

Mr. Tim Spisak
Director, New Mexico State Office
Bureau of Land Management
301 Dinosaur Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Dear Director Spisak:

Our businesses contribute to New Mexico's \$10 billion outdoor recreation economy, which supports 100,000 direct jobs and depends on New Mexico's unique cultural heritage and world-class public lands. Yet these lands are under increasing pressure from the current administration's "energy dominance" policies, which are poised to do irreparable damage to New Mexico's outdoor industry through the prioritization of oil and gas development over other multiple uses such as recreation.

Over the past two calendar years, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has offered almost 18 million acres of public lands across the West for oil and gas leasing, including 178,000 acres in New Mexico where the BLM has proposed leasing near popular outdoor destinations such as Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Chaco Culture National Historical Park. Additionally, drilling permit approvals soared from 2,486 in FY 2017 to 3,388 in 2018. This trend is alarming as New Mexico ranks far above all other states in the number of public land being drilled, with 636 new well starts in the last fiscal year.

Moreover, the public process used to determine where oil and gas development can safely take place has been severely undermined. In New Mexico, for example, BLM continues to use abbreviated public comment periods for lease sales. As a result, BLM leasing decisions occur with very limited public participation and almost no analysis of how oil and gas development will impact recreation resources and the businesses and communities that depend on public land in its natural state. No one wishes to live, vacation, or recreate near industrial sites with questionable air quality and constant truck traffic.

We are also concerned about the impacts that the venting and flaring of methane gas has on our communities and our businesses. The lack of state and federal regulations to mitigate methane-related effects of drilling on BLM, state, and private lands harms New Mexico's air quality, damages our brand as an outdoor recreation destination, and makes it much more difficult for our communities to successfully invest in recreation as an economic driver.

We understand the need for energy development, but it is essential for the overall health of the New Mexico economy to take the time to use best practices for determining where and how that development will take place. This is especially critical not just to protect New Mexico's existing recreation economy, but also to make it possible for the power of the outdoor economy to reach other parts of the state.

We are hopeful that you will steer the BLM in New Mexico back on course, by recommitting your staff to fulfilling BLM's true mission of multiple-use and sustained yield, and restoring a rigorous public participation process for decisions about whether and where to allow oil and gas

drilling on our public lands. This approach will help fulfill the goals of Secretarial Order 3366 “to increase recreational opportunities so more Americans can create inspiring and lasting memories from the gifts provided to us through our public lands and waters. Recreation on public lands also directly supports businesses that facilitate access to those lands.” The businesses acknowledged in SO 3366, such as the undersigned, “include outfitters and guides, the lodging industry, other concessioners, and the outdoor clothing and equipment industry.”

We request that you take public participation opportunities seriously, listening open-mindedly and engage with all stakeholders, including outdoor recreation interests. Otherwise, both our unique culture heritage, and our growing outdoor recreation economy will suffer from the consequences of efforts to make energy development the “dominant” use of our public lands. We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss these important issues with you and your staff.

Best regards,

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Santa Fe, NM

JACO Outfitters, LLC
John Olivas
Holman, NM

BikeworksABQ
Dan Lucero
Albuquerque, NM

Lost Padre Records
George Casey
Santa Fe, NM

Sleeping Bear Electric Bikes
Phillip Lepak
Santa Fe, NM

Gila Hike and Bike
Martin Pearson
Silver City, NM

Taos Fly Shop
Nick Streit
Taos, NM

Solitary Angler
Van Beachman
El Prado, NM

The Reel Life
Nick Streit
Taos, NM

Taos Mountain Energy Foods, LLC
Kyle Hawari
Questa, NM

Better Bike Bureau
Raian Harris
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Cutthroat Fly Fishing
Steve Morris
Taos New Mexico

New Mexico River Adventures
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Rinconada, NM

Red River Angler & Sport
Sloan Covington
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Two Wheel Drive, INC.
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Mudd n Flood
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Sincere Cycles
Bailey Newbrey
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Gearing Up Bike Shop
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You are My Sunshine
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