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Ref: 8EPR-N

MAY 23 2003

Renée Dana, Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

RE: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact
Statement for the Jack Morrow Hills
Coordinated Activity Plan/Green River
Resource Management Plan Amendment
CEQ #030054

Dear Ms. Dana:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 4321, et. seq., and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Region 8 office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the referenced Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan (CAP).

SDEIS Alternatives - Background Information

The general planning area covered by the SDEIS includes BLM lands northeast of Rock Springs, Wyoming including portions of Sweetwater, Sublette, and Fremont counties. The total planning area is approximately 622,000 acres and there is a "core area" within the planning area that encompasses 80,000 acres. The Green River Resource Management Plan deferred certain leasing decisions to the CAP for Jack Morrow Hills.

This document provides analysis for four alternatives including a no-action alternative. Alternative 1 is a maximum development alternative. Alternative 2 is a minimal development alternative with emphasis on improving and protecting habitat for wildlife and sensitive plant and animal species; improving riparian areas and water quality; and protecting historic, cultural, and Native American sites. Alternative 3 (the preferred alternative) would provide opportunities for

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development while ensuring resource protection. Additionally, in Alternative 3, mitigation requirements necessary to ensure the stability of the sensitive resource indicators would be determined through an adaptive management approach to resource use and protection.

Background Information on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and EPA's Comments

EPA's initial DEIS review, rated the Jack Morrow Hills DEIS an EC -2 (Environmental Concerns, Insufficient Information) due largely to 1) the document did not identify or present all environmental impacts in a clear format and 2) the document lacked supporting information in the preferred alternative to open additional acreage to fluid mineral leasing in the core area. EPA also requested that a reasonable environmental preservation alternative be included in the EIS.

In addition, EPA's detailed comments were related to five general areas of concern in the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS.

- Consistency with the decision deferrals identified in the Green River Resource Management Plan (GRRMP);
- Proposed land use decisions made in the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan (CAP) without supporting information available;
- Delineating impacts to natural resources;
- Using the adaptive management approach to integrating fluid minerals development while protecting crucial elk habitat and other sensitive environments in the planning area; and
- Incorporating issues identified during scoping.

EPA's Review Findings of the SDEIS

Document Readability - It is very evident that the SDEIS is much easier to read and understand. Making sure that the document can be easily understood is a fundamental element of the public process which NEPA documents provide.

Scoping Issues/Preservation Alternative - BLM was very responsive to EPA's recommendation to provide a preservation alternative in the SDEIS. This alternative is very helpful in providing the public with a sense of the relative differences that exist between a range of alternatives. This alternative provides the reader with information concerning the cost of greatly reducing oil and gas development and alternatively what increased development means to increases in impacts to natural resources.

Wyoming Sage-Grouse and Habitat - The SDEIS, including the Biological Assessment evaluates the impact to the greater sage-grouse and habitat. Wyoming Fish and

Game will soon be issuing the final Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) should incorporate the objectives and goals of that conservation plan and include additional mitigation or conservation procedures that were not included in the SDEIS.

Adaptive Management/Consistency With Green River Resource Management Plan

- The SDEIS has expanded the discussion on the adaptive management approach to resolve the potential conflicts between oil and gas development and wildlife habitat in the "core area." Although the adaptive management approach has been outlined in this document (Appendix 17), the approach still remains very conceptual. The adaptive management presented in the SDEIS postpones developing the specific delineation of thresholds, funding mechanisms, monitoring plans, a decision tree for future adaptive management decisions such as leasing, and a public participation plan. The document does recognize that these are important elements of the adaptive management approach, but defers the identification of these adaptive management elements until after the CAP is completed. It is essential that these elements be provided in the FEIS in order to remove some of the uncertainty concerning the magnitude of potential impacts to wildlife and habitat.

Although it is not a requirement that the entire adaptive management plan be provided in the CAP, including these basic elements of an adaptive management plan is important because the Green River Resource Management Plan (GRRMP) deferred future oil and gas leasing until more site specific and detailed information could be supplied. The GRRMP made it very clear that these analyses were needed before leasing decisions could be made and anticipated that this information would be collected and provided in the CAP. Instead of supplying the information identified in the GRRMP, BLM has proposed to employ the adaptive management process proposed here. Therefore, it is important to at least clarify the essential elements of the adaptive management plan that will eventually provide the information identified in the GRRMP.

The site specific and detailed information required by the GRRMP will not be provided until the adaptive management plan is implemented and monitoring information is collected and analyzed. This approach implies that important decisions concerning removing lease suspensions and opening new areas to leasing cannot be done in this document, but must wait until site specific and detailed information is provided for new production areas under the proposed adaptive management program. An example of this inconsistency is provided by Map 54 which shows all of the areas that will be open to new leases. This map implies that leasing decisions have already been made prior to the adaptive management process being in place and without additional site specific and detailed information being provided in the CAP. Although the SDEIS text briefly discusses phasing oil and gas development and lease decisions, it is still not clear how BLM would be able to implement a phased approach to oil and gas leasing and development under an adaptive management approach.

Since the preferred alternative in the SDEIS does not clearly address the timing of removing lease suspensions or opening new areas to leasing, EPA suggests constructing an adaptive management decision tree. The FEIS should be clear on how BLM will integrate leasing decisions as a result of the adaptive management process. The intent of the adaptive management process should be to provide information that will lead to decisions concerning where oil and gas development is appropriate, and if it is appropriate, to proceed with the proper stipulations identified by the adaptive management process. It is important the oil and gas industry, as well as the general public clearly understands how BLM intends to proceed with future leasing decisions.

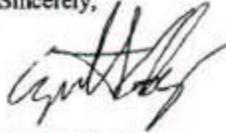
In summary, EPA suggests that the FEIS expand Appendix 17 to provide the following information concerning adaptive management.

- Delineate impact thresholds for resource indicators.
- Provide information for funding mechanisms covering monitoring and other activities to carry out the adaptive management process. This information should include costs and BLM budget projections for this activity.
- Outline monitoring plans. For example, in order to prepare an adequate budget proposal, BLM will need to determine the monitoring data to be collected, length of monitoring periods and frequency of data collection and cost of analysis and report writing .
- Provide an adaptive management decision tree for removing lease suspensions and future leasing decisions.
- Provide a public participation plan.

We appreciate the improvements this document presented beyond the original DEIS and BLM addressed many of our comments. Unfortunately, our rating system does not show improvements within each rating. Although, we still have some concerns, EPA would still like to fully acknowledge the effort that was spent to improve this document. Based on the procedures EPA uses to evaluate the potential effects of proposed actions and the adequacy of the information in the SDEIS, the Proposed Actions identified by the SDEIS for the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan, will be listed in the Federal Register in the category EC-2. The EC-2 rating means that EPA has determined that the SDEIS has some degree of uncertainty concerning the preferred alternatives potential for impacts to natural resources such as the Greater Sage-Grouse and deer and elk herd and their habitat. Consequently, the FEIS should include the adaptive management elements that were listed above. We have enclosed a summary of EPA's rating criteria and definitions.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Gregory Oberley at (303) 312-7043.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Cody
Director, NEPA Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection
and Remediation

cc: Bill Daniels, BLM Cheyenne
Darla Potter, Wyoming DEQ

JACK MORROW HILLS

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Page 1

BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

JACK MORROW HILLS CAP SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS

PUBLIC HEARING

09 April 2003
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3 (Pages 6 to 9)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 10

1 INDEX Page

2 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS 12

3 PUBLIC COMMENTS

4 By Pat Mohr 15

5 By Erik Mohr 18

6 By Sharon Hinton 22

7 By Jack Van Dine 23

8 By Eric Smith 25

9 By Laura Miller 27

10 By Bill Kessler 28

11 By Patricia David 28

12 By Billie Martin 31

13 By Angie Young 31

14 By Maria Christman 32

15 By Kathy Gilbert 37

16 By Carol Dauberg 40

17 By Michael Stevens 41

18 By Steven DeLambert 41

19 By Cathy Parson 44

20 By Susan Zukow 48

21 By Larry Bunker 51

22 By Susan Mitchell 53

23 By Lauren Wu 56

24 By Dennis Dallas-Kover 60

25 By Marlene Diner 63

26 By Bill Lottich 66

27 By Brian Woodhead 67

28 By Arthur Anderson 68

29 By Scott Zwickert 71

30 By Leonard Lippert 74

31 By Eric Hellig 78

32 By Neil Kurler 78

33 By Tom Dilling 81

34 By Max Elmer 82

35 By Nancy Ripstein 87

36 By Fred Osterme 88

37 By Richard Biddle 90

38 By Craig Thompson 91

39 By Gene George 94

40 By Joseph Blount 96

41 By John Fuchs 99

42 By Kevin Haskeworth 100

43 By Tim Moore 100

44 By Martin Blackbush 108

45 By Don Brown 108

46 By Denise Wier 112

Page 12

1 BEFORE THE

2 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

3 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

4 JACK MORROW HILLS CAP SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS

5 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

6 Meeting was held pursuant to Notice and

7 Invitation at the Western Wyoming College, Rock

8 Springs, Wyoming, commencing on the 9th day of April,

9 2003, at 7:00 p.m. MT and concluding at 10:15 p.m. MT.

10 TRANSCRIPT PROCEEDINGS

11 MR. GRIFFITH: I would like to get

12 started. Thanks.

13 It looks like we're pretty full tonight.

14 I would like to ask if we get full and we have folks

15 come in, that we consider, if you are going to speak,

16 wait outside until you are called. But we'll deal

17 with that when it comes up.

18 My name's Marty Griffith, and I'm with

19 the Bureau of Land Management in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

20 I'm the Branch Chief for Renewable Resources Group

21 there.

22 My roll tonight is to be the Hearings

23 Officer for this meeting. My job is basically to kick

24 this meeting off, keep it running, keep the speakers

25 timely, and make sure that everyone that has signed up

Page 11

1 INDEX

2 (Continued) Page

3 PUBLIC COMMENTS (Continued)

4 By Don Hartley 112

5 By Leonard Hay 112

6 By Dudley Gardner 116

7 By Lee Borham 118

8 By Katharine Collins 120

9 By Kim Floyd 122

10 By Jeff Harryman 125

11 By Claire Moxley 126

12 By Bill Spillman 129

13 By Joe DeCora 131

14 By Lacrocin Monina Avila 132

15 By Diane Foster 133

16 By Kayne Pyatt 135

17 CLOSING REMARKS 135

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Page 13

1 to speak is heard.

2 You are here this evening to convey to

3 the BLM your thoughts and concerns regarding the Jack

4 Morrow Hills Supplemental Draft EIS Coordinated

5 Activity Plan. We're here to listen to you.

6 We want to hear what you have to say

7 concerning this Plan. This is not a

8 question-and-answer session.

9 It is a listening session. The Council

10 on Environmental Quality Regulations provide for an

11 Agency preparing an EIS to hold a hearing to give the

12 public opportunity to submit information to the Agency

13 for further consideration in its analysis of the

14 effects of the proposed action on federal lands.

15 Okay, any questions so far on how we're

16 going to proceed tonight?

17 (Whereupon, no response was had.)

18 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. I was here three

19 years ago when we had the first round of this.

20 It is somewhat familiar to a lot of us.

21 Tonight our proceedings of the hearings are being

22 recorded by Linda Anderson --

23 Linda, do you want to raise your hand?

24 -- with Bunn and Associates out of

25 Douglas. And my timekeeper tonight is Bryan Klyce

4 (Pages 10 to 13)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 14

1 (phonetic) with the firm of Booze-Allan.
 2 And because of the number of speakers we
 3 have tonight, I am going to limit each speaker to
 4 three minutes. And I will be strict about that.
 5 I don't mean to be a tough guy, but in
 6 fairness to everybody, I've, I've got to do that. So
 7 Bryan will be watching that, and when three minutes is
 8 up I'll, if you are still going, I'll have you stop.
 9 So please respect that. Okay.
 10 Let's see if there are any last-minute
 11 preliminaries.
 12 Renee, anything?
 13 (Whereupon, inaudible comments were had,
 14 after which the following occurred:)
 15 MR. GRIFFITH: Great. I would like to,
 16 first off, if there are any Representatives here,
 17 congressional reps or local government that are here
 18 and want to speak, I would like to give them the first
 19 opportunity.
 20 Do we have any such folks? No?
 21 Okay, then that not being the case, I've
 22 had some requests from folks that, that have traveled
 23 some distance, or have a, kind of a time limit, and I
 24 am going to go ahead and give them the courtesy of
 25 going first. Okay.

Page 15

1 Thank you. When you come up to speak,
 2 please spell your name, say your name and spell it
 3 slowly so that Linda can get that.
 4 And if you do represent an organization,
 5 say the name of that organization as well. I think
 6 with that we can get started.
 7 Our first speaker tonight, this person
 8 has a real short time line so I'm going to let this
 9 person go first. Pat Mehle.
 10 I apologize. I have a time with
 11 butchering names.
 12 M-e-h-l-e?
 13 MR. MEHLE: That's me. I'm not on that
 14 short of a time schedule.
 15 My name is Pat Mehle, M-e-h-l-e. I'm a
 16 local resident, and I've lived here all my life.
 17 Three minutes is not a lot of time to
 18 speak. I'd like to say, first off, that I've compared
 19 this set of alternatives to the set of alternatives
 20 from 2000, and I can say this, this analysis is head
 21 and shoulders far above what the other one was.
 22 The preferred alternative reflects a
 23 good balance, well-thoughtout equilibrium that
 24 represent all views. And I do support it to the
 25 limited degree that I have seen it.

Page 16

1 Something that I would like to speak
 2 about, though, in the short time that I have is the
 3 economics of it. I know that Jeff Gearino's name was
 4 on it, from the Casper Star, and I've been following
 5 his articles on this for the last several years.
 6 The first Plan of 2000 of the BLM, they
 7 -- And I'm translating all this into the amount of gas
 8 and oil out there, or just gas in terms of trillion
 9 cubic feet. And everything is going to be in
 10 trillions, just to keep comparing apples to apples and
 11 oranges to oranges.
 12 The original Plan estimated that there
 13 was a-tenth of one trillion cubic feet in the Jack
 14 Morrow Hills, which was going to be developed with
 15 around 100 gas wells, as I recall, and probably more
 16 coalbed methane wells. It was going to take an area
 17 that was less than two percent of the whole study
 18 area.
 19 Since then, according to Jeff's
 20 articles, and I've saved the clippings of these, it's
 21 hard to figure exactly how much oil and gas is out
 22 there, but it is into the trillion. Jeff Gearino has
 23 said that there is one trillion, 4.1 trillion, 15
 24 trillion, 20 trillion, 100 trillion, and last week 150
 25 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Page 17

1 And I don't think that they are all
 2 correct. Just looking at the figures, I am thinking
 3 that perhaps four trillion is the correct amount out
 4 there.
 5 That correct, that particular amount,
 6 just with the taxes alone, would be enough to supply
 7 our school funding for the entire Sweetwater County
 8 for 25 years at four trillion cubic feet. And it will
 9 also supply 100 jobs.
 10 And not counting the additional tax base
 11 caused by the evaluation of property out there,
 12 another interesting figure, --
 13 And I see that I have 30 seconds left.
 14 -- and that was from the 50 stripper
 15 wells out there and a little bit of other property out
 16 there. That is different. One-0-two, I believe it is
 17 supplies.
 18 Three thousand dollars a year just for
 19 the building recipient. I would like to say that that
 20 oil and gas development pays their fair share here.
 21 They are not just greedy people that are
 22 taking money out of the county there. They are
 23 putting money back in by supplying jobs and supplying
 24 our tax base.
 25 I wish I had more time to go into how

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 many schools close because of economic situations. My 2 time is up. Thank you. 3 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Pat. Three 4 minutes goes by pretty fast, and I know that, so it's 5 pretty tough to stick within that. 6 Thank you, Pat. 7 Our next speaker is Erik Molvar with 8 Biodiversity Conservation from Laramie. 9 MR. MOLVAR: My name is Erik, E-r-i-k, 10 Molvar, M-o-l-v-a-r. 11 A SPECTATOR: Excuse me. Do you suppose 12 we could control that microphone a little bit better 13 for us folks that don't hear quite so well? 14 And then it won't be a problem for us, 15 as usual. 16 MR. MOLVAR: Is that loud enough? 17 A SPECTATOR: You've got to speak into 18 it. 19 MR. MOLVAR: Okay. I'm with the 20 Biodiversity Conservation Alliance. 21 And the first thing that I would like to 22 mention is that the BLM, in its 1990 Wilderness 23 Inventories, made some mistakes. It left out the 24 Pinnacles out of the Wilderness Inventory, and that 25 was the area that was supposed to qualify for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 Hills there, there might be only two percent of the, 2 the area that is actually bladed and bulldozed, the 3 impacts of that blading and bulldozing extend much 4 farther. Essentially the choice is this: You can 5 either have elk, or you can have oil and gas 6 development on that same area. 7 And so oil and gas development must be 8 kept out of these critical calving areas. 9 Third I would like to kind of speak 10 broadly on the fact that the entire Red Desert is 11 pretty much all leased out to oil and gas already. 12 And what this means is essentially the BLM has, the 13 BLM has taken the position of essentially no 14 management of oil and gas in the Red Desert at all. 15 They lease everything. It is 16 essentially like the Forest Service saying to the 17 timber companies, "Go on. Log as much as you want, 18 wherever you want, and we'll just clean up after 19 you're through." 20 This is not management. The BLM has a 21 multiple-use mandate that the BLM must manage for use 22 such as wildlife, such as recreation, such as 23 wilderness. 24 Where in this planning area, where in 25 this entire Red Desert is the BLM managing for these</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 wilderness character. 2 And the new Jack Morrow Hills EIS, they 3 do recognize that the Pinnacles has wilderness 4 characteristics, and I appreciate the BLM in 5 correcting that mistake. But in the Draft EIS a 6 number of new mistakes are made. 7 The Biodiversity Conservation Alliance 8 has done an intensive inventory of the Jack Morrow 9 Hills, and have found tens of thousands of additional 10 acres of wilderness which have all the qualities of 11 the current DEIS, and yet the BLM refuses to recognize 12 the wilderness characteristics of these areas. The 13 Draft EIS needs to recognize these wilderness 14 characteristics, and it needs to have an alternative 15 that recognizes all of these proposed wilderness areas 16 for wilderness. 17 The second thing that I would like to 18 say is that the Steamboat Mountain elk herd and their 19 critical calving areas are a very important and 20 sensitive area. It, it is a known fact, and a 21 scientific study conducted by Fred Lindsey and others 22 at the University of Wyoming, that the Steamboat elk 23 herd, the elk avoid areas within 1.5 kilometers of a 24 road. 25 So despite the fact that in Jack Morrow</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 resources as a top priority? What we are seeing is 2 that oil and gas is a top priority, and this is simply 3 not a beneficial thing. 4 The Jack Morrow Hills is a very special 5 area. It has some of the best wilderness in, in the 6 whole Red Desert. 7 It has the most outstanding wildlife 8 habitat. It has some of the most sensitive wildlife 9 habitat in the area. 10 This is a place where oil and gas does 11 not belong. Oil and gas industry has already got 12 Siberia Ridge, they've got Windmill Draw, they've got 13 dozens of oil fields. 14 They've got thousands of wells already. 15 Why do they need 200 more in the Jack Morrow Hills? 16 And the last thing that I would like to 17 say is that, to Ted Murphy and anybody else that works 18 with the BLM on a day-to-day basis, you do not work 19 for the oil and gas industry. You work for the people 20 of the American public, and it would be well if you 21 guys remembered that, and started managing our public 22 lands accordingly. 23 Thank you very much. 24 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Erik. 25 Shirley Hielsen, or Hielsen. Hielsen.</p>

6 (Pages 18 to 21)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 MS. HIELSEN: I have a very short 2 message, but one that I am very -- I, I really believe 3 that we should do this. I am here to ask that the 4 exploitation of the Jack Morrow Hills be curtailed. 5 Introduction to the area of oil and gas 6 development would adversely affect the entire area, 7 disrupting wildlife and flora. It is an area sacred 8 to the Native American Indians, also. 9 And the introduction of roads to support 10 the development will influence now our unique 11 wilderness experience, along with world-class wildlife 12 viewing. Please consider maintaining this wild area 13 as it now exists. 14 And then I would like to put two cents' 15 worth in for handicapped people. I have been told by 16 many that this will close it to handicapped people. 17 Well, it won't, because most of the 18 areas that we would like to visit are accessible by 19 road. And it only takes about three miles at the most 20 to get into these areas. 21 If I can do it on two crutches, most 22 anybody can do it. And somebody told me, also, that 23 there is wheelchair access to some of these places. 24 So I would like to see it preserved, 25 because our children and our grandchildren, and those</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 It is proposed now for oil and gas 2 development that would convert this treasure into an 3 industrial oasis. If you think it won't do that, 4 think about 6,000 to 10,000 gas wells over the next 20 5 years, with the probability of methane development, 6 more roads, lines, utility lines, fragmenting wildlife 7 plus scaring the landscape. 8 If any of you have seen the Jonah 9 natural gas field, they want to turn this area into a 10 Jonah national, well, a gas field. That's what it is 11 going to look like. 12 It's sort of like saying we're going to 13 build an oil refinery next to Old Faithful, but that 14 won't destroy Old Faithful. No one but an oil baron 15 would do that. 16 And what do we get in return? We get 17 nine weeks of natural-gas supply and 39 minutes of oil 18 supply. 19 And that's only if oil, the removal of 20 gas and oil were extracted, and the plan doesn't do 21 anything near that. So I think that the BLM has some 22 more thinking to do about development of these oil and 23 gas wells in this area. 24 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Jack. 25 And again a reminder to please state</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 after this, need to have some wilderness left in this 2 world that is so full of everything that we all need. 3 And I don't mean -- We haven't seen any mansions along 4 the road as we came up here, so I'm not sure that 5 Wyoming people are making a whole lot of money off of 6 this gas and oil exploration. 7 That is all I have to say. 8 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Shirley. 9 The next speaker is Jack Van Baalen. 10 MR. VAN BAALEN: I'm Jack Van Baalen, 11 J-a-c-k, Van, like a moving van, V-a-n, and Baalen, 12 which is capital B, as in "boy," a-a-l-e-e-n. 13 We've all heard a lot about the Jack 14 Morrow Hills area. I think it is worth taking a 15 minute or two to just tick off some of the attributes. 16 It has hundreds of thousands of wild 17 animals, 350 wildlife species, the largest migratory 18 game herd in the lower 48 States, 1,700 rare desert 19 elk, 50,000 mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, black 20 bear, badgers, coyotes, owls, eagles, spurgens, hawks. 21 The list goes on: Seven wilderness 22 study areas, the largest active sand dunes in North 23 America. It is a magnet for hunters, fishermen, 24 wildlife enthusiasts, sacred places for worship of the 25 Shoshoni and the Ute Tribes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 your name and then spell it for Linda. 2 Okay, Eric Bonds. 3 MR. BONDS: My name is Eric Bonds, 4 E-r-i-c, B-o-n-d-s. And I am a Wyoming native, and I 5 use, love, and cherish the Jack Morrow Hills. 6 And really all I want to say right here, 7 over and over and over again, is to protect it, 8 protect it, protect it, protect the Jack Morrow Hills. 9 Protect its amazing desert elk herd. 10 Protect these incredible animals. 11 Protect them. 12 Protect all the scenic beauty of the 13 Jack Morrow Hills. Protect it. 14 Protect all of its wild places and its 15 wildlife, and give the mountain cholver, an animal 16 threatened with extinction, give this bird the 17 protection that it needs. Give the pygmy rabbit, 18 another animal that is being driven to extinction, 19 being driven off the face of the earth, give this 20 animal the protection that it needs. 21 Protect the burrowing owl. Protect the 22 flannelmouth sucker. 23 Protect the sage grouse and the sage 24 grouse lek. Protect mountain lions. 25 Protect black bears, which I have seen</p>

7 (Pages 22 to 25)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 in the Jack Morrow Hills. Protect the ferruginous 2 hawks. 3 Protect the sage thrasher. Protect the 4 sage sparrow. 5 Protect them. Protect them. Protect 6 them. 7 Protect all the wilderness lands in the 8 Jack Morrow Hills, wilderness areas that have WSA 9 status and those that do not. Do an adequate 10 inventory of all of these lands. 11 Also, you know, really take seriously 12 the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance's inventory of 13 some of those lands. Especially protect the Pinnacles 14 area and give this area WSA status. 15 And just, point blank, just keep any 16 further oil and gas development out. It just doesn't 17 belong here. 18 Protect this area. Protect this area. 19 Further developing the Jack Morrow Hills 20 will not increase Wyoming's wealth. It will not make 21 us any richer than we are now. 22 It will only really create our poverty. 23 I do believe that. 24 This area is a national treasure. It is 25 a state treasure, and it needs to be treated as such.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 Jeff Kessler. 2 MR. KESSLER: Hi. My name is Jeff, 3 J-e-f-f, Kessler, K-e-s-s-l-e-r. 4 I am from Laramie, speaking on behalf of 5 myself. I was here three years ago, and said 6 this: BLM has had numerous opportunities to protect 7 what's special about the Jack Morrow Hills, and they 8 keep failing to do it. 9 And with the supplemental document, and 10 the prepared action, they are failing to do it again. 11 We've talked about the wild places that are here, the 12 big game, sage grouse, vanishing wildlife like the 13 mountain cholver, a lot of rare plants, and I'm talking 14 of rare plant communities that are exceptional, great 15 scenery, cultural and historical values. 16 And I just have a question for BLM. 17 What do you want, mermaids? 18 What's it going to take for you to 19 protect this place? That's all. 20 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Jeff. I feel 21 like going fishing this weekend. 22 Patricia Dowd. 23 MS. DOWD: Thank you. I'm Patricia, 24 P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a, D-o-w-d, and I live in Centennial, 25 Wyoming.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 So protect it. Protect this place. 2 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Eric. 3 Laurie Milford. 4 MS. MILFORD: My name is Laurie, 5 L-a-u-r-i-e, Milford, M-i-l-f-o-r-d. I am a 6 small-business owner in Laramie. 7 Last year in April I visited the Red 8 Desert for the first time. I was overwhelmed; 9 overwhelmed by its beauty, by its wildlife, plants, 10 its wide-open space. 11 There wandering gloriously without aim I 12 saw some amazing things: petroglyphs, ferruginous 13 hawks, horned toads, wild horses, cacti in bloom. 14 With a husband in the Park Service, I've seen and 15 lived in some beautiful places: Joshua Tree, Zion, 16 Rocky, Dinosaur, the Tetons. 17 The Red Desert matches them all. 18 Wyomingites barely know what we have here, one of the 19 last best places on earth. 20 For the Jack Morrow Hills I would ask 21 the BLM to adopt the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands 22 Alternative in full. We have a choice before us. 23 Protect the Jack Morrow Hills now, or 24 lose them forever. Thank you. 25 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Laurie.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 Last August I had the privilege of 2 exploring the Red Desert, and my stance on the 3 importance of protecting and maintaining the standard 4 ecosystem were reaffirmed. Along the way to the 5 Desert I saw 40 to 50 elk roaming in the early morning 6 light. 7 The elk were incredible as they raced 8 through the northern boundary of the Red Desert. We 9 arrived near Honeycomb Buttes, and it was a magical 10 experience. 11 And the beauty and grandeur of the 12 Desert reminded me why I love Wyoming's wild places. 13 A barreled horse stood alongside the road, and in the 14 distance a cloud of dust filled the landscape. 15 When I looked through a pair of 16 binoculars to see what was causing the dust, I saw a 17 herd of wild horses galloping in the distance. 18 Throughout my trip, on occasion I looked through 19 binoculars to see more herds of wild horses, birds of 20 prey, deer, of course, pronghorn, and many of the 21 other species that folks here have talked about this 22 evening. 23 But other views weren't so pleasant. 24 Looking to the distance and seeing oil and gas wells, 25 and the plight of industrial development in the</p>

