

November 17, 2014

Via e-mail

Amanda Nisula, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Peggy Deaton, Acting Project Manager/GIS Specialist
Bureau of Land Management
6251 College Blvd. Suite A
Farmington, NM 87402

Re: Master leasing plan for the Greater Chaco landscape under the Mancos/Gallup Draft RMPA

Dear Amanda and Peggy:

Please accept and consider these comments on behalf of The Wilderness Society, National Parks Conservation Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Archaeology Southwest regarding our recommendation that the Bureau of Land Management Farmington Field Office include a “master leasing plan” (MLP) as part of its Mancos/Gallup Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA).

Renewed energy development interests within the San Juan Basin have increased pressure on the many important cultural, historical, ecological, and recreational resources in the area. To ensure these resources are uncompromised by future oil and gas production, the BLM Farmington Field Office should draft a discrete Greater Chaco landscape management plan that adequately considers both energy and non-energy interests. By constructing a clear “vision” for energy leasing and development that also does not jeopardize other uses and cultural resources, the BLM can avoid future conflicts and proceed with a responsible oil and gas leasing strategy. Our proposal provides recommendations for this Greater Chaco MLP and details implementation measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our MLP proposal. As we obtain additional information, we will provide further supporting data and recommendations. We appreciate the Farmington Field Office’s commitment to addressing management of oil and gas development and the other important natural and cultural resources within the field office, and look forward to seeing this proposal incorporated into the ongoing planning efforts. We would be pleased to discuss these issues further or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

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cc: Garry Torres, Farmington Field Manager
Jesse Juen, BLM State Director – New Mexico