement the ***Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative*** as its management plan for the Jack Morrow Hills Study Area. We originally commented in April 2002, and are distressed to learn that BLM has released a supplemental DEIS that not only doesn't address, but doesn't even appear to consider the comments of many Wyoming residents submitted at that time. BLM has disregarded its mandate to manage public lands for all Americans, in favor of allowing a single industry to control and determine the fate of the public lands under BLM control. Thus a coalition of concerned Wyoming citizens, businesses and conservation groups united to develop the **Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative,** which addresses the citizen concerns expressed in this letter. It will ensure that the Jack Morrow Hills Study Area is managed in a balanced manner that guarantees conservation, preservation, and the continued protection of this national treasure for the use and enjoyment of all Americans, now and into the future.

In attempting to grasp the enormity of questions about national energy policy, the needs of a growing, highly mobile and technologically-advanced society, and the need to protect our home (in the broadest sense: *planet earth*), this quote from Global Environmental History of the Twentieth Century (John R. McNeill, professor of history, Georgetown University) is relevant [emphasis added]:

> "Quite inadvertently, and almost unconsciously, humankind has assumed a central role in determining the fate of many species and the health of Earth's water, air, and soil. Humans have therefore assumed a central role in biological evolution. . . . The environmental history of the last two centuries has been one of enormous change. In a mere 200 years, humanity has altered Earth more drastically than since the dawn of agriculture about 10,000 years ago. Our vital air, water, and soil have been jeopardized; the very web of life hangs on our whims. For the most part, human beings have never been more successful nor led easier lives. ***The age of fossil fuels is changing the human condition in ways previously unimaginable. But whether we understand the impact—and are willing to accept it—remains an unanswered question."***

In mid-March we attended a two-day symposium in Pinedale, Wyoming, that included tours of the Pinedale Anticline and the Jonah Field, which as you know are two BLM gas development lease sites. We were absolutely appalled both by the almost irreversible changes in the landscape, and by the number of variances to lease stipulations BLM is allowing there. We talked to residents who expressed their shock at seeing their area of Sublette County turned into an industrialized zone in a short period of time: they mentioned an increase in truck traffic; the occasionally round-the-clock noise pollution of the drilling and well operations (for up to 3 weeks at a time); the changes observed in animal behavior (both domestic horses and wildlife); and how stipulations such as well density per-acre and "critical winter range" closures are suddenly unimportant or overlooked when industry requests a variance. This cannot be allowed to happen in the Jack Morrow Hills!

BLM stands, as an agency of the federal government and hence of "We, the People," at another of the critical junctures we humans have faced in the last two centuries. We understand that in

order to maintain our way of life we must be willing to accept some of the impacts put on the earth's condition and thus on our human condition, but we fear that BLM's choices and actions now will cause potentially irreversible changes for the worse down the line. Presently the Red Desert region contains the largest undeveloped high-elevation desert remaining in the United States, not to mention the continent's largest sand-dune system. That makes the 600,000-acre Jack Morrow Hills area a priceless national treasure deserving of conservation (once development occurs, many changes will be irreversible) and preservation for multiple uses, including:

- Responsible recreation (which requires ensuring continued access to public lands, via existing designated roads, to enable the experiences of wilderness hiking, desert camping, unparalleled wildlife viewing, excellent fishing in two rivers, and off-road vehicle use).
- Its world-class hunting (which requires preserving and protecting key wildlife habitat, thereby ensuring the long-term survival of the Red Desert elk herd - the largest desert elk herd in North America, and 45,000-50,000 pronghorn antelope that winter there - the largest migratory game herd in the lower 48 states).
- Limited grazing, consistent with sound ecological and range-management practices.

We also have other concerns that BLM's Supplemental DEIS ignores:

- New energy and mineral development must not occur (we have no faith in BLM adhering to any lease stipulations with the oil and gas industry, after our visit to the Pinedale BLM lease sites), and there should be trades or buy-outs of current mineral leases in the area;
- Wildlife habitat damaged by roads and pipelines should be restored and protected;
- Priority should be given to restoration and protection of air and water quality;
- Roadless areas must be preserved as they presently exist; certain Wilderness Study Areas should be increased in size, and new WSAs established on lands identified for Wilderness designation by citizens' inventories; and finally
- Protection must be afforded for the many culturally significant Native American sites, geologic and pioneer landmarks found in the Red Desert, among which are rock art, Adobe Town, Boar's Tusk, and the visible remnants of several famous historic overland trails.

