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First name: JANE

Last name: MCCOMB

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I stand in opposition to this Expressions of Interest on the HPBE District to lease ten parcels to the BLM for a potential future oil and gas lease sale and subsequent exploration and development.

There will be many reasons for opposition cited by others to which I agree. Degradation of existing animal habitats and other broad and unforeseen environmental impacts as well as degradation of quality of life for human inhabitants and visitors who live and recreate in bordering landscapes. All of the above also have downstream economic consequences for the larger community.

Many visitors to these lands in question include other residents of our nation... not just locals. These wild spaces are a repository for our entire nation and cultivating their natural state has been, and still is, an asset unto itself that this local community has done expertly, please listen to what surrounding residents have to say about the management of these lands. The short term benefit of resource extraction has long term consequences for the overall value of this natural asset. It isn't as valuable to mine as it might seem.

It is a slippery slope of development that chips away at the overall health and resilience of these lands. It is like playing "Jenga" with our environment. Habitats are already struggling with instabilities related to changing climates. Hollowing out the geographic continuity of these parcels as well as introducing more intense human industrial activities removes more pillars of this landscape. And should this landscape and its habitats topple, it will never be the same. Reclamation can occur.... but it won't be better than it already is. Period.

I urge you to reject this proposal. The need to maximize "all uses" of federal lands is a false choice. We have many other options to source power, and manage our current extractive resources, not to mention power conservation, before we take the short sighted path of rushing to develop our wild spaces. This should be a last resort, not a first line decision.

Thank you for your consideration.