8 (Pages 26 to 29)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 desert, filled me with a sense of sadness. 2 Although I recognize the need to end 3 dependence of foreign fuel, and understand the 4 economic implications of developing minerals in 5 Wyoming, I strongly believe that there are some places 6 where industrial development just doesn't belong. One 7 of those places is in the heart of the Red Desert. 8 Industry is currently chomping at the 9 bit to develop the Jack Morrow Hills. I strongly 10 encourage the Bureau of Land Management to listen to 11 the public comments, including those heard this 12 evening, which calls for the protection of this 13 incredible landscape. 14 Again, that is the protection of this 15 incredible landscape. The time is now to protect 16 crucial wildlife habitat, encourage responsible 17 recreation, expand wilderness study areas. 18 The long-term protection of the Red 19 Desert far outweighs the short-term implications of 20 development. I fully support and encourage the Bureau 21 of Land Management to adopt the Citizens' Wilderness 22 and Wildland Alternative for manag-, excuse me, for 23 future management of the Jack Morrow Hills. 24 And I have 60 seconds. And one other 25 comment.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 the breaks areas west of Baggs. 2 And now, thanks to all of these new 3 roads and some new and better roads, there is all 4 kinds of access now. And these areas really aren't so 5 remote anymore. 6 In fact, some of them define networks of 7 roads and paths and everything else. And now another 8 one of my favorite hangouts is scheduled for 9 development: the area south from South Pass Road, 10 through the South Pass Highway, including Oregon 11 Buttes, Steamboat Mountain, Killpecker Dunes, the 12 tri-territories area that's now called the Jack Morrow 13 Hills. 14 I would like to see these areas and 15 others made off-limits to development completely. You 16 really can't have limited development of a given area 17 because, for one thing, I know from experience that 18 the BLM doesn't have the resources to enforce 19 restrictions. 20 And once you get development started, it 21 is all too easy to keep expanding as time goes on. 22 And so I would like to see more areas closed 23 completely to development so that we can keep some 24 remoteness, some feeling of remoteness in the basins 25 of Wyoming.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 I live in Centennial, which is a long 2 way from Rock Springs, and I strongly encourage the 3 Bureau of Land Management to consider having hearings 4 in Laramie. Thank you for considering my comments. 5 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Patricia. 6 Hollis Marriott. 7 MS. MARRIOTT: I'm Hollis Marriott, 8 H-o-l-l-i-s, M-a-r-r-i-o-t-t. I'm from Laramie, and 9 I'm speaking as an individual. 10 I moved to Wyoming 25 years ago for a 11 summer job, and I never left. One of the main 12 attractions for me here is the great outdoor 13 recreation. 14 I enjoy hiking, mountain biking, 15 primitive cart camping, and nature studies. I stay 16 away from national parks and other such popular areas, 17 and I love to wander out in the basins of lesser-known 18 mountain ranges in Wyoming, of which there are many, 19 fortunately. 20 The 25 years that I have been here, 21 though, several of these areas where I like to go have 22 been opened up, as I would like to think of it, 23 because of mineral development. For example, the 24 Green River Basin up around Pinedale, the area along 25 the Utah boarder west of Flaming Gorge, and some of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Hollis. 2 Angie Young. 3 MS. YOUNG: My name is Angie Young, 4 A-n-g-i-e, Y-o-u-n-g. I would just like to say that 5 the Jack Morrow Hills is a unique and special place, 6 and has some special values. 7 And you have heard a lot about it 8 already, but in all this while I have had contact with 9 many species. That also includes a large cluster of 10 wilderness-quality lands of beauty unparalleled in 11 Wyoming. 12 In addition, there are many important 13 historical and cultural sites in the study area. But 14 despite these, and all the other special values of the 15 Jack Morrow Hills, the BLM has chosen to focus on oil 16 and gas development as the predominant use of the 17 area. 18 And I think that, you know, large-scale 19 oil and gas in the Jack Morrow Hills is just 20 inappropriate for all of the reasons you've heard 21 tonight. And also, we have desert ecosystems in the 22 area that are extremely fragile, and they won't handle 23 well. 24 The roads and the development are going 25 to scar the landscape for a long time, if not forever.</p>

JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 For these reasons I wholeheartedly support the 2 Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation 3 Alternative. 4 Among other things, this Alternative 5 would call for trading and buying out mineral leases 6 while preparing for further oil leasing, oil and gas 7 development, and large-scale mining. It would prevent 8 new roads and development in roadless areas. 9 It would increase the size of some 10 wilderness study areas, establish new wilderness study 11 areas for lands identified as qualifying by the 12 Citizens' Inventory. And I would recommend that all 13 deserving WSA and wildlife be designated as wilderness 14 areas by Congress. 15 The Wyoming citizens need to continue in 16 a responsible way, while increasing protections for 17 historical, culturally important sites. It will also 18 insure that, the long-term survival of the Red Desert 19 elk herd, the huge pronghorn antelope herd, and the 20 350 other wildlife species that inhabit the area. 21 And lastly, in the past few weeks I've 22 been working to get people from Southeast Wyoming to 23 come to this meeting, and it has been extremely 24 difficult because it's a lot to ask. In speaking to 25 people from Laramie, Cheyenne, and Rawlins, I found</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 since, and always see something new to think about, to 2 be thankful that it's there even. Vivi Holzinger 3 (phonetic) wanted me to go with her on a camping trip 4 out there just for old-time sake, but she died before 5 she was able to get there. 6 She would want to know that it was 7 preserved, as would her brother, J. David Love. 8 You've heard about the 350 species of animals. 9 I don't know how many species of plants 10 are out there. They are in a unique place because 11 it's a desert surrounded by the Continental Divide. 12 It's like no other place in the world, 13 and that is no exaggeration. It's like no other place 14 in the world. 15 The plants and the animals are unique; 16 at least the individual and subspecies, and many of 17 the species as well. My real profession is, is a 18 mycologist. 19 I've had students and myself have 20 sampled soil with fungi in that great basin. We 21 have -- I've scribbled them down. 22 We've identified, described one new 23 genus, standimonium (phonetic), from, from these 24 soils. First in the whole world; a new genus with two 25 species from this area.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 that the great majority were interested in attending a 2 meeting on the issue, but were unable to make the trek 3 because they had to work or they had other, you know, 4 responsibilities in the towns where they live. 5 I feel like the BLM, in light of this, 6 must seriously reconsider their decision to exclude 7 the public of Southwest Wyoming. Many of these people 8 that I spoke to feel like they do have a say in the 9 issue, and that they would benefit, both they and, and 10 the Agency would benefit from some type of 11 interaction. 12 Thank you. 13 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Angie. 14 Martha Christensen. 15 MS. CHRISTENSEN: Thank you for the 16 opportunity to speak. I am Martha Christensen, 17 M-a-r-t-h-a, C-h-r-i-s-t-e-n-s-e-n. I'm from Laramie. 18 I've lived in Wyoming for some 35 or 40 19 years. I took a science class out to Killpecker Dunes 20 and up Steamboat Mountain. 21 They were at the science camp for just 22 the summer. People from all over the country, New 23 York, a fellow from Scotland, they and all of us 24 immensely enjoyed that hike. 25 I've been there four or five times</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 Another species described subsequently 2 was from a desert in Egypt, and about six new species 3 in aspergillus spectabilis bicolor. And I named one 4 for Jim Bridger because we found it just north of 5 here, aspergillus Bridgeri (phonetic) campestris 6 bicolor, I guess I mentioned. 7 My colleague in Denmark looked at 8 aspergillus campestris and says, "It's a little 9 chemical factory. It produces a great array of 10 secondary metabolites." 11 Penicillium, cephalosporium are examples 12 of secondary metabolites. We must protect the area 13 just because we don't know it. 14 We need to keep it, at least until we 15 have analyzed the species that are there. But more 16 than that, it needs to be preserved for itself and for 17 future generations. Thank you. 18 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Martha. 19 Kathy Gilbert. 20 MS. GILBERT: My name is Kathy Gilbert, 21 K-a-t-h-y, G-i-l-b-e-r-t. I am on the Rock Springs 22 City Council. 23 I am a reporter for a local newspaper. 24 I also serve on the Board of several historical 25 organizations.</p>

10 (Pages 34 to 37)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 38

1 Tonight I am here to talk to you as a
 2 fourth-generation native of Rock Springs, and a
 3 fourth-generation desert rat. My dad worked for
 4 Mountain Fuel Supply Company for my whole life, as
 5 long as I can remember.
 6 The very first wells that were drilled
 7 by Mountain Fuel were in Jack Morrow Hills; in Nitchie
 8 Gulch, to be exact. I can remember the days when I
 9 would go to work with my dad, and going out to Nitchie
 10 Gulch with him was always a treat.
 11 He had a Jeep that was especially made
 12 for traveling in that area. It had huge balloon tires
 13 so that they wouldn't mark the desert.
 14 They were extremely careful not to leave
 15 anything there that hadn't been there before. It has
 16 been a long time since I have been to Nitchie Gulch.
 17 A couple of years ago I got to go on an
 18 archeology dig with some friends out there, and I
 19 wanted to cry. There were roads everywhere already.
 20 And now we're talking about more roads,
 21 more wells, more generation stations, and we don't
 22 need them. I don't know how much gas and oil is out
 23 there.
 24 I don't believe it's enough to lose what
 25 we do have out there. I have friends who have come

Page 40

1 thing about it is, we already have one Jonah Field.
 2 I've seen that. I don't like it, and I
 3 certainly don't want another one. Thank you.
 4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Kathy.
 5 Carol Damberg.
 6 MS. DAMBERG: Hi. My Carol Damberg,
 7 C-a-r-o-l, the last name is D-a-m-b-e-r-g. I am
 8 speaking as a local citizen.
 9 However, my background is in land
 10 management and wildlife biology. In general, I have
 11 to say that I think that the EIS the BLM has put
 12 together has missed the boat completely.
 13 I do not think that it provides a
 14 balanced or responsible management of this incredible
 15 Red Desert area. I am very disappointed with it, and
 16 I don't feel like there is adequate short-term or
 17 long-term evaluation of the two cumulative impacts of
 18 permitting the amount of oil and gas development
 19 projects they are proposing in the Preferred
 20 Alternative, let alone the other alternatives.
 21 They are on a continued belief that all
 22 roads, pads, and extractions of by-products can be
 23 mitigated for. Having worked in this field for quite
 24 a few years, I disagree.
 25 And this is why I resent the fact that,

Page 39

1 from back East and gone with me out there to the
 2 desert, some friends from New Hampshire who had never
 3 seen an elk, an antelope, or a wild horse.
 4 And when a herd of wild horses crossed
 5 the road in front of us, I just stopped and then
 6 started to go on, and they screamed, "Wait, wait,
 7 wait." You know, they had never seen this.
 8 They wanted a photo. It was the same
 9 with the elk.
 10 And it -- And our money that comes in
 11 from tourism and from hunting I think will far
 12 outweigh the little bit of gas and oil that might be
 13 out there. And the little bit of gas and oil is going
 14 to go away.
 15 And if we let it, the elk will, the wild
 16 horses will, and the pronghorn will. And that is
 17 where our money really lies.
 18 I truly believe that. And all of the
 19 new Draft that the BLM has done is better than the
 20 last one was, but it still misses a lot of the target.
 21 And one of the things is that BLM always
 22 tells us that they will control; that they will
 23 monitor. Well, I agree with whoever the lady was that
 24 said that the BLM doesn't have the staff to monitor.
 25 They can't look closely enough. And the

Page 41

1 if you think of this (demonstrating) as the Red
 2 Desert, that we are taking our vistas, our wildlife
 3 habitat, our cultural history, and we're dissecting it
 4 and we're fragmenting it. And we're simply destroying
 5 it at the short-sighted gain of the gas and mineral
 6 industry.
 7 What about the economic analysis which
 8 takes into account the damage to our wildlife and
 9 habitat and wildlife populations which now have to
 10 deal with the pieces which we are proposing to create?
 11 What about the cost and time of trying to put these
 12 pieces back together again, which took hundreds if not
 13 thousands of years to create?
 14 We all know how much it costs to try to
 15 put pieces together again, if in fact they can be put
 16 back together again. Yes, I could glue this picture
 17 back together, but the fact of the matter is that it
 18 will never look and it will never function the same as
 19 it once did.
 20 The concept is very simple. It was much
 21 easier for this to be stored in the future as a
 22 long-term, and it had a great deal of, much more
 23 integrity before I tore it up (demonstrating).
 24 How would these pieces be stored and not
 25 completely lost in the future? What right does the

11 (Pages 38 to 41)

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 BLM have to dictate that all we will leave for our 2 future generations is pieces and damaged goods? 3 Just like an antique painting, the value 4 of places like Jack Morrow Hills will only increase 5 over generations. If it is protected and maintained, 6 its value will increase exponentially. 7 And it already has. But they have to 8 have monetary gain to insure future protection? 9 Does the tourist dollar associated with 10 Jack Morrow Hills today, it may never match those 11 proceeds from oil and gas. I don't know. 12 But that is the bottom line. How many 13 people have to visit the area, and how much money will 14 it give this generation? 15 That is what all their decisions are 16 being based on right now. Yes, we need development 17 and some of our natural resources, but not every last 18 one of them. 19 We need responsible development, and we 20 need balanced development. And I don't see that 21 happening with the BLM. 22 And I don't think it's necessary to 23 jeopardize this incredible area just for oil and gas 24 development. And Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Wild 25 bees and birds are by right not the property of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 my grandchildren, pray to God I have them. I, too, am 2 a fourth-generation Wyoming native, and I am from this 3 town. 4 I love this state with my heart. I love 5 everything in this state. 6 But the greed and the love of the dollar 7 bill is bleeding this state dry. Leave it alone. 8 Please, let me go home to my children 9 and tell them that you are concerned enough to leave 10 this place alone. That is all that I ask. 11 Thank you. 12 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Michael. 13 Shirley DeLambert. 14 MS. DeLAMBERT: My name is Shirley 15 DeLambert, S-h-i-r-l-e-y, capital D, Capital L, 16 a-m-b-e-r-t. My husband and I have been ranchers and 17 farmers out in Eden Valley for about 30 years. 18 We are one of the younger ones out 19 there, but we feel it is our home. And we run our 20 cows out on the BLM. 21 I was also instrumental in helping - 22 Well, not instrumental, but I helped with the Jack 23 Morrow Hills CAP. And as a child I was taught by my 24 parents that I need to learn to share, and so the 25 multiple-use concept is something that we need to do.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 people who are alive today, but the property of 2 unknown generations whose lands we have no right to 3 squander." 4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Carol. 5 Michael Petrovich. 6 MR. PETROVICH: Good evening. My name 7 is Michael S. Petrovich, M-i-c-h-a-e-l, S, period, 8 P-e-t-r-o-v-i-c-h. 9 I, too, bring a message, just like the 10 lady there with the two crutches, from William Michael 11 Wallace and Trent, my son. They want this place left 12 alone. 13 I have a three-year, four-month-old baby 14 boy. I still consider him a baby. 15 He is not a baby anymore. When I go out 16 there with him, and he asks me why these barrels have 17 been left, and these barrels were there from 30 years 18 ago when I first came, and they are still there. 19 My son, Trent, asked me why this 20 pipeline is going across the sand dunes. It was there 21 30 years ago; it is there still today. 22 The damage was done 30 years ago. I 23 don't want to see it; my children don't want to see 24 it, any more of that damage. 25 I am here to speak for my children, for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 We need to share this land, and we need 2 to do it with everything that there is. The elk, they 3 have increased in numbers over the years. 4 The wild horses have increased in 5 numbers over the years. We have ACECs out there to 6 protect the elk birthing grounds. 7 We have wilderness areas. And these 8 wilderness areas that we have are probably the same as 9 these other ones that people are wanting to put into 10 wilderness areas. 11 They are much the same thing. We have 12 grazing out there. 13 We also need oil and gas, because it is 14 multiple-use, the same as anything else. I just 15 wonder how many of you here drove to this meeting in a 16 car fueled with oil and gas. 17 And we shouldn't go overseas for this 18 kind of stuff. Also, I've been reading editorials and 19 things on the different things, and they are saying 20 that it will only create 100 jobs. 21 Well, you know what? If it was your 22 company and you didn't get, you were going to be laid 23 off because there were 100 jobs that needed to be got 24 rid of, I bet it would be a different story with you. 25 And there are 600,000 acres out there,</p>

12 (Pages 42 to 45)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 46

1 and there are going to be 100 layoffs this year. I
 2 don't think that 600,000 acres, that we are going to
 3 take up the whole Jack Morrow Hills.
 4 And from the comments that I've been
 5 hearing, there are so many things out in Jack Morrow
 6 Hills: different plants, the elk and everything else.
 7 You know what? They have been there for a long time.
 8 And we're still, we're stewards of the
 9 land. We're going to protect the land the best we
 10 can.
 11 So these pipelines, these other things
 12 that are out there, you just want to remember the elk
 13 have increased in numbers and not decreased.
 14 Thank you.
 15 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Shirley.
 16 Cathy Purves, or Purves.
 17 MS. PURVES: Thank you. My name is
 18 Cathy Purves, Cathy with a C, Purves, P-u-r, v, as in
 19 "Victor," -e-s.
 20 I am the Western Wyoming Field Director
 21 for the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, and I'm based out
 22 of Lander. As the oldest and largest conservation
 23 organization for hunters and fishermen and
 24 recreationist of the state, the Federation is
 25 concerned about the decrease in wildlife habitat

Page 48

1 treasure.
 2 Recent studies are now showing that
 3 these elk are affected by the increase in roads,
 4 compressor stations, well pads, noise, traffic, et
 5 cetera. And they are affected because they live in a
 6 fragile type of ecosystem.
 7 They just have their sagebrush habitat
 8 for their survival. Tourism and recreation are
 9 important.
 10 Hunting is important to this state. The
 11 Federation is not against oil and gas development.
 12 We realize that oil and gas, and coalbed
 13 methane pay many people's bills, especially here in
 14 the southwestern part of the state. And we do
 15 recognize the importance of oil and gas in our lives.
 16 But the Jack Morrow Hills is only a
 17 small portion of this multi-million-acre federal land
 18 that is open to leasing, and this spectacular
 19 600,000-acre area is worthy of protection. We ask
 20 you, if it was not the hiking, the wildlife viewing,
 21 the recreation potential in your back door here, would
 22 you be living here?
 23 If you could not come to this area
 24 anymore, would you still come here? The economy for
 25 the Jack Morrow Hills is certainly important.

Page 47

1 across Wyoming.
 2 Between lands being pragmatic for
 3 subdivisions, and the tremendous increase in oil and
 4 gas wells, and coalbed methane drilling, large tracts
 5 of our open spaces, those spaces that most of us in
 6 this room hold very dear, are rapidly disappearing.
 7 Where will the wildlife go once their habitat shrinks
 8 so much that it can't support wildlife populations
 9 anymore?
 10 What happens to the big game herds of
 11 elk, mule deer, and antelope that inhabit this desert
 12 area, this unique Jack Morrow Hills? Our hunters are
 13 concerned that it appears that no particular agency is
 14 looking out for the wildlife anymore.
 15 The BLM's Preferred Alternative for the
 16 Jack Morrow Hills encourages the continued loss for
 17 the wildlife habitat. The Game and Fish Department
 18 has no control over public lands, or managing agencies
 19 and therefore they have little affect as to what
 20 happens to wildlife populations other than
 21 manipulating their hunting opportunities.
 22 The Jack Morrow Hills has hundreds of
 23 wildlife species, as we've heard, including the
 24 nonmigratory desert elk herd. This elk herd is the
 25 largest desert elk herd in the United States, a rare

Page 49

1 In 2000, \$3.9 million was spent by
 2 hunting species; in 2001, \$2.6 million. That is in
 3 the Jack Morrow Hills area alone for four game
 4 species.
 5 Please consider the Wildlife and
 6 Wildlands Alternative for the Wildlife Federation
 7 support. Those economic contributions need to be
 8 considered.
 9 Thank you.
 10 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Cathy.
 11 JoAnn Zakotnik.
 12 MS. ZAKOTNIK: My name is JoAnn,
 13 J-o-A-n-n, Zakotnik, Z-a-k-o-t-n-i-k. I am commenting
 14 for our business of livestock.
 15 My family has been ranching in this area
 16 for 45 years. We have BLM Livestock Permits on
 17 private property in the Jack Morrow Hills area.
 18 We feel very privileged to be able to
 19 live, work, and play where we can enjoy the wildlife
 20 and beauty of the area, including in the Jack Morrow
 21 Hills. I am speaking to support the Preferred
 22 Alternative.
 23 We feel that this alternative is truly
 24 multiple-use. It includes recreation, livestock
 25 grazing, wildlife, and allows for the development of

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 50	Page 52
<p>1 mineral resources, while conserving the uniqueness of 2 the area.</p> <p>3 The manage-, management objectives of 4 the Preferred Alternative meets watershed, wildlife, 5 recreation, and livestock grazing management 6 objectives. The Preferred Alternative will allow the 7 BLM and Permittees, through complication, 8 coordination, and cooperation to reach agreement on 9 the livestock allotment activity plans that need to be 10 revised or developed.</p> <p>11 We feel that the Preferred Alternative 12 will allow us to continue the working partnership that 13 has been established between the BLM and our ranch for 14 the last 20 years. We also look forward to working 15 with other interested parties to help continue the 16 multiple use in the Jack Morrow Hills.</p> <p>17 The high potential for development of 18 oil and gas resources in the Jack Morrow Hills has 19 been most controversial. We believe that the 20 Preferred Alternative allows for responsible oil and 21 gas development.</p> <p>22 Existing rules, laws, and regulations 23 already limit and control how mineral production is 24 conducted in the state. There are many safeguards in 25 the Plan to ensure that any potential mineral activity</p>	<p>1 Wildlife knows no wasteland. There are unique and 2 fragile lands in the Red Desert, and accumulation of 3 wildlife, and it can be attested to by the fact that 4 we have huge herds of pronghorn antelope, mule deer, 5 elk, and all the other species that others have 6 listed.</p> <p>7 Three hundred and fifty species exist in 8 that land, and we need to make sure that those species 9 are protected. The current Preferred Alternative that 10 the BLM is proposing has the oil and gas and the 11 mineral development as its main focus.</p> <p>12 Now, I would be the first to admit, like 13 folks said, I came here in a car, and I know that I 14 need gas, and I want fuel for my house. And we need 15 that, and that comes from energy development.</p> <p>16 And when you have any development, you 17 have to pay a price for that. However, the price is 18 too high when it comes to the Jack Morrow Hills.</p> <p>19 That is a price that probably most of 20 us, all of us should be willing to pay. I don't want 21 to have to apologize to my grandchildren for our 22 willingness to sacrifice an area like the Jack Morrow 23 Hills, and the wildlife populations that are found 24 there.</p> <p>25 And all that in the grand scheme of</p>
<p>1 will be carried out with sensitivity for the 2 environment.</p> <p>3 That intense adoptive management plan 4 portion of the Preferred Alternative, with 5 modifications, will help insure proper litigation as 6 requirement for development. Wildlife, recreation, 7 livestock grazing, historical and cultural sites, and 8 oil and gas have existed in this area for years.</p> <p>9 Still, we consider it pristine. All of 10 these have made valuable contributions to the local 11 and state economy, while allowing us to live, work, 12 and play in Sweetwater County.</p> <p>13 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, JoAnn. 14 Larry Baesler. 15 MR. BAESLER: My name is Larry Baesler, 16 L-a-r-r-y, B-a-e-s-l-e-r. I'm from Cheyenne, and I'm 17 here tonight because I'm an avid hunter and fisherman. 18 And I'm speaking as a sportsman and an 19 advocate of the wildlife resources, and especially 20 those found in the Jack Morrow Hills. Some folks who 21 don't know or don't care about Wyoming's Wildlife call 22 Jack Morrow Hills a wasteland, and one that is 23 expendable when it comes to a mineral development for 24 our energy needs. 25 And my response to that is simple:</p>	<p>1 things is a rather insignificant amount of oil and 2 gas. I don't want to have to answer their questions 3 when they ask me, "What was Wyoming like before CBM?"</p> <p>4 "Why didn't you make sure that some of 5 the unique land and places in the Red Desert were safe 6 for us to see and enjoy? Why didn't you make sure 7 that I could hunt sage grouse?"</p> <p>8 "Or why didn't you make sure that I 9 could hunt the Red Desert elk? Or why didn't you see 10 this coming, and do something about it?"</p> <p>11 Well, I see what's coming, and I think 12 that we can do something about it. And for that 13 reason I would like to ask the BLM to adopt the 14 Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative in their management 15 plan for the Jack Morrow Hills.</p> <p>16 And along with that, I would like to 17 make, ask that the BLM make the protection of wildlife 18 in Wyoming and a lot of places as a preferred 19 management plan throughout the State of Wyoming.</p> <p>20 Thank you. 21 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Larry. 22 Sandy Mitchell. 23 MS. MITCHELL: My name is Sandy 24 Mitchell, S-a-n-d-y, M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l, and I am 25 speaking for myself.</p>