These concerns were all covered in our comments of April 2002; a great many people commented similarly. With the release of this Supplemental DEIS, BLM reveals it has turned a deaf ear and a blind eye to all but the energy industry. Development of federal mineral and energy sources must not take place at the expense of the integrity of wildlands and wildlife habitat which, once gone, are not replaceable. We support, and strongly urge BLM to adopt as its management plan, the **Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative for the Jack Morrow Hills Study Area.** Thank you for reading this lengthy letter; we hope you will give serious and thoughtful consideration to our comments.

Sincerely,

Dan Blair Janet W. Blair

Dan Blair Janet W. Blair

cc: Interior Secretary Gale Norton
Senator Craig Thomas (via Email)

100,037

122 West 27Th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001

March 26, 2003

Renee Dana
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Hwy. 191 North
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Dear Renee,

I respectfully ask that you consider some of my concerns for the Red Desert and the Jack Morrow Hills Study Area. My personal experience as an area manager helps me respect the task you and your staff have conducting this assessment. I would just ask you to become creative and courageous in making your decisions for this unique area.

Many public land areas have long been compromised by short-term budget directives. These directives are often the crucible of destruction for balanced long term public land management. As public land managers we know from our experiences that often budgets from one administration to another force us into unfavorable short term decisions.

Furthermore, in the haste to fill those positions and accomplish these directives, while funds are on the table, one may indirectly jeopardize other long term management objectives. As examples, just look at the evolution in grazing allocations, fire management, spraying, timber harvests, off-road vehicle use and now coal methane gas.

There are obviously unique resources in the Red Desert. I find it difficult to understand why the area is open season to coal methane exploration. The country will not become a permanent self sufficient energy producer. So why upset the balance of other unique resources in the Red Desert for a short term gain?

Renee please, in your decisions, give less attention to leasing just for the sake of responding to today's demands at the expense of wildlife habitat, winter ranges and other long term natural assets of the Red Desert.

This is why I ask you to become creative and courageous in implementing the management plan. Be careful of a stronger mineral voice in the office influencing a decision for more mineral exploration!

Please select the Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative and invoke some balance in your leasing decisions, putting conditions on mineral, grazing and off-road vehicle uses that help maintain good year-round wildlife habitat and protection of the Red Desert and its Jack Morrow Hills area.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

Sincerely,

James S. Lambert

James S. Lambert

100,042

Jack Morrow Hills Comment.

I believe it's way past time to set aside some of Red Desert areas as off limits for drilling + mining. Areas such as Honeycombs, Oregon Buttes, Pinnacles, Jack Morrow Creek, Rock Cabin, Steamboat, Essex Mtn, Sand Dunes, etc., are special areas which should be saved for the current multiple uses now available but not destroyed with more roads, well sites, etc.

Thank you,

Lean Atwood
93 Carpenter Rd
Lander, Wyo
82520

100,043

March 14, 2003

Friends.

I'm writing on this card because I value the inspiration that open, somewhat wild lands provide the human spirit. There are growingly few places in this country that still have the feel of unspoiled earth-history.

The Red Desert and the Jack Morrow Hills Area is still a partial sanctuary to wildness/wilderness that is left. We have visited it often and felt renewal of spirit seeing antelope and wild horses - nesting hawks and fossil remains of times long past. The elk herd in particular, is splendid.

What is a (relatively) small amount of oil and gas to many centuries of wildlife and unspoiled landscape which could readily disappear with development?

Please allow no new gas leasing. →

Keep the remaining roadless areas, roadless as far as possible; and seek ways to expand the Wilderness Study Areas. Once wildlife is reduced to unsurvivable numbers, it will vanish, not to reappear. That mustn't happen!

We have a rare opportunity to protect both natural and human history which could quickly be extinguished by short-term monetary demands - Let's Preserve It.

Please support the Citizens Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative for the Jack Morrow Hills Study Area. Sincerely, Cheryl Kessell

100,049

Rene Dana Team Leader
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs WY 89201

Re: Jack Morrow Hills CAP

Dear Ms. Dana:

I strongly support the Citizen's Wildfire and Wildlands Protection Alternative for the Jack Morrow Hills Supplemental Draft EIS because it would prohibit all new oil and gas leasing and mineral development, it would also prevent new roads and developments in roadless areas next to wilderness study areas.

