



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Janis Hurley
36732 Sunshine Mesa Road
Hotchkiss CO 81419

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75875 and COC75876 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Janis Hurley regarding the above listed parcels. These two parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Dolores V. Jacobson
PO Box 95
Cedaredge, CO 81413

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Dolores V. Jacobson regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Rocky Mountain Wild
1536 Wynkoop, Suite 303
Denver, CO 80202

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale; Protest Dismissed or Denied

This office received a protest from Rocky Mountain Wild (RMW) regarding the following twenty-two parcels: COC75718, COC75728, COC75730, COC75735, COC75737, COC75746, COC75756, COC75760, COC75763, COC75764, COC75769, COC75770, COC75777, COC75788, COC75889, COC75890, COC75891, COC75893, COC75894, COC75895, COC75897 and COC75898. Of these, seventeen entire parcels, COC 75718, COC75730, COC75735, COC75737, COC75746, COC75756, COC75760, COC75763, COC75764, COC75769, COC75770, COC75777 and COC75788 [See Notice of Addendum No. 5, (February 4, 2013)] , COC75890 and COC75891 [See Notice of Addendum No. 8 (February 13, 2013)] and COC75897 and COC75898 [See Addendum No. 4 (January 14, 2013)] were not offered in this sale, and so RMW's protest as to these seventeen parcels is summarily dismissed.

The remainder of this response addresses RMW's arguments related to parcels COC75728, COC75889, COC75893, COC75894 and COC75895. The BLM has reviewed RMW's arguments in their entirety. RMW's substantive arguments are presented below in bold, with BLM's responses following.

1. "Leasing large acreage of important sage-grouse habitat, prior to the completion of regional conservation planning efforts, will push the species closer to a full listing and must therefore be avoided." (RMW Protest at 7).

Response: In an effort to avoid the federal listing of the Greater Sage-grouse, the BLM is developing a national strategy to preserve, conserve, and restore sagebrush habitat, the ecological home of the Greater Sage-grouse. The BLM has issued national policy and direction, based on

local needs and information, to guide the agency's actions and raise the importance of sagebrush conservation in BLM planning efforts.

To assist with the BLM planning efforts, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) recently mapped high-priority Greater Sage-grouse habitat in Colorado. The map depicts the current distribution of sage-grouse in the state and provides a biological basis for land use recommendations that focus conservation efforts on the most important habitat. Areas with highest conservation value to maintain sustainable Greater Sage-grouse populations were mapped as Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH). Sage-grouse occupied habitats outside of PPH were mapped as Preliminary General Habitat (PGH). These are primarily areas identified by CPW as areas with low activity or incidental use. Only parcels in general habitat that provide low or marginal habitat for Greater Sage-grouse were offered for leasing during the February 2013 sale. All nominated parcels in PPH were deferred from leasing.

Under the current Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) Resource Management Plan (RMP) (2011), the disputed parcels are available for oil and gas leasing. In the 2011 LSFO RMP, the BLM designated high, medium and low priority sagebrush habitats. High priority sagebrush habitat consists primarily of greater sage-grouse core areas (CPW 2008). Core areas were considered the most important Greater Sage-grouse habitat during the LSFO RMP revision. Since CPW updated Greater Sage-grouse mapping, PPH is now considered the most important habitat for sage-grouse. None of the offered parcels are located in high priority sagebrush habitat or in PPH. Medium priority sagebrush habitat includes other sage-grouse habitat (winter range, breeding habitat and areas within a four mile radius of a lek outside of core areas) and big game habitat (winter concentration areas, severe winter range, critical winter range and migration corridors). The RMP prescribes a 5% disturbance cap for new oil and gas leases in medium priority sagebrush habitat. The 5% disturbance cap stipulation (LS-107) was attached to all five parcels that occur in PGH (see attachment C of the Environmental Assessment).

