

BY CERTIFIED MAIL AND FACSIMILE

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MONTANA STATE OFFICE
BILLINGS MONTANA

RE: Fourteen Questions for BLM Prior to Oil & Gas Lease Sales on Parcels MT-07-07-05 through MT-07-07-151

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PARCELS OFFERED FOR LEASE

On behalf of the Montana Wildlife Federation, I respectfully submit the following fourteen questions for the Bureau of Land Management to answer relative to the proposed sale of oil and gas leases on parcels MT-07-07-05 through MT-07-07-151 in Garfield and McCone counties.

1. Given that individual leases are not identified to the public until the lease sale notice and given that the only mechanism for addressing concerns is with an administrative protest, what is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) doing to ensure that the public can be engaged outside of protests once lease parcels have been identified?
2. How will the BLM ensure that the public lands proposed for leasing be managed for a balance of traditional multiple uses, including fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing activities, as oil and/or gas exploration and potential full field development occurs?
3. How and when will BLM develop a specific conservation strategy in concert with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) that will provide specific recommendations and actions to minimize impacts and proactively address fish and wildlife management and needs for the parcels offered for leasing?
4. How and where has BLM incorporated recommendations from FWP on how to maintain current big game and upland game bird population objectives in the parcels offered for leasing?
5. How will BLM establish plans for mitigation, detailed monitoring and the use of adaptive management to prevent, minimize or mitigate impacts of oil and/or gas exploration and development for the parcels offered for leasing?
6. How will this project impact the uses our members make of our public lands during of oil and/or gas exploration and development on these same lands?
7. What will BLM do to ensure that areas that are developed get restored so that they can be hunted again during our lifetime?
8. Because development might keep our members from being able to hunt for the rest of our life on public lands that our families and we have traditionally used, what will BLM do to provide our members with alternative locations where we can continue hunting?
9. Will BLM pay for additional FWP Block Management areas, purchase or lease other areas, or provide additional access to huntable public lands in our area?

9. Will BLM pay for additional FWP Block Management areas, purchase or lease other areas, or provide additional access to huntable public lands in our area?
10. How will BLM mitigate the loss of fish and wildlife and fishing and hunting opportunity in the lease parcels where our members hunt and fish and where the losses have occurred, and how will you measure when replacement of that loss has occurred?
11. How long will this development take to be implemented, recovered, and mitigated before our members will be able to hunt here again? Seventy five years is well beyond our lifetimes and our children's lifetimes
12. How does BLM plan on helping FWP address the increased poaching and law enforcement needs that have been proved to be associated with development?
13. How does the amount of money suggested for mitigation relate to the revenues that will come from the developed area, and how does it relate to the habitat base and to the biological needs of wildlife populations being affected?
14. How does BLM plan on compensating hunters for the loss of numbers of big game and upland game birds that might occur as a result of development?

It is requested that BLM respond to this request in writing in a prompt manner so that Montana Wildlife Federation can consider filing a protest of the lease sales on or before July 16, 2007, if the BLM response is inadequate.

Thank you for your prompt attention to our questions.

Respectfully,

Chris Marchion

Chris Marchion, President
Montana Wildlife Federation
PO Box 1175
Helena, MT 59624

cc/ Senator Max Baucus
Senator Jon Tester
Governor Brian Schweitzer

Identical letters received from the following groups:

Montana Chapter of Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
Great Falls Archers
Libby Rod & Gun Club
Federation of Fly Fishers
Russell Country Sportsmen
Montana Wildlife Federation
Meagher County Sportsmen
Public Lands/Water Access Assoc., Inc.
Magic City Fly Fishers
Anaconda Sportsman Club
Orion - The Hunters Institute
Laurel Rod & Gun Club
Montana River Action Network
Big Sky Upland Bird Association
Helena Hunters & Anglers Association
Hellgate Hunters & Anglers
Custer Road & Gun Club