It would protect the wildlife, historical sites and Native American holy sites, this is especially important for the Steamboat Mountain area and the desert elk herd. It would allow for responsible outdoor recreation, hunting and grazing. I feel that additional protections should be included that would protect the desert and wildlife in times of extreme drought.

It is also important that the mineral leases could be traded or bought out.

The most valuable roadless areas should be considered for wilderness study areas.

Please protect this incredible landscape while we have a chance.

Thank you,

F Earline Hittel

F. Earline Hittel
36 Begonia
Casper WY 82604-3854

100,057

Steve Swan
P.O. Box 2861
Jackson, WY 83001
307-733-1795 elwha@onewest.net

March 26, 2003

Ms. Renee Dana
BLM Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Dear Ms. Dana,

I am writing in regard to the Jack Morrow Hills plan in Wyoming. Being a hunter and an environmentalist, I am deeply concerned about the plans for mineral and petroleum development in this wonderful area. There are certain areas that are just too special to develop and this is one of them.

Please do all that you can to protect the herds of elk, moose, antelope and deer in the area, by prohibiting any new mineral or road development in the area. Please pay special attention to Native American sites that are situated in numerous areas throughout the region. My long term goal is that much of this area could be protected by wilderness designation.

Sincerely,

Steve Swan

100,058

March 24, 2003

Ms. Renee Dana
Bureau of Land Management
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Dear Ms. Dana,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed drilling of wells for coal bed methane in the Red Desert and along the Wind River Range front. Although I live in Colorado, my heart is in Wyoming where I go to renew my spirit on fishing trips and backpacking trips. I have been visiting Wyoming every year since I was a kid, and we started backpacking into the Wind River Range in 1970, and every year since. We frequently visit the Red Desert area for a day or two before or after the backpack to enjoy the isolation, and view the wildlife and historic areas. My concerns are to protect the wilderness aspects of this area, which includes the wildlife corridor between the Red Desert and Jackson Hole, as well as protect the ranchers and water of this area from the same type of problems which have occurred in the Powder River Basin.

I believe that you should delay the environmental analysis of new gas projects until the Management Plan is complete. The current RMP fails to evaluate impacts of Coal Bed Methane, which are severe. Without an updated Management Plan the BLM cannot properly complete an impacts analysis. For the Red Desert I strongly support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative for the Jack Morrow Hills Plan, which would:

1. Allow for responsible recreation, hunting, grazing and off-road vehicle use and access to public lands.
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5. Protect Native American holy sites and historic landmarks such as the Oregon Trail.
6. Ensure the long-term survival of the Red Desert elk and pronghorn antelope herds and other wildlife.

Other areas of critical environmental concern are the migration routes for big game between the Red Desert and Jackson Hole. Areas along the Wind River Front should be CLOSED to coal bed methane drilling due to grazing and water concerns.

I urge the BLM to listen to the citizens concerns in selecting a plan which will protect the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the Red Desert and wildlife migration routes.

Sincerely,
Ralph Silkensen

Ralph D. Silkensen 1061 Princeton Dr., Longmont, CO 80503

100,059

BLM Field Manager
Renee Dana

The following comments concern the development of the Red Desert.

The Red Desert is a portion of Wyoming that I, as a photographer, try to visit 1-3 times a year. As a photographer I go here for the large open expanse of the Landscape. In addition the wildlife holds great interest. While out in the desert I also enjoy the solitude. I believe all these reasons for which I go to the desert will be dramatically impacted by the BLM proposed plan.

- Oil and Gas development: If large numbers of oil and gas wells are going to be placed into the Red Desert I would like the wells to be grouped, using directional drilling to lessen the visual impact that all wells produce. By grouping these wells it would also reduce the need for higher numbers of roads and pipelines that again scar the visual landscape and reduce the existing small amount of vegetation, even more, thus impacting the wildlife. I would also hope that the wells will be banned near the roadless areas. I would also like to see any new roads not be allowed to be constructed if a proposed well footprint can be shifted to be accessed from an existing road. If this is not possible than the older road should be reclaimed so as not to have redundant roads in the area.

