

JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 We don't want that. We've got to                  2 realize that the American Indians need to be involved                  3 in these major and important decisions that need to be                  4 made in regard to those areas such as that.                  5 After all, this is an ancient land to                  6 the American Indians. And the second comment is for                  7 the White people and the company, such as they are                  8 today.                  9 Regardless how we talk and speak and                  10 vote, they override a lot of these things. Those are                  11 politicians.                  12 We need to watch these politicians. We                  13 need to confer, as we should, as a people of America,                  14 regardless of where we are, here, there, or wherever,                  15 to protect the interests of our people and our                  16 children that are yet to come in the future.                  17 I like to see a lot of that happen so                  18 that these things can be enjoyed for our younger                  19 people that's going to be here. But to do the things                  20 that they want us to do is pollution, and we know all                  21 the effects of pollution.                  22 We know all the effects of what's going                  23 on, the greenhouse effect and everything else that                  24 goes with it. And the people inhale the kind of stuff                  25 that come out of these gas wells, these oil wells.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 and Pinedale.                  2 But regardless, we've lost a lot of land                  3 that is so dear to us; not only to the Native                  4 Americans, but all of you here and your children. We                  5 need to sit down and say, "Okay, that's enough."                  6 We have certain areas in our land here                  7 that need to be protected. There's a lot of other                  8 places where we can go, or they can go to dig for oil                  9 and gas, not in these immediate areas such as where we                  10 are.                  11 We need to fully realize and talk to                  12 these companies about that. It's been too many times                  13 now that the American, Indians as well as the good                  14 people amongst you, that's been excluded to make these                  15 major decisions if they can or cannot have what they                  16 want to do to manage these areas, whether it be oil                  17 and gas, or other resources that have been mentioned.                  18 My friends, I can say more, but I think                  19 I went over that minute, two minutes or three minutes.                  20 But I want to say more.                  21 But anyway, a lot of you have already                  22 said what I wanted to say. I want to thank you for                  23 your time.                  24 Thank you.                  25 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Mark.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 We have a mining going on west of there,                  2 potash, and whatever you have, gypsum and all of that                  3 drifts over this way. Prevailing winds come in from                  4 Lander, Riverton, and now we wonder why we're all sick                  5 and come down with cancer and everything else.                  6 So these things have to be looked at in                  7 the proper perspective so that they can understand.                  8 Now, the way that I heard it today, it is just a small                  9 area.                  10 I rode that area with my older people                  11 when I was 12 years old going from here and trailing                  12 horses to Rock Springs. I know the country pretty                  13 good.                  14 Another time I rode the country was,                  15 gosh, I don't remember, in the '50s, when they took a                  16 good horse out of the area. Desert Bust was also the                  17 historical event at that time.                  18 We didn't catch the horse anyway. And                  19 the other things that went through there is when the                  20 old people went over to review the land, the Treaty                  21 that was supposed to be made in 18-, 1868, I believe                  22 it was.                  23 That Treaty was made in Fort Bridger.                  24 Those were supposed - At that time it as a large area                  25 of the Wind River Reservation, clear up to La Barge</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 Syd Corrigan.                  2 A SPECTATOR: Not here.                  3 MR. GRIFFITH: Not here? Okay. Mary                  4 Gay.                  5 MS. GAY: My name is Mary Gay, G-a-y.                  6 I've been 60 years on this planet Earth.                  7 I, I think most of you have said, but I                  8 am thinking also about conserving this area. I think                  9 as humans we have the ability to come out with                  10 creative ideas.                  11 We like to think of ourselves as the                  12 intelligent animal; that we can have a vision for the                  13 future. I would like to see us use that to preserve                  14 and protect this area, and instead of moving ourselves                  15 to seeing it simply as something to exploit                  16 economically.                  17 That's it. I support the Citizens'                  18 Alternative.                  19 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Mary.                  20 Nikki Comes Running Buck.                  21 MS. COMES RUNNING BUCK: I'm Nikki Comes                  22 Running Buck, and all I want to say before I run out                  23 of time is that I do support the Citizens'                  24 Alternative. You know, the first time I had even                  25 heard of Jack Morrow Hills was a few years ago when my</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 daughter, who is now a sophomore in high school, I 2 think she had to do some kind of an extensive study 3 on, on the use of that area, the Red Desert area. 4 So we went down to the BLM office and 5 they handed us a book that was this thick 6 (demonstrating). Honestly, you know. 7 It was like that. And I said, "Wow." 8 So we took it home and, you know, had a 9 chance to look through it. And she based her report 10 on, you know, what - We looked at old maps and 11 everything. 12 And, you know, her conclusion was that, 13 you know, we can go elsewhere for this oil and natural 14 gas. I mean, to me, the balance of oil and gas on, 15 lapping this little island on three sides, is vast 16 with keeping this place pretty much, you know, with 17 the uses we've had for thus far. 18 You know, some places should be left 19 alone. You know, I - Thank you. 20 You know, it puzzles me. I'm a citizen. 21 I don't belong to anything in 22 particular. I like to reach my own conclusions. 23 But, you know, I don't understand how 24 you can make an Environmental Impact Statement when 25 you only really studied a very small percentage of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 I think that we need to keep those in 2 the great State of Texas. Since they are already 3 willing in that state, I think they should drill 4 there. 5 (Whereupon, a response of applause was 6 had.) 7 MR. GARVIN: Since this regime has moved 8 to my land, they have destroyed many, many natural 9 resources, many, many sacred sites of my people, many 10 of my burial grounds. That continues on to this day. 11 So I would ask the respect of the BLM 12 for my ancestors that are buried out there. They, 13 they, many of the people, they tell me that the birds, 14 they still sing the same song that they sang in the 15 beginning. 16 The elk still migrate. The little frogs 17 and the mudpuppies, they still do the same things. 18 The man, the human beings are the ones 19 who have changed. We've changed the earth and we've 20 continually destroyed the earth through our own greed, 21 through our own comforts of life. 22 So we need to think about that. Each 23 one of us need to think about our own comforts, and 24 what we are willing to give up. 25 With that, they said that we are the law</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 that environment. You know, I think, you know, you 2 need to learn more about what you're tearing up. 3 And I've also seen what, what those oil 4 development areas leave behind. It isn't pretty. 5 I guess that's it. 6 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Nikki. 7 Michial Garvin. 8 MR. GARVIN: I want to thank you for 9 giving me a chance to speak. It's G-a-r-v-i-n. 10 That's my government name. Everybody 11 said a lot. 12 My Elder talked, and Soldier Wolf 13 talked, and even my white brother over there talked in 14 a good way, so I don't know what to say. I wrote a 15 few things down. 16 We need to concentrate and think about 17 our children that are not yet born. This plan just 18 goes 10, 20 years. 19 We've been here for thousands of years. 20 And we need to look past two or three generations. 21 We need to look toward seven 22 generations. That is the way the Native people look 23 toward, seven generations from now. 24 Think about that. I'd like to, other 25 alternatives of drilling our natural resources.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 of the land. And we need to obey the laws that the 2 Creator gave to us, not the laws that the Government 3 instills upon us. 4 So with that I think that I have just 5 about picked up on everything. Like I said, we've 6 been destroying my sacred sites, and I ask protection 7 for those. 8 Thank you. 9 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Michial. 10 Chelsea Kesselheim. 11 MS. KESSELHEIM: I'm Chelsea Kesselheim, 12 speaking for myself. C-h-e-l-s-e-a, 13 K-e-s-s-e-l-h-e-i-m. 14 That probably took one of my minutes. 15 Most of what I want to say has been said, but I've 16 spent some time thinking about this, so I think I can 17 say it. 18 Development changes our environment, and 19 it changes us. And there is no going back. 20 When we go back to our own hometowns, 21 maybe 40 years later, what do we find? We find lots 22 of large houses, often standing where grassy hills 23 used to be. 24 We find walls existing where deer used 25 to bed down. And we see polluted rivers sludged by,</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 where hundreds of, and thousands of birds once rose 2 from clear water in the morning mist. 3 The Red Desert is one of America's 4 remaining somewhat wild places. It is geographically 5 and uniquely a desert enclosed by a split in the 6 Continental Divide, and sparsely watered by its own 7 inward draining springs. 8 Yet it sustains herds of elk, antelope, 9 buffalo, wild horses, nesting sage, falcons, and 10 migrant birds. Old fossils indicate that this area was 11 inhabited in other epochs by species that are now 12 extinct. 13 Buffalo jumps and sites sacred to the 14 Indians fill the landscape. The Red Desert is a rare 15 place in a broadening and developing country, most of 16 which have lost their native birds and plants, their 17 forests, and even their deserts to oil development and 18 other kinds of development. 19 The vibrant area of the Jack Morrow 20 Hills, and the rest of this Red Desert, will be 21 seriously impacted if 200, at the least, 200 oil and 22 gas wells, with their rigs and the criss-cross of 23 roads, and the trucks, all out to develop there. This 24 sounds extreme in a way, but I have recently heard 25 that the Powder River Basin, which is now proposing to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 All right, so we're out there at 2 campsites. The BLM puts up a "Wilderness Study Area, 3 Closed," up there. 4 Of course we respect them. We don't 5 take a vehicle in. 6 We're not allowed. But we'll walk back 7 in there. 8 The weird thing about it was that later 9 on in some of the Desert trips, we've come across "No 10 Trespassing" signs put up by oil companies. Now, it 11 says right here in the book that federal Lease or 12 Permit holders may not exclude public from these 13 permit areas if the appropriate easement exists, such 14 as existing roads. 15 But it says: However, some areas may be 16 closed to public entry by order of the Federal Land 17 Management Agency. An example of this is a mining 18 operation that has been closed for reasons of public 19 safety. 20 So everything out there, you're not 21 going to be able to drive out and see it unless you 22 have light aircraft. You'd be able to see things from 23 the air. 24 And those of you that do want to go 25 there, the Wyoming Statute 6-3-303, criminal trespass:</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 have 51,000 methane wells, currently compared to North 2 American's equivalent of the Ruhr Valley in Germany, 3 Germany's most industrial developed area. 4 Whether we be hunters, ranchers, 5 recreationists, artists, the human spirit requires the 6 solitude of open spaces. Also, in the past and the 7 future required, it is a requirement that we preserve 8 this unique land which is our home to us. 9 I support the Citizens' Wildlife and 10 Wildlands Alternative as perhaps our best chance to 11 fulfill our obligations. Let's save what we can. 12 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Chelsea. 13 Steve Pearson. 14 MR. PEARSON: Thanks. I'm Steve 15 Pearson, P-e-a-r-s-o-n. 16 I'm representing myself. I look at all 17 these people, and I thought the Red Desert was the 18 best-kept secret on the planet. 19 I've only seen about 40 out there. And 20 generally when I go out there I only see maybe one 21 other vehicle, and it's miles away. 22 So anyhow, what I would like to address 23 here is the issue that has been kind of, been tough 24 for me to deal with, and it's this BLM public access 25 publication here. And anyhow, I'm terrible at this.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 Criminal trespass is a misdemeanor, of which by, you 2 will be imprisoned by not more than six months or not 3 more than \$750 or both. 4 Thank you. 5 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Steve. Just a 6 short comment. 7 This sounds bureaucratic, but I just 8 encourage you to come into the Lander Office and put a 9 response in to that. I'm sure you can get that 10 through. 11 Thanks for raising that. 12 Okay, Richard Hipp. Richard Hipp. 13 That must have been the guy that ran for 14 pizza. Okay, how about Scott Boettcher? 15 MR. BOETTCHER: Scott Boettcher, 16 S-c-o-t-t, B-o-e-t-t-c-h-e-r. First of all, I would 17 like to thank the BLM for opening up this forum for 18 the general public. 19 And I would like to thank them for 20 considering our comments. The first thing that I 21 would like to talk about is the sage grouse and the 22 sage grouse buffer. 23 Right now the current EIS calls for 24 a-quarter of a mile buffer within the sage grouse 25 buffering sites. Clait E. Braun, in, of the Journal</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 of Wildlife Management in 1999 published a study 2 where 90 percent of the sage grouse nest within four 3 miles of it. 4 Of that 90 percent, approximately 5 two-thirds nest within the first two months. So as we 6 look at the quarter-mile buffer, we realize that it 7 needs to be at least two miles, if not three, and 8 preferably four. 9 That would give the sage grouse the best 10 protection possible. Currently I'm working on a Grant 11 funded by BRIM where we are looking at sage grouse. 12 And they are very sensitive to human 13 intrusion. Areas where major county roads run 14 through, sage grouse likely will just abandon them; 15 just flat out abandon. 16 Another thing that I would like to talk 17 about is primarily the opposition against this Plan 18 for conservation and oil and gas drilling. And for 19 the oil and gas the primary motive seems to be the 20 economic reasons. 21 You know, as a concerned citizen of 22 Wyoming and its future, you know, I would like to 23 bring up the fact that the economics provided by oil 24 and gas is highly boom and bust. What's going to 25 happen in 20 years when oil and gas companies pull out</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 As of yet, and I've been around a lot of 2 the country, and I haven't found anyplace that I can 3 see myself really living long-term, because here in 4 Lander, or here in Wyoming is the only place that I've 5 found where I feel like I can live my life in the 6 midst of a landscape that is still beautiful and 7 majestic, and a landscape that is untamed and unbroken 8 as of yet. And that means a lot to me. 9 And that means a lot to other people my 10 age, and young folks who are living here in Wyoming 11 right now. And so I guess I would say that if you 12 want to talk about providing for our young people, how 13 about providing us with some reasons not to move away, 14 by leaving some of our wild places alone? 15 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Scott. 16 Bart Koehler. 17 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you. My name is 18 Bart Koehler, K-o-e-h-l-e-r. 19 Last night I testified in behalf of the 20 Wilderness Society down in Rock Springs, and I'm 21 testifying as an American who has known and loved 22 Wyoming for more than 30 years. My old friend, John 23 Bell, who is sitting out there, once wrote, "There are 24 certain places that always give you a thrill." 25 He's right. One such place is the heart</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 of the Jack Morrow Hills? 