14 (Pages 50 to 53)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 My background is an ecologist. I'm 2 trained professionally as a biologist, and I am a 3 teacher at Western Wyoming College. 4 I am going to talk to you about one of 5 the species that lives in the Jack Morrow Hills area, 6 which is the greater sage grouse. It was once 7 abundant throughout the Intermountain West. 8 In the last 50 years, however, the sage 9 grouse has been extirpated from five states and one 10 Canadian province. The BLM's own literature says 11 that, quote, "At risk in six other states." 12 Currently Wyoming is home to the largest 13 population of sage grouse in the world. Populations 14 in Wyoming have, however, also declined. 15 Conditions of it within that same 16 period, 20 to 40 percent statewide, more than 80 17 percent in some populations, and some populations are 18 completely extinct in Eastern Wyoming. While sage 19 forestial was once dominate in the western landscape, 20 there were over 240 million acres of this area, most 21 of this has been altered by human activity. 22 Estimates of complete loss of 23 sagebrush-dominated habitat exceeds 60 percent. The 24 remainder have been greatly impacted by human 25 activity.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 direct loss of habitats from all production 2 activities, along with direct effects from new power 3 lines, and significantly higher amounts from human 4 activity, doing both initial development and 5 production. 6 Cumulative impacts of CBM and all 7 activities is just starting to be observed. Studies 8 in the Powder River Basin demonstrate that leks, when 9 CBM wells are closer than two miles, are negatively 10 impacted. 11 The drill site itself yields traffic and 12 associated - 13 MR. GRIFFITH: Time's up. I'm sorry. 14 Thank you. 15 Lauren Ris. 16 MS. RIS: My name is Lauren Ris, 17 L-a-u-r-e-n, R-i-s, and I'm here on behalf of the 18 National Wildlife Federation. The National Wildlife 19 Federation and its members here in Wyoming and 20 throughout the country are deeply concerned about the 21 land in the Jack Morrow Hills and elsewhere in 22 Wyoming's Red Desert. 23 Also, my remarks are of the wonderful 24 values found in the Jack Morrow Hills' wildlife 25 habitat. I would like to echo that the Jack Morrow</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 Excessive livestock grazing, grazing 2 itself, as well as treatments designed to make the 3 land more productive for livestock grazing have 4 negatively impacted the habitat. The habitat has also 5 suffered excessive fragmentation by roads, power 6 lines, pipelines, and fences, many of these associated 7 with the oil and gas development. 8 The habitat has suffered further 9 fragmentation and destruction as a result of fires, 10 both prescribed and wildfires, which have become more 11 common with cheat grass and other exotics have moved 12 in. Encroaching human habitation in the form of 13 suburban sprawl, and little ranchettes that are so 14 popular now, also fragment and destroy the sagebrush 15 habitat. 16 Sage grouse, or known as sagebrush 17 obligates, nest under sagebrush, surviving the winter 18 eating almost nothing but sagebrush, and taking 19 shelter from inclement weather and predators in 20 sagebrush stands. And finally, sage grouse parallels 21 the destruction and fragmentation of its sagebrush 22 habitat. 23 Extended data from Northeast Wyoming, 24 the Powder River Basin, suggests, and I quote, the 25 impacts to sage grouse from CBM development includes a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 Hills contains important habitat for elk, mule deer, 2 and pronghorn. 3 The area provides a crucial habitat for 4 all three big-game species, as well as calving areas 5 for both elk and mule deer. Maintaining this habitat 6 and the migration route between them is paramount to 7 sustaining viable big-game herds in the Jack Morrow 8 Hills. 9 The construction of roads and other 10 construction associated with mineral development will 11 reduce winter ranges, winter relief areas, and calving 12 grounds to industrial zones. The animals will be 13 driven off these lands, and their numbers will wane. 14 The Jack Morrow Hills also provides 15 habitat for many species that are already disappearing 16 from the landscape. Both the sage grouse and the 17 mountain clover have experienced precipitant decline 18 in the country. 19 Those factors in the decline of these 20 birds include the roads and other structures 21 associated with oil and gas development. Fortunately, 22 the Jack Morrow Hills are still home to significant 23 populations of both species. 24 The future health of those populations, 25 however, is dependent on making the right decisions</p>

15 (Pages 54 to 57)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 today to preserve and protect their nesting, breeding, 2 and wintering habitat. It is perhaps too late for 3 still listing the mountain cliver. 4 The sage grouse may yet avoid that fate 5 if the Agency makes the right decisions now. 6 Unfortunately, the BLM's Preferred Alternative for 7 management of these lands provides little built-in 8 protection for the wildlife resources on the Jack 9 Morrow Hills. 10 Instead, the Agency proposes to conduct 11 a landscape development experiment on how much 12 development wildlife can tolerate in these crucial 13 habitats. Under the Preferred Alternative, oil and 14 gas development will go forward on much of the Jack 15 Morrow Hills. 16 BLM will monitor its impact on other 17 resources, including wildlife, and adjust the Agency's 18 management of development as needed. This development 19 of the management strategy is based upon a number of 20 assumptions, none of which are true. 21 First, this strategy assumes that the 22 BLM will have significant, sufficient resources to 23 monitor adequately the impacts of the oil and gas 24 development. Past experiences with the BLM monitoring 25 program demonstrates that the cost of monitoring often</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 So what I want to do is take this strict 2 five-minute break, okay? The next speaker is Marian 3 Doane, so be ready. 4 Five minutes. 5 (Whereupon, the participants took a 6 brief recess and returned, after which the following 7 occurred.) 8 MR. GRIFFITH: Looks like there are a 9 few left, or maybe are lingering, but I guess I'll 10 have to start. I had a special request for somebody 11 that needs to get home. 12 I am trying to honor those. I had 13 mentioned that Marian Doane would be next, but 14 actually we have Deb Dellai-Boese -- 15 MS. DELLAI-BOESE: Boese. Boese. 16 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you. You're up. 17 MS. DELLAI-BOESE: My name is Debby, 18 D-e-b-b-y, Dellai, D-e-l-l-a-i, Boese, B-o-e-s-e. I 19 am representing myself and my desert and your desert. 20 Okay, this afternoon when I picked up my 21 grandson from preschool, the one that is here and 22 wanted to come down and talk to you, I told him that 23 we would be going to a very important meeting tonight. 24 And as expected from a 5-year-old, his first reply 25 was, "Why?"</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 outstrips the Agency's available resources. 2 Second, strategy assumes that the BLM 3 will be able to identify that moment just before the 4 threshold is crossed and damage to other resources 5 become irreparable. Yet the Draft Environmental 6 Impact Statement for Jack Morrow Hills admits the 7 BLM's preference for the adapted management 8 alternative is based in part on the fact that the 9 Agency lacks sufficient information to understand the 10 true impacts of gas and oil development. 11 In our experience, limits on oil and gas 12 development become less restrictive rather than more 13 so. For these reasons, together with the concerns 14 raised by many others at this hearing, we give our 15 support for the Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative for 16 the Jack Morrow Hills. 17 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you. 18 Okay, I'm going to do an unscheduled 19 event here, but I think that we will all appreciate 20 it. We've been engaging in here for a little over an 21 hour. 22 We've got probably at least that much 23 more to go. I teach class on the side, and I've 24 learned that if we don't give folks a break about 25 every hour we start losing attention, especially mine.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 And I told him that we would be 2 discussing the value of the desert, and how we, how 3 important it is, and how we can take care of it. And 4 I think his reply sort of epitomizes a lot of things. 5 He said, "Well, if we keep hurting the 6 desert, one day it will just get up on its legs and 7 walk away." And I think that probably says a lot, 8 because it can just get up and walk away, whether you 9 believe it or not. 10 And money today will be soon gone 11 tomorrow. Let's leave the desert here. 12 I love the desert. I can't even begin 13 to tell you. 14 I'm from here. I'm 54 years old. 15 And I say that because in all of those 16 years I have loved it, and I took this position from 17 my father and from my grandfather. The Continental 18 area is a patch grid. 19 If you have ever been up there, there 20 used to be a challenge in getting lost up there. 21 There isn't now. 22 You can close your eyes and feel the 23 grid and I am sure you would find your way out. In 24 the past I thought how insignificant I was compared to 25 this universe, and now I know that what justification</p>

16 (Pages 58 to 61)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 comes with my feigned humility just pacifies my 2 accepted action. 3 In truth, I do know how important I am. 4 I do know how significant I am, because I value the 5 choices that I make. 6 It is true that eventually the universe 7 of the cosmos will ballance out versus your decisions 8 and your actions, but who will be accountable then for 9 the legacy that we leave to our children? Oil and gas 10 companies do need to be aware of our land and 11 heritage. 12 It is not just a matter of money. This 13 is our state. We need to lay claim to our rights. 14 BLM, you need to protect our rights, and 15 not be an anonymous entity hidden away and insulated 16 from us. Perhaps the better question is: Where are 17 your values? 18 All right, next. Freedom has a higher 19 power, and that is the choice here between the desert 20 and the wilderness, or to become plagued by the values 21 of others. 22 The price of the Jack Morrow Hills will 23 be your heart, but it will be the gain for all of the 24 gas and oil company stockholders. Didn't he say four 25 trillion, something like that?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 My point is that these great men had 2 foresight and saw the need to protect one of this 3 world's most precious gems. I believe that if Uncle 4 Gus would have had the chance to see the Red Desert 5 more closely before he saw the Red Desert, or the 6 Yellowstone area, he would have realized that this 7 area is the southern acre to the greater Yellowstone 8 ecosystem, and we probably would not have to worry 9 about these sensitive areas because they would already 10 have been protected. 11 Gustavus did not cross the Red Desert 12 again until 1877 with the Hayden Survey, where Hayden 13 remarked in his journals about the aspen groves, the 14 birthing grounds of the desert elk, and the amazing 15 habitat changes. But by the time the Yellowstone 16 boundaries had been drawn, by that time the 17 Yellowstone boundaries had been drawn, and Yellowstone 18 had been a national park for over five years. 19 Now we know how important this area is 20 to the great-, greater Yellowstone ecosystem. We know 21 how important this area is to the 350 wildlife species 22 that live out there. 23 We know how critical and sen-, we know 24 how critical and sensitive these habitats are. We 25 know how much historical significance this area holds</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 Thank you. 2 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you. 3 I want to thank you all for sticking to 4 the time. It's gone very well tonight. I know that's 5 tough at times, but we appreciate it. 6 Marian Doane. 7 MS. DOANE: Hi. My name is Marian 8 Doane. That's M-a-r-i-a-n, D-o-a-n-e. 9 I am a natural scientist and a Lander 10 native. I have spent many a months out there on the 11 Red Desert and the Jack Morrow Hills. 12 I also believe that being a native is 13 not something that I really need to bring up, but 14 tonight I want to bring it up to make a point. You 15 see, my Great-Great-Great Uncle, Lieutenant Gustavus 16 Doane, first saw the Red Desert when he was stationed 17 on the Green River while a bridge was being built 18 across the railroad. 19 In his journals in 1868, there in his 20 journals he writes how the Red Desert inspired him to 21 explore. But before he had the chance to get into the 22 desert in any depth he was sent to Fort Ellis, 23 Montana, where he found a desire to explore into the 24 Yellowstone area with Washburn, Langford, and the 25 Hayden Expeditions.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 for all peoples of this nation. 2 And now we know just how these special 3 values can be disrupted and destroyed by development. 4 There are many examples, and there are many reports 5 that show the data on the disturbance levels on the 6 different development out there. 7 For example, the ongoing UW report on 8 the desert elk says elk move on an average of 1.86 9 miles when disturbed along the roads. We also know 10 how development can play havoc on the sage grouse, the 11 mountain cluver, and raptors, just to name a few. 12 We know all this. But some seem to 13 choose to ignore the facts, saying there is not enough 14 data to tell what the impacts would be. 15 The BLM wants to let industry in, and 16 learn, quote, from the outcome or the actions over 17 time, close quote. Thank you. 18 I'm afraid that many of these species 19 can be wiped or, or impacted hard enough to make 20 recovery very difficult if we wait to learn from our 21 mistakes. I support the Citizens' Wildlife and 22 Wildland Alternative. 23 Like our forefathers, I believe that if 24 we don't protect this area today, it will be gone 25 tomorrow. Thank you.</p>

17 (Pages 62 to 65)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 66	Page 68
<p>1 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Marian. 2 Bill Lutsch or Lutsch. 3 MR. LUTSCH: Good evening. I'm Bill 4 Lutsch, B-i-l-l, L-u-t-s-c-h. 5 There are so many good reasons why this 6 land is, is so valuable to us. I think we've heard a 7 lot about the animals and species that are there. 8 Really, if you haven't been out there, 9 you need to go out there and see it. It is far, far 10 from a wasteland. 11 The Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative 12 is why I'm here tonight. I wanted to just share this 13 with you real quick, and then we'll move on. 14 The Plan allows for responsible hunting, 15 recreation, off-road vehicle use, grazing, and 16 continued access on designated roads. The alternative 17 also assures the long-term survival of the elk, 18 pronghorn antelope, and mule deer, and all those 19 species we've heard about. 20 It also calls for the restoration and 21 the protection of wildlife habitat that is damaged. 22 It prevents new roads and development in wilderness 23 areas, and establishes the wilderness study areas 24 where appropriate. 25 It also protects culturally significant</p>	<p>1 comment on the adequacy of the analysis. And I would 2 like to point out two places where I think that the 3 analysis is inadequate. 4 The first, and it's been mentioned by a 5 couple of people already, is that we're not giving 6 serious consideration to the dispersion and the 7 number, the dispersion and the number of well sites, 8 and the proliferation of roads, and how that may 9 impact wildlife. There's lots of studies out there 10 that suggest that it will have a significant, or could 11 have a significant impact on the wildlife populations. 12 And like some of the other people have 13 said, I don't want us to get to the point where we see 14 that there is a significant impact, we can see 15 significant decreases in sizes of populations of these 16 species, and it is too late, and we can't do anything 17 about it. The, many of the people that have gotten up 18 here today and have spoken have given heartfelt 19 testimony about how much they enjoy the desert, and 20 how much they love to go out there and experience the 21 solitude of the desert. 22 And that is also something that I do not 23 think has been seriously considered by the BLM. And 24 so I would ask you to consider those inadequacies that 25 I have raised, and I would endorse the Wildlands and</p>
<p>Page 67</p> <p>1 areas for all of our Native Americans. It provides 2 continued and increased protection for nationally 3 recognized historic trails. 4 And for all these reasons and many more, 5 I hope that the BLM protects the Jack Morrow Hills. 6 Thank you. 7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Bill. 8 Bruce Woodward. 9 MR. WOODWARD: Thank you. My name is 10 Bruce Woodward, B-r-u-c-e, W-o-o-d-w-a-r-d. 11 I am a local resident here. I'm also, 12 by training, a biologist. 13 I've spent over 3,000 days studying 14 plants and animals in the deserts across America. 15 I've written EISs on desert, on impacts of desert 16 systems. 17 Some of the studies that I've done in 18 these desert systems look at the impacts of either 19 developing roads or using dirt roads, and how that 20 impacts plants and animals. One of the reasons that 21 we have this type of meeting -- And I appreciate the 22 BLM offering us this, and offering the public an 23 opportunity to contribute to this process. 24 One of the reasons that we do that is to 25 get our input, and, and to give us an opportunity to</p>	<p>Page 69</p> <p>1 Wildlife Alternative. 2 Thank you. 3 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay, thank you, Bruce. 4 Arthur Anderson. 5 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Arthur 6 Anderson, A-r-t-h-u-r, Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. I'm 7 a retired wildlife biologist, the President of the 8 High Plains Audubon Chapter out of Cheyenne, and I've 9 had, I've enjoyed the Red Desert for, area for almost 10 30 years. 11 I had a friend in Rawlins who introduced 12 me to the Red Desert in a sage grouse hunt in 1974, 13 and ever since 1974 I've spent at least two or three 14 weekends out in the Red Desert, mostly in the Rawlins 15 area and out in the Wamsutter area. But I've seen a 16 lot of changes in the last 30 years in the Red Desert. 17 Back 30 years ago the uranium industry 18 was the big thing out there. They were exploring with 19 bulldozer blades and backhoes, and you can still see 20 the pits where the mining occurred and the blades, 21 especially around here, if you see it is layered in 22 and around the road. 23 Those scars are still there and are 24 probably going to be there for many, many generations. 25 Oil and gas operation, the same thing.</p>

18 (Pages 66 to 69)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 70

1 They were blazing seismic roads across
 2 the Red Desert. Thankful, thankfully they are not
 3 doing that anymore.
 4 But there is still a lot of impact due
 5 to their operation. And there are many roads,
 6 especially out there by the Wamsutter area.
 7 That one just keeps on staying and
 8 staying. And the wildlife out there, it's still one
 9 of the better places in the world to preserve wildlife
 10 and enjoy recreating with them and hunting them.
 11 Sage grouse population has been smitten
 12 over the last 30 years. I think a lot of that impact
 13 is due to the oil and gas exploration, and probably
 14 girding rangelands out there from sheep to cattle.
 15 Cows have a lot larger impact on the
 16 riparian habitats than the winter sheep operation had
 17 out there. We need to do something.
 18 These resources cannot continue to take
 19 the impacts that are occurring out there or we're
 20 going to lose them. I enjoy the area out there, the
 21 solitude, the few choice friends I take out hunting
 22 every year, and I would like to keep it for future
 23 generations.
 24 And to do that I think it's very
 25 important to protect areas like the Jack Morrow Hills

Page 72

1 talk about hunting opportunities out in this area.
 2 Just how, how important is this area to
 3 the local population? Every year 3,300 applicants put
 4 in for this area.
 5 They have about four-percent chance of
 6 drawing. Why do they do that?
 7 If I put in this year, I'll draw when
 8 I'm 45, 50. Not very good odds.
 9 But we do it for the hunting
 10 opportunity. We have this beautiful chunk of land
 11 that supports enormous elk.
 12 It is wonderful. So many times in
 13 wildlife management we're reactive.
 14 Now is our chance to be proactive. We
 15 know that the desert elk herd will be affected.
 16 We know that the sage grouse will be
 17 affected. Now is our chance to be proactive.
 18 We know this, and we can stop it. The
 19 Friends of the Red Desert, which is the organization
 20 that I am representing tonight, you know, we set up a
 21 local shop here in town.
 22 It is down on Ninth Street, and we've
 23 had great success in talking to people. We hear these
 24 stories, you know, "I remember back in 1935, you know,
 25 I was up there with my dad."

Page 71

1 area. I recommend that the BLM adopt the Citizens'
 2 Plan for Wildlands and Wildlife.
 3 Thank you.
 4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Arthur.
 5 Scott Boettcher with Friends of the Red
 6 Desert.
 7 MR. BOETTCHER: Scotty Boettcher,
 8 S-c-o-t-t-y, B-o-e-t-t-e-r. I've been a long-time
 9 resident of this area.
 10 I was born in Rock Springs and raised in
 11 the Red Desert. You know, oftentimes when speaking
 12 with the general public about this issue I notice that
 13 we have issues with the multiple-use provision.
 14 We truly do need to share. This land
 15 does need to be shared.
 16 But when you were a little kid and you
 17 shared your toy with somebody and they broke it, did
 18 you give it back to them? I sure as heck didn't.
 19 And that is so many of the reservations
 20 that we deal with. You know, we talk about
 21 reclamation on this land.
 22 This land does not reclaim well. You
 23 can still see impacts from 200 years ago, when the
 24 very first people first set foot in this area.
 25 It does not reclaim well. You know, we

Page 73

1 And those are the kind, that is the kind
 2 of heritage we need to preserve in this area. You
 3 know, we also hear about the economics.
 4 You know, let me ask you: What has the
 5 oil and gas industry economics done for this area?
 6 Our population is down.
 7 We are 18,000 people. I am not against
 8 oil and gas development, but where is it leading us?
 9 Our school enrollment is down. People
 10 do not come here for a job; they come here for a
 11 lifestyle.
 12 And they do value the wildlands and the
 13 wildlife that we have here. I want to thank the BLM
 14 for giving us this forum.
 15 I want to thank them for hearing our
 16 concerns on this issue. And I also just want to
 17 express a point.
 18 You know, every once in a while I will
 19 sit around a campfire and think about the future. And
 20 I want my kids to have the opportunity that I had here
 21 growing up.
 22 And, Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm afraid
 23 they're not going to have that. Now is our chance
 24 where we can say to our children and our future
 25 generations, "You will have this wildlife. You will

JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 have these wildlands, and it will be all yours to 2 access." 3 This is public land. It is ours. Thank 4 you. 5 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Scott. 6 Leonard Lippman. 7 MR. LIPPMAN: I'm Leonard Lippman, 8 L-e-o-n-a-r-d, L-i-p-p-m-a-n. Now you are going to 9 hear the rest of the story. 10 Approximately 20 years ago, in an act of 11 extraordinary foresight, the Sweetwater County 12 Sheriff's Office sponsored a seminar right here in 13 Wyoming on the subject of terrorism, of all things. 14 And to help make that seminar a success, they invited 15 a General of the Israeli Army to come out here. 16 And the General flew into Cheyenne and 17 met with Governor Ed Herschler. And it fell to me to 18 drive out to Cheyenne and drive him back to Rock 19 Springs. 20 Well, when we passed through Sweetwater 21 County he spotted some wild horses off there on the 22 right, and was curious about them. And I told him 23 they were wild horses. 24 "You mean they don't belong to anybody?" 25 "That's right."</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 revelation for me, because I always had thought of the 2 desert as the place you sweep out of our house. Well, 3 enough said on that subject. 4 We all know the Jack Morrow Hills is 5 special. We all know about the statistics, and we all 6 know about the species. 7 But now we know something about us as 8 well. And let me ask you about economics. 9 As far as economics, what is the human 10 spirit worth? Thank you. 11 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Leonard. 12 Dan Heilig. 13 MR. HEILIG: My name is Dan Heilig. The 14 last name is spelled H-e-i-l-i-g. 15 And I'm a citizen from Lander, Wyoming. 16 And I just want to begin my brief comments by 17 identifying what I believe are some terribly 18 significant flaws in the BLM's Environmental Impact 19 Statement. 20 I didn't have to turn very far into the 21 document to find the first one. One Page 2 dash-2, in 22 the section that describes management categories, and 23 those are things like air and heritage resources and 24 watersheds and water quality and so forth, there is 25 one very important resource that is missing.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 He said, "Well, let's go see them." So 2 we drove to the right and went into the Red Desert, 3 and went up to the northern part of the Red Desert, 4 around the area of the Jack Morrow Hills. 5 We got out. We walked around. 6 And he was just utterly fascinated. And 7 he said to me, "You know," he said, "This is exactly 8 like the Sinai. This is exactly like Israel." 9 And up until that point I was looking at 10 the desert as kind of a, the enemy. He said, "You 11 know, this is special. This is like holy ground." 12 Oh, that was a bit much for me. I'm not 13 particularly all that religious. 14 But he said, "You know," he said, "Jesus 15 and Moses and Mohammad, they could not have evolved 16 who they were, who they became, in any other terrain 17 other than land like this." He said, "The desert 18 challenged them. 19 "It strengthened them. And it does that 20 to us as well." 21 He said, "It was in the desert that they 22 found security, safety, solitude, serenity. It is 23 where it inspired them to seek the spiritualism within 24 them." 25 And I have to tell you, that was a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 It is wildlife, w-i-l-d-l-i-f-e, 2 wildlife. Now, this is an extremely important 3 omission, because management categories are used by 4 the BLM's own explanation to define the range and 5 content of alternatives, and also to prescribe 6 management actions. 7 And I think that the failure of the 8 document containing this management category is, can 9 be perceived as a fatal flaw. 10 The other omission or observation that I 11 would like to make is that the document, particularly 12 the Preferred Alternative, does not satisfy or meet 13 the stated purpose or need for the Plan. The Plan was 14 called for in the Green River RMP to address and 15 resolve conflicts between various uses in the area, 16 mainly energy development and everything else. 17 And because each of the alternatives 18 allows for development and continued leasing, and 19 continued oil and gas, one can reasonably anticipate 20 further development or further conflicts. So I think 21 the BLM needs to take a serious look at those 22 problems, and try, to try to find some way to perhaps 23 include a new alternative that actually meets and 24 resolves, or meets the purpose and need, and resolves 25 the lengthy conflicts that will result from additional</p>

20 (Pages 74 to 77)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 78

1 development in the area.
 2 Before I change the topic I want to
 3 endorse and embrace the Citizens' Wildlife and
 4 Wildlands Alternative. That Alternative should be
 5 included, included in BLM's final Environmental Impact
 6 Statement and sent out for additional public review.
 7 One other thing about the BLM.
 8 BLM manages 18 million acres in the State of Wyoming,
 9 and an additional 23 million acres of federal in the
 10 middle of the state. Ninety-five percent of that land
 11 in the middle of the state is open for oil and gas
 12 development.
 13 There are thousands of wells being
 14 drilled. Ten- to 15,000 wells are likely in Southwest
 15 Wyoming in the next decade.
 16 Do we really need to drill in the
 17 500,000 acres of federal in the Jack Morrow Hills?
 18 Thank you very much.
 19 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Dan.
 20 Bart Koehler, with the Wilderness
 21 Society.
 22 MR. KOEHLER: My name is Bart Koehler,
 23 That's B-a-r-t, K-o-e-h-l-e-r.
 24 I am here tonight to speak on behalf of
 25 the Wyoming members of the Wilderness Society, and for

Page 80

1 today, he would be standing up for protecting the
 2 heart of the Red Desert. I believe that protecting
 3 this great place would certainly be a fitting tribute
 4 to Teno.
 5 Wyoming citizens have worked hard to
 6 protect the Red Desert for decades and decades and
 7 decades and decades. And when we get to the point of
 8 filing ground protections by Congress for this great
 9 place, I hope we get our Wyoming in history a little
 10 straighter.
 11 I hope that we quit referencing that
 12 wonderful place out there as "Jack Morrow Hills."
 13 Jack was a low and no-account scoundrel; two-bit
 14 hoodlum.
 15 And I say that because I would like to
 16 see the place named after true heroes, two world-class
 17 outlaws who were roaming that place long ago named
 18 Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.
 19 Finally, every time I go to the desert I
 20 am thunder-struck. Bear's Tusk, Killpecker Dunes,
 21 Steamboat Mountain, Oregon Buttes, the Honeycombs;
 22 great places, great names.
 23 Think about all of this for a second.
 24 Out there in the Red Desert is freedom.
 25 Out there is America the beautiful.

