

Outdoor Industry Association * Holiday Expeditions * Adventure Bound River Expeditions * National Outdoor Leadership School * OARS * Centennial Canoe Outfitters * River Runners Transport * Eagle Outdoor Sports * Outward Bound Wilderness * Utah Rivers Council * River Runners for Wilderness * Colorado Plateau River Guides * American River Touring Association *
Living Rivers * Desolation Outfitters

Honorable Jon M. Huntsman Jr. (Fax: 801 538 1528)
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John Harja, Executive Director (Fax: 801 538 1547)
Resource Development Coordinating Committee
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A. Joel Frandsen, Director (Fax: 801 533 4111)
Dave Grierson, Strategic Planner
Division of Forestry, Fire, and Sovereign Lands
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Re: *Proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sale Beneath Green River*

Dear Governor Huntsman, Director Harja and Director Frandsen,

We are writing to you with grave concerns about a proposed oil and gas lease sale by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and Sovereign Lands (Division) of a 17-acre parcel in the bed of the Green River. The undersigned businesses and organizations represent a variety of recreation and conservation interests that are concerned about the harmful impacts that oil and gas leasing and development will have to this spectacular stretch of the Green River. To that end, we respectfully urge the Division to defer leasing this parcel until it has conducted an in-depth analysis of whether such a decision meets the Division's "public trust" obligations to protect the state of Utah's waters and resources from damage.

As you may know, this particular lease parcel is adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument (and within clear view of many monument roads and trails) and is located along a popular stretch of the Green River for river-runners. While the Division is proposing to sell this parcel with no surface occupancy stipulations, the successful bidder will no doubt seek permission to drill on Bureau of Land Management lands immediately

adjacent to the river and in clear view of both the river itself and the national monument. Such development would ruin the very reason that many of our clients and members visit the area, to appreciate its abundant natural quiet, dark night skies, and undeveloped grandeur.

In addition, we question whether the sale of this particular parcel – which could garner as little as \$17 in bonus bids – is in the best interest of the state’s important recreation, wildlife, and scenic values. Our clients and members place a tremendous value on the integrity of undeveloped waterways and nearby public lands and we ask that the Division take these values into account in its leasing decision.

We look forward to hearing from you about the Division’s plans concerning this controversial leasing proposal.

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