2 The schools are going to lose their 3 funding. What is going to happen then? 4 We need to rely on sustainable 5 outfitters that we've heard testimony on before for a 6 sustainable use in the Jack Morrow Hills. Oil and gas 7 is obviously not sustainable, and therefore we should 8 not count on the income for large periods of time, 9 either in tax revenue or for personal, you know, 10 income. 11 Thank you to the BLM. I really 12 appreciate the time offered. 13 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Scott. 14 Scott Clabby. 15 MR. CLABBY: That is Clabby, 16 C-l-a-b-b-y. And I guess I would just like to give a 17 quick rebuttal to those who have emphasized the 18 importance of oil and gas revenue in providing 19 resources to our young people. 20 I'm 23. I grew up here in Lander, and 21 like a lot of other people my age I've tried to move 22 away from Wyoming several times. 23 But I keep coming back. And the reason 24 I keep coming back is because every time I go 25 somewhere else, I miss the land here.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 of the Red Desert. 2 I believe that there is no place like 3 the Red Desert on this planet. Yesterday when we went 4 down to the Rock Springs hearing we came across tipi 5 rings, the reminders of the Shoshoni people who have 6 endured thousands of years. 7 The rings echo sacred circles of life, 8 and the growing heartbeat of Mother Earth. I also 9 know that many ranchers have lived on this land and 10 respected this place. 11 I have no beef with the local ranchers. 12 My beef is with those who believe that having 95 13 percent of the BLM lands of Wyoming open for oil and 14 gas is not enough. 15 My beef is with those that believe that 16 this wild part of the Red Desert should not be off 17 limits to more damage and the all-too destructive hand 18 of man. It was very late last night when we drove 19 back from Rock Springs, and I swear that I saw several 20 jackalope sitting along side the road. 21 And they were holding big signs saying, 22 "We support the Citizens' of Wildlife and Wildlands 23 Alternative." For the Record, I support those 24 jackalope, and I urge you to as well. 25 For the Record, the Citizens'</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 Alternative is a true balance multiple-use proposal.                  2 Finally the word "patriot." It means                  3 someone who honors his or her country and protects                  4 their country from harm.                  5 As the true spirit of patriotism,                  6 Wyoming citizens are calling for lasting protections,                  7 and I emphasize "lasting protections" for the Red                  8 Desert. Theodore Roosevelt called conservation a                  9 great moral issue and our patriotic duty.                  10 How many times have we asked for the Red                  11 Desert to be protected? How many more times do we                  12 have to ask?                  13 I urge you now to protect the Red Desert                  14 finally and forever. As Olaus Murie said 50 years                  15 ago, "God bless America. Let's save some of it."                  16 Thank you.                  17 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Bart.                  18 Steve Jones.                  19 MR. JONES: Thanks. My name is Steve                  20 Jones, J-o-n-e-s.                  21 I, I support the Citizens' Wildlife and                  22 Wildlands Alternative. And I do think it's important                  23 to remember, as Harold Scholl mentioned earlier, in                  24 terms of the wilderness that is proposed to be                  25 preserved, even in the good conservation alternative,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 think so.                  2 Not if you are a responsible caretaker                  3 for that painting. And any responsible caretaker of                  4 the Red Desert has got to seek to preserve it in its                  5 natural state.                  6 It's a work of art, and we need to                  7 preserve it. None of the existing alternatives do                  8 that.                  9 And again, I urge you to support the                  10 Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative. Thank                  11 you.                  12 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Steve.                  13 It's a serious topic, but I am being                  14 entertained. Thank you.                  15 Ty Mack.                  16 MR. MACK: My name is Ty Mack. That's                  17 T-y, M-a-c-k.                  18 I grew up in Lander, and I would support                  19 the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative. As                  20 you folks have seen today, a lot of people find value                  21 in it to preserve and protect the Red Desert for a                  22 whole bunch of reasons, whether it's, whether it's                  23 because it's a sacred place and it's your homeland, or                  24 whether it's wildlife habitat, or whether it's just a                  25 place where you can go out and get lost and stub your</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 isn't a very small area in the Red Desert.                  2 And as Bart mentioned, 95 percent of the                  3 BLM lands are subject to oil and gas leasing. So we                  4 need to keep that in mind.                  5 It is a very reasonable Alternative, and                  6 I urge the BLM to consider it. Although Leopold talks                  7 about thinking like a mountain, what he meant by that                  8 is that it's important to think about what's good for                  9 the landscape for long-term.                  10 So it is important that when the BLM                  11 makes this decision, that you think like the Desert                  12 and you think about how fragile it is. It's important                  13 that you think about the whole benefit of this                  14 landscape for the long term.                  15 The Red Desert is a beautiful area with                  16 a rare Desert elk herd, oddly shaped hoodoos, the                  17 glistening sand dunes, and lots and lots of silence.                  18 In effect, it's a living, breathing, natural work of                  19 art.                  20 And if I were to tell you that I was                  21 going to paint a little black mustache on the Mona                  22 Lisa and tell you that, "Well, it's okay because,                  23 after all, it's only going to affect only one and                  24 a-half percent of the whole painting and so it really                  25 won't hurt a thing," would you let me do it? I don't</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 toe on a cactus and scramble down a sand dune.                  2 But the Jack Morrow Hills area really                  3 has value primarily as open space, as a wild place.                  4 One speaker mentioned earlier this evening that the                  5 best thing in the long term for state coffers was oil                  6 and gas development.                  7 And I think that we need to look at a                  8 longer term. Look for more than just a few years,                  9 more than just a few decades.                  10 But look generations into the future,                  11 where if, that, those wild spaces and those open,                  12 undisturbed places that make Wyoming a place that we                  13 want to live and that people want to visit. Thanks.                  14 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Ty.                  15 Dave Freitag.                  16 MR. FREITAG: My name is Dave Freitag,                  17 F-r-e-i-t-a-g, and I represent the Wasatch Mountain                  18 Placer Association. For the past several years my                  19 family and I have held several gold claims on the                  20 Dickie Springs-Oregon Buttes gold deposit which lies                  21 on northern boundary of the planning area.                  22 This deposit, which covers an area of                  23 over ten square miles, was first discovered over 130                  24 years ago by some of the first settlers crossing                  25 Wyoming along the Pioneer Trail. In 1896, a British</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 company hired a consulting engineering by the name of  2 Edward Green (phonetic), who completed one of the most  3 comprehensive studies of this deposit today.  4 With the help of 24 men, he dug over  5 2,700 test beds within this area. His conclusion was  6 that this deposit held more than 3.5 million ounces of  7 gold.  8 He believed that this deposit could be  9 mined for at least 30 years. This deposit was not  10 studied again until 1978, when David Love and two  11 associates from the U.S. Geological Survey took  12 another hard look at the origin and find of the Dickie  13 Springs-Oregon Buttes gold deposit.  14 With over 80 samples taken, Love  15 determined that the area may hold over 28 million  16 ounces of gold, and still this does not factor in the  17 hidden-lode source. At today's gold price, that would  18 equal over \$9 billion, making this a world-class gold  19 deposit.  20 Since that survey was finished 25 years  21 ago, no other surveys have been done to this date.  22 With the release of the Supplemental Draft, it has  23 been stated that this deposit only holds one million  24 ounces of gold, and that the potential for a  25 large-scale gold mining operation is low.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 As I said in the beginning of this  2 statement, my family and I have been testing and  3 sampling this deposit since 1995. We hold over 800  4 acres of valid placer gold claims along the region now  5 known as South Pass Summit.  6 In that time we have tested over 100  7 samples from this area. We believe that this area  8 shows a very high potential for a large-scale gold  9 mining operation, but with the alternatives that are  10 before us today, that option would be dismissed.  11 I cannot express enough that a new and  12 thorough study needs to be performed on this deposit  13 before any decisions are made to its future. The  14 study also needs to be performed by a third party,  15 such as the Wyoming Geological Survey, a study that  16 does not hold any special interest behind its  17 decision.  18 If this deposit has shown, once again,  19 to be a world-class deposit, then the benefits to the  20 people and the economy of the State of Wyoming would  21 be significant. The decisions made with the outcome of  22 this Draft will affect this area for the next 20 years  23 or more.  24 I can only hope that our dreams and  25 those of the first pioneers over a hundred years ago</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 So today I have to ask the question:  2 Where did the facts come from that this figure's based  3 on? I wanted to question Dave Valenzuela, the  4 geologist who helped prepare this information, but I  5 found that he is no longer working for the Bureau of  6 Land Management.  7 I wanted to question the new geologist  8 at the last meeting here, but she was scheduled for  9 other priorities. I was able to talk to Stuart Strong  10 (phonetic), an associate in a consulting firm based in  11 Houston, Texas, that prepared this Draft, but his  12 answers were vague at best.  13 I have made numerous calls to the Bureau  14 of Land Management to try to pin down where this  15 information came from to see the documentation that  16 these facts were based on. Based on what Mr. Strong  17 had said at the last meeting, I called the Wyoming  18 State Geological Survey and spoke with Dan Hausel, who  19 is the Senior Economic Geologist.  20 He informed me that no one had contacted  21 him in regards to this deposit, but that he also had  22 very optimistic feelings about this deposit, and felt  23 that it required further study. So again I have to  24 say: Where did the facts come from that base this  25 study?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 who lost their lives there, who planned a town there,  2 who found their American dream there, are once again  3 not silenced. Thank you.  4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Dave.  5 Liz Howell, the Wyoming Wilderness  6 Association.  7 MS. HOWELL: Thank you, Marty.  8 I'm Liz Howell, H-o-w-e-l-l, of the  9 Wyoming Wilderness Association, W-i-d,  10 l-d-e-r-n-e-s-s.  11 Are there any Congressional Reps out  12 there? Raise your hand.  13 (Whereupon, a response was had.)  14 MS. HOWELL: Great. I hope that you are  15 taking notes.  16 This is a very important national area.  17 Thank you for coming.  18 And thanks to the BLM. I am a  19 third-generation Wyomingite.  20 My grandfather actually took a  21 stagecoach across the Red Desert to get to Worland to  22 the Basin country. I have a great story about him.  23 Anyway, the Wyoming Wilderness  24 Association is a revitalized group who have been  25 advocating for the protection of Wyoming's wildlands</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 since 1979. We'll be submitting more extensive 2 comments. 3 Jack, the Red Desert, the Jack Morrow 4 Hills is one of those places that should have been 5 long ago congressionally protected and set aside. The 6 Jack Morrow Hills was set apart from the BLM's 7 planning of the Green River RMP, we think because, not 8 because of its great energy resources, but for its 9 extraordinary values for wilderness, wildlife, and 10 history. 11 The oil and gas industry knows that 12 there isn't much potential in the Jack Morrow Hills. 13 They just can't give the American people one square 14 inch of protected landscapes. 15 Of the 622,000 acres of the Jack Morrow 16 Hills Study Area, there are seven Wilderness Study 17 Areas, totaling 117,000 acres. The Wyoming Wilderness 18 Coalition conducted their own inventory and found 19 233,000 acres in 18-, in 1989. 20 Recent new inventories reveal an 21 additional 50,000 acres. Two hundred and eighty 22 thousand acres of wild, pristine desert country to get 23 lost in, to hunt elk without motors, noise, or 24 civilized, industrialized intrusions awaits. 25 Only the Citizens' Wildlands and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 mineral exploration do not adequately take into 2 account the long-term recreational values and 3 financial potential this vast, great desert offers to 4 the recreation industry. 5 We always, I mean, we always hear about 6 the economic loss from not being able to expand oil 7 and gas production. Little consideration is given to 8 the permanent economic loss of visual quality of 9 recreation. 10 Increased road construction, increased 11 traffic, increased noise, increased oil and gas 12 production, and mineral extraction that uses 13 historical and technologically aged extraction methods 14 are not conducive of the long-term visual and 15 recreational values this country has to offer. We do 16 not accept the concept of increased extraction and 17 expansion, while permanently reducing or eliminating 18 the aesthetic recreational value. 19 We're not opposed to multiple-use 20 extraction, and recognize the unfortunate overwhelming 21 dependence on myself, our country, and our society has 22 on extracted nonrenewable resources. However, we are 23 opposed to multiple-use extraction on public lands at 24 the expense of physical and economic aesthetic values 25 that the Red Desert offers.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 Wildlife Alternative will protect the Hills 2 adequately. This world is changing too rapidly. 3 We have to seek the course that makes us 4 thrive, not materially, but from our hearts. Please 5 protect the Jack Morrow Hills. 6 Thank you. 7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Liz. 8 Scott Woodruff. 9 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. My name is 10 Scott Woodruff, W-o-o-d-r-u-f-f. 11 I own a commercial outfitting business 12 here, and I operate on some of the lands in the Jack 13 Morrow Hills. I wanted to say I was real encouraged 14 with some of the younger comments tonight. 15 It's, it's good to see that that's out 16 there. Some of us are getting old and fat, and hope 17 that they catch the bug. 18 I've taken more of a position of 19 economics, and I'm going to analyze that. We support 20 the least impact of the visual and aesthetic values to 21 this country. 22 Without the incredible vast and unique 23 visual values this area offers, it would not be 24 considered desirable or a remarkable area for 25 recreation. The proponents of increased oil, gas, and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 Corporate claims that the modern and the 2 environmentally sound extraction and transportation 3 methods are cost-prohibitive is an unacceptable, 4 fiscal, self-serving answer, especially when the 5 alternative is extermination of this valuable, visual 6 resource. We will be supporting the Citizens' 7 Wildlands and Wildlife Alternative. 8 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Scott. 9 Jolene Catron. 10 MS. CATRON: Good evening, everybody. 11 My name is Jolene Catron. 12 That's J-o-l-e-n-e, C-a-t-r-o-n. And 13 I'm here speaking as a concerned citizen. 14 I live here in Lander. I'm originally 15 from New Mexico. 16 I am both Navaho and Laguna, and my clan 17 on the Navaho side is To'ahcedliini, which is "The 18 Water Comes Together People." I have pages and pages 19 of comments, but I'm just going to try to summarize 20 the best that I can. 21 Throughout this SDEIS much care has been 22 made to designate the American Indian sites as 23 respected places. I am not a member of the Shoshone 24 or the Arapaho Tribes, so I cannot speak for them, but 25 as a concerned citizen and an enrolled member of the</p>

