

Bjornsen, Alan

From: Bjornsen, Alan, FSME
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:12 AM
To: Eldon_Allison@blm.gov
Subject: RE: Project vs. Sage Grouse

Thank you, Eldon. How is the EA for Lost Creek's POO coming along?

-----Original Message-----

From: Eldon_Allison@blm.gov [mailto:Eldon_Allison@blm.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:00 AM
To: Bjornsen, Alan
Subject: Re: Project vs. Sage Grouse

The comments concern the Atlantic Rim coal bed methane development project which is located about 35 miles southwest of Rawlins.

The State of Wyoming is revising the boundaries of the sage grouse "core" areas, I guess this individual doesn't agree with what the State is doing.

"Bjornsen, Alan"
<Alan.Bjornsen@nr
c.gov>
To
"Mark_Newman@blm.gov"
05/27/2010 05:17 AM <Mark_Newman@blm.gov>,
"Eldon_Allison@blm.gov"
<Eldon_Allison@blm.gov>
cc
Bob Budd <bbudd@state.wy.us>
Subject
Project vs. Sage Grouse

Mark/Eldon,

Do you know what project Barbara Parsons is referring to (see below)? She seems to be implicating the BLM for something. Thanks.

Alan B. Bjornsen
Environmental Project Manager
FSME/DWMEP/EPPAD/ERB

Information in this record was deleted in
accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
Exemptions 6
FOIA/PA 2010-0292

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 415-1195
alan.bjornsen@nrc.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Budd [mailto:bbudd@state.wy.us]

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 12:02 AM

To: Brian Rutledge; Bill Hill; Chris Keefe; Mark Winland; Jonathan Madill; Paul Ulrich; Clint McCarthy; Peter McDonald; Brian Kelly; Pat Deibert; Rene Braud; Doug Thompson; Helen Jones; Jason Fearneyhough; Ryan Lance; John Andrikopoulos; Donna Wichers; John Emmerich; Penny Bellah; Xavier Montoya; Carol Bilbrough; John Corra; Susan Child

Cc: Bob Harshbarger; Charley Dein; Dave Applegate; Tom Clayson; Gregg Bierei; Wendy Hutchinson; Sandy DaRif; Barbara Dilts; Sherlyn_Kaiser@Barrasso.senate.gov; Barbara Chase; Bruce Lawson; Bob Green; Jessica Baldwin; Lyndon Bucher; Dru Bower-Moore; Nick Agopian; Sandy Tinsley; Nate Ferguson; Alan Edwards; Lauren Furtney; Scott Benson; Jennifer Hartman; Lesley Roth; Jack Palma; Alan Rabinoff; Bill Vetter; Karyn Coppinger; Jackie King; Johnnie Burton; Bjornsen, Alan; Mark Tallman; Matt Grant; Cheryl Sorenson; Mike Smith; Dave Lockman; Jay Jerde; Jon Kehmeier; Garry Miller; Renee Taylor; Bobbie Frank; Charles Kelsey; Paul Goss; Wayne Heili; Marion Loomis; Lynn Welker; Richard Zander; Dan Heilig; Daryl Lutz; Mary Flanderka; Tom Christiansen; Brian Reilly; Hollis Wold; Ken Hamilton; Christy Hemken; Don McKenzie; Dick Loper; Jim Magagna; Scott Streeter; Mike Fraley

Subject: Fwd:

Please review before Friday. Thanks.

Bob Budd, Executive Director
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>>> "Barbara Parsons" <Parsons82@MSN.COM> 5/13/2010 10:38 AM >>>
Letter of dissent

% Bob Budd:

This is to officially inform you that because of my dissent, consensus was not reached when adjusting the west border of the core area that had included the Atlantic Rim project area in the South Central Sage-Grouse area.

The permitted project has had and is projected to have a huge impact on the environment and wildlife in the area.

Those of us who know the area well were dismayed when the project was permitted for a number of reasons.

Because the geology of the area is extremely fractured, there have always been a few methane seeps. CBM drilling to release gas has exacerbated the problem. Huge amounts of methane are now venting into the atmosphere.

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A few years ago, a number of us traveled into the area in early Spring with a K-2 news team to view the active mud pots that had formed from the methane venting.

During that visit K-2 film crews filmed large herds of elk, deer, and antelope wintering in the area. Huge flocks of sage-grouse serendipitously rose in flight as we drove by. One of the participants called it to a Wyoming Serengeti. That is not an exaggeration.

How tragic now that Wyoming is being complicit with the BLM and seems willing to sacrifice this area to industrial development. For despite the development that has occurred, there are still a large number of active leks in the area. In fact in my opinion, it has some of the best sage-grouse habitat with large active leks in our area.

If this project area is removed from the core area, it will open it up for wind development on the ridges surrounding the CBM development.

The idea that compromised areas where there are large sage-grouse populations should just be "given up" and/or sacrificed and not included in core areas is flawed. Instead we should hold industries and BLM's feet to the fire to protect the remaining resource and not allow the area to be additionally compromised with more development.

The core area concept is a brilliant concept that allows Wyoming to have a measure of control in the management of lands within its borders. While it was developed using certain parameters, I hope the final decision makers will think outside the box and see the value of using this tool not only in the more pristine areas, but even in compromised areas where there are large sage-grouse concentrations.

In closing I would like to share my dismay when I learned the "rest of the story", as Paul Harvey used to say about our meeting. Afterwards, another member of our group clued me in that there was an error made when the line I'm disputing was drawn. It was predetermined before the meeting that the group was expected to correct that error at the meeting.

Suddenly remarks made and mistakes alluded to during the meeting made sense. One rancher even made a public comment about wanting "the mistake" corrected. And, groups members kept say things about the adjustments that had to be made in Atlantic Rim. Apparently some members had gotten their orders and were marching accordingly. Then, as the line was being drawn on the map, despite my protests, the person with pen in hand was asking the group member representing Anadarko, exactly where he wanted the line drawn.

Quite frankly, the situation just plain reeked of good ole boy politics. To me after participating for so many years, it was painful to see the credibility of our working group so tainted. Why bother with the exercise of involving the working groups, if some decisions were already pre-determined?

Bottom line, all of us should be protecting every sage-grouse possible, if we are sincere in our mission.

Barbara Parsons