

January 25, 2011

## Lummis Slams Forest Service Decision to Block Energy Leases for Development

WASHINGTON, D.C. ? U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) slammed the Forest Service?s decision to lock up 44,720 acres of National Forest land in the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Lummis released the following statement:

?The Forest Service?s decision took into account everything but jobs, the economy, energy independence and national security. Gas prices are creeping upward toward four dollars a gallon and America is continually increasing our reliance on foreign countries for energy. Through modern environmentally responsible methods, these resources can provide the country with secure, affordable fuel and offer people in Wyoming high-paying jobs that help support nearby communities. This misguided decision puts our multiple use lands under lock and key.?

Background:

Under the Bridger-Teton Forest Plan in 1990, the land was made available to lease for energy development. In 2004, the Forest Service granted the BLM the ability to lease the 44,720 acres for energy development. Leases sold in 2005 and 2006 were appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals which resulted in the BLM?s freeze on drilling.