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<p>1 Navaho Nations, this protection of sacred sites 2 oftentimes comes up against the same kinds of 3 bureaucratic lip service. 4 I promise that these sites are indeed 5 sacred and deserve the protection afforded them by 6 years of established federal Indian Law, presidential 7 Executive Orders, and internal memoranda developed by 8 federal agencies with the BLM included. There is a 9 large disparity between protections planned for other 10 resources, such as the Wilderness Study Areas, and 11 protected species areas, compared to Native American 12 sites. 13 Overall, Indian sites receive far less 14 recognition, study, and protection from harm. There 15 is an important sacredness not recognized by, there is 16 an important sacredness not recognized, - Oh, sorry. 17 - recognized by Native Tribes that are buried in 18 areas within the Red Desert. 19 This SDEIS does not address these 20 issues, and instead, proposes a one-size-fits-all, 21 which is a 100-foot buffer to respect these sites. 22 Section 1.6 - I also have some comments regarding 23 environmental justice, and in the, in the SDEIS it 24 further states that these areas are not likely to be 25 impacted by actions within the planning area, given</p>	<p>1 the past. 2 And I think the BLM should weigh these 3 comments in the spirit that they are given. The 4 people who strongly favor the system's conservational 5 alternative in the past reincarnation of this study 6 were not sheep that were blindly led, but people who 7 were perhaps somewhat intimidated, as I am, by the 8 weight of the Federal Government. 9 Perhaps they don't want to stand up and 10 speak. And also, I think many of us wonder if values 11 that carry no dollar signs are really listened to. 12 We signed these cards in the hopes that 13 facts that are on these cards will lend weight to what 14 we know in our heart to be true. And what we know 15 might kind of, as stakeholders, is that we value the 16 Red Desert. 17 And when we say that Wyoming is like no 18 place on earth, we are thinking of the vistas and 19 vastness of the areas like the Jack Morrow Hills. 20 When I recently visited the Jonah Oil Field near 21 Pinedale, I saw first-hand what oil and gas 22 development does to the fragile Wyoming landscape. 23 Over in that area, no place like earth, 24 "Like no place on earth," has a totally different 25 meaning. I felt like I had entered a horrific science</p>
<p>Page 107</p> <p>1 the geographic distance between the Reservations and 2 the riparian area; basically saying that their 3 actions, the BLM actions won't have any adverse 4 effects on the minority populations in the 5 Reservation. 6 And this is nonsense. This is like 7 saying people in Riverton and people in Dubois are not 8 impacted by actions taken by the BLM on public land 9 within Fremont or Sweetwater County. 10 Thank you. 11 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Jolene. 12 Barbara Oakleaf. 13 MS. OAKLEAF: I'm Barbara Oakleaf, 14 O-a-k-l-e-a-f. I've attended all of the public 15 meetings held here in Lander relating to the Red 16 Desert and the Jack Morrow Hills, and I've continually 17 heard about stakeholders. 18 Stakeholders are those who have 19 something to gain or something to lose in this 20 decision-making process. It seems to me that the 21 majority of stakeholders are like me. 22 We have nothing to gain financially, but 23 we have a great deal to lose. Many of us do not have 24 facts and figures to throw into this debate, and thus 25 many people who feel as I do have signed post cards in</p>	<p>Page 109</p> <p>1 fiction movie on some distant and definitely hostile 2 planet. 3 It resembles nothing on this earth 4 except a very unorganized, unplanned industrial park 5 that any city would be ashamed of. In the long run, 6 we have more to gain by remaining in this special spot 7 on this planet, by selling our past and future 8 heritage with little regard to what we already have. 9 People in Teton County thought that the 10 formation of Teton National Park would bankrupt their 11 county. Instead, it increased their revenues. 12 I support the Citizens' Alternative, the 13 Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative, because I think it 14 favors the wildlife and our future. Thanks. 15 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Barbara. 16 Marian Doane, representing Friends of 17 the Red Desert, Fremont County Chapter. 18 MS. DOANE: I am Marian Doane. That's 19 M-a-r-i-a-n, D-o-a-n-e. 20 I am a natural scientist. I am here 21 representing the Fremont County Friends of the Red 22 Desert. 23 And we will submit written comments with 24 all of our specific concerns. I would like to start 25 out with a quote taken from the first DIS, DEIS, Page</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 235, written by the Rock Springs BLM, and released in 2 2000.</p> <p>3 Quote: Maintaining connectivity between 4 important habitats, crucial winter ranges, severe 5 winter relief areas, calf/fawning habitats, migratory 6 corridors, topographic relief areas, mountain shrub 7 communities, and forest-type habitat within the 8 planning area is paramount to sustaining viable 9 big-game herds and other wildlife. Fragmentation of 10 these crucial habitats will not sustain big-game 11 populations indefinitely, unquote.</p> <p>12 We support the Citizens' Wildlife and 13 Wildlands Alternative because it does insure the 14 long-term survival of the Red Desert elk and the 15 pronghorn antelope herd, and other wildlife. It will 16 protect many Native American cultural sites and 17 historical landmarks.</p> <p>18 It will prevent new roads and 19 developments in roadless areas. It will allow for 20 responsible use and access to public lands.</p> <p>21 And it will prohibit all new oil and gas 22 leasing, and large-scale mining activities, while 23 calling for trade-in and for buy-out of existing 24 leases. Scientists have been amazed by the number of 25 different remarkable values found to occur in the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 hand lens. I wish that I was born in Wyoming, but I 2 wasn't.</p> <p>3 But once I saw it, I knew that I was 4 going to spend the rest of my life here. I've been in 5 Wyoming 22 years.</p> <p>6 And I have otherwise recreated 7 throughout most of western Wyoming, but particularly 8 also in the Jack Morrow Hills. I, I have a Ph.D. in 9 zoology and wildlife management, which I am not trying 10 to say is anything special, but I did spend almost a 11 decade in Rock Springs writing industrial impacts on 12 wildlife.</p> <p>13 I wish I was still doing that today. 14 I'm not.</p> <p>15 But when I first visited the Jack Morrow 16 Hills in 1979, I was struck by its unique beauty, the 17 feeling of solitude, and the abundance of wildlife. 18 And for a while that was a pretty exciting experience.</p> <p>19 I reviewed the Jack Morrow Hills CAR and 20 am struck by the feeling that the BLM views multiple 21 use to only oil, gas, and mining, leaving other 22 recreational values, other recreational uses such as 23 hunting and so on in a back seat, with any other 24 concerns for wildlife in the same place. The impact 25 Analysis for wildlife only mentions possible impacts</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 622,000 acre Jack Morrow Hills.</p> <p>2 Virtually no part of the Jack Morrow 3 Hills area is lacking in special values. Seven 4 Wilderness Study Areas, two ACDS, and a long list 5 there that I could tell you about.</p> <p>6 Let's just get to the end. With only 7 two percent of the Red Desert inventoried, we believe 8 that there are many more wonders to be found out 9 there.</p> <p>10 Last night at the Rock Springs hearing I 11 heard a lady say, "BLM says industry says they have to 12 drill where the oil is." Well, we say, we have to say 13 wild, open spaces stay where wild, open spaces are.</p> <p>14 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Marian. 15 Steve Platt. 16 MR. PLATT: My name is Steve Platt, 17 Platt, no "e" like the river. I'm representing 18 myself, and I do not seek, nor will I accept 19 designation as an elder, even though I am.</p> <p>20 I would like to say everything that all 21 of the other conservation alternative people have 22 said. Of course, I don't think that we're going to 23 get all that said again.</p> <p>24 What I would like to do is, is kind of 25 give you my own views through my little microscope</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 for those wildlife, and really makes no quantifiable 2 statement about what might happen.</p> <p>3 Well, I think if, what might happen, as 4 stated, is you'd see, and as many people in here that 5 are here now, as hunters also here wanting to protect 6 their recreational value.</p> <p>7 (Whereupon, inaudible remarks were made 8 among the participants, after which the following 9 occurred.)</p> <p>10 MR. PLATT: I prefer the Preferred 11 Alternative. I think that 12,000 public comments from 12 past hearings have been ignored.</p> <p>13 I think that the way the BLM is headed, 14 it's going to go down in history as the major 15 contributor to the demise of wildlife, not only in 16 Wyoming, but throughout its areas of concern. We need 17 to look to future generations and what we're going to 18 leave for them, and quick thinking of the end of our 19 nose. Thank you.</p> <p>20 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Steve. 21 Andrea Cero-, Cerovski. I beg your 22 pardon. 23 MS. CEROVSKI: That was pretty good. 24 You should see how it's usually butchered. 25 My name is Andrea Cerovski, A-n-d-r-e-a,</p>