Page 79

1 the entire membership of the organization. For the
 2 Record, the Wilderness Society strongly supports the
 3 Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative.
 4 Forty-nine percent of the lands managed
 5 by the BLM are already open for oil and gas. This
 6 home-grown alternative would bring a better balance to
 7 this great part of the state.
 8 If I could read my notes. I've been
 9 scratching on most of this.
 10 I've had the great fortune of being able
 11 to live and work in Wyoming for many, many years. And
 12 I know that there are places in the heart of the
 13 desert where you can stand and marvel at the miles and
 14 miles of landscape before you.
 15 There are very few places wild and
 16 wide-open like these left in the lower 48 States of
 17 America. Three years ago we were here testifying in
 18 this very same room, and so far it is very clear that
 19 the BLM and Dick Cheney have not been listening.
 20 I remember one Wyoming leader who always
 21 listened to calls for conservation. He grew up in
 22 this town, and his name was Congressman Teno Roncalio.
 23 Sadly, he passed away a little over a
 24 week ago. It was an honor to know Teno.
 25 And I'm certain that if he were alive

Page 81

1 Today we still have a chance to protect this great
 2 place and do as a pioneer in Wyoming and a wilderness
 3 leader, Olaus Murie, called for 50 years ago: He
 4 said, "God bless American. Let's save some of it."
 5 Thank you.
 6 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Bart.
 7 From the Wind River Alliance, tonight's
 8 speaker is Jason Baldes.
 9 Anyone? Richard? Okay.
 10 A SPEAKER: Yeah, he's coming.
 11 MR. BALDES: My name is Jason Baldes on
 12 behalf of the Wind River Alliance. And that is
 13 J-a-s-o-n, B-a-l-d-e-s.
 14 We would like to support the Citizens'
 15 Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative, but even that has
 16 some flaws. Even as tribal members, and as a Shoshoni
 17 tribal member, our original Reservation included all
 18 of the Red Desert and 44 million acres throughout
 19 Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, and Northern Colorado.
 20 Our ancestors were using our land long
 21 before Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Our
 22 cultural sites in that area are very important to us.
 23 And in, in that Alternative we would
 24 like to see more collaboration with Tribes on our
 25 cultural sites in some sort of categorization of the

JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 importance of those areas, depending on our Shoshoni 2 and Arapaho Tribes. And I think it's up to the BLM to 3 come to the Tribes, as we are sovereign nations, and 4 include us in the alternatives. 5 And we would like to see Jack Morrow 6 Hills, as well as a lot more of the Red Desert, 7 protected. Thank you. 8 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Jason. 9 Mac Blewer. 10 MR. BLEWER: Thank you. My name is Mac 11 Blewer. That's M-a-c, B-l-e-w-e-r. 12 I want to say after all of these great 13 speakers, I've seen lightning play across the Great 14 Divide Basin from Oregon Buttes. I've seen hawks soar 15 over the Sand Dunes and Steamboat Mountain. 16 I've seen meteors fall over the 17 Pinnacles. I've seen a lot of things in the desert. 18 And I've traveled a lot through this 19 country and a lot through the world, and I know this 20 is a world-class landscape. We need to protect it. 21 And as Mr. Koehler said, Wyoming 22 citizens have been trying to protect this for a long 23 time. You think that we could get it right after 105 24 years since the first proposal was advanced by 25 Congress to protect it as a winter game preserve.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 there. And why is the Preservation Alternative, the 2 Preservation Alternative, why does it call for 3 160-plus oil and gas wells? What kind of a 4 preservation alternative is that? 5 Lastly I think -- Well, not quite 6 lastly. But there should be a -- I think that BLM 7 should look very seriously into a trade of oil and gas 8 Leases in the area. 9 A lot of this area was leased a long 10 time ago, before we knew about crucial wintering for 11 elk, antelope, and deer; before we knew about the 12 cultural sites and the historic sites. The BLM says 13 that a trade is not reasonable for oil and gas Leases. 14 Well, I think that it is not reasonable 15 to not consider a trade. To, to wrap up, I support 16 the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative. 17 I'm not against oil and gas development. 18 I drive a car as well, but I think that some places 19 should be left alone. 20 It is our patriotic duty to protect 21 this, the Jack Morrow Hills. Let's protect some of 22 it. 23 I fully endorse the Citizens' Wildlife 24 and Wildlands Alternative. Thank you. 25 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Mac.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 Since then there has been attempts to 2 make it North American antelope range, a wild horse 3 refuge, a national monument, a national wildlife 4 refuge, a national park by Wyoming Governor Leslie 5 Miller in 1935. We'll get it right sometime, I'm 6 sure. 7 I, I oppose this Plan totally because I 8 think there is no balance in it. Where, where is the 9 balance in this Plan? 10 Ninety-four percent of BLM lands are 11 open to mineral leasing and development. BLM 12 estimates that there will be 10,000 to 15,000 oil and 13 gas wells in Southwest Wyoming by 2010; 51,000 coalbed 14 methane wells in the Powder River Basin by 2010. 15 The Plan is also fairly weak. As a 16 gentleman earlier in the evening stated, if we drilled 17 every acre in the Jack Morrow Hills area using the 18 highest estimate in the Cook Report, which is highly 19 questionable, we would only have enough for nine weeks 20 of natural gas and 39 minutes of oil. 21 I also think that the Plan would call 22 for a large-scale industrialization of the Jack Morrow 23 Hills area. I do not believe for a minute that 24 industry is going to stop at 205 oil and gas wells. 25 Once they are in there, they are in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 Randy Shipman. 2 MR. SHIPMAN: My name is Randy Shipman. 3 I'm the President of the Rocky Mountain Region People 4 for the USA. 5 In general, what I have heard tonight, 6 my comments are directed at the State BLM Director, if 7 you could give those to him. The People for the USA 8 organizations and individual members have participated 9 in the Jack Morrow Hills CAP for a number of years. 10 I would like to take this opportunity to 11 bring to the fore what General Counsel Nicholas C. 12 Yost and the Council on Environmental Quality had for 13 advice back in 1981 involving the scoping process. 14 Although that process of the Jack Morrow Hills CAP is 15 now history, I believe much of what the 1981 16 Memorandum had to say still holds true today, given 17 the fact that the BLM have ignored, to date, 18 addressing specific issues brought forth by 19 participants in this planning process over the years; 20 some, in our opinion, holding jurisdictional 21 conflicts. 22 To quote from the Memorandum: Some 23 cooperating agencies are still holding back at the 24 scoping stage in order to retain a critical position 25 for later in the process. They either avoid the</p>

22 (Pages 82 to 85)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 86	Page 88
<p>1 scoping sessions, or fail to contribute, and then 2 raise objections in comments on the Draft EIS. 3 We have seen that tonight already. We 4 cannot emphasize enough that the whole point of 5 scoping is to avoid this situation. 6 As we stated in "40 Questions and 7 Answers About the NEPA Regulations," if the new 8 alternative or other issue was not raised by the 9 commenters during scoping, but could have been, 10 commenters may find that they are unpersuasive in 11 their efforts to have their suggested alternative 12 analyzed in detail by the lead agency. And that's 13 Question 29-b. 14 The Memorandum goes on to state, under 15 "Advice for Public Participants," quote, scoping is a 16 new opportunity -- Remember, this was written some 20 17 years ago. -- "for you to enter the earliest phase of 18 the decision-making process on proposals that affect 19 you. 20 Through this process you have access to 21 public officials before decisions are made, and the 22 right to explain your objections and concerns. But 23 this opportunity carries with it a new responsibility. 24 No longer of -- No longer may 25 individuals hang back until the process is almost</p>	<p>1 written comment for your consideration pertaining to 2 the Jack Morrow Hills SEIS, while making note that our 3 concerns may not yet be ripe for consideration, but 4 nonetheless should have been publically addressed at 5 some stage during this NEPA process. 6 Thank you. 7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Randy. 8 Floyd Osborne. 9 MR. OSBORNE: I'm Floyd Osborne, capital 10 F-l-o-y-d, O-s-b-o-r-n-e. I'm a member of the 11 Shoshoni Tribe. 12 I'm a former Shoshoni Board Preservation 13 Officer. I was here three years ago for the hearing 14 up in Lander. 15 Tonight I wish to oppose development. 16 And I don't wish to be against the environmentalist. 17 But let me remind you that this was my 18 people's land over 12,000 years ago. This was a 19 migration route for the Shoshoni and Ute, Bannock, 20 Cochiti Tribes, and all of the Shoshoni bands. 21 And it is uncertain yet, but this could 22 have been the place where the Ute, the Shoshoni, and 23 Aztec-speaking language people went their separate 24 ways. There were many bands. 25 But getting back to the Red Desert, as a</p>
Page 87	Page 89
<p>1 complete, and then spring forth with a significant 2 issue or alternative that might have been raised 3 earlier. You are now part of the review process, and 4 your role is to inform the responsible agencies of the 5 potential impacts that should be studied, the problems 6 a proposal may cause that you foresee, and the 7 alternatives and mitigating measures that offer 8 promise. 9 As noted above and in "40 Questions and 10 Answers," no longer will a comment raised for the 11 first time after the Draft EIS is finished be accorded 12 the same serious consideration it would otherwise have 13 merited if the issue had been raised during scoping. 14 Thus, you have a responsibility to come forward early 15 with known issues. 16 I think the foremen-, -- That was a 17 closed quote, by the way. I think the aforementioned 18 advice is as pertinent today as it was over 20 years 19 ago. 20 Individuals and organizations such as 21 ours have played by the NEPA and DEQ published 22 guidelines to no avail on specific subjects of 23 interest to our memberships and organizations. I've 24 got two sentences left. 25 We will again be submitting the same</p>	<p>1 gentleman talked about Moses and Mohammad and Jesus 2 went into the desert, we can relate to that, because 3 some of our people came here to meditate, to fast, to 4 seek visions, and to communicate with the spiritual 5 world in their way. We have special bonds. 6 We have close bonds with the natural 7 environment, the mountains. They weren't Jack Morrow 8 Hills. 9 Our people had different names. This 10 wasn't the Red Desert. 11 This was "The Place of Many Ponies." 12 And the Shoshoni, being called by the Aztecs as a 13 horse people, we gave our right to the, to the wild 14 horses. 15 So again, development is, is good. 16 Saving the environment is good. 17 But it's kind of hard to go to bed at 18 night and focus on the Creator, because he is the one 19 that put these here for us. And these migration 20 routes were covered by many people. 21 Thank you. 22 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Floyd. 23 Actually my next card is Jason Baldes, 24 but he already spoke. There was a previous -- 25 MR. BALDES: Actually, Jason took my</p>

23 (Pages 86 to 89)

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 place.</p> <p>2 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. So you are</p> <p>3 Richard?</p> <p>4 MR. BALDES: I'm Richard.</p> <p>5 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay, Richard Baldes.</p> <p>6 MR. BLADES: I think that I am going to</p> <p>7 be brief. I want to support the, the Citizens'</p> <p>8 Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative.</p> <p>9 I also want to support everything that</p> <p>10 Mac Blewer said, so I won't talk about those issues.</p> <p>11 I'm a fish and wildlife biologist by trade, and so all</p> <p>12 of those are very important.</p> <p>13 But what I do want to talk about is the</p> <p>14 Native American cultural sites. The BLM has done a</p> <p>15 poor job, and this Plan is a poor design.</p> <p>16 In visiting with some of the</p> <p>17 archeological people in the BLM at the scoping</p> <p>18 meetings in Rock Springs and again in Lander, there is</p> <p>19 no plan for protecting these cultural sites. And as a</p> <p>20 matter of fact, in the Plans there is more protection</p> <p>21 for the Oregon Trail, and the same concern is not</p> <p>22 given to any of the Native American sites.</p> <p>23 It is ridiculous. The Native American</p> <p>24 sites, and the important areas for spiritual reasons</p> <p>25 were here long before the Oregon Trail.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 Thompson. And please don't start the clock until I</p> <p>2 spell my name for you.</p> <p>3 C-r-a-i-g, capital T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n. Let</p> <p>4 me begin by thanking all of you in the audience who</p> <p>5 have made such meaningful comments.</p> <p>6 I've been to dozens of these hearings</p> <p>7 through the years, literally dozens of these hearings,</p> <p>8 and I don't think that I have ever heard a collection</p> <p>9 of more meaningful comments than have been made this</p> <p>10 evening. And I applaud all of you for that.</p> <p>11 And I respect those comments, and I have</p> <p>12 learned from them. And I include Mrs. Zakotnik, Mrs.</p> <p>13 DeLambert, your comments as well. Thank you very</p> <p>14 much.</p> <p>15 The guidelines for this evening talked,</p> <p>16 asked us to talk about the scope and the adequacy of</p> <p>17 the Supplemental Draft EIS, and I want to begin by</p> <p>18 telling you that I do not consider the</p> <p>19 preservationist's alternative a conservation</p> <p>20 alternative, which was my understanding that, the</p> <p>21 directive that the BLM had. And I also want to talk</p> <p>22 about the adequacy.</p> <p>23 I've seen one major flaw in this, and</p> <p>24 that major flaw is the inadequate treatment of the</p> <p>25 cumulative impact. Cumulative impact is a big deal.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 Give me a break. And so they are not</p> <p>2 very good.</p> <p>3 The reasons that I think maybe that I</p> <p>4 want to speak highly for the Jack Morrow Hills and the</p> <p>5 Red Desert, I think that Floyd and Jason probably</p> <p>6 said, you know, that was all Shoshoni in there, and I</p> <p>7 am an enrolled Shoshone. My son, Jason, that just got</p> <p>8 up and spoke, is an enrolled Shoshoni.</p> <p>9 That little guy right there, 19 months</p> <p>10 old that Jason is holding, that is why I am here. I</p> <p>11 want him to be able to see what's in the Red Desert.</p> <p>12 That's what it's all about. And the</p> <p>13 development that we're seeing in the Red Desert and</p> <p>14 other places that we stay, we have some developments</p> <p>15 that are going on in the Reservation that we're</p> <p>16 concerned about.</p> <p>17 We sure as hell don't want to see any</p> <p>18 coalbed methane development on the Wind River</p> <p>19 Reservation like the BLM has done in the Jack Morrow</p> <p>20 Hills, I mean, in the Jonah Fields and the Powder</p> <p>21 River Basin. I'll stop there.</p> <p>22 It is for that little guy.</p> <p>23 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Richard.</p> <p>24 Craig Thompson.</p> <p>25 MR. THOMPSON: My name is Craig</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 Every proposal proposes to take just a</p> <p>2 little bit. Every Environmental Impact Statement is</p> <p>3 just going to take a little bit, just a small</p> <p>4 fraction.</p> <p>5 And what we end up with is a fragmented,</p> <p>6 unmanageable area that has great impacts on wildlife,</p> <p>7 and that is one of my great concerns. Professor</p> <p>8 Christensen and Dr. Woodward are certainly more</p> <p>9 qualified than I am to talk about the scientific</p> <p>10 values that are out there, but I do want to go on</p> <p>11 Record as saying that I don't want to lose the</p> <p>12 environment in the Jack Morrow Hills and in the Red</p> <p>13 Desert a little bit at a time.</p> <p>14 I think that there are scientific values</p> <p>15 out there that we need to discover, we need to study.</p> <p>16 I am unaware, for example, of a single comprehensive</p> <p>17 water-quality study.</p> <p>18 I am unaware of biological studies that</p> <p>19 have looked at the tops of those mesas. And as my</p> <p>20 time is drawing rapidly to a close here, I want to say</p> <p>21 something about economics.</p> <p>22 You know, rich people and affluence will</p> <p>23 soon be forgotten, but the generations that come after</p> <p>24 us, those people are going to remember what we saved</p> <p>25 for them, not what we spent today. And so I ask you,</p>

24 (Pages 90 to 93)

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Page 94

1 I urge the BLM to adopt the Citizens' Wildlife and
 2 Wildlands Alternative.
 3 I am asking you for nothing more than to
 4 make a decision worthy of the landscape that we have
 5 left. Thank you.
 6 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Craig.
 7 Gene George with Yates Petroleum.
 8 MR. GEORGE: Thank you. Gene, G-e-n-e,
 9 last name is George, G-e-o-r-g-e.
 10 I am here to represent Yates Petroleum
 11 Corporation. Yates Petroleum Corporation does have
 12 federal lease holdings in the Jack Morrow Hills, as
 13 well as throughout the Rocky Mountains.
 14 It is an interesting thing. Yates
 15 Petroleum agrees that you should protect the wildlife.
 16 Yates Petroleum agrees that you should
 17 protect the cultural resources. Yates Petroleum
 18 agrees that we should protect the land so that the
 19 ranchers, who spoke very eloquently, can maintain
 20 their livestock.
 21 All of the species that exist out there
 22 that have been named, all of the characteristics that
 23 have been praised are there after 50 years of oil and
 24 gas exploration in the area. I think it speaks well
 25 of the fact that we can go there, extract the

Page 95

1 resource, and come out, and you still praise the
 2 characteristics of the landscape.
 3 If we are so lucky as to find an
 4 additional accumulation of oil and gas, there will be
 5 additional requirements. We will have to analyze for
 6 those cumulative impacts.
 7 Phase development is not something that
 8 is economic. It is not something that is necessary,
 9 because all development is phased by the NEPA
 10 analysis.
 11 If you attempt to decide where one
 12 activity occurs versus another, it forces the BLM to
 13 make an arbitrary and capricious stud-, or decision.
 14 It is not possible for them to desist.
 15 I think that the very current grazing
 16 managers are great. The grazing lessees are great
 17 managers of those lands.
 18 And again, you are praising those lands
 19 after their grazing them for some hundred years.
 20 Economics: One of the fallacies in your
 21 economic analysis is that it says that the number of
 22 mining and mineral jobs have decreased, but the value,
 23 the earnings per person has increased by 27 percent.
 24 Finally, the oil and gas industry has
 25 been in Wyoming for over a 100 years. We've produced

Page 96

1 seven billion barrels of oil, 28 trillion cubic feet
 2 of gas, and yet we have a wild and scenic state that
 3 is the destination of choice for millions of people.
 4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Gene.
 5 Jocelyn Moore.
 6 MS. MOORE: Good evening, Mr. Griffith.
 7 I just want to say that you are a very brave man for
 8 sitting in the front.
 9 I appreciate the opportunity to comment
 10 on this proposed development plan. My name is
 11 Jocelyn, J-o-c-e-l-y-n, Moore, M-o-o-r-e.
 12 I am a resident of 407 Freyer Drive in
 13 Marietta, Georgia.
 14 Tonight I keep hearing the words "Public
 15 land," so as an owner of this publically owned land, I
 16 want to share my thoughts and concerns regarding
 17 proposed development and its impact on what is really
 18 a nationally owned resource. I think that everyone
 19 that's in the room must be from Wyoming.
 20 My first trip to Wyoming was in 1966,
 21 when I traveled through this state with my father and
 22 mother and my family. And I returned 35 years later,
 23 in 2001.
 24 My son asked to go to Wyoming. We made
 25 a 2,000-mile trip to this state for several reasons.

Page 97

1 The first was for the scenery, the
 2 vistas that stopped at the horizon and not at the tree
 3 line like they do in Georgia. The second was the
 4 opportunity to experience a wilderness that has been
 5 long gone from the urban areas on the Eastern
 6 seaboard.
 7 And the third reason was the incredible
 8 wealth and variety of the large wild animals:
 9 buffalo, elk, bison, moose. And we were not
 10 disappointed in our treks to see Wyoming's unspoiled
 11 lands.
 12 In fact, we fell in love with Wyoming.
 13 We made a second journey here in the summer of 2000.
 14 We went to Wyoming's Wind River Range,
 15 and went out with and outfitter. And we also toured
 16 the Red Desert.
 17 But throughout Wyoming we've noticed the
 18 lingering presence of the fire damage and the
 19 blackened outlines of the trees. And every time we
 20 left these protected environments where we were, it
 21 was, we were salted when we returned to the urban
 22 environments with the signage and massive development.
 23 But my point here is not that we
 24 traveled across the Mississippi and the Great Plains
 25 to see industrial sites and pump jacks and eroded

25 (Pages 94 to 97)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 areas and desecrated lands. In the tourism material 2 that we got from the State of Wyoming before we came 3 here, they had a real colorful brochure that boasts of 4 the ruts left by the metal wagon wheels from the 5 trains that carried the first families through, to and 6 through Wyoming. 7 You know, these first families have been 8 gone, but their ruts remain. And truly this is a land 9 which is very slow to heal. 10 And my fear is that the proposed 11 development in the Red Desert and its fragile 12 ecosystem that has evolved over thousands and millions 13 of years is going to be irreversibly harmed by this 14 proposed damage. If the wagon wheel is going to leave 15 a rut that will exist for more than a century, what is 16 the impact of a drilling pad or bulldozer on an 17 impervious surface going to be? 18 And I'm also concerned about potential 19 for contamination. No system, no industrial processes 20 are foolproof or accident proof. 21 There is always a possibility for 22 contamination of the soil, and also for the water 23 resource. You know, every region of the United States 24 has a characteristic native plan. 25 In the East, Georgia is very, very</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 information and what historic facts did these writers 2 come to their objections? 3 I can't remember a single instance of 4 lasting or serious damage caused by drilling in the 5 vast area we are studying. The core reason for 6 environmental analysis is to predict the future. 7 A key part of forward projection is 8 studying what has happened in the past. In my 9 opinion, the history of oil and gas operations has not 10 been fully addressed in the Supplementary document. 11 Even more damning is that most of the 12 comments received consist of, "We don't want any oil 13 development here," a classic example of not letting 14 facts get in our way. Something that must be factored 15 in the equation is that more modern methods of clean 16 operations are now being used than during my time. 17 Therefore, we must arrive at the 18 conclusion that future petroleum operations in the 19 Jack Morrow Hills poses even less risk than we have 20 seen in the past. I put a challenge to you folks 21 here: Take out your scissors and a map of the Jack 22 Morrow Hills and cut out the outline. 23 Notice how I did this. Cut out the 24 outline of the Jack Morrow Hills Study Area. 25 Now attempt to place this outline of the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 different than Wyoming. And someone else referred 2 tonight about the pioneers and Native Americans are 3 the visionaries that protected Wyoming. 4 Thank you. 5 And I think as a property owner and as 6 one of the public that own these lands, I would just 7 really encourage you not allow this proposed 8 industrial development. 9 Thank you very much. 10 MR. GRIFFITH: Welcome to Wyoming. 11 Thank you for coming. 12 John Fraher. 13 MR. FRAHER: My name is John Fraher, 14 F-r-a-h-e-r, and I live in Rock Springs. I was 15 raised in Rawlins and was acquainted with the Red 16 Desert as a kid when I went out with friends to bring 17 out supplies to their shepherders. 18 I was a District Petroleum Engineer for 19 the U.S. Geological Survey here in Rock Springs from 20 1968 to 1982. I would guess that our office had 21 regulatory authority on almost every well ever drilled 22 in the Jack Morrow area. 23 I am told that the great bulk of written 24 comments received opposed oil and gas operations in 25 the study area. My question is: Based on what</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 600,000 acres on a map of any one of our 49 states in 2 our U.S. and tell me where less adverse consequences 3 of people or their environment would be caused. The 4 only limit to this exercise is that you place this 5 outline in an area on the other maps that has a good 6 potential for developing oil and gas this country 7 needs to keep the Arabs at bay. 8 And I know I had to scratch a great deal 9 off. I know that this is stressing you a great deal. 10 Thank you. 11 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, John. 12 Okay, it's now been another hour since 13 our last break. We have 17 speakers left to go. 14 That is just a little bit under an hour. 15 Would you like to take another break? 16 (Whereupon, inaudible conversation was 17 had among the participants, after which the following 18 occurred.) 19 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay, let's keep going. 20 Our next speaker is Kevin Holdsworth. 21 MR. HOLDSWORTH: Thank you, Dennis. 22 Kevin Holdsworth, H-o-l-d-s-w-o-r-t-h. 23 I was not born in Wyoming, but my son 24 was. But I appreciate this opportunity to speak 25 tonight.</p>

26 (Pages 98 to 101)

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 I've learned from my years in Wyoming 2 that it is not necessarily designation that makes a 3 place wild. It is possible to have some human 4 activity, some, and still have what I would call an 5 aesthetic wilderness. 6 Above all there needs to be space and 7 only a few signs of humanity. Wyoming continues to be 8 a paradox, a state of vast distances, open space, but 9 a state that is remarkably industrialized in places. 10 For instance, those of us who love the 11 Wind River Mountains, and I suspect that is everyone 12 in this room, have watched the development in 13 industrialization of the Western Piedmont where once 14 there were just deer and antelope playing, and some 15 sheep and a few cattle. Now we have dust, lights, 16 rigs, roads, pads, year-round activity. 17 Look down on the Jonah Field from the 18 high country or the air, and the extent of the change 19 becomes evident. Obviously that development means 20 jobs. 21 We need jobs, certainly. And to some 22 extent, mineral development pays my salary. 23 But it is just as obvious to me that we 24 ought not develop every part of the BLM land in 25 Wyoming. This is why I believe that the Jack Morrow</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 I represent Berco Resources. We're a 2 small, privately owned company with offices here in 3 Rock Springs. 4 Our owner was raised on a Wyoming ranch 5 near Buffalo. Berco Resources is a current operator 6 of the Nitchie Gulch Field. 7 It is the only significant versing field 8 in the EIS area. It is located in the south-central 9 portion of the EIS outline. 10 Our leasehold covers approximately 11 10,000 acres, or approximately 1.6 percent of the 12 220,000-acre EIS area. Our versing leased property is 13 not close to any known cultural sites, sage grouse 14 leks, raptor nests, mountain cluver aggregation areas, 15 big-game birthing areas, or big-game crucial habitat 16 or wild horse herd management areas. 17 Nitchie Gulch contains 30 of our 18 County's 36 currently producing wells in the entire 19 Jack Morrow Hills EIS area. Four others are in the 20 township immediately to the north, and there are two 21 other producing wells in the remaining 600,000 acres. 22 The field has been producing since 1962. 23 The existence of this field has not significantly 24 affected other resources in the area. 25 And our future plan will not</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 Hills is one place that ought to be free of industrial 2 development. 3 Sure, we can manage Jack Morrow for 4 multiple-use. sportsmen, ranchers, photographers, 5 hikers, hunters, off-road vehicle enthusiasts and 6 sightseers can continue to use this area with 7 negligible impacts. 8 What we don't need is 200 wells. Two 9 hundred wells means roads, dust, power lines, noise, 10 fences, groundwater pollution, habitat losses, 11 disruption, and more than likely it is the gateway to 12 far more wells. 13 The majority of the public comment on 14 this issue favored a conservational alternative. I 15 would urge the Bureau to reconsider the issue, and 16 keep industrial development out of this part of the 17 Red Desert, and adopt the Citizens' Wildlands and 18 Wildlife Alternative. 19 Thank you. 20 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Kevin. 21 Tim Morris, representing Berco 22 Resources. 23 MR. MORRIS: Thank you for the 24 opportunity to speak today. It is Tim Morris, 25 M-o-r-r-i-s.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 significantly affect other resources in the area. 2 Infields are identified low-risk and low-impact, 3 infield development, drilling location within its 4 existing field area. 5 These infield locations are low-risk. 6 These are what we drill between or adjacent to 7 previously drilled locations. 8 These wells will be relatively 9 low-impact, and we will be drilling in an established 10 producing field area. We are both committed to 11 exercising its valid existing rights to further 12 develop these properties in a timely and 13 environmentally perfect manner. 14 I have been plotting with the terms of 15 this EIS and other regulations. It is most likely that 16 we will proceed with our proposed infield development 17 at a modest pace of two to three wells per year, 18 utilizing one drilling rig at a time. 19 Some of our employees have worked in the 20 Nitchie Gulch Field area for more than 20 years, and 21 the fact of the matter is that the elk in the Nitchie 22 Gulch Field can and do coexist. The elk herd has been 23 able to flourish while the field and its associated 24 human activity have been occurring. 25 Thank you again for the opportunity.</p>

27 (Pages 102 to 105)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 106	Page 108
<p>1 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Tim. 2 Martin Blackbush (sic). 3 MR. BLACKBURN: That's Martin Blackburn, 4 M-a-r-t-i-n, B-l-a-c-k-b-u-r-n. 5 MR. GRIFFITH: I wasn't even close, was 6 I? 7 MR. BLACKBURN: That's all right. I'm 8 here representing the Young Warriors' Society of the 9 Wind River Range Reservation, which consists both of 10 Shoshoni and Arapaho members. 11 I've spent considerable amount of time 12 speaking with a lot of our elders on both Shoshoni and 13 Arapaho. And the reason why I'm here, I'm speaking on 14 behalf of my ancestors and the environment and 15 wildlife out there. 16 These are sacred sites that are out 17 there. They have been there since time immemorial. 18 They go back a long time. And from what 19 I've been told, these sacred sites were protected by 20 spirits. 21 And this is seen and unseen things that 22 are out there, the things that we are related to and 23 how we see life. And we have further encroachments 24 with these developments. 25 They disrupt these spirits. They</p>	<p>1 with what Jason Baldes said earlier, that, you know, 2 the BLM should approach the Tribes, you know, to get 3 their input on it. 4 And as a Young Warriors' Society, a lot 5 of our younger people are coming together and we're 6 speaking out more, and raising more awareness about 7 these issues like this because this only affects, not 8 only us, but it affects other Tribes throughout North 9 America that are still protecting these sacred sites. 10 We've been protecting these sacred sites since 1492. 11 That has been our homeland security, 12 right there. We are still hanging on. 13 But like I said, you know, I speak for 14 all living things. Of course, you know, we are doing 15 pretty good. 16 I've been in the military. I've seen 17 these other countries, and, you know, we're not so bad 18 off. 19 Thank you. 20 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Martin. 21 Dru Bower, for the Petroleum Association 22 of Wyoming. 23 MS. BOWER: My name is Dru Bower, D-r-u, 24 B-o-w-e-r, and I represent the Petroleum Association 25 of Wyoming. We are still analyzing the document, and</p>
<p>Page 107</p> <p>1 disrupt these animals, these animals that go on a 2 natural path. 3 Their natural cycles of life are 4 disrupted by a lot of these developments, a lot of the 5 noise. And, you know, I think that this is one of the 6 biggest open ranges that we have in North America, and 7 I think that it should stay like that. 8 There are a lot of caverns, caves, 9 altars, sacred areas that are still in use today, such 10 as the Oregon Buttes and other places. I can't point 11 them out. 12 It is not my place to point them out. 13 But there is also these medicinal plants out there 14 that our people have used and relied on for centuries. 15 You know, it has been our survival, 16 which is why we are still here today. What I hear is 17 that the coalbed methane, the effects of the coalbed 18 methane, and I've seen what it has done to a lot of 19 other lands. 20 The animals that depend on that water 21 out there, the aquifers are affected by that. And our 22 medicinal plants out there are affected by that. 23 So, you know, I think that any further 24 encroachments would disrupt that life, that life, that 25 lifestyle and that cycle of life. I feel -- I agree</p>	<p>Page 109</p> <p>1 will provide written comment to you by the comment 2 period deadline. 3 We will say that the scope of the 4 analysis is better than what we saw on the Draft of 5 2000. I've heard several times tonight that we're not 6 against oil and gas development, just not in Jack 7 Morrow Hills. 8 And I felt compelled to address that. I 9 must remind you that minerals are where they are. 10 We can't move them to where they are 11 more pleasing, or where they do not overlap with other 12 resources. And Wyoming is fortunate enough to have an 13 abundance of natural resources; not only mineral but 14 our wildlife, our cultural resources, et cetera. 15 It is our obligation to make sure that 16 we can manage those resources for a balance. That 17 balance does not come at the exclusion of oil and gas 18 development. 19 We look at, also, we talk about the elk 20 numbers. Many in the oil and gas industry are hunters 21 and sportsmen as well. 22 The elk numbers have increased 23 significantly in Jack Morrow Hills, even while there 24 has been oil and gas development in the area. I think 25 that is a testimony to how we've managed the area.</p>

