

May 28th, 2014

Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office
RMP Amendment Project Manager
6251 College Blvd, Suite A
Farmington, NM, 87401
Sent digitally by email to: blm_nm_ffo_rmp@blm.gov

RE: RMP Amendment/EIS scoping comments

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We are deeply concerned that the Bureau of Land Management is leasing extensive lands around the Chaco Culture National Historical Park (Chaco NHP) for oil and gas extraction. In doing so, BLM is facilitating further development of a vast area that contains thirty-five Chaco Great House ruins and a vast network of ancient sacred roads. Chaco NHP is part of a World Heritage Site and the Chaco Protection Act acknowledges the critical importance of maintaining the integrity of the cultural landscape of Chaco's larger region.

I fear such energy development will have destructive impacts on the ancestral lands and fragile sites of the Pueblo and Navajo culture -- some of the greatest archaeological treasures of the Americas with world-wide significance. We urge you to protect these unique places from oil and gas development as part of a management plan revision now underway within the region.

Sincerely,

Rainforest Action Network
Sierra Club
Earthworks
Center for Biological Diversity
CREDO
Food and Water Watch
Solstice Project
Energy Action Coalition
Oil Change international
Friends of the Earth

CC:

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell
BLM New Mexico State Director Jesse Juen
Senator Tom Udall
Senator Martin Heinrich

Governor Susana Martinez
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Congressman Ben Lujan