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<p>1 C-e-r-o-v-s-k-i. Tonight I present my testimony as a 2 citizen concerned about the fate of the Red Desert. 3 However, my vocation as a nongame 4 biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 5 and my other profession as the president of the Red 6 Desert Audubon Society, lend credibility to my 7 testimony. As many have stated, the aesthetic beauty 8 and quality-of-life opportunities that the Red Desert 9 provides are immensely important. 10 I not only work in the Jack Morrow Hills 11 area, but I hunt there. I fish there. 12 I recreate there with my friends and 13 family. Preservation of the long view, free from the 14 industrialized markings of modern man, is vital to the 15 Jack Morrow Hills. 16 The long view is there now, and it 17 should remain there for future generations to 18 experience. We all know the critical-habitat 19 components that the Red Desert provides for the some 20 350 wildlife species that inhabit the area. 21 Pronghorn, greater sage grouse, elk, and 22 even wild horses have already been mentioned. 23 However, tonight I speak for the nongame birds and 24 mammals of the Red Desert, for they, too, need a 25 voice.</p>	<p>1 will tolerate, particularly those who rely on 2 mobilization to attract mates. Sure, areas above 3 these thresholds will still have birds, -- 4 A SPECTATOR: Time. 5 MS. CEROVSKI: Well, I would like to say 6 that I support the Citizens' Wildlife Alternative and 7 that there should be more studies on the impacts of 8 other species before the oil and gas and mining 9 occurs. 10 Thank you. 11 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Andrea. 12 Judy Inberg. 13 MS. INBERG: My name is Judy Inberg, 14 Judy, J-u-d-y, I-n-b-e-r-g. I'm from Riverton. 15 I'm here as a private citizen. I 16 support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wetlands (sic) 17 Alternative for the Jack Morrow Hills Plan. 18 Specifically, I am interested in 19 maintaining the view-scape. It is thrilling to stand 20 on the Oregon Trail and experience the grandeur of the 21 landscape as it must have been for the pioneers and 22 the Native people who were here first. 23 There is too much roads and power lines, 24 development of gas wells, and all the equipment and 25 noise that goes with that would totally change this</p>
<p>Page 115</p> <p>1 There are eight species classified as 2 sagebrush obligates. That is the species that are 3 restricted to sagebrush habitat during the breeding 4 season or year-round. 5 In addition to the pronghorn and greater 6 sage grouse, other sagebrush obligates include 7 the sage thrasher, the sage sparrow, the brewer 8 sparrow, the pygmy rabbit, the sagebrush lizard, and 9 the sagebrush vole. Two of these species have already 10 been petitioned to list them as threatened and 11 endangered species, the greater sage grouse and the 12 pygmy rabbit. 13 On a landscape scale, Wyoming provides 14 the greatest amount of habitat for these obligates 15 than any other State in the Nation. This is a 16 responsibility we should not take lightly. 17 For years I've conducted a breeding bird 18 survey route through the heart of the Jack Morrow 19 Hills area. In the absence of industrialization, the 20 nongame birds and sagebrush obligate species that I 21 mentioned are present in good numbers because their 22 required habitat is still relatively in tact. 23 However, recent research in the Pinedale 24 area and in New Mexico and Oregon it is revealed that 25 there is a threshold of relevant and noise that birds</p>	<p>Page 117</p> <p>1 experience. And it would never be regained. 2 I am always concerned with wildlife, 3 wildlife habitat issues, no matter where development 4 occurs. We have such a unique landscape in the Red 5 Desert, and in the Jack Morrow Hills in particular, 6 that I feel that it would adversely affect the 7 wildlife, specifically the antelope and Desert elk 8 herd roaming and development. 9 And I was glad to hear Andrea's comments 10 on all the other species. It was very interesting. 11 I feel that the BLM has a responsibility 12 to manage these lands for future generations, also. 13 That means protecting wilderness study areas. 14 Destroying these lands for short-term 15 financial gains, ignoring science-based studies, and 16 ignoring 12,000 public comments calling for protection 17 of the area seems to go against managing these lands 18 for their preservation. And I'd like to add that I 19 always write letters instead of sending post cards 20 because I don't think they pay attention to them. 21 And now I spent all the time writing 22 these letters and they still don't pay attention to 23 them. 24 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Judy. 25 Martin Blackburn, Young Warriors.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 MR. BLACKBURN: I've been waiting so                  2 long my paper is all wrinkled up here. M-a-r-t-i-n,                  3 B-l-a-c-k-b-u-r-n.                  4 I represent the Young Warriors' Society                  5 for both the Shoshoni and the Arapaho of the Wind                  6 River Reservation here. A lot of our young people                  7 have come together and listened to those traditions of                  8 who we are and where we came from.                  9 And we try to hang onto those, and we                  10 try to preserve our culture, our language, and all of                  11 those things that have kept us alive all these years,                  12 centuries, and so forth. I spent a considerable                  13 amount of time talking with our elders, and our elders                  14 tell us how to conduct yourselves and how to have                  15 respect for Mother Earth.                  16 The ceremonies that we have, the                  17 ceremonies teach us how to conduct yourself and take                  18 care of the land that has been given to us from the                  19 beginning of time. And water is a real important                  20 factor.                  21 It is a real important element in our                  22 life. Water, it is part of our circle of life.                  23 It keeps us going. And there is water                  24 out there, and there are sacred springs out there in                  25 these mountains, in these areas out in the Red Desert.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 of you for your efforts and continue protecting that.                  2 Thank you.                  3 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Martin.                  4 Warren Ulmer with the Wyoming                  5 Atmospheric Research.                  6 MR. ULMER: My name is Warren Ulmer,                  7 U-l-m-e-r, and I am a consultant with Wyoming                  8 Atmospheric Research. And first of all I want to say                  9 that I am for the Citizens' proposal.                  10 And I want to do a quick education here                  11 about what we know about the visual values, the                  12 aerosols, and the atmospheric chemistry that is going                  13 on, as I'm the only aerosol atmospheric chemist in the                  14 immediate area. For me -- You would have to go down                  15 to UW otherwise.                  16 For me it would be a personal financial                  17 gain if there was development here. I could work with                  18 the gas companies and work with other people in that                  19 infrastructure hiring me to do studies.                  20 So I'm, I'm going just the opposite                  21 in saying this. And what do we know about what's                  22 going on in the area?                  23 What are the visual values? Well, not                  24 much, to tell you the truth.                  25 The closest we have are the improved</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 And when coalbed methane -- The impacts                  2 of coalbed methane affects the water, and it's very                  3 hard to, to bring that back. You know, it's                  4 destroyed.                  5 And, you know, somebody has to speak for                  6 the water. Somebody has to speak for those animals.                  7 And I'm thankful that all of you are                  8 here, Friends of the Red Desert. All my relation's                  9 here, you know, to have care for that, and I thank you                  10 for that.                  11 Before the concept of private property,                  12 before the concept of statehood, before the concept of                  13 reservations, this was all open land. This was a                  14 shared land.                  15 What was stated in the BLM, one of the                  16 plans that, that the Tribes here aren't affected by                  17 that, yeah, that's ridiculous, because we traded, all                  18 the Tribes here, before statehood and everything like                  19 that. We traded with one another in four directions,                  20 the people up north, the people to the west, and to                  21 the east and down south.                  22 And I wanted to take it upon myself to                  23 contact the rest of our relatives in our area that                  24 traded, and they have specific value to those areas.                  25 And my time is up, and I would still like to thank all</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p> <p>1 sites, which is the -- I can never remember this                  2 acronym -- Interagency Monitoring Protected Visual                  3 Environment. We have two sites here in the local                  4 area, both in the Wind River Mountains, one in                  5 Yellowstone, and then I hope to develop one in the                  6 Wind River Basin next year.                  7 And what are they showing about the air                  8 that we have in this immediate area? Well, what is                  9 shown is what Barbara is talking about with the Jonah                  10 Field.                  11 The Jonah Field has substantially                  12 imperative air quality around here. We've all seen                  13 that.                  14 When we go over to Pinedale we can't see                  15 the Wind Rivers anymore. In meteorology we call that                  16 particulate matter at ten microns, and that is what                  17 we're worried about.                  18 And we're worried about roads that would                  19 be in the Red Desert area on there. We need to stop                  20 all of this dust coming up, even if we have more                  21 people visiting the area just as tourists.                  22 This shows up well in areas like                  23 Gillette, where the Wyoming DEQ is going nuts trying                  24 to figure out what they are doing with all the dust up                  25 there. And here we talk about 205 wells that are</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p> <p>1 open-ended.  2 And what's going to happen around here?  3 The Basin is hydrologically closed, but it's also  4 meteorologically closed.  5 We know about the great windstorms here,  6 but for the most part it's a closed basin.  7 MR. GRIFFITH: Time's up.  8 MR. ULMER: Okay. And lastly, the  9 Southwest Wyoming Technical Air Forum recent study  10 that was just recently published shows the same thing.  11 So what I would like to say once more  12 again is: Let's support this Citizens' proposal here  13 and keep visual clarity in the Red Desert basin.  14 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Warren  15 Melissa Mueller.  16 A PARTICIPANT: She left.  17 MR. GRIFFITH: She left? Okay.  18 Charles Edwards.  19 MR. EDWARDS: I'm Charles Edwards,  20 E-d-w-a-r-d-s. I've been in Lander for the last ten  21 years.  22 I've been in Wyoming for the last 75.  23 I've visited and worked in the county.  24 There is not a spot in Wyoming that  25 doesn't have beauty to somebody. But if we lock up a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 They tell you when to get off if the  2 grass is short. No rancher is going to leave his cows  3 on where there is no grass when he is trying to put  4 two pounds a day on those calves.  5 With the mining and oil, I'm going to  6 just go back to what Teno Roncalio said a number years  7 ago. They asked him, "What about mining the Red  8 Desert?"  9 He said, "You might as well just mine  10 the hell out of it. It ain't good for anything else."  11 Well, I can't agree with him. Anybody  12 that uses the great outdoors, I don't care if it's a  13 hunter or camper, oil driller, has got to leave it as  14 good as he finds it.  15 If you want to see a good example, go  16 out on the Coal Mine Road and look at the trash we  17 hunters leave when we go out to site in our rifles.  18 The last week my friend went out there and somebody  19 took old T.V. sets out there and used them to shoot at  20 and left a beautiful mess.  21 Everybody has got to clean up behind  22 themselves regardless of what your occupation or what  23 your use is of this public land. But we cannot lock  24 it up or not make it anymore.  25 Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p> <p>1 million acres here and a million acres there, pretty  2 soon one half of Wyoming is not going to be here.  3 There are three industries that  4 basically finance the State of Wyoming, the top one  5 being minerals. I'll start with tourism, as we all  6 read in the paper that it produces a billion-eight  7 year.  8 It also employs 32,000 people. What is  9 tourism?  10 It's not just the people who drive  11 through here going to Yellowstone Park. It is  12 hunters, fishermen, backpackers, campers,  13 snowmobilers, four-wheelers, the people that like the  14 great outdoors.  15 That is tourism to me. So if we close  16 off an area we are taking away something that we have  17 to offer to people.  18 Another one, and I haven't heard it  19 chewed on here tonight, -- That amazed me. -- is  20 raising of livestock on public land. The BLM controls  21 those leases.  22 They are an attractive lease money-wise,  23 but I think the BLM does a good job of managing those  24 leases. They tell you how many cows, how long, when  25 and where you can put your cows.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p> <p>1 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Charles.  2 Jim Hellyer.  3 MR. HELLYER: Thank you for the  4 opportunity to comment tonight. My name is Jim  5 Hellyer.  6 That's H-e-l-l-y-e-r. I'd like to begin  7 by thanking the entire BLM team for years of work.  8 It's taken years to get here. We've  9 been involved in this for years.  10 When this study is over and everybody  11 goes to their next study, we're still going to be  12 here. You laugh, but it's the truth.  13 Now -- Sorry for my emphatic remarks. I  14 would also like to express my thanks to the  15 cooperating agencies and County Commissioners,  16 Conversation Districts, the State of Wyoming.  17 Specifically, the Preferred Alternative  18 represents a balanced approach to managing this area.  19 This Preferred Alternative treats all concerns much  20 more fairly than the previous approach did so.  21 Speaking from a ranching perspective,  22 the Preferred Alternative is a workable set of goals.  23 It is a flexible plan.  24 Talk about myself here, and where we  25 operate, and where we run our cows. We have about 40</p>

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1 percent of the allotment is wilderness study area.  
 2 There is another 40 percent that is  
 3 ACEC. There is critical elk, there is sage grouse,  
 4 and on and on and on.  
 5 The livestock and their associated  
 6 needs, water, fences, private property, roads, all of  
 7 these things, are scattered throughout wilderness  
 8 study areas, critical habitats, ACECs. And this  
 9 Preferred Alternative provides the flexibility so that  
 10 our ranch can operate and maintain its needs now and  
 11 in the future.  
 12 In conjunction with meeting the needs of  
 13 the study areas, the ACECs, it's flexible. If oil and  
 14 gas comes, it provides a mechanism for us to work with  
 15 oil and gas.  
 16 MR. GRIFFITH: Time's up. Thanks, Jim.  
 17 Carol Long.  
 18 MS. LONG: My name's Carol Long,  
 19 C-a-r-o-l, L-o-n-g. I live in Casper.  
 20 My husband and I drove here today  
 21 because we thought that it was very important that  
 22 other places other than just Lander and Rock Springs  
 23 are heard.  
 24 In 1974 my family and I moved to, to  
 25 Point of Rocks, basically, because my husband went to

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1 work at Jim Bridger. We looked everywhere for a place  
 2 to live, and there was no place to live.  
 3 So what we finally wound up doing was  
 4 going to what we call the "Hobo Camp," which was the  
 5 trailer park provided by the company. Best move I've  
 6 made.  
 7 It wasn't pretty. It wasn't always  
 8 easy.  
 9 We didn't have TV, and we didn't have  
 10 radio, but we did have the Desert. And we spent just  
 11 about every day for two years learning and  
 12 appreciating and loving the Desert.  
 13 There weren't any county roads out there  
 14 then. There weren't any oil drillings going on out  
 15 there then.  
 16 It was the most beautiful, wonderful  
 17 place that I had ever been or ever seen, and I travel  
 18 a lot. Last summer we spent quite a bit of time out  
 19 in the Desert again.  
 20 It's not as beautiful and it's not as  
 21 wonderful, and there is oil and there's county roads,  
 22 but it is still very much worth preserving. We don't  
 23 need any more oil drilling.  
 24 And since I have no faith in the  
 25 Government honoring the Treaties that they've made

