



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
<http://www.blm.gov>



Mr. Jeremy Nichols  
Climate and Energy Program Director  
WildEarth Guardians  
2590 Walnut Street  
Denver, Colorado 80205

OCT 19 2017

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you for your letter dated August 24, 2017, regarding oil and gas leasing in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada State Office (NVSO). I appreciate that you took the time to share your concerns.

As you are probably aware, on July 6, 2017, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3354, directing each state to conduct quarterly lease sales where eligible lands are available. The BLM NVSO completed their last quarterly, on-line lease sale for this Fiscal Year on September 12.

In accordance with 43 CFR 3120, those interested in acquiring an oil and gas lease on BLM lands open for leasing and development may submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the appropriate state office. If the lands are available for leasing, the BLM does not have authority to reject EOIs it receives. The BLM NVSO currently has approximately 416 EOIs that it received through the National Fluids Lease Sale System (NFLSS), which account for less than 2 percent of the Federal lands in the State. The NFLSS system was implemented in September 2016 and assists BLM state offices and the public with the EOI process. Nominators are encouraged to follow the appropriate guidelines for submitting EOIs to avoid duplicate submissions and the potential for nominating lands that actually are not available for leasing.

Although some oil and gas industry members consider development as being speculative, Nevada does have oil and gas potential. For example, Noble Energy's Elko area prospecting included more than 20 approved Applications for Permit to Drill and volumes of seismic data.

The BLM NVSO is following all current regulations and policies regarding oil and gas leasing on Federal lands. We hope this information clarifies your concerns with our BLM Nevada Oil and Gas Program.

Sincerely,

John E. Ruhs  
Acting Deputy Director, Operations