28 (Pages 106 to 109)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 110

1 I've heard several times tonight in
 2 several studies that I have not read that states
 3 because of human activity that will hurt the elk;
 4 therefore, additional oil and gas activity will
 5 therefore have more people, which therefore will
 6 disperse the elk, and possibly cause population
 7 decrease.
 8 I've also heard the same argument in the
 9 same sentence by the same people say that we want
 10 increased recreation and tourism. Will not that
 11 increased recreation and tourism have the same effect
 12 of human activity on this same desert elk herd?
 13 The oil and gas industry would have
 14 probably, after the wells were drilled, less human
 15 activity than recreation and tourism. And I believe
 16 that is something that should be looked at and
 17 analyzed in the document.
 18 Trails, they talk about the expansion
 19 for the protection meas-, or the protection around
 20 trails up to three miles on either side. The
 21 Petroleum Association of Wyoming believes that should
 22 not be addressed in this Plan.
 23 That should be addressed in the Trail
 24 Management Plan that the current, that is ongoing with
 25 the Bureau of Land Management. Once that's gone

Page 111

1 through public review and amended to the RMPs, it
 2 should pertain to Jack Morrow Hills as well.
 3 The current quarter-mile should stay
 4 where it is. I also want to say that the wild horse
 5 herd is where we have problems.
 6 We are not against the wild horse herd,
 7 but the Bureau of Land Management does not have the
 8 money in their budget to manage horses. It is the
 9 horses that will have a bigger impact on the desert
 10 elk herd, the sage grouse, and other wildlife in Jack
 11 Morrow Hills than oil and gas activity at 200 wells
 12 would ever have.
 13 You are looking at a current activity
 14 level of 153 wells. Under the Preferred Alternative
 15 they are only allowing up to 205.
 16 You are not going to see much increased
 17 activity than what you have today. In ending, all I
 18 want to say is remind the public that minerals are
 19 where they are.
 20 We can't move them. The reason we
 21 developed those minerals is because you need them.
 22 We would not develop them if we had
 23 nowhere for those minerals to go. And my time is up.
 24 Thank you.
 25 MR. GRIFFITH: I hate interrupting these

Page 112

1 ones with great momentum, but we have to. Thanks.
 2 Denise Wilm.
 3 MS. WILM: My name is Denise Wilm,
 4 D-e-n-i-s-e. My last name is Wilm, W-i-l-m.
 5 I am a resident of Rock Springs, and I
 6 enjoy fishing. And I am concerned about the Jack
 7 Morrow Hills because drilling for oil near bodies of
 8 water can contaminate the water and hurt the fish.
 9 Please consider this idea, and please
 10 protect this land. Thank you.
 11 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Denise.
 12 Don Hartley, with the Southwest Wyoming
 13 Industrial Association.
 14 MR. HARTLEY: I'm Don Hartley, D-o-n,
 15 H-a-r-t-l-e-y. I'm the Executive Director of the
 16 Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association, an
 17 association of many of the major taxpayers and
 18 employers in Sweetwater County.
 19 I would like to thank you for another
 20 opportunity for view, review and recommend on the
 21 Supplemental Draft EIS for Jack Morrow Hills, or dated
 22 activity plan. That's the time.
 23 That is the time. I would like to
 24 compliment the BLM in general, and thank Dana in
 25 particular for the work that they've put into this

Page 113

1 comprehensive document.
 2 It gives us an insight into the area in
 3 which we have those available. And I, for one, I
 4 recognize that the BLM had to do that with the
 5 direction and the misdirection of their bosses in
 6 Washington, D. C.
 7 One of the things that's noted in the
 8 information provided in the Appendix to the Economic
 9 Study is an interesting number to me. In 1979 there
 10 were 10,500 miners in this region.
 11 In 1999 there were 4,800 miners in this
 12 region. There's been a dramatic decline in the
 13 high-paying jobs in the mining industry in our
 14 community.
 15 One of the reasons why that is not as
 16 noticeable as it might be is because of the success of
 17 the gas and oil industry that's had in our area. The
 18 loss of those jobs in the mining industry are
 19 reflected in our children leaving, in our schools
 20 closing in a less and vigorous local economy.
 21 One of the things that we do have in our
 22 local economy is the gas and oil industry. As Dru
 23 mentioned, they need to drill where the minerals are,
 24 and one of the places where some of them are, not a
 25 dramatic quantity, is in the area that is in the Jack

JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 Morrow Hills. 2 And unless I am misunderstanding that, 3 the Jack Morrow Hills are not in the Red Desert. They 4 are just west of the Red Desert. 5 The Jack Morrow Hills was homesteaded. 6 It's been grazed by livestock, overgrazed by horses, 7 it's had mineral explo-, exploration, oil and gas 8 development, hunting, off-road use vehicles, 9 recreation for over 100 years. 10 And I think it is a compliment to all of 11 those people that have operated on that land for 100 12 years that most of the people here tonight think it's 13 pristine. We support the Preferred Alternative as 14 determined by the BLM, and look forward to continuing 15 to working with Ted and your staff on this project. 16 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Don. 17 Leonard Hay, with the Rock Springs 18 Grazing Association. 19 MR. HAY: Leonard Hay, L-e-o-n-a-r-d, 20 H-a-y. Back in 1944 the Park Service wanted to get 21 rid of some elk, and we agreed to take them. 22 In the agreement they had to consult the 23 landowner and, before they brought them in. Now, the 24 first elk was 40 head in 1944, and then there were 25 five other movements of elk.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 mercy of those people that are not our friends over 2 there. And the Rock Springs Grazing Association 3 comprises two million acres. 4 Fifty percent of it's deeded alone, 52.4 5 percent of it's deeded, and it is the boundary of all 6 of that desert of the Jack Morrow Hills. I agree that 7 the Red Desert is completely different than the Jack 8 Morrow Hills, but it is, the south boundary is the 9 full length of the Jack Morrow Hills. 10 And we have always allowed hunting and 11 fishing, and never charged. The hunters don't even 12 have to get permission to hunt. 13 And, and we completely support the 14 multiple use of the BLM. And that's the only answer 15 for 630,000 acres. 16 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Leonard. 17 Dudley Gardner. 18 MR. GARDNER: My name is Dudley Gardner, 19 D-u-d-l-e-y, G-a-r-d-n-e-r. And I'm a historical 20 archeologist, and I came to speak about the cultural 21 resources. 22 And I actually came to participate in 23 one of Wyoming's favorite sports, and that is Kick the 24 BLM. So that is why I am here. 25 Southwest Wyoming has long been</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 And we were consulted with all of them, 2 and we as landowners agreed to it. Now the, the 3 numbers were set. 4 The official numbers for the Game and 5 Fish were 500 head. There are some 1,800 head up 6 there now. 7 And the livestock are down some 60, 65 8 percent. And, and actually the oil and gas business 9 has been operating. 10 The general public has been out there, 11 and even the BLM will admit to you that the ranges out 12 there are the best. Well, they are mostly young 13 fellows in the BLM there. 14 But I've lived out there for 88 years, 15 and the range is the best it's been out there. Sure, 16 there is less stock, more horses, but they are going 17 to get those down. 18 Now, if, if right after World War II, if 19 we just said, "We're not going to import any more 20 oil," - America has a lot of coal, probably as much 21 as any country in the world, and a lot of natural gas, 22 but oil, we don't have that much. 23 And if we had said, "We're going to quit 24 importing foreign oil," right the day World War II was 25 over, at that time today we would be completely at the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 described as a miserable place by people wanting to be 2 somewhere else. Many have cursed the desert as little 3 more than sand or dirt. 4 In 1865, Samuel Bowles wrote: "The area 5 is hot and dusty and parched by day, and cold and 6 shivering and parched by night." 7 In 1868, a man simply called Connecticut 8 Robaugh (phonetic), working here, "Camped and stopped 9 for the night in dirt, dust, and sand." 10 Andrew Rolle said, "The water's 11 miserable, and many places cannot be used, being fatal 12 to man and beast." 13 And then my all-time favorite, Howard 14 Cuning (phonetic) said, "The water is so bad whiskey 15 won't help it." These cues were given by people 16 passing through; were not people staying. 17 They were travelers that cursed the 18 desert, and they left an imprint. They gave an 19 impression about the area that others picked up on, 20 seeing the desert as worthless, but this is not so. 21 For too long an important fact was 22 ignored. The region has been home for the Shoshoni 23 and the Ute, who didn't just survive; they thrived in 24 this region. 25 People have lived in this area for</p>

30 (Pages 114 to 117)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 118

1 10,000 years. That means permanent residents, not
 2 fixed, but moving around, maybe moving from place to
 3 place.
 4 But they've lived here for 10,000 years.
 5 They left behind a record of their lives: a lost
 6 button, a lost cuff, a discarded bottle wherever the
 7 travelers dropped them.
 8 The historic items reflect the lives of
 9 people traveling through and not living here. Native
 10 Americans left much more.
 11 They left behind the records of their
 12 lives in the form of petroglyphic tools and mining
 13 debris that tell us about their diet and investments
 14 to an environment that too few people understand. The
 15 cultural resources in the desert are fragile.
 16 They need to be protected and preserved
 17 carefully so that the lives of people who lived here
 18 are not part of the past, but they are part of the
 19 present and the future in understanding how to live in
 20 fragile environmental niches.
 21 Thank you.
 22 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you.
 23 Lee Bonham.
 24 MR. BONHAM: My name is Lee Bonham. I
 25 am an old-time resident of Rock Springs, and I would

Page 119

1 like to reiterate the comment that was just made.
 2 The archeological material of this area
 3 is fragile. It is irreplaceable, and we haven't
 4 barely scratched the surface, especially in the Jack
 5 Morrow Hills area.
 6 The Indians view that man is a custodian
 7 of the land, and not its master or its exploiter.
 8 Defines you.
 9 I think it will be the view of most
 10 anthropologists. I'd like to point out, too, since I
 11 have some knowledge of geology, that there is a
 12 technology possibility that hasn't really been
 13 explored here of possibly exploiting some of our
 14 resources without doing all of this damage we see if
 15 we go up toward Lander and, and view some of the old
 16 oil fields strewn with junk, or going to Jeffrey City
 17 and are afraid to take the back roads because of the
 18 remaining uranium tailings that are scattered around
 19 the road from trucks that, that weren't too well
 20 packed.
 21 And several years ago I spent a summer
 22 walking transects through Medicine Bow Par-, Medicine
 23 Bow mt-, Medicine Bow National Forest in the back
 24 country way off the road where all the damage is.
 25 Take a real good look out there.

Page 120

1 The exploiters have been very busy in
 2 the Medicine Bow Forest, just as busy as they would be
 3 up in the Jack Morrow Hills. And they had left an
 4 ungodly mess for the Forest Service to clean up.
 5 I believe that is just about it. Thank
 6 you.
 7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Lee.
 8 Katharine Collins.
 9 MS. COLLINS: My name is Katharine
 10 Collins, K-a-t-h-a-r-i-n-e, Collins, C-o-l-l-i-n-s,
 11 and I am a resident of Rock Springs. Not too many
 12 years ago, and about a dozen years before that, I
 13 regularly interviewed BLM personnel.
 14 And it was probably about from a-half to
 15 three-quarters of my job, the same job that Jeff
 16 Gearino is doing tonight. And it was, it was, it was
 17 a very enjoyable part of the job.
 18 But it, the impression that stays with
 19 me was the undercurrent in many of the interviews,
 20 sometimes off the Record, probably more on than off
 21 the Record, the lack of resources, the lack of
 22 personnel, the impossibility of monitoring. And many
 23 questions and issues would come back to that, to that
 24 fact.
 25 I believe, I feel that BLM has never had

Page 121

1 the resources to, to properly monitor the use of, of
 2 our public lands' resources. I used to talk to
 3 Leonard Hay about in 1939 when the Taylor Grazing
 4 started, --
 5 MR. HAY: Thirty-four.
 6 MS. COLLINS: -- 1934, excuse me, there
 7 was one director and one secretary, and that is all
 8 the personnel in, in the office here.
 9 But, of course, that was before the
 10 minerals came up with the same purview. So I think it
 11 is relevant then.
 12 But I think it's fair to say that, that
 13 they really don't have the resources needed. And
 14 since the Preferred Alternative for the management of
 15 the Jack Morrow Hills is major, it is gas, it is a
 16 predominate use as far as gas and oil development, I,
 17 I just feel that that puts the fragile area that we
 18 call Jack Morrow Hills into a, into risk.
 19 And I think that I can safely say that
 20 with the current atmosphere of budget cuts in order to
 21 finance past cuts, we're not going to have a lot more
 22 resources to monitor these lands. And I mention that
 23 they are facing serious deficits with the war in Iraq,
 24 and the certainty that we are going to be there for a
 25 number of years.

31 (Pages 118 to 121)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 122	Page 124
<p>1 And with that increased responsibility, 2 I don't think that we are going to have more resources 3 for the Interior Department. And just yesterday I 4 learned that the Interior Department, which BLM is a 5 part of, will see its budget stretched even further 6 because the Interior is sending a team to Iraq to help 7 reconstitute the government of Iraq. 8 And this team will help, will help, will 9 help Iraq survey its own lands and its own resources. 10 And, you know, it really makes me wonder how well they 11 are going to be able to manage our own resources. 12 So I, I really do support the Citizens' 13 Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative, and I hope that 14 the BLM will give it serious consideration. Thank 15 you. 16 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Katharine. 17 Kim Floyd, with the Sierra Club. 18 MR. FLOYD: Thank you. My name is Kim 19 Floyd, K-i-m, F-l-o-y-d. 20 I'm here this evening, was asked to come 21 here this evening and give the comments on behalf of 22 the Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club. While we do 23 agree, and I'll try not to be repetitive to a lot of 24 the things that I've heard tonight, I do want to put 25 on the Record a few things that came to our knowledge</p>	<p>1 economic indicator, it is a nonrenewable resource. 2 It is going to go away, while we have 3 sitting in our future here in the State of Wyoming a 4 resource of wildlife, recreation, hunting, tourism, a 5 non-, it is a renewable resource. And if we play our 6 cards right here in the State of Wyoming, and protect 7 some of these places like the Jack Morrow Hills, we 8 can preserve this wildlife heritage, this recreational 9 heritage that we have and hold so dear here in the 10 State of Wyoming. 11 Another, just very briefly because I'm 12 running out of time, another thing that I would like 13 to say, and this is again another state figure, came 14 in Ron Arnold's office when he was the Director of 15 State Land, fifty-three percent of the State of 16 Wyoming is public land, whether it be national forest 17 land, state trust land, or BLM land. 18 Fifty-three percent of this state is 19 public land. But, yeah, we can only access the 20 recreation between 18 and 20 percent of that 53 21 percent of that land. 22 And that is for a lot of different 23 things, blocked land, and that sort of thing. But we 24 would ask that the BLM not accept the pre-, the 25 alternative that they are looking at, and take a good,</p>
<p>1 through the State of Wyoming. 2 And the first one is that if everybody 3 doesn't know, and the BLM doesn't know, Wyoming, in 4 general, categorizes economic development in the state 5 of Wyoming. And it is no secret to probably anybody 6 in this room that in Wyoming our number-one economic 7 indicator is the extraction of minerals, whether it be 8 oil, natural gas, coalbed methane. 9 And that just stands to reason, 10 especially on BLM land, considering 17 million of the 11 18 million acres are leased in the State of Wyoming. 12 But unlike any other state that we can find in the 13 country, our number-two economic indicator is a 14 category, and this is the State's category, not ours, 15 is the category called "Hunting, angling, recreation, 16 and tourism." 17 In the State of Wyoming, and the last 18 available figures that I could get, in 1999 this 19 category brought in \$1.324 billion into the State of 20 Wyoming. And what they told us was it has marginally 21 increased, not a big increase, but since 1999 this 22 category has increased. 23 And I guess my point being, well, we all 24 know that the extraction of minerals is very important 25 to the State of Wyoming. While it is our number-one</p>	<p>1 hard look at this Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands 2 Alternative. 3 Thank you. 4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Kim. 5 Jeff Harryman. 6 MR. HARRYMAN: My name is Jeff Harryman, 7 J-e-f-f, H-a-r-r-y-m-a-n, and I'm just speaking as a 8 citizen of Wyoming. And I want to say right off that 9 I support the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands 10 Alternative, and I'm opposed to the BLM EIS because 11 they do leave out wildlife and cultural sites and 12 that. 13 I think that, that the development in 14 the Jack Morrow Hills of oil and gas is not only 15 inappropriate, but I don't think it makes economic 16 sense, in that we get such a low price for our gas 17 here in Wyoming. And I'm going to quote from an AP 18 article. 19 It says: The limited storage of 20 pipeline capacity helps to hold the Wyoming natural 21 gas to around one dollar per thousand cubic feet. 22 That is just 25 percent of the national average. 23 The industry itself estimates that the 24 75-percent spread between Rocky's prices and the 25 national average added up to \$1 million per day in</p>

32 (Pages 122 to 125)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 126</p> <p>1 lost revenue opportunities to the State of Wyoming. 2 Thank you. 3 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Jeff. 4 Claire Moseley. 5 MS. MOSELEY: I thought that I was going 6 to be last. 7 MR. GRIFFITH: (Inaudible.) 8 MS. MOSELEY: I guess. I am Claire 9 Moseley, C-l-a-i-r-e, M-o-s-e-l-e-y. 10 I'm with Public Lands Advocacy. Even 11 though I live in Denver, I've spent more time in 12 Wyoming over the last 25 years than probably in 13 Denver. 14 I just wanted to say that I've enjoyed a 15 lot of the stories tonight, a lot of heartfelt 16 sentiments there, and also the history lessons. I 17 think it's very interesting. 18 But I'm not going to talk about that. I 19 thought, frankly, I thought the hearing was about the 20 EIS, and so that is really what I came here to 21 discuss. 22 And despite what a lot of you may think, 23 I think the BLM is tending to overmanage the oil and 24 gas program here in the Red Desert. I think that the 25 goals and the objectives that have been identified in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 128</p> <p>1 gas industry, does support monitoring of the facts. 2 Maybe not for the same reason as some other folks, but 3 we rely on the facts. 4 We depend on facts. We're not trying to 5 get off on you or anything else. 6 We support decent monitoring, something 7 that the BLM has never done in the 25 years that I've 8 been working in this business. 9 Time's up and I have so many notes left. 10 But let me just finalize by saying that I do not 11 support the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity 12 Plan. 13 I don't support the Preferred 14 Alternative. I don't support any of the alternatives. 15 And I certainly don't support the 16 Citizens' Alternative. I suggest that BLM go back to 17 the drawing board and look at the facts and try to 18 come up with something a lot more reasonable. 19 Thanks. 20 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Claire. 21 Kevin Holdsworth. 22 (Whereupon, inaudible conversation among 23 the participants was had, after which the following 24 occurred.) 25 MR. GRIFFITH: How about Bill Spillman?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 127</p> <p>1 the EIS clearly support oil and gas activities. 2 When you think about 620,000 acres and 3 we're looking at a total of, well, according to BLM a 4 total of about 200 wells being drilled, fewer than 5 that, less than half of that being producing, I think 6 of the fact that we are looking at stage leasing to 7 ameliorate the impacts. 8 The impacts are minimal. I mean, they 9 are so minuscule that you would never even notice. 10 And I find it really amusing, in a way, 11 that everybody is so blown away by this proposal. 12 Everything is out of proportion. 13 I don't think it's a balanced plan. I 14 think that some of the ideas that BLM has contained in 15 there, like signed-back Leases, where in the world 16 would BLM get the funds to do that? 17 They are going to monitor to find out 18 whether they can issue Leases in an area that hasn't 19 been leased already. And when will that get done, and 20 where will the funding for that come from? 21 I don't see it happening. I think it's 22 really sort of a pipe-dream. 23 The whole thing seems to be a pipe-dream 24 to me. I'm really concerned about monitoring. 25 And believe it or not, we, the oil and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p> <p>1 MR. SPILLMAN: Well, this is my least -- 2 My name is Bill Spillman. This is my least favorite 3 thing to do, public speaking. 4 You've got the Jonah's Field. You've 5 heard a lot about that today. 6 This was published in the paper. Every 7 quarter mile, half mile, there is a pad, pad, pad. 8 One ninety-one, this is the mountains. 9 This is all the way over to the Wyoming Range 10 (demonstrating). 11 This is what they are proposing for the 12 Jack Morrow Hills. Industrialization, they are going 13 to turn it into a park. 14 These pads are scraped bare. Where are 15 the elk going to go? 16 Are they going to go to Bairoil and 17 drink beer? I don't think so. 18 The fact that we are even speaking about 19 increased development and increased activity in the 20 Jack Morrow Hills in the middle of a four-year drought 21 is, you know, that speaks a lot to the BLM management 22 and their viewpoint toward the whole issue. I lived 23 in Superior for ten years. 24 We used to drive out to the Jack Morrow 25 Hills on an afternoon just for something to do. Black</p>

33 (Pages 126 to 129)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 130	Page 132
<p>1 Butte, now Black Butte, you come to Black Butte, 2 there's a (sic) open-pit coal mine that stretches for 3 a couple of miles a couple hundred feet deep. 4 You can't get to the butte. In 2001, 5 BLM, the Jack Morrow Hills were supposed to be in the 6 middle of a wall with any activity. 7 BLM had pumper trucks out at the base of 8 Steamboat Mountain and were conducting seismographic 9 surveys. It was never in the papers. 10 The only people who knew about it were 11 the people in Superior. And when this finally started 12 leaking out, and the BLM got contacted, they packed 13 their stuff up and went, and nobody ever heard 14 anything about it. 15 BLM has proved their management style 16 this year by keeping activity going at Trapper's Point 17 around Pinedale. All winter long they had 85, 85 18 requests to continue activity against their own rules 19 for field development in that area, and I think they 20 approved like 80 of them. 21 You know, the land can be used to death. 22 I've been on top of every ridge between Steamboat 23 Mountain, Aspen Mountain, the Continental Divide, all 24 out there. 25 I don't think the rangeland is in such</p>	<p>1 MS. AVILA: Yes, close. My name is 2 Monina, M-o-n-i-n-a, Avila, A-v-i-l-a. 3 I am from Mexico. I came to Wyoming 12 4 years ago, and I went hiking. 5 And I said, "Oh, my God. I am from 6 here. I am from Wyoming." 7 This is why I came to Wyoming. And two 8 months later my daughter was born. 9 And when I was in the hospital I asked 10 the nurse, "Can I go for a walk? Because why wait 11 here?" 12 And I just went for a walk, and I just 13 could not believe what I was seeing. There was 14 wildlife. 15 Well, my point is that I come from 16 Mexico. And the town that I come from is Mesa Planeta 17 which means "land of the Earth." 18 And we don't have one single deer. Not 19 one. 20 And can you imagine coming to Wyoming 21 and the wildlife? I just could not picture that. 22 We have to save our land. And if we 23 don't respect our land, then we are not being 24 Christ-like. 25 And I'm not talking about dollar signs.</p>
<p>Page 131</p> <p>1 good shape. Zergo (phonetic) Mesa and the southern 2 base of Jack Morrow Hills area is being hauled off in 3 the last ten years by a rock/gravel mining operation. 4 There is a spring that has been there 5 for 10,000 years, anyway. Evidence of the tribes have 6 been documented there for 9,000 years. 7 We're messing around with this area that 8 we're going to turn around to the Petroleum 9 Association of Wyoming. We're going to suck it dry. 10 Well, they've got their 95 percent. 11 Give me my one percent so that I can have multiple use 12 so I can go out on the Red Desert to Jack Morrow Hills 13 and do what I want to do. 14 MR. GRIFFITH: Time's up. 15 MR. SPILLMAN: Okay. Thank you very 16 much. 17 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Bill. 18 Joe DeCora. 19 MR. DeCORA: Joe DeCora, J-o-e, 20 D-e-C-o-r-a, Sweetwater County. I'm going to be short 21 and simple. 22 Thank God Bruce Babbitt is gone. And I 23 support the Preferred Alternative, multiple use. 24 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Joe. 25 Lucrecia Monina Avila. Close?</p>	<p>Page 133</p> <p>1 I'm talking about God knows how we're going to pay for 2 it. 3 I think I'm going to stop there. I 4 could talk more. Thank you. 5 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you. 6 Diane Foster. 7 MS. FOSTER: Diane Foster, D-i-a-n-e, 8 F-o-s-t-e-r. I'm from Reliance, Wyoming. 9 I am a Sweetwater County native, and 10 like it or not, folks, underneath, the BLM has to 11 strongly consider the economic impacts. Sweetwater 12 County, their economy is derived from the oil and gas 13 industry. 14 Maybe not directly. In the tax base 15 it's directly. 16 The oil and gas industry produces the 17 most taxes that provide the jobs for a lot of people 18 who have stood up here and spoke tonight that pay your 19 paychecks. If you are a teacher, where do you think 20 money comes from? It is the tax base. 21 Where does the majority of the tax base 22 come from? Oil and gas industry, minerals industry. 23 So you need to think about this stuff. 24 And like it or not, Sweetwater County is never going 25 to be a tourist mecca.</p>

34 (Pages 130 to 133)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 134

1 Tourism doesn't even register on the pie
 2 chart when you look at the tax base. You know, get
 3 real.
 4 Either you're employed in the oil/gas
 5 industry or minerals industry, or work for a business
 6 that is there because the trickle-down effect from the
 7 oil and gas industry and the minerals industry. We're
 8 either going to survive here or we're not.
 9 If you want to shut off oil and gas
 10 industry altogether, do it. Move somewhere else, and
 11 the rest of us will have to leave, too, because
 12 there's not going to be anything to keep us here.
 13 I'll talk about the wildlife in the
 14 area. The rare desert elk herd that was planted
 15 there, as Leonard said, starting back in the '30s,
 16 it's sad.
 17 You know, I've been out on tours with
 18 the BLM to the Jack Morrow Hills area, and people on
 19 the tour, you have to literally point out the existing
 20 gas wells to them because they couldn't see them.
 21 Things can be done without that much of an impact.
 22 And I strongly support multiple use, and
 23 I strongly urge BLM to manage their resources. The
 24 wild horse herds are not true wild horses.
 25 They are decedents of stock that

Page 135

1 belonged to my grandfather, to Leonard Hay, and to his
 2 grandfather. They are not true wild horses.
 3 And they need to be managed. They are
 4 the most destructive things out there.
 5 The elk herd flourishes. People talk
 6 about seeing the elk herd.
 7 Where do they see them? Because they
 8 were driving down the road and there were the elk.
 9 I've been out there, and the elk don't
 10 run. I've stopped.
 11 I toured that area here a while back
 12 with friends from Oregon, and they looked at it and
 13 they said, "Is this what this is all about?"
 14 We came upon some elk, stopped, and
 15 looked at them. The elk stood there and looked at us.
 16 You know, you talk about all of these
 17 impacts, but what I've seen first-hand doesn't fit
 18 with what you're saying. I support multiple use and
 19 the Preferred Alternative.
 20 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. Thank you, Diane.
 21 We've got a last registered speaker
 22 here, Kayne Pyatt.
 23 MS. PYATT: My name is Kayne Pyatt,
 24 K-a-y-n-e, last name, P-y-a-t-t, and I'm not an expert.
 25 I'm not a scientist. I know very little

Page 136

1 about what some of you have been talking about.
 2 And I've learned a lot tonight, and I
 3 appreciate that. And I came here because I am a lover
 4 of Mother Earth.
 5 And I believe that Europeans had a
 6 chance one time a long, long time ago when they came
 7 to American to learn from the Native peoples how to
 8 treat the land as sacred, as sacred, and all species
 9 as sacred. And so I love our Great Mother and what
 10 she offers.
 11 And I also remember living in Evanston
 12 during the oil boom, and people thinking that it was
 13 going to reap great benefits. And, yes, it was
 14 short-term great benefits, but none of the people who
 15 got jobs were from Wyoming.
 16 Most of them were from all over the
 17 United States. And they didn't bring their families
 18 to go to those schools and open them up.
 19 And as soon as the, the oil boom was
 20 over, they left. And they left a mess.
 21 And the oil companies left a mess. And
 22 if you don't believe it, go out to some of those areas
 23 around Evanston, and I'm sure Rock Springs.
 24 But I just happened to live in Evanston
 25 at the time. I just, I support the Citizens' Wildlife

Page 137

1 and Wildland Alliance Proposal.
 2 And I think it's time -- We can give a
 3 message to the rest of the United States that, and a
 4 message to the oil companies that it is time to
 5 investigate alternative resources and alternative ways
 6 of driving our cars and powering our houses. And if
 7 we make a statement to the world at a time right now
 8 when the Administration of this country is threatening
 9 most of our national parks and our wildlife areas, and
 10 we make the statement that we citizens of Wyoming
 11 stand up for the sacredness of the land, and that we
 12 want to preserve that land and the species and the
 13 cultural heritage, and we want to pay honor and
 14 respect to those people that we stole the land from in
 15 the first place, and if we make that statement, we
 16 have created a wonderful, sacred turning point in our
 17 country.
 18 And I just want to thank you for the
 19 opportunity, and I hope that the BLM will
 20 reinvestigate and consider the Citizens' Wildland and
 21 Wildlife Proposal.
 22 Thank you.
 23 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Kayne.
 24 Is there anyone else who would like to
 25 speak at this point?