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1 with the Arapaho and the Shoshoni many years ago, I  
 2 would very much like to see the Citizens' Alternative  
 3 accepted.  
 4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Carol.  
 5 Mel Long.  
 6 A SPECTATOR: No.  
 7 MR. GRIFFITH: No? Okay.  
 8 Okay, Laurie Sain.  
 9 MS. SAIN: Thanks. I'm Laurie Sain,  
 10 L-a-u-r-i-e, last name's S-a-i-n.  
 11 I am speaking as a citizen of Lander and  
 12 of Wyoming. We've got so much pressure from the oil  
 13 and gas companies to drill, to take advantage of our  
 14 extracted industries.  
 15 They also tell us it's good for the  
 16 people of Wyoming because that's where we get a lot of  
 17 our financial support; that's where we get all of our  
 18 school support. But the oil and gas industry can  
 19 drill 90 percent of BLM land in southwest Wyoming  
 20 alone.  
 21 And for the last hundred years citizens  
 22 have tried to protect the Red Desert area, 1898,  
 23 1930s, 1960s, 2000, today. Ninety-three of the  
 24 citizens supported the Alternative, I heard.  
 25 Twelve thousand public comments in

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1 support of the Red Desert. Today's comments are  
 2 running roughly ten-to-one in support of the Red  
 3 Desert.  
 4 So I just have one question: When is --  
 5 and these are the people who are very aware of the  
 6 impact of oil and gas on our finances. They are the  
 7 people who live here, by and large.  
 8 One question is: When is it going to be  
 9 that the wishes of the many, the people who own the  
 10 Red Desert, take precedence over the financial  
 11 interests of the few? I support the Citizens'  
 12 Alternative to protect the Red Desert.  
 13 It's one of the few wild places left in  
 14 Wyoming.  
 15 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Laurie.  
 16 Dennis Chaffchee (phonetic). No?  
 17 Okay, Shawn Murray.  
 18 MR. MURRAY: My name is Shawn Murray,  
 19 S-h-a-w-n, M-u-r-r-a-y. I'm here on behalf of myself.  
 20 Obviously we can see that these are  
 21 issues that have polarized the public greatly, and as  
 22 well they should. They are public lands.  
 23 Public lands belong to us all. So we  
 24 need to take an approach that caters to us all.  
 25 The policies that are going to be handed

## JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p> <p>1 down here need to be in the interest of the all, not  2 based on a single vocal say of the population, no  3 matter who that may be, whether it's for economic or  4 financial gain, whether it's for recreation, whether  5 it's for preservation. We cannot take a one-side  6 view.  7 In the complex issues of land  8 management, the policy needs to be flexible to wisely  9 address all the issues. That didn't come up.  10 The Preferred Alternative gives  11 flexibility to the oversight agency to effectively  12 manage both renewable and nonrenewable resources in a  13 manner that best suits the present and future needs  14 and desires to the general population who own this  15 land. Thank you.  16 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Shawn.  17 Christine Lichtenfels.  18 MS. LICHTENFELS: My name is Christine  19 Lichtenfels, C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-e, L-i-c-h-t-e-n-f-e-l-s.  20 I'm here today to voice my support for protecting the  21 Jack Morrow Hills and its many resources, as set out  22 in the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative,  23 most importantly that no oil and gas development  24 should take place.  25 And let me know if that is entirely</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p> <p>1 And you think, and you have some  2 matches, and you think, "Oh, I could start a fire and  3 I could be warm down here," until you start thinking,  4 "Well, wait a second. If I light that fire and warm  5 myself with that, I'll still have to climb out.  6 "And when I get to the top, I won't have  7 the money in my hand. Or I could climb out right now  8 and I will still have a million dollars."  9 Likewise, with the Jack Morrow Hills,  10 we're going to have to get to the point of energy  11 security one way or another by developing alternative  12 fuels. We can do that by having squandered all of our  13 Nation's wealth, and the treasures of the Jack Morrow  14 Hills, or we can get there having saved a few places  15 like that.  16 Let's -- I hope that we do that, and not  17 end up a demoralized, destitute nation, having  18 squandered our national treasure, but instead of  19 having discipline and strength to save what makes our  20 nation special that makes you proud to be an American.  21 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Christine.  22 Dave Raynolds.  23 MR. RAYNOLDS: You know, Christine is a  24 hard act to follow because she is death on thistles.  25 She was out chopping off thistle head on our ranch one</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p> <p>1 consistent with the legal definition of "multiple  2 use." And I would encourage anyone who thinks that  3 oil and gas, "multiple use" means oil and gas needs to  4 happen everywhere.  5 Take a look at the law and you will find  6 out otherwise. To suggest that every ounce of  7 recoverable oil and gas must be extracted from the  8 ground in order to maintain a strong nation is a  9 fallacy.  10 We all know that the world's oil and gas  11 reserves are finite and that we must wean ourselves on  12 our dependence on oil and gas. So let's not ruin the  13 last wild places that are so vital to keeping our  14 Nation's spirit strong in the name of oil and gas when  15 we know that we must change to other forms of energy  16 and we are just delaying the inevitable.  17 Please, let's make that change for some  18 of the special places like the Jack Morrow Hills still  19 in tact. Bear with me for a second.  20 Imagine for a second that you fall into  21 an icy crevasse. To rescue yourself you know you have  22 to climb out, and it's not going to be easy.  23 And you also know there is no one else  24 to rescue you. But amazingly enough, you have a stash  25 of 500 thousand-dollar bills in your pocket.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p> <p>1 time, and they've never come back.  2 I'm Dave Raynolds, R-a-y-n-o-l-d-s.  3 There are 20 of us in three generations on one of  4 these family ranches.  5 And we raise more than we eat. And I  6 think that I've heard several other families of that  7 sort that are here tonight.  8 Anyone else raises more than they eat?  9 It's lonely.  10 What I would like to do is ask for a  11 round of applause for those who are here who will not  12 speak and who are not spouses. My spouse is here, so  13 I'm not asking for applause for her.  14 And Mr. Long is driving Mrs. Long back  15 to Casper. But how about a round of applause for  16 those who are listening to all these sincere views?  17 (Whereupon a response was had, after  18 which the following occurred.)  19 MR. RAYNOLDS: I'll provide a written  20 comment later, but I would just like to add a couple  21 of pieces of perspective. Mae and I are helping out a  22 little bit in grade school, third grade, where really  23 and truly the kids think that the milk comes from  24 Safeway and shoes come from Wal-Mart.  25 Now, I'm wearing fancy shoes from</p>

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## JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p> <p>1 Montana made out of buffalo hide, which is 2 appropriate. And Mae just gave me some elk for 3 supper. 4 On top of Table Mountain, you may not 5 know this, but the antelope come up from the Red 6 Desert to fawn. They've been doing that, I guess, for 7 quite a while. 8 And when the iron mine started and 9 stopped, it didn't seem to start and stop them. They 10 are up there, so those of you who are around here 11 wonder, "Where do the Red Desert antelope go?" they 12 are right up on the hill. 13 And they just as soon that nobody bother 14 them. One of the things, just for perspective, and 15 it's not in the EIS yet, but hopefully it gets there 16 sometime, if you want to really know what Fremont 17 County and Sublette County and so forth were like in 18 the 1550s, go down to the Red Desert. 19 One of our remaining sand dunes is that 20 butte that's on the road between here and Hudson just 21 before that Alliance Valley Road takes off. This 22 entire area probably didn't have a bird flying over. 23 It was a cold desert. It lasted for 24 quite a while. 25 It was called a "mega-drought." It was</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p> <p>1 this month the BLM, Wyoming BLM will approve the 2 largest natural gas project in its history, 51,000 3 coalbed methane wells in the Powder River Basin. 4 That project will require tens of 5 thousands of miles of new roads, pipelines, and 6 overhead power lines. The effect will be to 7 industrialize what today exists as open space and 8 rangeland. 9 It will create a landscape scale of 10 industrialization. But the development is not, 11 unfortunately, limited to that basin. 12 All of Wyoming's basins are undergoing 13 severe development activity, and thus severe 14 environmental pressures. I just want to go through, 15 quickly, a list of natural gas projects I'm aware of 16 that have been approved of since the mid-1990s by the 17 BLM. 18 This again, this is just a partial list. 19 The Jonah II project, 450 wells; the Pinedale 20 Anticline, 900 wells; Continental Divide, 3,000 wells; 21 Moxa Arch, 1,300 wells; Fontenelle Natural Gas 22 Project, 1,300 wells; Cave Gulch, 200 wells; South 23 Baggs, 50 wells; Mulligan Draw, 385 wells. 24 The BLM has on its plate right now set 25 for approval the additional projects. I mentioned the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p> <p>1 kind of an offset of one that was down in the 2 southwest around 1000 A.D. 3 Ours was around 1550. If Coronado, 4 instead of riding in the direction that the Indians 5 came from, decided when he got to the House of Pueblo 6 to ride due north, but the Indians weren't coming from 7 there, he would have hit sand at the Arkansas River, 8 and it would have been sand from there clear up to 9 here. 10 So just for perspective, we think it is 11 nice and permanent right now. It is not permanent. 12 It is always changing all the time. And 13 I think we need to add perspective to the EIS. 14 Thank you. 15 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Dave. 16 Dan Heilig. 17 MR. HEILIG: Myname's Dan Heilig, 18 H-e-i-l-i-g. If I could just briefly respond to some 19 of the claims we've heard that we need to drill on the 20 Red Desert, often those claims are linked with 21 assertions that the people who, like many of us here 22 that are working to protect and preserve special 23 places, wild places like the Red Desert, are somehow 24 naive or ignorant or selfish. 25 That is clearly not the case. Later</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p> <p>1 51,000-well project in the Powder River Basin. 2 South Piney, 210 wells; and Kenna, the 3 Jonah infill, 1,250 wells; Semino Road CBM Project, 4 1,240 wells; the Atlantic Rim CBM Project, 3,880 5 wells; Desolation Flats, 385 wells; Wind River Natural 6 Gas Development Project, 325; new wells in a field 7 depth that presently contains 160 wells; Vermillion 8 Basin, 56 wells; Big Porcupine, 453 wells. 9 And the list goes on and on. We do not 10 need to drill in the Jack Morrow Hills on the Red 11 Desert. 12 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Dan. 13 Colleen Whalen. 14 MS. WHALEN: Colleen Whalen, 15 W-h-a-l-e-n. I'm from Lander and representing myself. 16 I grew up in Wyoming. My dad worked for 17 Marathon from the time that I was 16. 18 My mom worked with the BLM from the time 19 that I was about eight. And there in Worland when 20 there was an accident out in the oil field, my dad 21 would get called out for Marathon and my mom would get 22 called out for BLM. 23 I really believe that both of those 24 people and the Wyoming people that would go out and 25 work on those were working for the same thing. They</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p> <p>1 were working for the least damage to the environment.  2 I also know that my dad, when he retired  3 and got our little chunk of heaven up there on  4 Togwotee Pass, when they wanted to open that for oil  5 and gas, my dad stepped up to say, "Not in my back  6 yard. There are some places that need to be saved."  7 And he knew the inside. There are  8 accidents that happen in the oil field, and he know  9 that.  10 They didn't let him be on the Citizen's  11 Committee for some reason. It might have been  12 mentioning the environment accident where the rig blew  13 up and they spent quite a bit of time scraping oil off  14 the sides of the houses there in Byron.  15 I had never heard about that, but he  16 knew about that. But anyway, there are other, there  17 are places to get oil, and the Jack Morrow Hills  18 should not be one of them.  19 I think that five years from now, ten  20 years from now, 20 years from now, Wyoming is the  21 place to say, "No, we are going to save these places,  22 these rare places, these places without roads, without  23 development." If we wait just a little while, all the  24 other places where the rigs are running out just ready  25 to go here in the next little while, all those other</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p> <p>1 a question-and-answer session, sir, but I will try.  2 This is a listening session for you to speak, but go  3 ahead.  4 A SPECTATOR: I was going to ask a  5 question about who has surveyed all of these oil wells  6 and oil pads?  7 MR. GRIFFITH: Who surveyed them?  8 A SPECTATOR: Who surveyed them? Who is  9 the surveyor?  10 MR. GRIFFITH: I can't answer that. I'm  11 sure it's within the company.  12 The BLM does not do any surveying for  13 oil and gas wells. It's done by the companies, the  14 actual surveying.  15 We do on-sites with the companies when  16 we're getting ready to put in a well, you know, where  17 we are going to have the pad, the reserves, that kind  18 of thing. We work with them on that kind of thing.  19 A SPECTATOR: That 106, that was  20 supposed to be surveyed by now. Indian, the American  21 Indian --  22 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay.  23 A SPECTATOR: -- (inaudible).  24 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay, I can't respond to  25 that.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p> <p>1 places may be taken.  2 But Wyoming should say, "No, we're going  3 to save this chunk of land." And we'll benefit from  4 it in the future because we all know why people come  5 to Wyoming, and it's not to go out and gaze at oil  6 derricks.  7 And I'm for the Citizens' Wildlife and  8 Wildlands Alternative. Thank you.  9 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Colleen.  10 Our last speaker is Larry Berger. You  11 have 58 minutes.  12 MR. BERGER: I'm going to make this  13 short. I'm for the Citizens' Alternative.  14 I hunt out there. I've biked out there.  15 I've camped out there. And when people  16 come to visit me, I take them out there because it's a  17 respect that I couldn't replace.  18 Once you lose it, it's gone forever.  19 And I don't want to lose it.  20 I'm sure most people don't want to lose  21 it, so let's take it.  22 MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, sir. Hand raised?  23 A SPECTATOR: I just wanted to ask a  24 question.  25 MR. GRIFFITH: Remember that this is not</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p> <p>1 A SPECTATOR: And who gets the benefit  2 out of the gas and oil?  3 MR. GRIFFITH: Well, the economy does,  4 the State of Wyoming does, the Federal Government.  5 A SPECTATOR: It's not used in here in  6 Wyoming. It's used someplace else, right?  7 MR. GRIFFITH: I can't answer how that's  8 marketed, sir. Some of it does stay in Wyoming.  9 Some of it goes out of state. I do know  10 that.  11 A SPECTATOR: Okay. Thanks.  12 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. You're welcome.  13 All right. Thank you again for another  14 marathon session.  15 This was important. I appreciate the  16 input.  17 We need it. There is obviously a lot of  18 passion out there on both sides of this document.  19 So thank you, and drive safe. And get  20 your comments in by the deadline.  21 (Whereupon, the above hearing was  22 concluded.)  23 I certify the foregoing to be a  24 true transcript from an audio  25</p>

