

David A. Lien
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December 2, 2002

RECEIVED
 m/m

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Incoming
 12/07/02

Dear Ma'am:

I am writing to thank you for recognizing the inadequacies, short-sightedness, and certain harm that would have come to the largest block of unprotected roadless land in the Lower 48 states if UtahAmerican Energy's proposal to develop a coal mining operation at the mouth of Lila Canyon had been approved.

Regarding the proposed mine and any future energy development proposals in this area:

- They would likely overlap both an existing Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and newly inventoried BLM wilderness units.
- They would likely encroach on a Fremont rock shelter and other native cultural sites.
- They would also likely result in the dewatering of springs that are crucial to the survival of a unique band of desert bighorn sheep. Because the habitat in Lila Canyon is not found elsewhere in the area, a mine would result in the displacement and likely death of these sheep.
- The Fish and Wildlife Service has expressed the concern that impacts such as subsidence, altered hydrologic flows, and mining effluent may cause significant changes or losses in wildlife habitat, wetlands, riparian areas, stream flows, and water quality.
- The current BLM planning documents classify the area as a class III visual resource, meaning that visual changes are not permitted to dominate the landscape.

The U.S. is a nation of vast resources and spectacular beauty, but much of it has been or is being developed, logged, mined, and crisscrossed with roads and OHV trails. Consequently, today wildlands and wildlife are disappearing faster than ever. Wise leaders like the great conservationist Teddy Roosevelt recognized the need to set aside parts of the land to be unspoiled for future generations. It's time we started following in his footsteps.

For too long our public lands have been managed for the betterment of the corporate balance sheet and not for the betterment of the American public. Today Americans are demanding that these lands be preserved in their natural state, for the betterment of wilderness, wildlife, hunting, and future generations. Please do all that you can to ensure that this happens, and **include me on your mailing list** for any future public involvement in this process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David A. Lien
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