



Office of the CEO/President

Honorable David Hayes
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Deputy Secretary Hayes,

I wanted to thank you again for your time Thursday afternoon to discuss my concerns about the Gasco natural gas project and the impacts that proceeding with the Bureau of Land Management's current preferred alternative – Alternative F – will have to the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness and nearby wild public lands. As you know, I was deeply troubled to learn that under Alternative F there would be even more overall disturbance to the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness than Gasco initially proposed when the project was unveiled in 2010. Protecting this remarkable and iconic wilderness landscape is a priority of mine and members of the Outdoor Industry Association both in and outside of Utah. As shared, we have steadfastly supported the administration and its initiative and are greatly frustrated by this turn of events.

When I corresponded with Secretary Salazar and Director Abbey in the fall of 2011, I expressed my concern that the BLM was headed down the road of approving an alternative much like Alternative F that would give inadequate consideration to the outdoor recreation industry and the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness. I understood then (and now) that the Gasco project boundary does not overlap the Desolation Canyon wilderness study area nor, thankfully, is drilling proposed in the river bottom. My/our fears were realized with the release of the final environmental impact statement and the BLM's tentative support for Alternative F. Under this scenario, drilling would occur in a significant part of the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness area – an area that the BLM itself identified as being a wilderness caliber landscape but decided under a Bush administration-era plan not to protect. This administration must do better to protect this special place and early on gave us such a belief.

As shared, I strongly believe that the facts at hand hold great promise for a 'win-win' compromise that can create jobs in the energy and outdoor recreation sectors, produce domestic energy, and protect the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness. Just as the Interior Department, the oil and gas industry, the state of Utah and conservation groups came together to craft a compromise over the West Tavaputs Plateau natural gas project, the Department should lead these groups towards a compromise agreement here. Alternative E – the alternative originally supported by the Environmental Protection Agency and thousands of Americans should be the starting point for these discussions.

I appreciate your commitment to discuss this important matter with BLM Director Bob Abbey and then continue this conversation. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Most Sincerely & On Behalf of the Outdoor Industry Association Members Who Signed On To This.

Peter Metcalf

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Metcalf", written over a horizontal line.