35 (Pages 134 to 137)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 138

1 (Whereupon, no response was had.)
2 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. I want to thank
3 you all tonight for participating in this public
4 process.

5 This is your process. We need your
6 input for this EIS.

7 On a more personal side, I am very
8 impressed by the sincere, heartfelt, even eloquent
9 presentations I heard tonight. Obviously this area
10 means a lot to everybody in this room for a lot of
11 different reasons.

12 It is all part of the American process,
13 and I want to thank you again for coming tonight.
14 Tomorrow we're going to have the same meeting in
15 Lander at the Best Western Inn at 7:00, so if you are
16 interested in coming again, we would welcome you.

17 Again, thank you for coming out tonight,
18 and travel safe. Thanks.

19 (Whereupon, the above BLM meeting was
20 concluded.)

21 I certify the foregoing to be a
22 true transcript from an audio
23 cassette recording.

E-signature: Linda A. Anderson

24 Videographer

25 CERTIFICATION

Page 139

1 Videographer, do hereby certify that the foregoing
2 transcript was duly reduced to writing by me at
3 Douglas, Wyoming, USA. I further certify that I am
4 neither related to any of the parties by blood or
5 marriage, nor do I have any interest in the outcome of
6 the above matter.

7 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set
8 my hand at Douglas, Wyoming, this 21st day of April,
9 2003.

10 E-signature: Linda A. Anderson
11 Videographer
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36 (Pages 138 to 139)

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Page 1

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

JACK MORROW HILLS CAP SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS

PUBLIC HEARING

10 April 2003
Lander, Wyoming, USA

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JACK MORROW HILLS

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2 (Pages 2 to 5)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 6	Page 8
<p>1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued): 2 DAN HILKJ 601 South 4th Lander, Wyoming 82520 3 4 BOB HELLVER Lander, Wyoming 82520 5 6 GEORGE HELLVER Post Office Box 177 Wyoming 82516 7 8 JIM HELLVER 560 Lyons Valley Road Lander, Wyoming 82520 9 10 MARTHA HELLVER 11 12 LOIS O. HERBST 91 Herbar Road Sheridan, Wyoming 82649 13 14 PAT HICKERSON 2 Hickerson Street Lander, Wyoming 82520 15 16 LANEY HICKS Post Office Box 641 Crowheart, Wyoming 82512 17 18 RICHARD HIPP 440 South Third Street Lander, Wyoming 82520 19 20 FIEDLIN HOLLEY 710 Wood Street Lander, Wyoming 82520 21 22 HALLE HOLT Lander, Wyoming 82520 23 24 MA HOLLJ Lander, Wyoming 82520 25 26 LILY HOWENDICK Lander, Wyoming 82520 27 28 LIZ HOWELL Wyoming Wilderness Association Post Office Box 6588 Sheridan, Wyoming 82801 29 30 31 PATTI HUGHES 25 North Grand Avenue Atlantic City, Wyoming 32 33 JUDY INBERG 34 JACK (unlegible) 35 KRISTEN JOHNSON Post Office Box 333</p>	<p>1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued): 2 (Unlegible) McClure 508 West River Avenue Lander, Wyoming 82520 3 4 EYENNY MILLER 5 6 DAVID R. MELLER State Representative 131 Davis Lane Evanston, Wyoming 82541 7 8 HEATHER MERRICK 440 Oak & Washington Street Lander, Wyoming 82520 9 10 DIANA MITCHELL Historic Preservation Commission 254 Rockwood Evanston, Wyoming 11 12 MELISSA MULLER 87 Lyons Valley Road Lander, Wyoming 82520 13 14 SHAUN MURRAY 770 South Fifth Lander, Wyoming 82520 15 16 BARBARA OAKLEAF 800 Vance Drive Lander, Wyoming 82520 17 18 BOB OAKLEAF 240 (Unlegible) Lander, Wyoming 82520 19 20 FLOYD OSBORNE Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514 21 22 KATHY PAPPAS 136 Cascade Street Lander, Wyoming 82520 23 24 25 HENRY E. (Unlegible) 26 27 CLAUDIA PEARSON 841 T weed Lane Lander, Wyoming 82520 28 29 STEVE PEARSON Post Office Box 1173 Lander, Wyoming 82520 30 31 32 FRANK PHEL State Representative HD 34 775 South Idaho Valley Road Sheridan, Wyoming 82649 33</p>
Page 7	Page 9
<p>1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued): 2 MARCO JOHNSON 21 Lucky Lane Lander, Wyoming 82520 3 4 STEVE JONES 262 Lincoln Street Lander, Wyoming 82520 5 6 SCOTT KANE 805 South Third Lander, Wyoming 82520 7 8 CHELSEA KESSELEHM 22 Phoenix Pass Lander, Wyoming 82520 9 10 KAREN KINGS Post Office Box 20 Fort Washakie, Wyoming 11 12 BART KOEHLER Post Office Box 1020 Durango, Colorado 81302 13 14 JUAN LADEN 375 Madler Lander, Wyoming 82520 15 16 JENNIFER LAMB 112 Canyon Lander, Wyoming 82520 17 18 CHRISTINE LICHTENFELS 9 Canyon Drive Lander, Wyoming 82520 19 20 CAROL LONG 2126 Forbes Road Casper, Wyoming 82401 21 22 MELLONG 2126 Forbes Road Casper, Wyoming 82401 23 24 TY MACK 1993 Baldwin Creek Road Lander, Wyoming 82520 25 26 JONATHAN MARK 2833 Sista Canyon Road Lander, Wyoming 82520 27 28 JOHN McCULLOUGH Post Office Box 841 Lander, Wyoming 82520 29 30 JAZZMYN McDONALD Post Office Box 1800 Lander, Wyoming 82520 31 32 33 JOE MEGRATH 343 Canyon Street Lander, Wyoming 82520 34 35</p>	<p>1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued): 2 STEVE PLATT 980 Cliff Street Lander, Wyoming 82520 3 4 GLADYS PUFFE 5 6 GATHY PURVES Post Office Box 1387 Lander, Wyoming 82520 7 8 DAVE RAYNOLDS 30 Field Station Road Lander, Wyoming 82520 9 10 MAY RAYNOLDS 30 Field Station Road Lander, Wyoming 82520 11 12 JACOB REED 370 Canyon Lander, Wyoming 82520 13 14 LAURIE SAIN 159 North Second Street #A Lander, Wyoming 82520 15 16 DENIS A. SCHEPCHICK Lander, Wyoming 82520 17 18 BOB SCHOLL 342 Parks Lander, Wyoming 82520 19 20 HAROLD SCHULTZ 311 North 17th East Riverton, Wyoming 21 22 JUDY SEBERG 460 West Mountain View Drive Riverton, Wyoming 82501 23 24 RANDY SHEPMAN Post Office Box 1046 Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901 25 26 CHRIS SLIVINSKI 27 28 PAUL SMITH 333 Grand View Drive Lander, Wyoming 82520 29 30 31 BILL SNIFFIN Post Office Box 900 Lander, Wyoming 82520 32 33 CASSIE SOLDIER WOLF 34 35 FAY (unlegible) SOLDIER WOLF 36 37 FLORITA R. SOLDIER WOLF</p>

3 (Pages 6 to 9)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 10	<p>1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued)</p> <p>2 MARK SOLDER WOLF AMANDA STUCKER Post Office Box 177 Kamsel, Wyoming 82516</p> <p>4 MEREDITH TAYLOR 4346 Highway 26 5 DANA, Wyoming 82513</p> <p>6 DOUG THOMPSON Fremont County Commissioner</p> <p>7 MARK THORNBERY 710 Wood Street 8 Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> <p>9 HARRY TIPTON 345 South Vista Drive Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> <p>10 WARREN C. ULMER Wyoming Atmospheric Research 11 58 Field Station Road Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> <p>12 ABBY WARNER 333 Cliff Drive</p> <p>13 TREV WARDEN</p> <p>14 MARK WATKINS 800 South Fourth Street 15 Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> <p>16 RICHARD WATKINS 800 South Fourth Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> <p>17 STARR WEED, SR. Fort Washakie, Wyoming</p> <p>18 SONJA WEINSTEIN 750 Lincoln Street 19 Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> <p>20 PAI WENDEL 38 Ogden Road Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> <p>21 COLLEEN WIGALIN 1050 Dakota Avenue 22 Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> <p>23 BETTY WILKINSON Flaming Gorge People 24 for the USA Post Office Box 1334 Rock Springs, Wyoming 82902</p> <p>25</p>
Page 12	<p>1 INDEX</p> <p>2 Page</p> <p>3 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS 13</p> <p>4 PUBLIC COMMENTS:</p> <p>5 By Doug Thompson 18</p> <p>6 By David Miller 21</p> <p>7 By Leon Stamminger 22</p> <p>8 By Frank Pate 24</p> <p>9 By Joseph Lamb 24</p> <p>10 By Sharon Cooper 26</p> <p>11 By Dan Wood 29</p> <p>12 By Meredith Taylor 32</p> <p>13 By Dana Mitchell 34</p> <p>14 By Nancy Anderson 36</p> <p>15 By Betty Williams 38</p> <p>16 By Richard Butler 40</p> <p>17 By Paul Albrecht 42</p> <p>18 By Family Stephens 44</p> <p>19 By Kelly Purvis 46</p> <p>20 By Jean Lamb 47</p> <p>21 By Marie Johnson 49</p> <p>22 By Bob Smith 50</p> <p>23 By Larry Sloan 51</p> <p>24 By Mark Thornberry 52</p> <p>25 By Holly Adams 53</p> <p>26 By Fiddler Hubby 54</p> <p>27 By Tom Hild 55</p> <p>28 By Mark Wilson 52</p> <p>29 By Hanki Schuler 63</p> <p>30 By Lois Hoffman 65</p> <p>31 By Charles Wilcox 67</p> <p>32 By Kelly Pappas 68</p> <p>33 By Paul Oswald 70</p> <p>34 By Mike Simpson 72</p> <p>35 By John McCullough 74</p> <p>36 By Jonathan Mack 75</p> <p>37 By Mark Solder Wolf 77</p> <p>38 By Mary Dee 81</p> <p>39 By Yaki Green Mountain Hunt 81</p> <p>40 By Michael Davis 83</p> <p>41 By Charles Kastenbaum 85</p> <p>42 By Gene Peterson 87</p> <p>43 By Scott Swanson 89</p> <p>44 By Scott Clabby 91</p> <p>45 By Dan Kautler 92</p> <p>46 By Steve Jones 94</p>
Page 11	<p>1 PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Continued):</p> <p>2 CHERYL WILLIAMS</p> <p>3 CHARLIE WILSON 250 North 9th Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> <p>4</p> <p>5 SCOTT WOODRUFF 2024 Mortimore Lane Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
Page 13	<p>1 INDEX</p> <p>2 (Continued)</p> <p>3 Page</p> <p>4 PUBLIC COMMENTS (Continued)</p> <p>5 By Ty Mack 96</p> <p>6 By Dave Freitag 97</p> <p>7 By Liz Howell 101</p> <p>8 By Scott Woodruff 103</p> <p>9 By Julius Castro 105</p> <p>10 By Barbara Ouldauf 107</p> <p>11 By Marisa Doane 109</p> <p>12 By Steve Pate 111</p> <p>13 By Andrea Cirovski 113</p> <p>14 By Judy Johnson 116</p> <p>15 By Martin Kastenbaum 118</p> <p>16 By Warren Ulmer 120</p> <p>17 By Charles Edwards 122</p> <p>18 By Jan Holtyer 125</p> <p>19 By Carol Long 126</p> <p>20 By Laurie Sain 128</p> <p>21 By Shaver Murray 129</p> <p>22 By Christina Lichtenfels 129</p> <p>23 By Dave Reynolds 132</p> <p>24 By Don Hillig 131</p> <p>25 By Cullen Wharton 137</p> <p>26 By Larry Berger 139</p>

4 (Pages 10 to 13)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 14	Page 16
<p>1 BEFORE THE 2 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR 3 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT 4 JACK MORROW HILLS CAP SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS 5 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 6 Meeting was held pursuant to Notice and 7 Invitation at The Best Western Inn, Lander, Wyoming, 8 commencing on the 10th day of April, 2003, commencing 9 at 7:00 p.m. MT and concluding at 10:30 p.m. MT. 10 TRANSCRIPT PROCEEDINGS 11 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you for coming to 12 the listening meeting for the Jack Morrow Hills 13 Coordinated Activity Plan. Many of you were in Rock 14 Springs last night. 15 It is good to see you again. My name 16 again is Marty Griffith. 17 I'm with the Bureau of Land Management 18 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Over there I'm, for what it's 19 worth, I'm the Branch Chief for the Renewable 20 Resources over there. 21 What we are going to do tonight is give, 22 give everyone a chance to voice their opinion on the 23 Plan itself. We have considerably more speakers 24 tonight than we did last night, so I'm going to cut 25 the time down a little bit tonight.</p>	<p>1 requests for elders. So I've already discussed that, 2 so we're going to do that. 3 So we're going to go two minutes, okay? 4 We're going to have to. 5 Otherwise we're going to be here until 6 about 1:00 in the morning. I'm not trying to 7 undermine the importance of the topic, but -- And 8 we'll be taking a break or two tonight as well. 9 So let's, let's stick to that. As you 10 know, these kind of listening meetings are laid out in 11 the National Environmental Policy Act that allow for 12 this type of public input. 13 I kind of went over the time already. 14 You've already signed in. 15 You've got your name on the cards. Your 16 time is not transferrable to somebody else, and we're 17 only going to go with one official core organization 18 as the official speaker. 19 In other words, if you are with the 20 Sierra Club and you've signed in as the speaker for 21 the Sierra Club, you're it. It doesn't mean that 22 other folks from the Sierra Club can't talk as well, 23 but they will be speaking as individuals, okay? 24 And when you come up -- I'm going to 25 call your name, but I would like you also, for the</p>
<p>Page 15</p> <p>1 Last night we were running at three 2 minutes. We had 55 speakers and we went until 10:30. 3 Tonight we have 80 speakers. Two and 4 a-half minutes. Do the math. 5 We're going to be here a while. I want 6 to ask the group right now, does anyone want less than 7 two and a-half? 8 I wouldn't go under two. 9 A PARTICIPANT: Two. 10 MR. GRIFFITH: Two? Consensus, two? 11 (Whereupon, remarks were made among 12 those present, after which the following occurred.) 13 MR. GRIFFITH: All right, I can do that. 14 We'll do that. Two minutes. 15 Yes, sir. 16 A PARTICIPANT: Five minutes. I say we 17 need to go five minutes. 18 We've got a lot of talking here. We 19 ought to be able to sit here for a while and -- 20 MR. GRIFFITH: Well, I'm not going to do 21 five. I'm sorry, sir. We're going to go two. 22 (Whereupon, remarks were made among 23 those present, after which the following occurred.) 24 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay, hold it. Hold it. 25 I'm going to honor a couple of special</p>	<p>Page 17</p> <p>1 benefit of Linda, our recorder, to say your name and 2 then spell it, please. 3 And then my timer tonight it Bryan. And 4 he did real well, helpful night, to help me keep track 5 of time. 6 Again, we want to keep, keep our 7 comments and testimony on the Jack Morrow Hills 8 Coordinated Activity Plan, okay? Okay. 9 Liz Howell, I'm sorry. Your offer of 10 pizza to give you more time ain't going to fly 11 tonight. 12 MS. HOWELL: I'm an elder. 13 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. All right. 14 Any questions before we start? Good 15 deal. 16 And if you need to take a break before 17 the official break, just get up quietly and go about 18 your business and come on back. Alrighty. 19 The other courtesy I would like to offer 20 is to allow any elected officials to speak toward the 21 top of the list. And I've already, kind of have that 22 arranged, so I'm going to get started. 23 Our first speaker tonight is Doug 24 Thompson, from the Fremont, the Fremont County 25 Commissioner.</p>

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 18	Page 20
<p>1 Doug. 2 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Marty. This 3 testimony will be on behalf of the Fremont County 4 Board of Commissioners. 5 We speak in support of the Supplemental 6 Draft EIS for the Jack Morrow Hills and the Draft that 7 are in the Amendment. Much concern has been voiced 8 about the need to protect the Jack Morrow Hills or the 9 Red Desert. 10 There is no legal activity occurring now 11 or in the future that is done without regulatory 12 oversight and concern for the physical environment. 13 All uses are planned and will be managed with due 14 attention to their effects on land, water, wildlife, 15 air, cultural sites, and impacts of every other use. 16 Compliance with 29 specific laws and 17 numerous regulations is a further protective filter 18 for the management and coordination of the many uses. 19 Certain management actions are common to all 20 alternatives. 21 These common actions are to maintain and 22 enhance healthy rangeland, proper functioning 23 conditions in riparian areas, desired plant 24 communities, pumping watersheds, water quality, 25 effective fire management, and floodplain mitigation.</p>	<p>1 disturbance of 400,000 acres. It is protected by the 2 BLM, and under the most aggressive Bureau scenario, 3 205 wells would be drilled. 4 If all 205 wells were drilled in one 5 year, with a maximum initial disturbance of 16 acres, 6 the total disturbance would be 3,280 acres. Put this 7 into perspective, -- 8 A SPECTATOR: Time's up. 9 A SPECTATOR: Time's up. Time was up a 10 minute ago. 11 MR. THOMPSON: -- the Jack Morrow Hills, 12 19 percent will never be disturbed. 13 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Doug. This two 14 minutes can be tough, so -- 15 A SPECTATOR: We all should have the 16 privilege of speaking the same amount of time he did. 17 MR. GRIFFITH: Understood, sir. That is 18 why I'm going to ask you all to really stick to that 19 two minutes. 20 And, you know, I'm going to give you a 21 little bit of leeway, but not much. We're not going 22 to be able to do three minutes tonight. 23 It is unfortunate. We've got folks that 24 have traveled that need to get back, et cetera. 25 But, you know, this is your call, so</p>
<p>Page 19</p> <p>1 Effects on wildlife, threatened and endangered, these 2 species are a constant consideration. 3 Off-highway vehicle use, travel 4 management, and accesses are of further consideration. 5 Heritage resources, scientific values, Native American 6 sites, protection influences the conduct of any 7 activity. 8 No, Jack Morrow, the Jack Morrow Hills 9 is not without adequate protection. Oil and gas 10 activity seems to be the main focus of concern of the 11 DEIS. 12 Here, too, there is plenty of regulatory 13 oversight. Leases are subjected to a minimum of 12 14 basic criteria, including wildlife habitats, special 15 management areas, unique vegetation, migratory 16 corridors, visual values. 17 The only disturbances analyzed, 18 authorized and monitored on the site's specific basis 19 in compliance with the above-mentioned resource 20 protection criteria (sic). Although Alternatives 1, 3 21 and preferred -- 22 MR. GRIFFITH: Time's up. 23 MR. THOMPSON: -- in more than 1,000 24 acres would be available for leasing. 25 This figure in no way indicates the</p>	<p>Page 21</p> <p>1 let's stick to it. 2 Okay, thank you, Doug. 3 Again I remind you to state your name 4 and then spell it for Linda, our recorder. 5 David Miller, a State Representative. 6 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Marty, and thank 7 you for this opportunity to testify on the, on the 8 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I would like to 9 comment on a letter I wrote April 19, 2002, and a 10 letter I wrote before that, on July, January eleventh, 11 2002. 12 Both letters have not had my comments 13 addressed by the BLM. And basically what I addressed 14 in some of those letters is, is we've had multiple use 15 in the Jack Morrow Hills for the last 100 years, and 16 the area is still pristine. 17 We've had mining activities up there. 18 We had a major mine up in that area. 19 We've had gold mining up there. We've 20 had lots of oil and gas activities. 21 The area is still relatively pristine. 22 I don't understand why we need to go save it from 23 Wyoming people, because a lot of the comments come 24 from out-of-state people on these areas. 25 And that's fine. They have that right.</p>

6 (Pages 18 to 21)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 But what happens is it takes our tax 2 revenue away from Wyoming. When we became a state, 3 that land was addressed or operated as multiple-use. 4 The state government, our education 5 system, our kids in this community, their education is 6 paid by the taxes generated off the public lands in 7 Wyoming. If we restrict those public lands, we're not 8 going to have an education system in this state, and 9 frankly, we won't have a state. 10 I have several comments specifically to 11 the, to the document. Section 2 dash-1 dash-3 dash-8, 12 buy-back of existing valid leases, that's fine. 13 But if you want to buy it back from some 14 landowner, how about the money the State of Wyoming is 15 going to lose that supports our education system in 16 this state, pays for our kids' education, supports the 17 University of Wyoming, builds our roads? They need to 18 address that also. 19 Section 2.3, the No-Action Alternative 20 talks about specific lands which would be, would be 21 withdrawn, and that is all it says in the document. 22 If you look at the map, it's about 80 percent of the 23 land will be withdrawn. 24 Down to another section, they talk about 25 environmental adjusted as an Executive Order 12898.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 for our citizens of Fremont County and for, for the 2 kids in our school districts. 3 Thank you. 4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Scott. 5 Frank Philp, State Representative. 6 MR. PHILP: Thank you. I appreciate 7 talking to you and being able to speak here. 8 I support multiple use on Jack Morrow 9 Hills. It, it's real important for our grazing and 10 minerals, and the use of our wildlife. 11 I think it's all important. As a State 12 Representative, I see the important things that 13 minerals do for our state. 14 With the revenue, every citizen receives 15 thousands of dollars' worth of services from the 16 State: healthcare for our elderly, education for our 17 children, our community colleges, the University, 18 cities, towns, and counties all benefit from mineral 19 development. It is very important. 20 I would like to see that continued here. 21 And it has continued, and we can have it all in the 22 State of Wyoming. 23 We can have development and still have 24 our wildlife and clean water and clean air. 25 Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 They address that in another Executive Order, 13212, 2 what is addressed as the Statement of Adverse Energy 3 Impact that the BLM is supposed to address. 4 I did not find it in that at all. 5 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. Thanks, David. 6 Scott Harnsberger, elected official. 7 MR. HARNBERGER: Scott Harnsberger. 8 I'm speaking for the Fremont County Treasurers Office. 9 That's H-a-r-n-s-b-e-r-g-e-r. I just 10 wanted to point out that in Fremont County the, the 11 assessed value of the county, over 60 percent of our 12 assessed value is made up of natural gas and oil 13 production. 14 This is very important for the funding 15 of schools, libraries, museums, roads, and bridges. 16 These are things that the County and the School 17 Districts rely on. 18 And the same is in Sweetwater County. 19 And even if most of the production is in Sweetwater 20 County, the municipalities in Fremont County and the 21 County itself still benefit from that oil and gas 22 production in Jack Morrow Hills. 23 So to reduce it by a-third, or whatever 24 that's been proposed, we don't want to see that. We 25 want to continue to have good multiple use out there</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Frank. 2 Pat Wickerson, or Hickerson. Is Pat 3 here? 4 (Whereupon, no response was had.) 5 MR. GRIFFITH: I guess not. Okay. 6 Our next speaker, then, is Jennifer 7 Lamb. 8 MS. LAMB: Good evening. Thanks for the 9 opportunity. 10 My name is Jennifer Lamb, and that is 11 Lamb like the animal. Other speakers tonight are 12 going to emphasize the amazing qualities of the Jack 13 Morrow Hills, so I won't spend time on that. 14 But what I'm going to do is just ask the 15 BLM and all of us to step back and look at the Jack 16 Morrow Hills in a broader perspective of all the 17 public lands in Wyoming and the future of this whole 18 Plan. The nation has recently become singularly 19 focused on identifying and developing our own sources 20 of energy, and there are some really good reasons for 21 that. 22 And I appreciate that. And I certainly 23 appreciate the importance of energy to our state's 24 economy. 25 But there is intense pressure on Wyoming</p>

