



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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November 20, 2006

WER 9081.07
Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
December Oil and Gas Lease Sale
Potential Wildlife Impacts

Mr. Bob Bennett
State Director, BLM State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Dear Mr. Bennett,

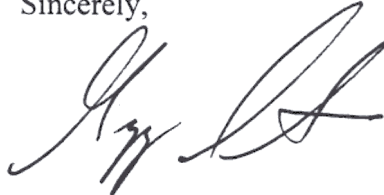
There are lease parcels (i.e., WY-0612-185 and WY-0612-186) slated for the upcoming December 5, 2006 sale that warrant additional consideration given their importance as an annual mule deer and antelope migration corridor, and the presence of a well-attended sage-grouse lek. These BLM administered lands provide an important, unrestricted movement corridor for mule deer during fall migrations to winter ranges located within the Pinedale Mesa and spring migrations back to summer ranges located throughout the Bridger Teton National Forest (see attached map). In addition, antelope use this same corridor, and a sage-grouse lek, containing over 200 males, has been observed on these parcels.

As documented in the attached map, deer movements are concentrated (less than 0.5 miles) due to available sagebrush habitat and topography, and occur primarily on BLM administered lands. Given the trend we have seen with intense gas development on other important wildlife habitats in Sublette County, future development within this corridor will restrict and impact mule deer and antelope movements, and sage-grouse could be disturbed on this lek site. We recommend the area proposed for lease (i.e., WY-0612-185 and WY0612-186) be removed from the December sale in order that we can cooperatively work with the BLM-Pinedale Field Office to develop a management strategy to maintain important migration corridors in concert with escalating natural gas development throughout the Upper Green River Basin. Proactively developing a management strategy that protects wildlife migration corridors is important as this new information regarding specific mule deer migration corridors was not available when the 1988 BLM-Pinedale Field Office's Resource Management Plan (RMP) was approved. Additionally, a management strategy such as this would aid managers in evaluating future gas leases and development proposals.

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Thank you for your attention to important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Arthur', written in a cursive style.

GREGG ARTHUR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

GA:sgs

Attachement

cc: Mary Flanderka – Governor’s Planning Office
Dennis Stenger – BLM Pinedale Field Office
Bill Lanning – BLM Pinedale Field Office
Susan Child – State Lands and Investments
File