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cassette recording  
E-signature: Linda A. Anderson

Videographer  
CERTIFICATION

I, Linda A. Anderson, a Professional Videographer, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript was duly reduced to writing by me at Douglas, Wyoming, USA. I further certify that I am neither related to any of the parties by blood or marriage, nor do I have any interest in the outcome of the above matter.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Douglas, Wyoming, this 22d day of April, 2003.

E-signature: Linda A. Anderson  
Videographer

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THE STATE OF WYOMING

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STATE CAPITOL  
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

## Office of the Governor

June 25, 2003

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

RE: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan/Draft Green River Resources Management Plan Amendment (DEIS).

State Identifier: 98-022

Dear Ms. Dana:

The agencies of the State of Wyoming and its county and conservation district partners (cooperators) have reviewed the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan (JMHCAP). The cooperators have participated in the Steering Committee meetings, public meetings, and cooperator meetings. As you have already received these comments, please allow me to submit those of the State.

There is much work to do in incorporating the public's comments, the cooperators' input, corrections, edits, and more into the draft. Within these various comments you will see both ends of the spectrum; from full development of the area, to full protection. It is my belief that neither of these extremes is in the best interest of The Jack Morrow Hills, the citizens of Wyoming, or the country.

It is clear that there is still a strong demand for oil and gas throughout the United States, it is also clear that the Jack Morrow Hills area has the potential to meet some of this demand. Oil and gas development in Wyoming creates high paying jobs. Taxes on development contribute to the state's overall fiscal health. That having been said, however, I am convinced that there are certain areas that deserve to be protected-- protection which needs to be continued or increased in some areas, as well as protection to establish in others. I understand that this balancing act between development alternatives will not be easy, and I offer our continued assistance in the tasks that remain.

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The Preferred Alternative that has been crafted for the SDEIS has, I believe, incorporated many positive aspects from all three of the other alternatives. I believe this is generally the appropriate course for the BLM to pursue. However, there are some provisions of the Preferred Alternative that should be strengthened.

#### **Native American Cultural Resources Management**

More protection needs to be afforded to Native American cultural and spiritual sites. The Preferred Alternative states, "the planning area would be managed to protect important heritage resources (cultural, historic, archaeological, and unique geological features) while allowing for education research and appropriate interpretive uses." I believe, however, that more prescriptive consultation and protection measures should be included. Specifically, consultation with tribal elders or other designated representatives of the Tribes should be provided for prior to any activity that could negatively impact, or interfere with use of, a respected or religious area. In addition, the Indian Gap Trail should be elevated to the same level of importance and protection as other historic trails in this area.

#### **Air Resources Management**

The FLPMA states "the public lands [are to] be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values." I agree with the Preferred Alternative in that the planning area should be managed to maintain and, where possible, enhance present air quality levels. However the SDEIS must recognize that the responsibility and authority for protection and management of the air resource lies with the State, not only for the Jack Morrow Hills area, but for all of Wyoming. Consequently, to ensure that air quality does not degrade (and perhaps improves) I suggest the BLM remain in close coordination with the State regulatory agency as management decisions are being contemplated for the area.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), through the Air Quality Division, is the recognized permitting authority for both State and Federal air quality regulations. In exercising its permitting authority, the state requires application of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) on all new or modified sources, whether they are minor or major emission sources. In this regard the State is more stringent--and consequently more protective of the air resource--than Federal requirements, which do not require even minor source permitting.

While there has been some discussion of potentially applying BACT to "grandfathered" sources and Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) to all emission sources in Southwest Wyoming, it must be recognized that there are specific regulatory

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limitations in both these Federal and State rules. On the other hand, in exercising its permitting authority, the State will continue to limit emissions to the maximum extent possible from any source operating or proposing to operate in Wyoming. It should also be noted that, although there is some concern expressed regarding cumulative impacts--extending even to whether the Class I or Class II increment has been consumed--there have been no regulatory analyses performed to confirm or dispel this concern. The Wyoming DEQ, however, is currently in the process of rectifying this deficiency by developing a comprehensive statewide current and baseline emissions inventory and the necessary modeling protocols to conduct the analyses, not only for Southwest Wyoming, but for other areas of the State as well. This is a complex effort and will require some time to complete, however the State is targeting completion of this effort in mid-2004. In the meantime, I encourage the BLM, within the scope of its authority and in close coordination with State and Federal regulatory agencies, to implement management actions that minimize emissions, in particular:

- > Enforcement by BLM of Standard Federal Oil and Gas Lease Term #6 (Conduct of operations) to control operations in a manner that minimizes impacts to air resources.
- > Control particulate emissions (PM10 and PM2.5) by ensuring timely and complete reclamation of disturbed areas and adequate dust control measures.

#### **Recreation Resource Management**

I support this section of the Preferred Alternative. I would note our continuing concern that the BLM increase its efforts to assure the public's access to public lands.

#### **Minerals and Alternative Energy Development/ Special Management Areas**

FLPMA's definition of multiple use expressly recognizes that "the most judicious use of land may involve the use of some land for less than all of the resources, and that consideration must be given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return." The difficulty here lies in the many and varying definitions of relative values and greatest economic return. Nevertheless, I believe there can and should be a compromise with regard to mineral development and special area protection. I am not at all convinced, however, that the Adaptive Management approach, called for in the Preferred Alternative, is the right compromise. I believe the conclusions of Alternative 3 reach this sort of compromise, with the exception of Adaptive Management, discussed below. Alternative 3, which allows for the expansion of three and the creation one new Area of Critical Environmental Concern and one new Wildlife Study area, also provides for future development "as long as sensitive resource values are protected from unacceptable

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impacts." In addition, cumulative development impacts should be taken into consideration when addressing further development.

*Lease Buy-out or exchange*

Upon consultation with the leaseholder whose lease may be suspended, I believe that a lease buy-out or exchange is an option that might be pursued. This action would save time and money in the long-term by avoiding conflict between mineral development and areas of cultural and/or environmental concern. This seems particularly important since I was told during a recent tour of the Jack Morrow Hills that 40 percent of the core area is already under lease.

Mineral exchanges should also be pursued where state acreage is embraced within EIS restricted areas. Equal-value, developable federal land and minerals should be exchanged for the impacted state acreage where possible. However, such exchanges could be balanced or augmented by cash or other valuable interests.

**Adaptive Management**

Adaptive management is a central element of the plan, yet it is the aspect which causes me the greatest concern. Simply put, I wonder whether it will result in a management philosophy that has the potential to change over time, thereby making it difficult to respond to at the state level. I am left to wonder what data will be generated to drive or justify that change. If the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management are going to make use of adaptive management, then it is imperative that there is meaningful state and local participation throughout the process. I would ask that a specific state role be defined in this process in order to maintain balance.

In addition to my request for state participation throughout the adaptive management process, I would request that a proportionate share of state lands be included in any area in which mineral development is allowed. This would mitigate the possibility that any mineral development restrictions could disproportionately impact the dispersed state lands, which comprise approximately six percent of the total acreage.

**Wildlife Migration**

I believe that greater emphasis needs to be focused on sensitive species protection—particularly for elk, deer and pronghorn.

A number of these and other sensitive species are found within the JMHCAP area which may experience adverse effects from the industrial development of their habitat if certain guidelines are not put in place. I support and encourage the idea of additional

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protection for the mountain plover aggregation areas with buffers as stated in the Preferred Alternative. Many sensitive species are at historically low numbers and have the potential for an endangered listing if their numbers decline. It is in the interest of all stakeholders to prevent such listing from occurring by protecting these species. I encourage you to enhance the recommendations put forth in Alternative 2 towards this goal. This action, along with the leaseholders' agreements in dealing with threatened and endangered species, should provide enough protective measures to ensure continued recovery of these species.

It is also imperative that impacts to the habitats and migration patterns of the big game herds of elk and mule deer in this area be mitigated. The mule deer population is already below standard levels, and further development will not add to their numbers. The Steamboat Mountain ACEC needs to be expanded to its greatest allowable extent for the protection of crucial elk winter range and birthing areas. Within this expanded area protections need to be put in place to maintain current population objectives of these species. The cumulative effects on the elk and deer that could arise from potential development in the Red Desert could prove to be disastrous for these two species in the future. The JMHCAP will set a precedent on how wildlife protection will be viewed with respect to other Resource Management Plans in this area.

I understand some disturbance within the big game migration patterns is inevitable, but I would recommend further study to determine the disturbance threshold of the planning area. In addition, I suggest making projections and developing proactive solutions to address these problems instead of resorting to ill-defined adaptive management. A wildlife mitigation fund might be an option worth exploring. I believe such an approach was applied in the original development of the Overthrust Belt, and may be adaptable to the Jack Morrow Hills. The DEIS states that once disturbance reaches a certain threshold, impacts are expected to become significant. I am instructing the State Working Group to ensure that some forethought is given to the potential effects to wildlife from this impact, and to address them with you. Because of the sensitivity of this plan, I do not believe that a complex and costly "adaptive management" strategy is sufficient, and believe that it would foster financial and planning problems for the State and BLM.

I would appreciate your looking at the existing leases within the JMHCAP to ensure that some form of mitigation measure is included. If there is not, I would ask you to consult with the leaseholders and attempt to establish new leases within the framework of the new RMP that would include mitigation and recovery.

Overall, I encourage you to reexamine and promote the wildlife provisions of Alternative 2 within the new Preferred Alternative. Both of our offices have received extensive correspondence regarding wildlife protections. I add my support in encouraging

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you to ensure species viability and long-term survival. Future generations of Wyoming citizens must also be able to enjoy this ecologically diverse area.

Access

Access to state and other public lands is a concern of the state. We have a right to access the lands provided for the state's use pursuant to W.S. §36-12-102. This is fundamental to the state's ability to manage its state lands in a healthy, sustainable, and economically sound manner. In addition, it is the right of Wyoming citizens to utilize federal lands that are in the public domain. I believe the Preferred Alternative attempts to protect these access rights, however we will continue to encourage you to support workable citizen access to public lands.