7 (Pages 22 to 25)

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 right now, and that pressure is about satisfying the 2 needs of an energy-hungry nation. It, it's bigger 3 than just Wyoming and our needs. 4 And I really appreciate the BLM's 5 efforts to bring us into this process, but I encourage 6 them to really look at finding a balance. And we can 7 help them do that. 8 And we want them to do that. I urge 9 them to consider the fact that the Green River and the 10 Powder River Basins in the next 10 to 20 years will 11 see another tens of thousands of, of wells drilled. 12 Huge tracts of Wyoming's open space are 13 dedicated to energy development right now. We also 14 need to see that these huge tracts are dedicated to 15 remaining natural. 16 That's important. Wyoming has, has 17 always been about wide open wild places, and we would 18 like to see, I would like to see some of that remain. 19 That is all that I really need to say. 20 I just hate to see us wake up in 50 years and see that 21 all of our public lands have really been given up for 22 a short-term energy push. 23 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Jennifer. 24 Shawna Crispin. 25 MS. CRISPIN: Good evening. Thanks for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 These are the places that my family have 2 gone to and met with their southern cousins, their 3 friends, and to gather and to share. I'm not against 4 this Jack Morrow Hills CAP Plan. 5 I am in support of the Citizens' 6 Wildlife and Wildlands Alternative. I believe that 7 there is a balance that we can find that will support 8 the wildlands and support the minerals. 9 There is a balance in there, and we need 10 to make this work there. That is all that I have to 11 say. 12 And I thank Marty and, of course, 13 Richard, of the Wind River Alliance and the Young 14 Warriors' Society, for bringing it to my attention. 15 I'm a mom. 16 I work full-time. I go to school. 17 I came from class. And this is just 18 something that I want to see and have for my daughter. 19 She is only two, but in 10, 20, 30 20 years, when Mother Earth is sucked, purged, and 21 destroyed, what are we going to have left? Are we 22 really going to expect that the earth will really 23 rejuvenate herself? 24 I don't think so. This is something 25 that we really need to work on, these sand dunes,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 giving me the opportunity. 2 My name is Shawna Crispin, 3 C-r-i-s-p-i-n. I'm not elected; I'm not appointed. 4 I'm here as a private citizen, as I 5 found out about this, the Red Desert and the Plan of 6 the Jack Morrow Hills CAP. I grew up here. 7 I grew up with the Red Desert always 8 being in my life, and I always considered that it 9 would be, always be here, and always be pretty much 10 untouched. The landmarks and the wildlife itself, I 11 remember when I was in high school we went on a field 12 trip where we went and tagged the antelope, and I was 13 so afraid because of the sheer numbers of them. 14 But, you know, that's something to think 15 about. They're not going to be there all this time. 16 As for the Native American spiritual and 17 cultural sites that the Red Desert contains, these are 18 my people. These are where they met and everything. 19 I am so nervous. Excuse me. 20 They traversed that area. It was all 21 barren and unforgiving and harsh, but, you know, it 22 was mineral rich, so why not? 23 It made this area work for the families 24 to give them life and - Oh, my goodness. You know, I 25 talk on the radio, but I am so nervous now,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 these elk, these antelope. 2 If anything, these are things that, you 3 know, you just can't replace. And that is all I have 4 to say. 5 I have to go. Thank you. 6 MMR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Shawna. Good 7 job. 8 You're nervous. How would you like to 9 be the BLM guy? 10 Okay, this is one of the special 11 requests that I am honoring. The next speaker is 12 Starr Weed, Senior, and he would like to do a prayer 13 before he speaks. So he can have a little more time. 14 If you're ready, sir. 15 MR. WEED: Hello, everybody. I'm glad 16 to be here. 17 And I just come here to study things out 18 and see what we're talking about, and then I wanted to 19 say a few, few things. When everything was natural 20 there were no fences around, no roads, and my people 21 just traveled here and there. 22 No roads were around. And I just want 23 to speak tonight about that. 24 And I wanted to pray, because I don't 25 got much time. When I get started, you know, I don't</p>

8 (Pages 26 to 29)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 30

1 know when to quit, so you will have to holler at me.
 2 (Whereupon, Mr. Weed asked a prayer in
 3 his native tongue of Arapaho, after which the
 4 following occurred:)
 5 MR. WEED: Now I will just say a few
 6 things about respect. Respect the Mother Earth.
 7 Respect all the things He has made: the
 8 kind birds, wild game, what he made for us. And he
 9 also made everything that comes from the ground, like
 10 oil and gas we are talking about.
 11 He made that, too. He also wants us to
 12 respect Him, and He'll respect us and Mother Earth.
 13 That's what he wants us to do. And do
 14 for one.
 15 You know, I have a respect for this land
 16 through our religion. It teaches us respect, is our
 17 Sun Dance.
 18 We respect all of our trees in the
 19 mountains. We have a name.
 20 All the bird, as we stand up, put in for
 21 the Sun Dance, each one of them has a prayer. Before
 22 we cut that tree down, we offer a prayer.
 23 And any kind of roots, any kind of
 24 roots, anyplace, we respect it and we give it a gift.
 25 Before we go down and get some roots, we give it a

Page 31

1 gift and then we cut it.
 2 And that is the kind of respect that we
 3 have for all of the things that He has done. And so
 4 we've done that for a long time, until our friends, --
 5 I call you our friends. -- until you come.
 6 And then from then on we've got a lot of
 7 oil coming out of the ground, and we're making use of
 8 it for our children. And that's what we're talking
 9 about.
 10 But we should also have respect for, for
 11 digging out things from Mother Earth. We should
 12 always have that respect.
 13 And from a, all those things, you know,
 14 that went against us. The President at that time, he
 15 wanted to make this an Indian Religious Freedom Act.
 16 And he told the Indian leaders at that
 17 time, because there were a lot of things going on, and
 18 he wanted to hear from us. And I was on the Council
 19 then.
 20 And the older members, they, they asked
 21 me to be on that. They wanted the Indians to go to
 22 Denver and have a big meeting, and to talk about the
 23 Indian Religious Freedom Act.
 24 And then from then on we've run into
 25 problems with the Supreme Court. And they didn't look

Page 32

1 at us.
 2 They didn't okay us. They went against
 3 us. And we saw that happening.
 4 (Whereupon, Mr. Griffith conferred with
 5 Mr. Weed, after which the following occurred:)
 6 MR. WEED: Yeah, all right. Thank you.
 7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you. I wish that
 8 we had more time, sir.
 9 MR. WEED: I told you to tell me.
 10 MR. GRIFFITH: Meredith Taylor.
 11 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you. My name is
 12 Meredith Taylor, M-e-r-e-d-i-t-h, T-a-y-l-o-r, and I
 13 want to just give you just a little bit of a story of
 14 once upon a time about this area we call the Red
 15 Desert now.
 16 There were thousands, probably tens of
 17 thousands, or perhaps even hundreds of thousands of
 18 pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, and bison that
 19 migrated clear from Yellowstone highlands all the way
 20 around the Wind River Mountains and the Wyoming Range,
 21 down into that sagebrush grassland that we now call
 22 the Red Desert, and some call Jack Morrow Hills. Once
 23 people got there and saw all the animals, as Native
 24 Americans, -- I'm so please to see so many of you here
 25 tonight. -- they realized the value of this high

Page 33

1 desert and wanted to see that area protected.
 2 And so throughout the last century
 3 there's been a number of proposals from National Park
 4 that was nominated for the "national park" designation
 5 by the Governor Leslie Miller in 1935, and then a
 6 national conservation area proposal, and now a
 7 national wilderness proposal in the form of the
 8 Citizens' Alternative. It's important that we
 9 remember why these proposals have come forth.
 10 This is really an important area because
 11 it is the link with those long migration quarters from
 12 the highlands of Yellowstone down onto the desert.
 13 And if we break that link, those migrations, the
 14 longest in the Lower 48 states, will not continue in
 15 the future.
 16 So in the interest of balance, let's try
 17 to choose a citizens' proposal that will encourage
 18 that multiple-use balance for all times, for
 19 indefinitely. And the balance that I'm talking about
 20 is with that 89 percent of Wyoming and 94 percent of
 21 the BLM lands in Wyoming are available for oil and gas
 22 leasing, let's go ahead and protect this area as the
 23 Citizens' Proposal for Red Desert protection
 24 indefinitely.
 25 I want to leave this with the BLM. It's

9 (Pages 30 to 33)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 the historic 1898 Proposal for the Red Desert, and 2 then the current migration quarters that are 3 documented. 4 And they are on the same lands. And so 5 I will leave that with you. 6 Thank you. 7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Meredith. 8 Diana Mitchell. Diana is with the 9 Historic Preservation Commission, which is appointed 10 by the Fremont County Commissioners. 11 MS. MITCHELL: Hi. I'm Diana Mitchell, 12 and it's D-i-a-n-a, M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l. 13 I'm glad to be here. I would like to 14 say that I've been involved with the Red Desert ever 15 since I was a Wyoming Outdoor Council Board member, 16 and I support their efforts in preserving the area. 17 Although I feel that, you know, the 18 biggest problem that we've had as a Native people is 19 that we've never had our Treaties honored, and this 20 area is a very important area to the Tribes. It has, 21 like, our trails, historic trails that, when we 22 migrated to visit our people in the Wind River. 23 I would like to see a historic trail 24 interpretation program by tribal members done by 25 tribal people. And I would also like to see</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 these sites. 2 All the sites would require continued 3 security and would have protection, interpretation, 4 cultural resource protection, interpretation, 5 interpreters, and representatives be trained in 6 archeology, geology, and forestry, and ongoing 7 training for tribal members. A trained interpreter 8 would be working with the Elders and Advisory 9 Representatives. 10 So everybody, let's hang in there. 11 Thank you. 12 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Diana. 13 Nancy Debevoise, or Debevoise? 14 MS. DEBEVOISE: That is so close. My 15 name is Nancy Debevoise, D-e-b-e-v-o-i-s-e, which is 16 lots of fun to spell on the phone. 17 I live in Lander. I love the Red 18 Desert. 19 I have an eight-year-old neighbor who 20 shovels my walk when it snows as a surprise, and then 21 pretends that he didn't do it. He is fascinated by 22 geography, and he knows the names of the mountain 23 ranges and rivers, deserts all over the world. 24 And so I said, "Well, then you must know 25 about the Red Desert." And he had never heard of the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 protection for the wild horses. 2 I wrote a letter to the BLM in the first 3 input, and also I would like to have protection for 4 the wild horses. I would call it the Billy Jack 5 Project Inventory and Welfare of the Horses, and an 6 important relationship to the Shoshoni of the horses, 7 because those horses are sacred to us. 8 And that was very important. I believe 9 that we should have an historic preservation policy 10 within the Reservation which would provide a cultural 11 resource protection program and a plan. 12 This way the cultural resource 13 consultants would be working with the Elder Advisory 14 Representatives that the Tribal Council appoints. All 15 the information would be sent to them on developments, 16 and then they would report to the Shoshoni Business 17 Council to get input. 18 And then all of the input that would be 19 received would be gathered in the decision of the 20 ongoing projects that require Permits and Applications 21 we sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Tribe, 22 and to the Agency requesting development on research. 23 The preservation policy would provide the protection, 24 interpretation, and definitions of these sites on and 25 off of the Reservation, and provide mitigation for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 Red Desert. 2 And so when I explained to him that 3 right in his backyard there was an incredible basin 4 where the water never left and the Continental Divide 5 went all the way around, and that is was home to one 6 of the world's largest systems of active sand dunes, 7 and the Lower 48 states' longest wildlife migration 8 corridor, and the rare desert elk herd, and the wild 9 horses, and thousands of pronghorn. And he said, "Are 10 you making this up?" 11 And I said, "No." 12 He said, "I want to go there right now." 13 I want to make sure that this little 14 boy, and thousands of other children in Wyoming and 15 throughout this country, when they get older, will 16 still be able to see the wonders of the Red Desert. I 17 don't want to see an industrial zone in the Jack 18 Morrow Hills. 19 I want these kids to be able to see a 20 magical place with moving sand dunes and galloping 21 wild horses and strutting sage grouse and herds of 22 pronghorn and hoodoo formations, and one of the last 23 best places to enjoy silence and wide-open spaces and 24 starry skies and holy places. There is a statistic 25 that I think is really scary.</p>

10 (Pages 34 to 37)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 If the whole Jack Morrow Hills area was 2 actually drilled, there would be enough oil and gas to 3 supply the United States with nine weeks of natural 4 gas, nine weeks of natural gas, and 39 minutes of oil. 5 I hope that we don't drill the Red Desert to death. 6 I want to make sure my young neighbor 7 and other kids grow up in a state that honors its 8 special places. Thank you very much. 9 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Nancy. 10 Next is Betty Wilkinson, the Flaming 11 Gorge People for the USA. 12 MS. WILKINSON: It's Betty 13 W-i-l-k-i-n-s-o-n. I appreciate the opportunity to 14 represent People for the USA here tonight. 15 We've been involved with the Jack Morrow 16 Hills since Day One. We know by studying the laws 17 that social economics, community stability, custom and 18 culture, by law, are as important as wildlife, 19 cultural resources, air and water, and on and on. 20 The Preferred Alternative has been a 21 much thrashed-out, pains-taking, creative document 22 over the last several years by the BLM and the 23 officers, trying to find some middle ground, balancing 24 all of needs, considering all of the resources 25 affecting the public. It is very clear that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 Activities can take place simultaneously 2 on the same parcels of land, bearing in mind that 3 activity is short-term, and at the end of the project 4 the land will be reclaimed and will be in as good of 5 shape or better than before. I would remind you that 6 this is Wyoming. 7 This is still Fremont County and 8 Sweetwater County. This is not the Yellowstone 9 ecosystem, and certainly not the wildlands project. 10 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Betty. 11 Richard Baldes. 12 MR. BALDES: My name is Richard Baldes, 13 B-a-l-d-e-s. I support the Citizens' Wildlife and 14 Wildlands Alternative. 15 In my opinion of the report is that it 16 is biased for its development. It doesn't surprise 17 me. 18 I worked for the Federal Government for 19 27 years, and so I know some of the crap that goes on. 20 And the agency that I worked for was smaller, much 21 smaller than the BLM, and the same kind of bullshit 22 goes on in the BLM. 23 They consistently favor development. 24 I'm not only concerned about the elk, the sage grouse, 25 the sand dunes, but I'm particularly concerned about</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 interested factions are polarized on the outcome of 2 this project. 3 On this hand we have resource providers 4 that are responsible for over 70 percent of the tax 5 base in this state, which is why we are one of the 6 three States in America that are operating in the 7 black. On this hand we have organizations and 8 individuals that advocate zero development, and clone 9 for the federal lands. 10 And somewhere there lies the majority 11 that sits on the sidelines and waits for the outcome. 12 There is no compromise, no effort by preservationists 13 to work together for the greatest good for all for the 14 long term. 15 It doesn't matter that oil and gas 16 development would occur within a very small area that 17 amounts to less than one-quarter of one percent of the 18 study area within a project that has already been 19 ongoing. It doesn't matter that millions of dollars 20 have been spent by companies using technology that 21 minimizes impacts. 22 While it is appropriate to protect 23 landscapes and certain resources, there must be a 24 balance to allow permitted activity to move forward. 25 It really is this simple.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 the Native American cultural sites and the lack of 2 interest and protection that they've received thus far 3 from the BLM. 4 In fact, cultural sites, Native American 5 cultural sites receive less protection and less 6 concern than do places like the Oregon Trail. I'm not 7 saying that the Oregon Trail and some of those other 8 sites are not important; they are. 9 But remember, the Native Americans were 10 in this area two- to 6,000, maybe longer than that. 11 The Oregon Trail, as you know, is fairly recent 12 compared to that. 13 And also remember that the, most of the 14 Red Desert, or all of the Red Desert was within the 15 1868 Shoshone Treaty. All of that was Shoshone land. 16 A SPECTATOR: Eighteen sixty-three. 17 MR. BALDES: Eighteen sixty-three. 18 Isn't that what I said? 19 Excuse me; 1863. And then it was 20 changed in 1968. 21 But like others have said, I have a 22 19-month-old son, grandson, and I've taken my two sons 23 out there. And I want them to, I want him to be able 24 to enjoy what we've been able to enjoy. 25 Thank you.</p>

11 (Pages 38 to 41)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 42	Page 44
<p>1 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Richard. 2 Peter Absolon with the National Outdoor 3 Leadership School. 4 MR. ABSOLON: My name is Peter Absolon, 5 that's A-b-s-o-l-o-n. And thanks a lot. 6 Thanks for the opportunity. I'm the 7 Assistant Director at NOLS Rocky Mountain. 8 I'm here to represent the National 9 Outdoor Leadership School's position on the Jack 10 Morrow Hills. NOLS has been based in Lander since the 11 school was founded in 1965. 12 For the last 15 of those years we have 13 taught horse-packing horses in the Jack Morrow Hills 14 from our ranch in Boulder, Wyoming, on the west side 15 of the Winds. We will submit detailed written 16 comments on the Draft Alternative to the BLM next 17 month. 18 Tonight I'll just simply summarize our 19 three major points. First, NOLS has participated in 20 planning efforts for the Jack Morrow Hills since they 21 began almost ten years ago. 22 Since that time, nothing but the natural 23 characteristics of the planning area has changed. And 24 our position on the management of the area hasn't 25 changed at all.</p>	<p>1 Administration's desire to develop energy resources. 2 This isn't a bad thing as long as development happens 3 in an economically desirably sound manner. 4 But we don't believe that, but we don't 5 believe that it should happen everywhere. Some places 6 should just be left alone. 7 The Jack Morrow Hills, in its history of 8 unique ecological and habitat features, and 9 recreation, educational opportunities it offers, is 10 one of those places. We strongly encourage the BLM to 11 draft a true conservative alternative that does not 12 include energy. 13 Thank you very much. 14 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Peter. 15 Randy Shipman. 16 MR. SHIPMAN: I'm Randy Shipman, 17 S-h-i-p-m-a-n, and I am speaking for myself. My 18 original comment will pertain to Section Title 40, 19 1508.7, 1508.8, 1508.14 in the Adaptive Management 20 portion of the Jack Morrow Hills by utilizing any 21 forestry rhetoric, in reality, on a 10-year study that 22 was published in the Forestry Journal. 23 I've got a message for the BLM. We have 24 a whole lot of Americans tonight in Iraq. 25 And this message goes for some of you in</p>
<p>Page 43</p> <p>1 What has changed is the politics that 2 drive this process. 3 Second, we run horses in the Jack Morrow 4 Hills. To our students and instructors it is a really 5 special environment. 6 It is an incredible place to run horses. 7 They learn to travel and camp by horseback in amazing 8 places like Steamboat Mountain and the Pinnacles. 9 We want to be able to continue to offer 10 our students high-quality outdoor education 11 experiences, and we are very concerned that expansion 12 of energy development proposed under all of the 13 Alternatives will impair our ability to do this. 14 There are several aspects of the Preferred Alternative 15 that we support, including positive changes to 16 watershed management, and cooperative approach to 17 grazing. 18 As written, though, none of the 19 Alternatives assure adequate protection of large areas 20 of undisturbed open space that we need to continue to 21 run high-quality horses. We believe that it is vital 22 for the BLM to preserve and support opportunities for 23 other education and responsible recreation. 24 Lastly, we know that many of Wyoming's 25 beautiful places will be affected by our</p>	<p>Page 45</p> <p>1 here. We are all Americans, not Native Americans. 2 They may be when they get home, but we 3 are all underneath this flag. This message is mainly 4 for the Department of Interior, for these type of 5 hearings. 6 There is a First Amendment right in this 7 country that protects everybody. There is a 8 Fourteenth Amendment that also backs that up, and I 9 hope that everybody remembers that from this point 10 forward at this meeting while I'm attending. 11 When do I stop? 12 THE TIME KEEPER: You have about 40 13 seconds. 14 MR. SHIPMAN: Western Wyoming Community 15 College, 17.38 percent of that college's funds comes 16 from tuition. That's it. 17 Forty-one point six percent of that 18 college's funds comes from oil and gas, or comes from 19 local taxes. The remainder is paid from the State's 20 General Fund. 21 Now, 53.2 percent of the 46, of the 41.6 22 percent of that college is local funding, comes from 23 oil and gas. And when I came past the college today 24 and I asked them what would happen if I pulled that 25 52.3 percent out of the college's funds, and I'm</p>

12 (Pages 42 to 45)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 telling you, they told me that would fold like a house 2 of cards. 3 So would the University of Wyoming. 4 Thank you. 5 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Randy. 6 Cathy Purves. 7 MR. PURVES: My name is Cathy Purves. 8 Cathy with a C, P-u-t-v-e-s. 9 I live in Lander. And I've lived in 10 Wyoming most of my life. 11 I am a user of multiple use out there on 12 the public lands. I hike, I ride, I fish, I hunt. 13 Jack Morrow Hills has a history of 14 multiple uses, and currently there is limited use in 15 the Jack Morrow Hills with CBM, oil and gas leasing, 16 hunting, fishing, recreation, ranching. But I want to 17 talk a little bit about recreation, because that is a 18 significant economic impact and contributor to the 19 State of Wyoming. 20 And it is part of the important 21 contribution that the BLM's Preferred Alternative does 22 not consider. The types of recreation include the 23 hiking, the wildlife viewing, the hunting, outfitting, 24 many types of outfitting, as we've just heard. 25 The Preferred Alternative does not</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 There is no "Bin" in front of the Laden. 2 I'm a photographer. 3 I do black-and-white photography, and 4 one of the things that, that I photograph is wild 5 landscapes. And selfishly I would like to see this 6 country maintained without any more development. 7 I don't see that in any of the 8 alternatives. But I think there is a deeper reason 9 for my wanting to be able to photograph wildlands that 10 does not have human development, and, and what that 11 reason is, to me, is that we have a need to see images 12 like that, whether it is going out into the desert 13 ourselves, or even to see a beautiful image painted or 14 photographed. 15 Because it speaks to something of value 16 within us that no money in the world can pay for. And 17 I think that we all forget this too often in this 18 country. 19 If you can't equate something with 20 money, it has no value. And we can't say we want to 21 keep this place just because it's beautiful, and put 22 that in a Management Plan, without saying, "Well, it 23 has some economic value for tourism." 24 You know, we have to put it in money. 25 We can't buy what that, that country gives to us.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 recognize the second and the most highest economic 2 contributor to the state. In 2000, \$1.1 million was 3 spent on hunting, fishing, and trapping in the state 4 of Wyoming. 5 In Jack Morrow Hills, specifically, in 6 2000, \$3.9 million was spent hunting mule deer, 7 antelope, elk, and sage grouse, just in the Jack 8 Morrow Hills. In the Year 2001, \$2.6 million was 9 spent in hunting these four species just in the Jack 10 Morrow Hills. 11 These are significant amounts of money. 12 We're not talking about thousands of dollars. 13 And just this week in our local 14 newspaper, our state newspaper, our Governor, he 15 stated that, we heard that \$1.8 billion of tourism 16 dollars was spent in this state last year. The BLM 17 needs to consider other economic contributions that 18 come on public lands. 19 I support the Wildlands and Wildlife 20 Alternative, and I ask the BLM to please consider 21 addressing this Alternative. Thank you. 22 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Cathy. 23 Juan Laden. 24 MR. LADEN: Hi. My name is Juan Laden, 25 J-u-a-n, L-a-d-e-n.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 And if we take it away, like many people 2 said, we don't have it in the future for our children. 3 We've already lost so much in this 4 world. That is about it. 5 I want to take some pictures of that 6 beautiful country so that we can all see it. 7 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Juan. 8 And I just want to commend the group 9 again for watching that time. I know it is really 10 difficult to put it in a couple of minutes' worth that 11 we all feel for the landscape out there. 12 So again, stay with it. You are doing 13 great. 14 (Whereupon, remarks were made by a 15 spectator, after which the following occurred): 16 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you. 17 Okay, how about Marco Johnson? 18 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Marco Johnson, 19 M-a-r-c-o, J-o-h-n-s-o-n, and I live in Lander. I 20 support the Citizens's Proposal for the Jack Morrow 21 Hills. 22 As John pointed out earlier, indeed, 23 there is a war going on in Iraq, and there is a need 24 in this country for oil, gas, other types of energy. 25 I consumed energy getting here, like most all of us</p>

JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 did.</p> <p>2 We all consume energy in some form or</p> <p>3 another. There are places that we can get that</p> <p>4 energy.</p> <p>5 There are also places that need to be</p> <p>6 and should be set aside so that they are not drilled;</p> <p>7 they are not exploited for a particular mineral or a</p> <p>8 particular energy need, whether it is the cultural</p> <p>9 aspects of the Jack Morrow Hills, the wildlife,</p> <p>10 recreations, or the deep ecological values that it</p> <p>11 speaks of us, as Juan Laden talked about.</p> <p>12 For the Jack Morrow Hills I wish the BLM</p> <p>13 to go after the Citizens' Proposal, because I find</p> <p>14 that the proposals that have been put forth are</p> <p>15 insufficient, given the amount of energy that is</p> <p>16 estimated that could be recovered in that area.</p> <p>17 Thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Marco.</p> <p>19 Bob Scholl.</p> <p>20 MR. SCHOLL: Hello. My name is Bob</p> <p>21 Scholl. My name is spelled S-c-h-o-l-l.</p> <p>22 I've lived in Lander since 1995, before</p> <p>23 that in Montana for 15 years, and I was born in</p> <p>24 Connecticut, but had no choice. As a lot of you are</p> <p>25 sportsmen or photographers or professional guides, you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 but there are places that must be left alone, such as</p> <p>2 the case of the Jack Morrow Hills. There is no</p> <p>3 shortage of natural gas in the United States.</p> <p>4 The BLM should trade or move current</p> <p>5 oil, coal, and gas leases to areas not as sensitive as</p> <p>6 the Jack Morrow Hills. In my opinion none of the</p> <p>7 current EIS options offer, offer enough protection</p> <p>8 from oil and gas development in the Jack Morrow Hills.</p> <p>9 The Jack Morrow Hills should have a</p> <p>10 simple framework of no new development. Current</p> <p>11 grazing leases should be continued.</p> <p>12 Current ATV and four-wheel drive use</p> <p>13 should be allowed on existing roads, and current</p> <p>14 wilderness study areas should be active with full</p> <p>15 protection. The Red Desert and Jack Morrow Hills</p> <p>16 should be left alone like it is, and the oil and gas</p> <p>17 exploration or drilling.</p> <p>18 No national park or monument status</p> <p>19 should be designated. It should be a place for</p> <p>20 Americans looking for the real West can still find it,</p> <p>21 untamed, where nature can still get you if you are not</p> <p>22 prepared, and the spirit can venture out to experience</p> <p>23 what it was like to live in the Nineteenth Century.</p> <p>24 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Bob. It kind of</p> <p>25 reminded me of that Federal Express commercial.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 want the Red Desert and Jack Morrow Hills protected</p> <p>2 from oil/gas.</p> <p>3 And coal development offers the most</p> <p>4 beneficial, long-term use of this unique area that is</p> <p>5 not properly addressed in any of the Alternatives. In</p> <p>6 2003, most places in the Great Divide Basin, the Jack</p> <p>7 Morrow Hills and the Red Desert, still look out on the</p> <p>8 same vistas the pioneers on the Oregon Trail, Chief</p> <p>9 Washakie, and paleo men hunting with the atlatl and</p> <p>10 spear saw, a wild land, wild land untamed by fences or</p> <p>11 telephone poles or any sight of man.</p> <p>12 Every American should have the</p> <p>13 opportunity to see and feel the lack of men and the</p> <p>14 potential of the spirit found in the vistas still</p> <p>15 surviving in the Red Desert in Jack Morrow Hills. The</p> <p>16 country's public lands are just that, our land.</p> <p>17 The politicians want to control them,</p> <p>18 big businesses try to take everything they can from</p> <p>19 them, but everyone in the country has the right to see</p> <p>20 them and enjoy them. Completely protecting 600,000</p> <p>21 acres in the Jack Morrow Hills region of the Red</p> <p>22 Desert from oil and gas development for its</p> <p>23 recreational, historical, and wildlife values is the</p> <p>24 best use of this unique area.</p> <p>25 I'm not against oil and gas drilling.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 Sometimes we have to do what we have to do.</p> <p>2 How about Laney Hicks?</p> <p>3 MS. HICKS: My name is Laney Hicks.</p> <p>4 That's L-a-n-e-y, H-i-c-k-s.</p> <p>5 My husband, Roche Lindsey, and I live in</p> <p>6 Crowheart, Wyoming. We are both natives of the</p> <p>7 Northern Rockies, and we own and operate a ranch.</p> <p>8 And I am a professional wildlife artist.</p> <p>9 I'm going to divert here a little bit.</p> <p>10 I'm a little bit upset at my county</p> <p>11 officials telling me that I owe my soul to the oil</p> <p>12 industry. When I pay my property taxes, I pay my</p> <p>13 share of the school taxes, and the most I pay, you</p> <p>14 know, of any itemized item on my taxes.</p> <p>15 And I resent my officials telling me</p> <p>16 that I owe my soul to the oil industry.</p> <p>17 (Whereupon, a response was had from</p> <p>18 spectators, after which the following occurred:)</p> <p>19 MR. HICKS: In the 30 years that we've</p> <p>20 lived in this area, we have spoken for protecting the</p> <p>21 Red Desert on numerous occasions. And we are here</p> <p>22 again to ask for the Citizens' Proposal on the Jack</p> <p>23 Morrow area.</p> <p>24 I would like a prohibition of all new</p> <p>25 oil and gas leasing and large-scale mining activity,</p>