- Mineral Leases: I favor buying out or exchanging any mineral leases near wilderness study areas. I believe preserving the visual landscape around locations such as Honeycomb Buttes deserve more protection than do the historic trails of Wyoming.

- Faunal Resources: I hope whatever alternate plan is decided upon the protection of the elk, pronghorn, wildhorse herds, and Raptores will be given a high priority . The proposed number of wells will have a dramatic impact on the wildlife of the desert. Also the roads and pipelines to service these wells will also impact the habitat for the wildlife. How will any proposed plan reduce the impact on Ferruginous hawks. This species has for to long a time been negatively impacted by all human created impacts in the desert and throughout Wyoming.

- Air Quality: Throughout the last 25 years I have watched the wonderful quality of the air in the desert degrade. As mining and power plants have polluted our air adding particulate matter and creating haze I can only imagine that the large number of well planned for the desert can only decrease the air quality even further. I would like to see any development in the desert be accompanied by a very strict air quality standard. This would go beyond the pollution created by the gas and oil development and include the existing air pollution. Just because the area is sparsely populated, does not give the government the right to allow high levels of air pollution.

If the oil and gas development is to be allowed than the BLM must do everything possible to reduce the impact on the desert. Also public hearing need to be held in WY beyond the proposed two in Rock Springs and Lander. A meeting in Laramie could aid in explaining the need to develop the desert and degrade the environment.

Brian R. Waitkus

Brian R. Waitkus
1105 East Canby, St. Laramie WY 82072

100,063

3341 Sierra Circle
Rock Springs, Wy 82901
April 1, 2003

Ms Renee Dana
BLM Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wy 82901

Dear Ms Dana,

This letter is written in favor of the so-called Citizens Alternative for the Jack Morrow Hills. I feel that there are enough roads in the areas at present. I am particularly interested in not seeing extensive oil and gas development in that area at the same time similar developmet is taking place near Pinedale (Jonah) and Wamsutter. If the Jack Morrow Hills is to be drilled, why not wait until the other (Jonah + Wamsutter) area resources are exhausted. Prices paid to state + federal governments for the gas is likely to be higher at a later date. Why rush to develop the resource to sell the gas at fire-sale prices?

Lastly – preserve the immediate Steamboat Mt area.

Thank you,
Joseph Perry

100,068

March 28, 2003

Dear Ms. Dana:

I know this is a time of grave international concern, and I am writing to respectfully and urgently ask you to protect the Wyoming Red Desert.

The Bureau of Land Management has recently released a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the management of the 600,000-acre Jack Morrow Hills Study Area of the 8-million acre Greater Red Desert. The plan calls for the development of several hundred oil and gas wells in this Wild Heart of the West and fails to protect the magnificent values of the Desert. On the contrary, the BLM's preservation alternative allows for increased oil and gas development as well as the development of new roads, pipelines, and utility lines in this fragile area.

A coalition of concerned citizens, businesses, and conservation groups has developed the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative to manage these lands in a balanced manner that ensures the conservation of these lands and the continued use and enjoyment of this national treasure.

The Citizens' Alternatives will:

- Allow for responsible recreation, off-road vehicle use, grazing and continued access via existing designated roads.
- Prevent new roads and development in roadless areas.
- Call for the trade or buy-out of mineral leases in the area while prohibiting all new oil and gas leasing and large-scale mining.
- Protect culturally significant areas revered by native Americans.
- Provide increased protection for nationally significant trails like the Pony Express Trail and the Oregon Pioneer Trail.
- Give priority to the restoration and protection of air and water quality.
- Restore and protect wildlife habitat damaged by roads and pipelines.
- Ensure the long-term survival of the Red Desert elk and pronghorn antelope herds as well as other wildlife.

Already, much of the Desert's periphery has been drilled, mined, and roaded, and pressure for more development is mounting. Thousands of gas wells sprawl throughout this region, linked together by a growing web of service roads, giant overhead powerlines, and pipelines, which break up crucial wildlife habitat and disrupt animal behavior and migration. Emissions from generators and compressors degrade air quality, while contamination from spills threatens surface and groundwater quality.

Respecting and restoring America's wild lands is patriotism at its best. Thank you for your help.

Respectfully,

J. Capozzelli

J. Capozzelli
315 West 90 Street
New York, NY 10024