In addition to the discussion from the cooperater meetings which you will factor into your decision, I am enclosing comments of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the State Historical Preservation Office, the Office of State Lands and Investments, the State Department of Environmental Quality, the Wyoming State Geological Survey, the Wyoming Business Council, the Popo Agie Conservation District, and the Sweetwater County Conservation District. I appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Best regards,



Dave Freudenthal  
Governor

DDF:st

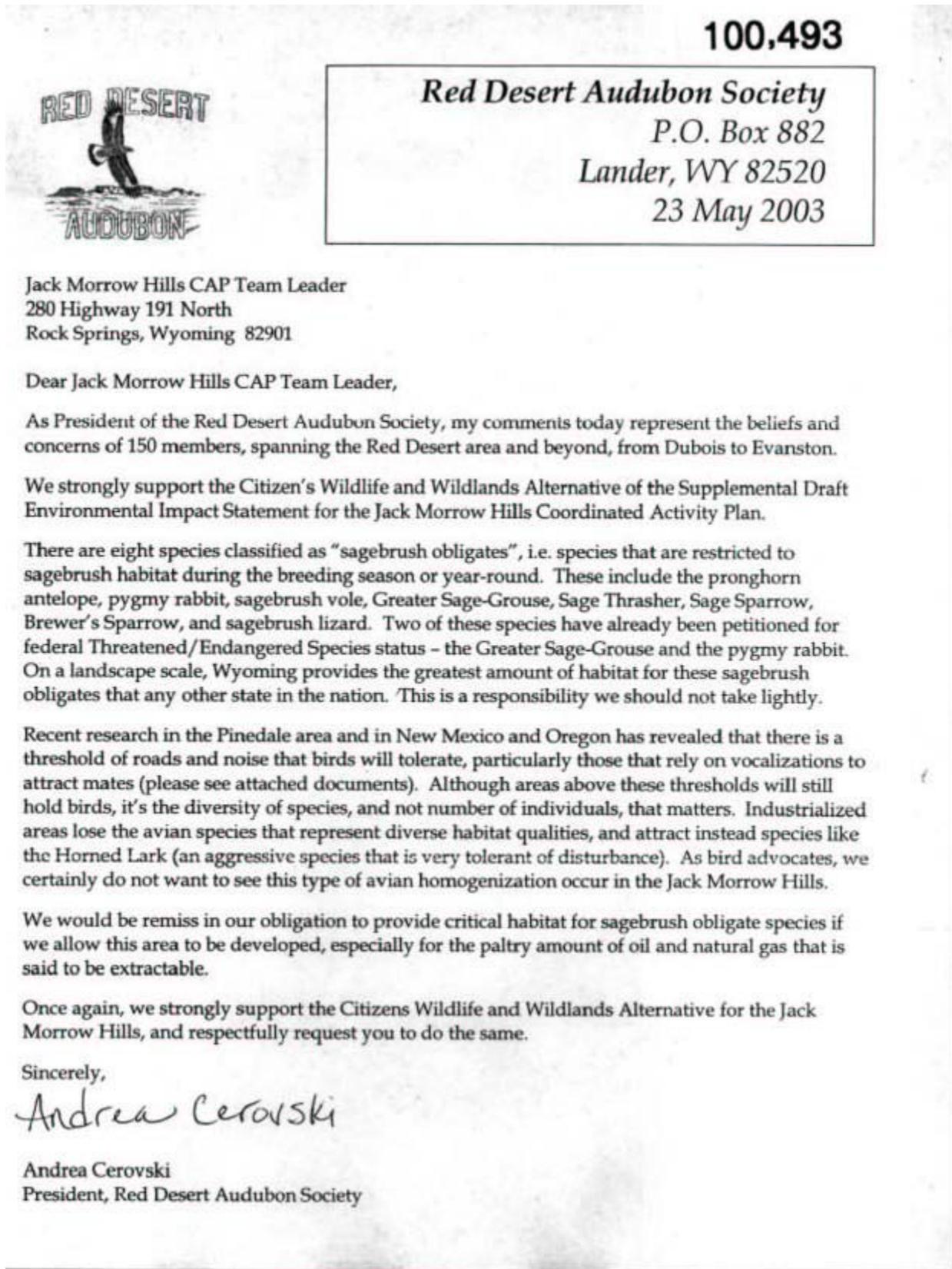
CC: BLM Director, Kathleen Clark  
BLM State Director, Bob Bennett  
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas  
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi  
U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin  
Popo Agie Conservation District  
Sweetwater Conservation District



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Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Office of State Lands and Investments  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Wyoming Department of Agriculture  
Wyoming State Geological Survey  
Wyoming Business Council  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality





Ingelfinger, F. 2001. The effects of natural gas development on sagebrush steppe passerines<sup>103</sup> in Sublette County, WY. Master's Thesis, U. of WY.

#### PASSERINE RESPONSE TO ROADS ASSOCIATED WITH NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT

Because roads are one of the more conspicuous disturbances associated with natural gas development, I examined how roads influence passerine distribution and abundance within the Pinedale Anticline Project Area. Previous studies have shown that when daily traffic volumes are high (> 10,000 vehicles/day), passerine abundance is reduced within a zone that extends several hundred meters from the road's edge probably due to noise created by constant, heavy traffic volume (Warner 1992, Foppen and Reijnen 1994, Reijnen and Foppen 1994, Reijnen et al. 1996). However, roads created during natural gas development are not paved and traffic volume is light, ranging from less than 800 vehicles per day along entrance roads to fewer than 10 vehicles per week on roads providing access to individual wells. Despite low traffic volumes, I found that roads associated with natural gas extraction negatively impact sagebrush obligates. The impacts are greatest along access roads where traffic volumes are high and within 100 m of these roads, sagebrush obligates are reduced by as much as 60%. Even along roads with traffic volumes below 12 vehicles per day, sagebrush obligate density was reduced by 50% within the 100-m road zone.

Regardless of traffic volume, sagebrush obligate density is reduced within 100 m of roads associated with natural gas development. Three mechanisms may be responsible for the observed declines 1) noise and dust disturbance created by traffic, 2) increased horned lark abundance along roads which may deter other species from using the area, and 3) avoidance of habitat edges created by roads. Traffic volume along main access roads is relatively continuous throughout the day. It is likely that along such roads, birds are responding to noise and dust created by traffic.

However, on secondary roads where traffic is infrequent, it is unlikely that either noise or dust disturbance are consistent enough to cause the observed reductions in bird density. The second mechanism that may contribute to sagebrush obligate bird decline along roads is the effect that dirt roads have on horned lark distribution. Horned larks are a common grassland species that nest in sagebrush steppe habitats in open areas where sagebrush cover is low. Horned larks are primarily granivorous, and even during the breeding season seeds comprise a large portion of their diet (Rotenberry 1980b, Beason

1995). Horned larks are common along dirt roads (Beason 1995) where they forage on windblown seeds that collect in the lee of gravel. In the PAPA, the concentration of seed resources along dirt roads may attract horned larks to these areas. Within the 100-m road zone horned lark density increased by 30% relative to areas outside this zone ( $P = 0.023$ , marginally statistically significant at the Bonferroni family correction alpha of 0.0125). Within this road zone horned larks accounted for 31% of species' detections, compared to only 16% outside this zone. Because horned larks observed foraging on roads and road margins were outside point count boundaries, estimates of horned lark abundance within the road zone are conservative. While competition is rare within the sagebrush steppe avian community (Wiens 1977, Rotenberry 1980b), concentration of seed resources along dirt roads may create a foraging opportunity that is defended by horned larks. Horned larks are the second largest passerine in the study area, second only to the sage thrasher, and horned larks were repeatedly observed initiating aggressive interactions with Brewer's and sage sparrows along roads. The increased concentration of horned larks along roads may reduce the surrounding habitat's attractiveness to other sympatric species through either exploitative or interference competition.

A third mechanism that may contribute to sagebrush obligate decline along roads is avoidance of edges created by road construction. Sagebrush naturally occurs in an unbroken, homogeneous stand throughout the PAPA, and roads bisecting the area create a sharp edge that breaks habitat continuity. While not statistically significant, there is some evidence that at least sage sparrows might avoid sagebrush habitats along edges created by surface disturbance. Along the surveyed pipeline, sage sparrow density was 64% lower within the 100-m buffer zone despite traffic absence. Although this decline was not statistically significant ( $P = 0.047$ ), it provides some evidence of edge avoidance.

While a 50% reduction in sagebrush obligate bird density along a single road may not be biologically significant, the effect of the construction of multiple roads within a single development area can be substantial. In the Bureau of Land Management's Record of Decision, the BLM approved the construction of 444 km of roads within the 64,000 ha of the PAPA under their management (Bureau of Land Management 2000), equivalent to an average road density of 0.7 km of road per km<sup>2</sup> (1.13 miles / mile<sup>2</sup>). If a conservative

road width of 10 m is used, roads will cover 0.7% of the PAPA. If a 100-m buffer is extended along the roads, roads will impact 14.6% of the Pinedale Anticline Project Area.

#### MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The effect of natural gas development and extraction on the avifauna of this sagebrush steppe dominated project area will be both short and long-term. Short-term effects are those that occur during the 50-year development and extraction phase of the project. Short-term impacts include direct habitat loss due to construction of pipelines, roads, and well pads; species response to increased noise, traffic and human presence; changes in species composition resulting from surface disturbance; and localized effects of habitat fragmentation within the project area. The long-term effects of development relate to the ability of the avifauna to recover after completion of extraction operations, field abandonment, and reclamation of the project area. Long-term effects are harder to predict as they depend not only on local reclamation success but on state and region wide patterns in sagebrush management that occur concomitantly with development.

Results from this study indicate that regardless of traffic volume, roads associated with natural gas development will reduce the abundance of sagebrush obligate passerines. While sagebrush obligates are expected to decline, horned lark abundance should increase. Horned larks are year-round residents and have higher fecundity rates than sagebrush obligates. The horned lark can raise more than three broods during a season, compared to the single or double broods of sagebrush obligates; and as winter residents of the area, horned larks are able to nest earlier than sympatric species. In both 1999 and 2000, horned larks were feeding nestlings by May 10, before Brewer's sparrows had returned from their winter grounds. Sagebrush obligate numbers will also be affected by increases in common ravens, as ravens prey on sagebrush obligate nestlings (Martin and Carlson 1998). Ravens were frequently observed nesting on structures associated with gas extraction, and the provision of nesting structures will likely increase raven density in the project area.

Because this study was conducted prior to development, it is unclear what the cumulative effects of roads and other forms of surface disturbance will be. While shrubsteppe species are likely adapted to the large continuous structure of sagebrush

habitats, habitat fragmentation associated with natural gas development will probably affect bird distribution.

The long-term effect of natural gas development depends on the ability of the avian community to recover after extraction completion and reclamation of the area. While breeding ground densities are often below habitat carrying capacity (Wiens 1974, 1977), suggesting that habitat loss will have little impact on sagebrush passerine populations, these species evolved in a continuous landscape of sagebrush habitat and fragmentation could compound the effects of habitat loss.

It is also noteworthy that, sagebrush obligate passerines have been declining over the past forty years throughout their range (Sauer et al. 1997). While the cause of these declines is largely undetermined, fragmentation of sagebrush steppe habitats is probably important. Sagebrush communities throughout the West have been fragmented by conversion to agriculture (Dobler 1996), herbicide and mechanical removal (Braun et al. 1976), exotic species invasion (Whisenant 1990), and human development (Paige and Ritter 1999). In Colorado, herbicide treatment has altered over 30% of that state's sagebrush community (Braun et al. 1976), and in Washington, in part due to agricultural conversion of shrub habitats, only 40% of the state's original 4 million hectares of sagebrush steppe remain (Dobler et al. 1996).

Compared to other western states, Wyoming's sagebrush steppe is relatively unaltered by man. Although areas have been treated, burned, grazed by cattle, and developed, the majority is still untouched. However, expansion of oil and gas development throughout Wyoming's sagebrush steppe communities will probably negatively impact the breeding bird community that depends on this habitat. The ability of bird populations to recover after development is not only dependent on the success of local reclamation, but also on state and region wide management practices that occur concomitantly with development. Clearly the development of a single natural gas field will have few significant long-term ramifications. However, the development of numerous fields statewide combined with other land use practices that alter sagebrush habitats, could reduce the avian community's ability to recover from short-term alterations in habitat and land uses. Therefore, development in sagebrush habitats should

consider not only short-term localized effects, but also the effect that local development has on the region-wide distribution and landscape patterns of sagebrush habitats.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Natural gas development in Wyoming is important both for the state's economy and to reduce this country's dependency on foreign energy resources. While surface occupancy during extraction is relatively ephemeral, the ecological impact can be persistent. Over the next few decades, natural gas extraction is expected to increase throughout Wyoming's sagebrush communities. The impact that development will have on the passerines reliant on the sagebrush community will depend on the local intensity and regional patterns of development. Results from this study suggest that sagebrush obligates (Brewer's sparrows, sage sparrows, and sage thrashers) will decline while horned lark numbers will increase during development. These changes in species composition are the result of surface disturbances associated with road construction. My results support arguments for both the complete reclamation of roads after development as well as investigation into technologies that would reduce the proliferation of roads within the Pinedale Anticline Project Area.

Future monitoring of sagebrush steppe avian communities within the Pinedale Anticline Project Area and throughout Wyoming seems warranted. Monitoring should focus on how habitat fragmentation associated with natural gas extraction and other forms of land use impact the bird community and other flora and fauna. Breeding-bird surveys should consider using larger radii point counts than were employed in this study in order to incorporate the variation associated with the patchy distribution of these species within counts. Because densities based on point counts of different radii are not comparable (Hutto 1986), future studies employing larger radii counts should note detection within the first 50 m so that densities can be compared to those from this study.

