



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Montana State Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, Montana 59101-4669  
<http://www.blm.gov/mt>

In Reply Refer To:

3100 (922.JB)

August 18, 2008

Michael Gibson, Outreach Director  
Montana Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 7186  
Missoula, Montana 59807-7186

Dear Mr. Gibson,

This letter is to inform you that after review of your recent protest of our August Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has made the decision to withdraw the three parcels listed in the protest from the sale. These parcels are MT 08-08-01, MT 08-08-02, and MT 08-08-10.

Portions of the protest concern the status of the Butte Resource Management Plan (RMP). The proposed Revised RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be released in the near future. The proposed Revised RMP/FEIS will address comments concerning oil and gas leasing in the Butte Field Office raised during public review of the draft RMP. By delaying these lease offerings, the BLM will provide all parties with the opportunity to review the proposed Revised RMP/FEIS. With the Revised RMP being so close to completion, the BLM feels that it is appropriate to defer leasing on these parcels until the Record of Decision is reached for the Revised RMP.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact John Bown at (406) 8996-5109.

Sincerely,

/s/ Theresa M. Hanley

Theresa M. Hanley  
Deputy State Director  
Division of Resources

cc:  
Butte Field Office

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