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 2011 LSFO RMP analyzed the impacts of oil and gas leasing on Greater Sage-grouse. The BLM is not required, during an RMP amendment or revision process, to suspend or deny a proposed action that is authorized by the current RMP and supported by its underlying EIS. Powder River Basin Resource Council, 180 IBLA 1, 17 (2010); Wyoming Outdoor Council, 156 IBLA 377, 384 (2002). However, to preserve the LSFO's ability to implement new management decisions adopted through the NW Colorado Greater Sage-grouse amendment process, the BLM has deferred all parcels containing Greater Sage-grouse PPH. The five parcels offered in PGH are located in medium priority habitat and the 5% disturbance cap stipulation (LSF-107) was attached to these parcels.

For these reasons, we deny this portion of RMW's protest.

2. "BLM has . . . failed to acknowledge that parcel COC75889 is adjacent to Preliminary Priority Habitat. This parcel is necessary for the grouse to move between priority habitat areas." (RMW Protest at 7).

Response: The southwest portion of Parcel COC75889 could be used by sage-grouse to move between general habitat and priority habitat. This area is not necessary, nor would it be expected

to be used for movement between priority habitats because topography and non-habitat (forest/mixed mountain shrub lands) would limit movement through much of this parcel. Suitable habitat to the north and south of this parcel would be the more likely route for movement between priority habitat areas.

For these reasons, we deny this portion of RMW's protest.

3. "BLM has failed to analyze cumulative impacts on the greater sage-grouse. Parcel COC75894 is within an area that has existing coal mine operations. The EA does not analyze the impacts of leasing this parcel for oil and gas development compounded by past coal mine operations. Sage grouse using this habitat are already being impacted by this past action and will be stressed further by this new authorized development. BLM has also failed to analyze how past leasing in the vicinity of these parcels will exacerbate the impacts of leasing these parcels." (RMW protest at 12).

Response: Offering and subsequently issuing competitive oil and gas leases at the February 2013 Sale is an implementation action consistent with the oil and gas management decisions contained in the 2011 LSFO RMP. In itself, leasing does not result in any cumulative impacts. The LSFO RMP EIS provides an analysis of cumulative effects to greater sage-grouse from oil and gas development, based on the reasonable, foreseeable oil and gas development scenario. This analysis was incorporated in the lease sale EA by reference.

When it prepared the LSFO RMP EIS and developed management prescriptions for the greater sage-grouse, the BLM considered studies from throughout the west. The EIS utilizes scientific information from Connelly et al. 2000, Naugle et al. 2004 and 2006, Holloran 2005, Walker et al. 2007, Doherty et al. 2008, and others, in the analysis of impacts, and BLM relied on that information in the development of mitigation or protective measures. Together, the lease sale EA, and the RMP EIS to which it is tiered, provide adequate disclosure for the decision-maker to determine if new significant impacts may occur under the alternatives analyzed. As noted above in response #1, in addition to applying protective measures in the form of lease stipulations, the BLM has deferred 39 parcels located in PPH (habitat with the highest conservation value). Since parcels being offered in PGH only provide very marginal habitat for sage-grouse, there is no indication that significant impacts would occur.

The LSFO reviewed the resource protection stipulations developed in the 2011 LSFO RMP and 1991 Colorado Oil and Gas Leasing and Development FEIS and determined that the planning-level oil and gas leasing decisions are still sufficient.

Stipulation CO-1 would be applied to parcel COC75894. No surface occupancy or use is allowed and no surface disturbance would occur. Future development would not have direct impact to GRSF habitat, and therefore would not contribute to cumulative impacts to the species and its habitat.

For these reasons, we deny this portion of RMW's protest.

4. “The BLM has failed to analyze a sufficient range of alternatives. . . . IM 2012-043 urges BLM to analyze alternatives that would protect the greater sage-grouse. BLM fails to follow its own agency guidance.” (RMW Protest at 13-14).