*The following is excerpted from the Wyoming Bird Conservation Plan, Version 1.0 (Cеровski, A., M. Gorges, T. Byer, K. Duffy, and D. Felley, editors. 2001. Wyoming Bird Conservation Plan, Version 1.0. Wyoming Partners In Flight. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Lander, WY.)*

#### Effects of Noise on Birds

Continuous noise (e.g. gas well compressors, drill rigs, highways, and construction activities) can interfere with the vocal communication of birds, particularly singing males, making it more difficult for males in noisy environments to defend territories and attract and maintain mates. Continuous noise may adversely affect territory selection, territorial defense, dispersal, foraging success, fledging success, and song learning. Noise can produce stress in individuals and stress avoidance could result in lower population density in noisy areas. Noise can also affect habitat selection if birds have greater difficulty obtaining food because aural cues are less effective. Essentially, these adverse noise effects reduce the quality of affected habitats and could result in avoidance of noisier habitats and reduced population density in those habitats relative to quieter habitats. Species differ in their tolerance of and responses to noise, and over time more tolerant species may replace less tolerant species in noisier habitats.

The effects of continuous noise on bird communities are probably strongest in areas where noise is over 50 dBA, but even moderate noise levels (40 to 50 dBA) may have some effect on bird communities. An increase of 10 dBA above background noise is probably acceptable in most situations. Assuming that background noise is approximately 39 dBA in the daytime and the evening, this is equal to the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) level for constant noise generators (49 dBA). At nighttime it is equal to 42 dBA. To minimize the effects of continuous noise on bird populations, reduce the noise level to 49 dBA or less.

Constant noise generators should be located far enough away from sensitive habitats such as grouse leks and raptor nests that the noise that reaches those habitats is less than 49 dBA. For example, the noise impact from drill rigs is greater than 49 dBA when the rig is closer than about 800 feet (250 m) to a receptor; impact from a 26,000 horsepower compressor station is greater than 49 dBA when located closer than about 2,500 feet (750 m) to a receptor. Near roads with 10,000 cars per day the population density of birds may be reduced up to 1 mile (1.5 km) from the road, while near very busy roads (up to 60,000 cars per day) the effect may be felt up to 2 miles (2.9 km) away. Avoid placing well pads, roads, and any other facilities requiring human presence within 825 feet (250 m) of raptor nests to prevent flushing adults from the nest. This buffer zone should be expanded in areas where prey are scarce, as raptors must spend more time searching for prey and may be less tolerant of disturbances.

Where possible, avoid construction activities and other temporary disturbances during the breeding season in areas where priority bird species occur. Avoid noisy disturbances within a ½ mile (0.8 km) of active or occupied raptor nests during the period from February 1 through July 31 to prevent nest abandonment.

If necessary, implement mitigation measures to decrease continuous noise levels. For example, enclose compressor engines with buildings and install additional suppression around muffler exhausts. Noise barriers can be constructed at drilling and testing operations, and noise dampening around engines should be considered (including foam insulation around drilling rigs).

#### References and Literature Cited

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LaGory, K. E., Y. S. Chang, K. C. Chun, T. Reeves, R. Liebich, and K. Smith. 2001. A Study of the Effects of Gas Well Compressor Noise on Breeding Bird Populations of the Rattlesnake Canyon Habitat Management Area, San Juan County, New Mexico. Argonne National Laboratory, Environmental Assessment Division, Argonne, IL. 90pp.

Moorehead, M., and L. Epstein. 1985. Regulation of small-scale energy facilities in Oregon: background report. Volume 2. Oregon Department of Energy, Salem.

Morrison, M. L. 1998. Avian Risk and Fatality Protocol. National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO. 7pp.

Entire study area -

4 trillion cf of technically (not economically) feasible gas  
535,000 barrels of oil

9 wks of natural gas } For nation - based on  
39 minutes of oil } drilling everything

FRIENDS OF THE RED DESERT, source,

200,002



"George Ruebelmann"  
<ruebwiik@wavecom.net>

02/24/2003 01:25 PM

To: <wymail\_jmhcap@blm.gov>  
CC:  
Subject: jack morrow hills comments

Dear BLM,

The protections for Jack Morrow wanted by the public in Wyoming and around the world were outlined in what is known as the Conservation Plan option. The management of roadless areas, the elk and big horn sheep herd habitats, and air and water quality for wildlife habitat were protected under that conservation plan which you are recommending against.

We are from Wyoming. We have retired in Wyoming. We worked many years for state and federal government in Wyoming. We have earned the right to be heard as citizens of this state. Contrary to information put out for the newsmedia, I believe we are in the majority in our beliefs that Jack Morrow habitat needs every protection available to federal resource managers.

Please do not let drilling of any sort in the pristine areas needed for wildlife habitat. Please manage the Red desert and the great divide basin for it's most valuable resources: the renewable ones.

There is no evidence that the unrenewables (oil, gas, and coalbed methane) are more valuable to the people of Wyoming than a pristine area filled with what the rest of the world wants and needs: a pure desert habitat. It is one of the very few left in our world. Please manage the Jack Morrow hills in the Red Desert for those values. Please use scientific evidence to establish areas of pristine units to preserve unscathed so our children and grandchildren can experience one of the last desert eco-systems in the world.



Thank you for listening to our concerns. They are shared by so many of us.

lorna wilkes and george ruebelmann



200,011



"John Anderson"  
<elderjbanderson@hotmail.com>

03/16/2003 09:31 AM

To: bob\_bennett@blm.gov, wymail\_jmhcap@blm.gov  
cc: gale\_norton@ios.doi.gov, senator@thomas.senate.gov  
Subject: Wildlife and Wildlands alternative

I am opposed to this alternative. I believe we need to do MORE to develop our resources in the face of dwindling supplies and unsure sources. I am also against the restricted access proposed in the alternative as we currently have adequate wilderness areas preserved with limited access.

Why protect things like the pony express trail and the Oregon trail if the average person can not have access to them through appropriate road construction and maintenance

Proper management can protect the wildlife and their habitat and still develop the oil and gas properties to provide us with much needed energy sources.

John Anderson

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200,014



Bob Brister  
<bbrister@greens.org>  
03/23/2003 09:29 AM

To: wymail\_jmhcap@blm.gov  
cc: Gale\_Norton@ios.doi.gov  
Subject: protect Jack Morrow Hills

March 23, 2003

Renee Dana  
Rock Springs Field Office Project Leader  
Rock Springs, WY

Dear Renee Dana,

I am writing to support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative for the Jack Morrow Hills. I live in Utah and visit Wyoming to experience its great natural areas.

First and foremost, the roadless areas of this land should be protected. All vehicles should be restricted to designated roads. New roads and developments in roadless areas should be prohibited.

Mineral leases in the area should be traded or bought-out. New oil and gas leasing and mining activities should be not be allowed. The size of the Wilderness Study Areas should be increased to that recommended by the Citizen's Proposal boundaries. These lands should be recommended to Congress for Wilderness designation.

Native American holy sites and historic landmarks such as the Oregon Trail should be protected.

The long-term survival of the Red Desert elk and pronghorn antelope herds and other wildlife must be the plan's priority. I urge that the BLM select this alternative as the best plan for protecting the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the Red Desert. Ecological protection and restoration is the highest and best used of our public lands.

Sincerely,

Bob Brister  
1102 South 800 East #A  
Salt Lake City, UT 84105

200,026



BENNATTI@ACADIA.N  
ET

03/26/2003 04:52 PM

To: wymail\_jmhcap@blm.gov

cc:

Subject: Protect the Red Desert from Oil and Gas Drilling

Rock Springs Field Office Project Leader Renee Dana

Dear Rock Springs Field Office Project Leader Renee Dana,

Please support the Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative for the Jack Morrow Hills Plan. It would be a terrible shame to forever scar this national treasure through oil and natural gas drilling or mining activities. Please protect this area by preventing the sale of mineral leases, preventing new road construction in roadless areas, and designating as wilderness areas sections that meet wilderness criteria. This is critical habitat for pronghorn antelope and other wildlife. Please protect this region. Future generations will judge us by the resources we leave for them and the health of the Earth they inherit.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN BENNATTI  
1556 BALD MOUNTAIN RD  
ORLAND, Maine 04472

cc:  
Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton

200,027



SBRITTH437@AOL.CO  
M  
03/26/2003 05:57 PM

To: wymail\_jmhcap@blm.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Red Desert

Rock Springs Field Office Project Leader Renee Dana

Dear Rock Springs Field Office Project Leader Renee Dana,

I am requesting the Rock Springs BLM support the Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative for the Jack Morrow Hills Plan that would allow recreation uses that will not degrade the biological structure of the Red Desert. Road building has been identified in peer reviewed scientific journals as a prime factor in habitat fragmentation stressing ecosystem functioning as well as costing the taxpayer money in loss of ecosystem productivity and the increased cost associated with invasive plant species outcompeting native plants while changing the natural fire regime.

I am also asking for a cessation of new oil and gas leasing as well as large scale mining activities. The integrity of Wilderness Study Areas should be maintained and moved to Wilderness classification by Congress to protect Native American religious sites as well as supporting native flora and fauna within a functioning biological structure.

I urge that the BLM select this alternative as the best plan for protecting the wildlife, natural beauty and ecological integrity of this portion of the Red Desert.

Sincerely,

Steve Brittingham  
Box 561, Star Rt. 38  
Mount Charleston, Nevada 89124

cc:  
Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton

200,037



Vince Desimone  
<vincedesimone@yahoo.com>

03/30/2003 04:51 PM

To: Renee Dana <wymail\_jmhcap@blm.gov>  
cc: Gale\_Norton@ios.doi.gov, senator@thomas.senate.gov  
Subject: Red Desert/Jack Morrow Hills Plan

Greetings:

I support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative fo the Jack Morrow Hills Plan.

I support increasing the size of wilderness where possible. The Citizens' inventories have identified qualifying lands. No new roads should be allowed in areas that could possibly be wilderness.

The Citizens' proposal would balance the need for access for recreation, hunting, grazing and ORV use.

The Red Desert elk and antelope herds along with other wildlife should be protected.

There should be no new oil and gas leasing or other extractive (mining) allowed in the area.

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200,049



The Wilderness  
Vagabond  
<wildvagabond@yahoo.com>

To: wymail\_jmhcap@blm.gov  
cc:  
Subject: no to rs2477

04/05/2003 09:38 AM

Rob Jones  
2478 East Elm Avenue, Salt Lake, Utah, 84109-1331  
E-Mail: wildvagabond@yahoo.com

Date: April 5, 2003

Please act in concert with the RS 2477 congressional letter to the Dept. Of the Interior led by Representative Mark Udall (CO)

I want you to NOT process RS 2477 claims under the new disclaimer regulations. How about a lot more stewardship and protection of our public lands, and less callous, destructive "development" activities!

This destructive development strategy harms our national security via wasting resources such as fuel and encouraging the loss of our quality of life, and life itself through ruining our water quality, soils, air quality, etc. If any claims are to be processed, the Department of the Interior must adopt standards to assess the validity of these bogus highway claims. No such standards are in place. This is a highly irresponsible policy, which will do nothing more than create confusion and litigation.

This rush of new claims would essentially thwart current and future conservation measures meant to preserve these special places for future generations. Americans value our open spaces and for years have struggled with the question of how much to preserve. This new rule renders that ongoing discussion meaningless by allowing for thousands of miles of new "highways" to be declared virtually overnight.

Please do not abandon existing policy which offers state and local governments a fair opportunity to submit realistic and potentially valid claims under existing law. The Federal Land Policy Management Act did just that in 1976, and all Title V claims should go through this fair process of evaluation. Instead, the new rule turns a blind eye to fairness, abandoning a fair alternative that uses modern laws to ensure public involvement and compliance with environmental law.

Old riverbeds, cowpaths, and hiking trails were never meant to be considered as roads. Courts have laid out a rational set of standards that should become the norm for assessing these bogus claims.

These lands are our nation's birthright. They belong to all Americans, not just a few special interests. Too often, the voice of the people is drowned by those who would exploit these special places, and ignore their greatest asset: the value of wilderness and open

spaces, void of roads.

The new regulations are dangerous because they could potentially validate the actions of irresponsible and unregulated off-road vehicle use in southern Utah. In increasing numbers, thousands of ATV riders head to Utah's public lands every day, and the threat of those irresponsible riders who don't follow the rules by staying on designated routes (of course the BLM is just now beginning to designate routes). Two tracks on the ground is all it takes for greedy people to file an "interest" for a new "road."

Please adopt and enforce a balanced and common-sense application of modern law, on a case-by-case basis. This includes public participation and the most up-to-date scientific knowledge for managing our lands wisely for future generations.

Please act in concert with the RS 2477 congressional letter to the Dept. Of the Interior led by Representative Mark Udall (CO)

I want you to NOT process RS 2477 claims under the new disclaimer regulations. How about a lot more stewardship and protection of our public lands, and less callous, destructive "development" activities!

See Rob's Trip Reports at:  
<http://users.sisna.com/vagabond>

Cordially, Rob

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Do you Yahoo!?  
Yahoo! Tax Center - File online, calculators, forms, and more  
<http://tax.yahoo.com>