14 (Pages 50 to 53)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 54

1 especially methane gas. We would like a buy-out of
 2 mineral leases in the Jack Morrow Hills Plan area.
 3 We support recreation, grazing, hunting,
 4 and some ORV uses. The wilderness study areas should
 5 be designated by Congress.
 6 And all the wildlife species, especially
 7 antelope and the desert elk, should be protected,
 8 along with Native American holy sites. It is truly
 9 incredible for me how many times we have been here to
 10 ask for protection for this area, but we will be here
 11 as many times as it takes.
 12 Several times the topic of the present
 13 war in Iraq has come up. And I feel like I am a
 14 patriotic American.
 15 My uncles fought in World War II, my
 16 brother fought in Viet Nam and was also in Korea, and
 17 my son fought in the Gulf War. But I find it really
 18 incredible that my country is involved in a war of
 19 aggression on a sovereign nation.
 20 My friend, Leonard Hay, a prominent Rock
 21 Springs rancher and oil man, told me 30 years ago that
 22 the oil industry would take over the Middle East if
 23 there was provocation. And they have done just that
 24 under the guidance of evil people.
 25 Surely with this new supply of oil in

Page 55

1 Iraq, the Red Desert has the opportunity to be
 2 protected. We don't have to suck up every drop of oil
 3 from every piece of land.
 4 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Laney.
 5 Mark Thornberry.
 6 MR. THORBERRY: Mark Thornberry,
 7 T-h-o-r-n-b-e-r-r-y. What I have to say is really
 8 simple.
 9 I just think that enough is enough. I
 10 think that the Jack Morrow Hills is an amazing area.
 11 I've spent a ton of time there, and it's
 12 worth preserving, not even for human value or anything
 13 like that, but for its own intrinsic value. And so
 14 that's basically it.
 15 And I think that, that we've had enough
 16 anthropocentrism even, you know, looking at places to
 17 drill, and even some of the alternatives that other
 18 organizations have come up for. So I would just say:
 19 Leave it alone and let it exist because it needs to
 20 for its own sake. Thanks.
 21 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Mark.
 22 Molly Absolon.
 23 MS. ABSOLON: Molly Absolon, M-o-l-l-y,
 24 A-b-s-o-l-o-n. Thank you for providing this
 25 opportunity for us to express our views on the Jack

Page 56

1 Morrow Hills Supplemental Draft EIS.
 2 I want to start out, though, by saying
 3 that I feel that I'm here once again, and it's over
 4 and over again, same old story. And voices like mine,
 5 a lot of voices like mine haven't been listened to.
 6 Ninety-three percent of the 12,000
 7 comments that were received for the last Supplemental
 8 Plan were in support for the Citizens' Alternative,
 9 yet none of the alternatives in the current Draft
 10 Supplement or the, -- I'm confused on what it is. --
 11 the Supplemental Draft Plan, or whatever, -- You know
 12 what I mean. -- ensure adequate protection for the
 13 natural area.
 14 People have been trying to protect the
 15 Red Desert for more than 100 years. As the people
 16 have pointed out tonight, the area supports incredible
 17 natural diversity, also scenic splendor and human
 18 history.
 19 I'm particularly concerned, though,
 20 about the impact of oil and gas on the plants and
 21 animals, especially in light of other oil and gas
 22 developments surrounding the Red Desert. The animals
 23 are, they are locked in.
 24 There is development going on in the
 25 Green River Basin and in the, in the Great Divide

Page 57

1 Basin to the east and south. In fact, BLM officials
 2 have been quoted as saying that southwestern Wyoming
 3 will be the greatest natural gas supply in the country
 4 by 2015.
 5 Oil and gas development blocks historic
 6 migration quarters, fragments habitat, and roads, pads
 7 and traffic, and the noise of compressors and the
 8 presence of humans disturb the animals. To what
 9 extent -- Oh, great. Okay.
 10 I know we all need oil and gas, and I
 11 know that it helps pay for the State's infrastructure.
 12 And I know that it fuels my car.
 13 I know that I'm not naive to say we
 14 should not go anywhere. I do believe that there are
 15 places, however, that are special and should be left
 16 alone.
 17 There are plenty of places to drill. A
 18 study by the Department of Energy in January of 2003,
 19 the Environmental Policy and Conservation Act, reports
 20 that only 85 percent of oil and 88 percent of natural
 21 gas found in five major western basins is currently
 22 available for leasing, with minimal restrictions.
 23 That's a lot of territory open, so I
 24 think this place can be left alone. Thank you.
 25 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Molly.

15 (Pages 54 to 57)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 Hey, Stewart, could you please close the 2 windows? We have the AC on now, so no sense in 3 wasting energy. 4 Next speaker, Fiddlin Holley. 5 MS. HOLLEY: Fiddlin Holley, 6 F-i-d-d-l-i-n, H-o-l-l-e-y. I was going to speak from 7 the heart, but I wrote it down. 8 But that's from the heart, because I'm 9 too nervous. And so what I am to say is, I've been to 10 the Red Desert several times, and I need to say 11 outright that I am in strong support of protecting the 12 Jack Morrow Hills to its utmost. 13 I'm tired of seeing oil and gas wells 14 and so-called technology. I think that it's ugly and 15 implemented and scaring the landscape just to provide 16 what's already be stated: Nine weeks of natural gas 17 and 39 minutes of oil. 18 If there is money to be made from that, 19 I would like to see the money spent on not ruining the 20 environment, but spent on alternative energy 21 resources. And so all I can say is that if we can't 22 leave the Jack Morrow Hills Study Area well enough 23 alone, then I am in support of the Citizens' Wildlife 24 and Wild-, Wildlands Alternative. 25 I guess my other comment is I've</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 gas as possible. 2 According to a geological survey, the 3 resources out there will only meet the demands of the 4 Nation's gas for nine weeks and the Nation's demand 5 for oil for 39 minutes. And I don't think that that 6 is very ethical, if that is the right word to use. 7 One of my greatest fears right now is 8 that it's going to turn into something similar to what 9 happened in 1849, when people started doing the Gold 10 Rush; that there is going to be abandoned towns out 11 there everywhere. I speak from the heart in saying 12 that this is, in my opinion, a really bad idea. 13 I don't think it is worth it to develop 14 this land so much for something so small. The Red 15 Desert is one of the few places left in Wyoming where 16 one can go and know that there is no industry for 17 miles around. 18 It is a vast, full area of history and 19 culture. My greatest fear is to one day see the Red 20 Desert as an industrial garden but on a desert. 21 Let's not forget in this time of peril 22 that the landscape is a desert, not a playground for 23 industry. Thank you very much. 24 MR. GRIFFITH: Good job, Sean. I 25 couldn't do that when I was 15.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 listened to everything, and the only thing that I 2 don't understand is how someone can say that the 3 environment would be in better shape than before. I 4 don't get that. 5 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Fiddlin. 6 Sean Francis, our youngest speaker so 7 far. Great. 8 MR. FRANCIS: My name is Sean Francis. 9 I am 15 years old. 10 That is S-e-a-n, F-r-a-n-c-i-s. I am 15 11 years old and a sophomore at Lander Valley High 12 School. 13 I am here to speak on behalf of myself. 14 During the westward expansion, a great numbers of 15 settlers crossed the Red Desert. 16 For over two centuries the Red Desert 17 has been wild in the eyes of America. It is the home 18 of great herds of antelope and elk. 19 But the Red Desert is under threat of 20 being industrialized. It is now up to 21 conservationists everywhere, as stated. 22 The Bureau of Land Management is trying 23 to release a Plan which would ultimately alter the 24 entire landscape of the Jack Morrow Hills area. The 25 main objective is to extract as much oil and natural</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 Real good. Great. 2 The next speaker is Tom Bell. 3 MR. BELL: My name is Tom Bell, B-c-l-l, 4 as in "Bell Telephone." I speak for myself as a 5 private citizen, and for my grandchildren and my 6 great-grandchildren. 7 I simply want to say that this country, 8 this world will be a poorer place when the great 9 reaches of the Jack Morrow Hills have been trashed. 10 The oil and gas companies will be richer, but we will 11 be poorer. 12 I am afraid that Bush-Cheney jabberwock 13 will prevail. Somewhere out there on the horizon is 14 another jabberwock, and it is called the "greenhouse 15 effect global warming." 16 This man-induced phenomenon is here, 17 it's real, and it is serious. We are already 18 beginning to see the effects of it from drought, 19 glaciers disappearing from all over the world, 20 including the ones in our own Wind River Mountains, 21 new diseases such as the West Nile virus, and unusual 22 weather of more severe proportions in places across 23 the earth. 24 It is only the beginning. Some of you 25 will still be around in 30 years as it all begins to</p>

16 (Pages 58 to 61)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 62

1 unfold, and you will be wishing for the good old days.
 2 Scientists who are really scientists
 3 seeking the truth will tell you global warming is
 4 here. Let's just take the latest example from
 5 science.
 6 A scientific journal published by one
 7 scientist for scientists is one called simply Science.
 8 The latest edition of Science, March twenty-eighth,
 9 2003, carried an article which is worth honoring.
 10 The article concludes that huge
 11 reductions in carbon dioxide from fossil fuel carbon
 12 ignitions is going to be required by the middle of
 13 this century to avoid disastrous consequences to this
 14 one planet, Earth, we all call home. Three scientists
 15 collaborated on this study, which was funded by the
 16 U.S. Department of Energy.
 17 A SPECTATOR: You went over.
 18 MR. GRIFFITH: Wrap up.
 19 MR. BELL: Okay, one more. What does
 20 this have to do with the Desert of the Jack Morrow
 21 Hills?
 22 The large, high elevation, dry,
 23 wind-swept Red Desert is unique in these United
 24 States. There is none like it.
 25 Why should we allow virtual destruction

Page 63

1 of many of its intrinsic values for just a few short
 2 years of oil and gas production? Thank you.
 3 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Tom. Thanks for
 4 coming in.
 5 Mark Watkins.
 6 MR. WATKINS: Hi. Thank you for
 7 allowing me to speak.
 8 W-a-t-k-i-n-s. I find that the Plan is
 9 insufficient.
 10 It seems as if we have a very, very
 11 narrow range of options between the oil and the gas
 12 development, a whole lot of oil and gas development.
 13 So I am here to speak for the BLM to strongly consider
 14 getting behind the Citizens' Alternative.
 15 A SPECTATOR: Could you get a little
 16 closer so we could hear you better?
 17 MR. WATKINS: I'm going to stop here.
 18 Thank you.
 19 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Mark.
 20 Harold Schultz.
 21 MR. SCHULTZ: Hi. I'm Harold Schultz.
 22 I'm from Riverton, Wyoming. That's
 23 H-a-r-o-l-d, S-c-h-u-l-t-z.
 24 I am here representing myself.
 25 Basically I would like to interject a word of common

Page 64

1 sense in here.
 2 We've had some of our elected officials
 3 come up and say that if we do not turn the Jack Morrow
 4 Hills into Swiss cheese, that the entire State of
 5 Wyoming and our two counties are going to dry up and
 6 blow away. Well, I don't think so.
 7 Basically what you've got to realize is
 8 that this Jack Morrow Hills is a small piece of land
 9 that is being lapped on three sides by a sea of
 10 mega-development. And to quote Ms. Wilkinson, yes, we
 11 do need some balance.
 12 But one of the things that we can do is
 13 protect this area, and that will help balance out
 14 everything else that is going on in the southwest
 15 quadrant of Wyoming. Now, will the BLM's Preferred
 16 Alternative do this?
 17 Well, looking at common sense, I don't
 18 think so. Because if you look at this, that 205 wells
 19 is just a number.
 20 If you read the Plan deeply, you know
 21 that it isn't going to necessarily stop it. And the
 22 BLM has had a tremendous history of granting
 23 exceptions to every regulation and standard that they
 24 have set.
 25 So therefore, what are the chances that

Page 65

1 they are going to set these standards? Zero.
 2 So common sense says that the best thing
 3 to do is protect it. And probably for this area, the
 4 Citizens' Alternative is the best.
 5 It may not be the correct solution for
 6 every area, but I do believe that it is the correct
 7 solution for the Jack Morrow Hills. Thank you.
 8 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Harold.
 9 Lois Herbst.
 10 MS. HERBST: I'm Lois Herbst,
 11 H-e-r-b-s-t. I'm a cattle rancher in Hot Springs
 12 County, Fremont County, and Natrona County.
 13 For the past 96 years I think the family
 14 has been operating a cattle ranch, starting with the
 15 person from Austria who came here because he respected
 16 private property. I support the Preferred Alternative
 17 that was worked out by our County Commissioners, BLM,
 18 and other people.
 19 I know there was a lot of compromise
 20 involved in working out that Alternative. I thank
 21 everybody who took part in that.
 22 I also am a historian and a
 23 photographer, and I have been out in the Red Desert.
 24 I encountered only one other pickup when my friend and
 25 I went from Farson over to Oregon Buttes.

JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 We got to Oregon Buttes and a snowdrift 2 stopped us, and we had to turn around and go back. 3 But the family that we encountered in the pickup 4 didn't even have food or water with them because they 5 didn't realize that there was no one out there to help 6 them. 7 So we gave them our food and water, 8 since they had children. But it is beautiful country. 9 But multiple use is the law of the land, 10 and it's very, since 1961, it's very obvious that the 11 people who worked out the Preferred Alternative know 12 the law of multiple use. I have other things that I 13 would like to say, but I will put them in. 14 I do appreciate the work BLM is doing, 15 but I think that the wild horses need managed more. 16 And I also think that people should have an 17 understanding. 18 My friend, Leonard Hay, told me where 19 the rare Desert elk came from, and they were 20 transplanted from Yellowstone to ease the burden of 21 too many elk in Yellowstone. Thank you. 22 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Lois. 23 Susanna Bletner. 24 MS. BLETNER: I'm going to pass. 25 MR. GRIFFITH: You're going to pass?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 disputed. And they said, "The route's fine except for 2 these archeological sites you've put in." 3 And every time, I mean, without being 4 checked out first, I shouldn't be visiting the 5 archeological sites. And personally I am very 6 appreciative. 7 I appreciate the BLM. I am proud to be 8 a permittee, a tenant on this land, and I appreciate 9 these organizations are in place to care for these 10 lands. 11 And I will get that training before I 12 visit those sites. And I hope the same for this land, 13 because I enjoy meeting people up here, and people 14 coming from all over the country to be here. 15 And again, it's an amazing experience. 16 Thanks. 17 Oh, I was going to put one more point 18 in. In addition to the elk and the grouse and 19 everything, you should know that there are mudpuppies, 20 lizards, and leopard frogs in the Red Desert. 21 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Charlie. I'm 22 definitely going to have to get my 13-year-old son out 23 there now. 24 Kathy Pappas. 25 MS. PAPPAS: Can you hear me? I'm Kathy</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 Okay. 2 Charlie Wilson. 3 MR. WILSON: I'm Charlie Wilson. I've 4 lived in Lander since 1989. 5 I own Wind River Pack Goats, a small 6 outfitting company that operates in the Red Desert. 7 Just got handed my tax bill, and so I'm a little 8 woody. 9 And I don't feel very well-prepared, but 10 I want to say a couple of things. It is really 11 amazing being in this kind of forum and hearing 12 everyone's comments and building on those. 13 There's talk about taxes, and personally 14 I'm in favor of preservation and taking care of the 15 land that I work on and that I bring people out to 16 visit. I think that we can find other ways of funding 17 our schools and stuff. 18 Raise income tax, perhaps? I appreciate 19 the Native American presence, and it is wonderful to 20 hear about the archeological sites out there. 21 Tomorrow my company has its first trip 22 of the season. We go down to Escalante in southern 23 Utah, a national monument. 24 And interestingly I was talking to BLM 25 this morning on the phone about my route, if it's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 Pappas, K-a-t-h-y, P-a-p-p-a-s. 2 And mine is kind of a little speech I 3 directed towards you (speaking to Mr. Griffith). 4 There's not much to say that you haven't already 5 heard. 6 You've already heard about the 7 devastatingly harmful effects of the oil and gas 8 development and exploration it has on our wildlife and 9 vegetation. You've already heard that we need the 10 Jack Morrow Hills area left as it is, and there is no 11 other place on earth like it. 12 You've already heard that injuries to 13 our lands leave permanent scars that will outlive each 14 and every one of us in this room. You are supposed to 15 be picturing Martin Luther King right now. 16 You have already heard pleas from 17 thousands of people to keep this area protected from 18 development. So please listen to what you've already 19 heard, and support the Citizens' Wildlife and 20 Wildlands Alternative. 21 I have lived in Lander for over 30 22 years, and the Jack Morrow Hills area of the Red 23 Desert is a part of me. I've spent many days and 24 nights out there with only my dog, Boots, for company. 25 I've walked it for hours on end, once</p>

18 (Pages 66 to 69)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 with nothing on but a pair of tennis shoes and a cell 2 phone in one hand and a water bottle in the other 3 because I could. I've made life-changing decisions 4 sitting on a rise looking out into its beautiful 5 nothingness. 6 I've gone with friends there on group 7 trips. So here is one more plea to add to the 8 thousands. 9 Please protect this area from any 10 further oil and gas development. 11 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Kathy. Smart 12 lady for carrying that cell phone. 13 Forgive me, Peter, but I'll take a lash. 14 Peter Dvorak. 15 MR. DVORAK: Hi. I'm Peter Dvorak, 16 D-v-o-r-a-k. 17 I speak as a private citizen tonight. 18 I'm 55 years as a resident of the state, and lived 19 about 12 years here in Fremont County. 20 Once again I've taken a look through the 21 monumental piece of work that the BLM has done. As 22 was mentioned by our very first speaker tonight, there 23 are a myriad of laws, rules, regulations and whatnot 24 that have to be followed. 25 My anxiety has to do with the fact that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, Peter. 2 Mac Blewer, representing the Wyoming 3 Outdoor Council. 4 MR. BLEWER: Thank you for the 5 opportunity to testify tonight. My name is Mac 6 Blewer. 7 I hate these things. I work for the 8 Wyoming Outdoor Council. 9 It is the oldest and largest, excuse me, 10 oldest independent conservation group in Wyoming. 11 We'll be submitting more detailed comments at a later 12 date, but I would like to say that the Red Desert is a 13 world-class landscape. 14 And everyone would call that huge chunk 15 of desert between the Sweetwater and the Little Snake 16 River and Colorado, and whether it is the Greater Red 17 Desert, the Red Desert, the Great American Desert, as 18 the pioneers called it, it is a world-class landscape 19 and a national treasure and should be protected. I 20 cannot add too much more than has already been said 21 tonight, but I, I feel the concerns of many that this 22 Plan would open this area to large-scale 23 industrialization. 24 The BLM's Preferred Alternative does 25 call, supposedly, for the development of 205 oil and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 they probably will not be used. They have a long 2 history of exceptions and vac-, vacancies and 3 different things that make a good reading Plan not 4 translated well into action. 5 I would strongly support the idea of the 6 Citizens' Wildlife and Wildlands Initiative, or at 7 least considering greatly increasing the size of the 8 Wilderness Study Areas that are there, doing what we 9 can to protect this unique area. Everybody here has 10 mentioned kids tonight. 11 I mean, my grandson has been to Disney 12 World, he has been to Lagoon, and there has never been 13 a place that he has been more thrilled with than the 14 Honeycombs of the Red Desert in the Jack Morrow Hills 15 Study Area. I think these are values that are far in 16 excess of the riches that Wyoming could get from 17 resource development. 18 I think my, my final issue is that I 19 believe the way to keep Wyoming, the culture, the 20 things going on that we have now is that we need to 21 keep the Red Desert and the Jack Morrow Hills as big 22 as possible to enable ranching and recreation to occur 23 in ways that we have grown accustomed to. And that is 24 all I have to say. 25 Thank you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 gas wells. However, the Agency admits that this 2 figure is just a guideline and it's actually unlikely 3 it will be adhered to. 4 To quote the Plan, it is impossible to 5 predict how future development will proceed. In 6 particular, the extent and nature of mineral reserves 7 in the planning area are unknown, and are expected to 8 remain unknown for several years. 9 Although there is a great deal of 10 uncertainty about future development because of 11 uncertainty, and a number of assumptions were 12 necessary to predict the impact associated with the 13 future development. Those assumptions may or may not 14 be correct. 15 I don't want my tax dollars going to a 16 Plan like that. I think also the crux of the problem 17 is that BLM's refused to look meaningfully at a trade 18 of oil and gas leases in the area. 19 Most of the area - Oh, my time is 20 running out. But I will say that the BLM should look 21 at trading oil and gas leases in the area. 22 I do support the Citizens' Wildlife and 23 Wildlands Alternative, which would allow for 24 responsible use and access of the lands, including 25 grazing, recreation, ATV use, hunting, in addition to</p>

19 (Pages 70 to 73)

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JACK MORROW HILLS

Page 74	Page 76
<p>1 some recreational gold mining, as long as it is not 2 insensitive to environmental areas like elk habitat. 3 I know we need gas and oil, as everybody 4 else, but some places should just be left alone, 5 places like the Jack Morrow Hills. "Multiple use" 6 does not mean "multiple abuse." 7 It does not mean "all uses." Let's 8 leave the place alone. Thank you. 9 MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Mac. 10 I would like to take a five-minute 11 break. I will watch my watch, so we will start up in 12 five minutes, so please watch yours and be back. 13 Thank you. 14 A SPECTATOR: Who is the next speaker? 15 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. I'm sorry, our 16 next speaker will be John McCullough. 17 (Whereupon, the participants took a 18 brief recess and returned, after which the following 19 occurred.) 20 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. Again, our next 21 speaker is John McCullough. 22 MR. McCULLOUGH: My name is John. You 23 probably know how to spell it. 24 McCullough, 25 M-c-C-u-l-l-o-u-g-h. Although I'm one of those</p>	<p>1 state for its endless task to prev-, to protect our 2 own natural beauty and pristine. Now with this, with 3 the passing of this Act, and allowing this development 4 on the Red Desert, we are destroying the very essence 5 of what Wyoming is. 6 Besides the soul and the life force 7 behind Wyoming, the numerous wildlife species are also 8 under threat that inhabit the Red Desert. Over 350 9 species inhabit this Desert. 10 And with the development plan of this 11 magnitude even being considered, I'm sorry, I don't, I 12 have a hard time comprehending how it could have even 13 been considered in the first place. To be quite 14 honest, I am a little disappointed in our Bureau of 15 Land Management. 16 I'm a Life Scout of Troop 52, and I've 17 worked with them on a lot of preservation sort of 18 tasks and community projects, and I know that they can 19 do great things. This is not one of those great 20 achievements. 21 And, in fact, we've seen the BLM, 22 indeed, do extraordinary things. But with the passing 23 of this we would see the threat to the Wyoming pride, 24 the threat to the Wyoming wildlife, the reputation 25 being befouled of our federal offices.</p>
<p>1 dubious Easterners I heard about earlier, I've lived 2 in Fremont County for over two decades. 3 And I used to go out hiking in the Red 4 Desert a lot. I've had a couple of strokes and I 5 suffer from peripheral vascular damage now, so I can't 6 hike much, but it's one of the few places in the 7 country that I can go out and drive to and to just 8 experience real unique solitude. 9 I'd like to tell you very much, and I'd 10 like to stress that that really is a pretty unique 11 place. I've been all over this country, and I've 12 never seen any other place that I can drive to and be 13 in that kind of solitude. 14 I would like to see that continue. And 15 I am for the Citizens' Wildlife and Wildland 16 Alternative. Thank you. 17 MR. GRIFFITH: Thanks, John. 18 Jonathan Mark. 19 MR. MARK: Good evening. My name is 20 Jonathan Mark, J-o-n-a-t-h-a-n, M-a-r-k. 21 Like many of us here, I was raised under 22 Wyoming skies. And one of the things that I was told 23 about this area is our undying commitment to the 24 preservation of wildlife. 25 Wyoming is known better than any other</p>	<p>1 And finally, ladies and gentlemen, this 2 will threaten Wyoming. Thank you. 3 MR. GRIFFITH: Great job, Jonathan. I 4 hope that you don't compete against the East High 5 Speech Team in Cheyenne. 6 You did very well. Thank you. Good 7 job. 8 Mark Soldier Wolf. 9 MR. SOLDIER WOLF: Thank you. I'm glad 10 to be here. 11 I'm here to talk in behalf of myself and 12 the Arapaho people. My name is Mark Soldier Wolf, 13 M-a-r-k, S-o-l-d-i-e-r, W-o-l-f. 14 I'm a veteran of the Second World War 15 before going South Korea. And at that time I 16 represented the whole of the United States, to protect 17 the interest of the United States and its people in 18 this holy land of ours. 19 Right now I can say a lot of you have 20 talked. And I have heard these people talk many 21 times, but yet we come back and repeat these things 22 over and over again. 23 And I think the Agency is wanting to 24 pull the wool over our eyes so that they can open Jack 25 Morrow, Jack Morrow area. We are not for that.</p>

20 (Pages 74 to 77)

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