Response: The BLM considered an adequate range of alternatives to address the Purpose and Need of EA DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0049. The EA addressed two alternatives and the no-action alternative corresponding to the Purpose and Need described in the EA. RMW has not explained what it believes the BLM should have analyzed in an alternative “that would protect the greater sage-grouse.”

Under the No Action Alternative (Alternative 3), the BLM would have removed all of the proposed parcels from the lease sale; surface management would remain the same and on-going oil and gas development would continue on surrounding federal, private and state leases. BLM need not have analyzed an alternative that involved removing all of the protested parcels from the lease sale, because the BLM analyzed a no-action alternative under which none of the parcels would have been offered. Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, 183 IBLA 97, 125 (2013). Under The Proposed Action Alternative (Alternative 2), BLM would have offered lease parcels with identified stipulations consistent with the land use planning decisions contained in the 2011 LSFO RMP, including stipulations designed to protect greater sage-grouse and its habitat.

For these reasons, we deny this portion of RMW’s protest.

5. “BLM has failed to consider new information about greater sage-grouse. The Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures dated December 21, 2011, and produced by the Sage-grouse National Technical Team represents the best available science on the species. This leasing decision does not consider the recommendations made by the technical team in the report and is contrary to many of its findings.” (RMW Protest at 13). “BLM has failed to analyze if the stipulations in the LSFO RMP meet the standards of effectiveness outlined in this report.” (RMW Protest at 14).

Response: The BLM is aware of the latest science contained in the National Technical Team (NTT) report. This report makes recommendations for fluid mineral leasing and oil and gas development in greater sage-grouse priority habitat, but does not address these issues in general habitat. The LSFO is participating in the NW CO Greater-sage Grouse RMP Amendment/EIS to consider and incorporate the NTT recommendations. The BLM has deferred all of the 39 parcels containing PPH that were nominated for the February 2013 lease sale. By deferring those parcels, the BLM is ensuring that stipulations developed in this plan amendment can be applied to these parcels if leased at a later date.

For these reasons, we deny this portion of RMW’s protest.

6. “The BLM has failed . . . to meet its obligations under BLM Manual 6840.” (RMW Protest at 14-15).

Response: The greater sage-grouse is a BLM sensitive species. The BLM manages such special status species and their habitat in accordance with BLM Manual 6840. One objective of the policy is “to initiate proactive conservation measures that reduce or eliminate threats to Bureau

sensitive species to minimize the likelihood of and need for listing of these species under the ESA.” The manual directs that BLM “shall address Bureau sensitive species and their habitats in land use plans and associated NEPA documents When appropriate, land use plans shall be sufficiently detailed to identify and resolve significant land use conflicts with Bureau sensitive species without deferring conflict resolution to implementation-level planning.” BLM Manual 6840 at 6840.06.2B. By deferring all parcels in PPH until more stringent protections can be analyzed and adopted by the LSFO where appropriate, the BLM is fulfilling its obligations under BLM Manual 6840.

For these reasons, we deny this portion of RMW’s protest.

7. “The BLM must mitigate the adverse effects on [greater sage-grouse] in order to comply with the ‘unnecessary and undue degradation’ standard of FLPMA.” (RMW Protest at 15).

Response: RMW has not explained what mitigation it believes the BLM should apply to conform with FLPMA. Leasing has no direct effects on sensitive species. Nor does leasing constitute unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands under FLPMA. Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, 174 IBLA 1, 5-6 (2008). All proposed oil and gas development is evaluated for potential impacts to BLM sensitive species, as required by BLM policy. The LSFO staff regularly communicates with CPW when determining which parcels are appropriate to lease and which stipulations would help prevent or minimize impacts to wildlife species, including Greater Sage-grouse. The five parcels offered in PGH are also located in medium priority habitat and the 5% disturbance cap stipulation (LS-107) was attached to these parcels. To avoid unnecessary and undue degradation, the BLM applies appropriate site-specific mitigation at the time of development through conditions of approval.

For these reasons, we deny this portion of RMW’s protest.

8. “The BLM is violating FLPMA because it is not being consistent with the policies of state, tribal, and other agencies in its conservation policies regarding [greater sage-grouse]. . . . The proposed leasing is not consistent with CO Division of Wildlife policy, COGCC Regulations and other state, local and federal policies and programs.” (RMW Protest at 15).

Response: RMW has not explained why it believes the leasing of the protested parcels is inconsistent with the policies of state, tribal, local, and other federal agencies. The BLM coordinated with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to ensure wildlife concerns were adequately addressed. In its comments on the Environmental Analysis and the proposed lease sale, CPW stated that it “believes that impacts to wildlife resources on the identified lease parcels can be adequately avoided, minimized and mitigated with the stipulations attached to the Sale Notice.”

For these reasons, we deny this portion of RMW’s protest.

9. “The greater sage-grouse is a candidate species for Endangered Species Act listing. Leasing parcels in occupied . . . greater sage-grouse habitat is a violation of BLM’s duty to

manage its land for multiple uses. . . . This leasing is going to contribute to the need to list the species. Consultation with FWS should have been conducted to ensure adequate protection for this species.” (RMW Protest at 15). The BLM has a “duty to conserve and duty to engage in recovery planning.” (RMW Protest at 15-16).

Response: The greater sage-grouse is a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and is considered a BLM sensitive species. Currently this species has no protection under the ESA, and formal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service is not required for decisions potentially affecting the greater sage-grouse or its habitat. Similarly, the ESA requirements that relate to listed species do not apply to the greater sage-grouse. Nevertheless, because the greater sage-grouse is a BLM sensitive species, the BLM has adopted stipulations designed to protect the sage grouse and its habitat in the most recent LSFO RMP, undertaken the RMP amendment processes described above (see response to #1 above), and deferred all nominated parcels that contain greater sage-grouse PPH.

Section 103(c) of FLPMA provides the BLM’s multiple-use mandate, which refers to the management of the public lands and their resource values so that, they:

are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions.

By deferring leasing in all greater sage grouse PPH, the BLM has struck a judicious balance to best meet the present and future needs of the country, the state of Colorado and the local communities affected by the BLM’s oil and gas leasing decisions. Only parcels in general habitat that provide low or marginal habitat for greater sage-grouse were offered for leasing (see response to #1 above). This decision protects the areas with the highest conservation value to maintain sustainable greater sage-grouse populations in Northwest Colorado, while allowing for limited leasing and development.

For these reasons, we deny this portion of RMW’s protest.

10. “BLM has discretion to not lease.” (RMW Protest at 16).

Response: We agree with RMW that BLM has discretion whether to lease public lands. The Secretary of the Interior is vested by the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. § 181 et seq. (2000), as amended, with discretionary authority to lease or not lease Federal public land which is otherwise available for oil and gas leasing. This authority has been delegated to the State Director. If the State Director determines not to lease lands that are otherwise available for leasing as designated in the RMP, the justification must be rational and defensible, otherwise the decision will be found to be arbitrary and capricious. Continental Land Resources, 162 IBLA 1 (2004).

Lands are nominated by an interested party to be included in BLM Colorado’s competitive oil and gas lease sale. The nominations are checked to ensure the lands described in the nomination

are available and eligible for leasing. If necessary, the BLM prepares updated NEPA analysis to consider new information that has become available since the RMP Record of Decision was signed. If the field manager believes it is no longer appropriate to lease the land, the field manager recommends (with supporting justification) to the State Director to remove the parcel from the sale list. After considering all the facts, the State Director decides whether to lease the lands. In summary, BLM Colorado has a process in place to determine whether any nominated land should be leased based on the best and most recent information. This process is followed for all lease sales, including the February 2013 sale.

The BLM exercised its discretion by declining to lease a number of parcels that were deferred from the February 2013 lease sale. Likewise, the BLM exercised its discretion to offer the five protested parcels for sale. RMW has not explained why the BLM's ability to exercise discretion, standing alone, should prevent the leasing of the protested parcels.

For these reasons, we deny this portion of RMW's protest.

DECISION

The decision to offer parcels COC75728, COC75889, COC75893, COC75894 and COC75895 was made in accordance with Bureau of Land Management policy and regulations. RMW's protest of the sale of these five parcels is denied for the reasons described above. The BLM will issue the leases for these parcels, which were sold at the February 2013 lease sale.

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay of any decision appealed. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,



Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc Field Manager, Little Snake Field Office
Field Manager, Royal Gorge Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

High Country Citizen's Alliance
PO Box 1931
Grand Junction, CO 81502

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from High Country Citizen's Alliance (HCCA) regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, HCCA's protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Marie C. Hinton
15426 Fire Mountain Road
Paonia, CO 81428

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Marie C. Hinton regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Jacob Helleckson
41720 Reds Road
Paonia, CO 81428

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale
Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Jacob Helleckson regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Brent Helleckson
41720 Reds Road
Paonia, CO 81428

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale
Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Brent Helleckson regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Stephanie Helleckson
41720 Reds Road
Paonia, CO 81428

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale
Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Stephanie Helleckson regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Jonathan Hickam
PO Box 854
Hotchkiss, CO 81419

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale
Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Jonathan Hickam regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Heideman Family Farm
11126 3500 Road
Hotchkiss, CO 81419

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale
Protest of COC 75726, COC75860, COC75864, COC75865, COC75866, COC75867,
COC75868, COC75869, COC75870, COC75871, COC75872, COC75874, COC75875,
COC75876, COC75877, COC75878, COC75879, and COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Heideman Family Farm (HFF) regarding the above listed parcels. These eighteen parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, HFF's protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Donald R. and Marsha M. Grant
10927 3150 Road
Hotchkiss, CO 81419

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Donald R. and Marsha M. Grant regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Jacqueline Gulick
449 Vista Drive
Paonia, CO 81428

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Jacqueline Gulick regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov

In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Kay Hannah
11589 Crawford Road
Paonia, CO 81428

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Kay Hannah regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov

In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Bill and Susan Harding
2014 Pioneer Drive
Silt, CO 81652

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Bill and Susan Harding regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Hawks Haven HOA
PO Box 747
Paonia, CO 81428

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Hawks Haven HOA (HHHOA) regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, HHHOA's protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure\

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Gunnison County Commissioners
200 East Virginia Avenue, Suite 104
Gunnison, CO 81230

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale
Protest of COC 75860, COC75863, COC75864, COC75865, COC75867, COC75868, and
COC75870 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Gunnison County Commissioners (GCC) regarding the above listed parcels. These seven parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, GCC's protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Daniel A. Gonzalez
53 Pan American Avenue
Paonia, CO 81428

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Daniel A. Gonzalez regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov

In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

George Hall
17 Highway 133
Hotchkiss, CO 81419

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC 75867 Dismissed

This office received a protest from George Hall regarding the above listed parcel. This parcel was not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of this parcel is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Robyn Johnson
PO Box 1191
Paonia, CO 81428

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Robyn Johnson regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3120 (CO-922) (BS)

MAR 15 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt Requested

Decision

Judd Kleinman
47 Pan American Avenue
Paonia, CO 81428

February 14, 2013, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest of COC75726, COC75860, and COC75863 through COC75880 Dismissed

This office received a protest from Judd Kleinman regarding the above listed parcels. These twenty parcels were not offered in this sale. Therefore, your protest of these parcels is summarily dismissed. See Notice of Addendum No. 6 (February 7, 2013).

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form CSO 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals, must be strictly followed. The form also includes instructions for filing a petition for stay on any decision appealed from. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Barbara Sterling, Natural Resource Specialist, at (303) 239-3642.

Sincerely,

Lonny R. Bagley
Deputy State Director
Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals

Enclosure

cc: Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office