

**SCOPING STATEMENT  
SEMINOE ROAD PILOT PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Dudley & Associates, LLC

Bureau of Land Management  
Rawlins Field Office

**Description of Project:**

Dudley & Associates, LLC (Dudley) of Denver, Colorado, has notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office, that the company proposes to explore and potentially develop a coalbed methane (CBM) pilot project located within the administrative boundary of the BLM's Rawlins Field Office. The pilot project is located in Townships 23 and 24 North, Range 85 West, Carbon County, Wyoming, as shown on Map 1. The total project area encompasses approximately 8,320 acres, of which 4,240 acres are federal surface and mineral estate.

The pilot project consists of drilling, completing, and producing approximately 19 wells for evaluation. The federal action for this project involves the permitting of wells, roads, and pipelines on federal surface (approximately eight wells with associated access roads and pipelines) (see Map 1). Development on private lands with existing access may occur during preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project; 11 wells and associated access roads are proposed for development on private lands. Additionally, federal approval would be necessary for the proposed natural gas pipeline linking the project area with existing interstate natural gas pipelines along Interstate 80 near Sinclair, Wyoming. This proposed pipeline would generally follow an existing pipeline from the project area to Sinclair.

Well spacing density would generally be four wells per section. Initial drilling operations are proposed to begin in summer 2000.

The primary objective for the pilot project will be to drill, complete, and produce the wells to determine:

- which coals are gas productive,
- economical drilling and completion techniques,
- if dewatering of the coal(s) can be achieved,
- produced water quantity and quality, and
- what depths or pressure windows may be preferred to target economic gas production.

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It is anticipated that the pilot project would be sufficient to evaluate the economic feasibility of producing CBM from the coal seams in the area. If the exploratory project is deemed successful, additional development plans beyond the scope of the Seminole Road EA would require further environmental analysis.

Approximately 10 days would be required to drill, log, and case each well utilizing a conventional rotary drilling rig and associated rig equipment. Two additional days would be required to run a bond log, perforate, and set a pump with a completion rig. The estimated size of a drill site location is 215 x 320 ft, with some site disturbance required to place the drill rig on level ground. A small reserve pit also would be constructed at each drill site location to hold drilling fluids and cuttings, and the reserve pit would be approximately 65 ft wide x 145 ft long x 10 ft deep. The estimated maximum surface disturbance required at each drill site location would be 2.0 acres. Drilling depths would generally be about 6,000 ft.

Each well would require a water discharge line and gas line. Water lines would converge where possible at a centralized discharge point to be determined in a water management plan. Gas lines from proposed wells would be tied into a small compressor for transmission. Gas volumes would dictate the volume of compression required.

Each well would be continuously production tested for an estimated 6 to 12 months to fully evaluate the commercial feasibility of any further development.

The proposed project area is currently accessed by existing developed and undeveloped roads. The gas produced within the project area eventually would be transported via a new gathering line linking the area with existing interstate pipelines along Interstate 80 south of the project area near Sinclair. A road network would be developed that would include new and upgraded roads.

Following drilling and completion, flowlines and gathering facilities would be installed with the required power supply. Water quality would be monitored and surface-discharged as per federal, state, and local requirements. If the wells prove to be nonproductive or uneconomical, all disturbed areas would be reclaimed to BLM or private landowner specifications.

### **Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents**

**Resource Management Plan.** The Great Divide Resource Management Plan (RMP) (November 8, 1990) directs management of BLM-administered lands within the analysis area. The objective for management of oil and gas resources, as stated in the RMP, is to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of oil and gas while protecting other resource values. The development of CBM within the Seminole Road project area would be in conformance with the RMP. The environmental analysis that will be prepared on the Dudley proposal will incorporate appropriate decisions, terms, and conditions of use described in the RMP.

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**Use Authorizations.** Use authorizations (i.e., rights-of-way, permits) for roads, power lines, pipelines, and well site facilities will be processed through the BLM Application for Permit to Drill (APD) and Sundry Notice permitting process as long as the facilities remain on-lease and are owned and operated by the unit operator. Any facility located off-lease would require individual right-of-way permits.

**Lease Stipulations.** Some leases within the proposed area include special stipulations on occupancy. These are in addition to the standard lease terms. These stipulations are designed to protect surface resources such as soils, water, and wildlife by restricting periods of activity and areas of disturbance. Application of these lease stipulations will be handled on a case-by-case basis for each APD submitted to the BLM.

### ***National Environmental Policy Act***

On reviewing the Dudley proposal, the BLM has determined that an EA will be prepared. The impact analysis presented in the EA will allow for one of two decisions to be made by the BLM Field Manager. The first is whether to sign a Decision Record with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which would allow the exploration project to proceed. The second decision is to identify whether the project, as proposed, would result in significant impacts and would require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

One element of the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) process is scoping. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process:

- to identify reasonable development alternatives to be considered in the environmental document;
- to identify environmental/socioeconomic issues of concern related to the proposed project; and
- to determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable government agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

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### **Identified Resource Management Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities**

The following issues and concerns have been identified to date. The list is not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather a starting point for public input and a means of identifying the resource disciplines needed to conduct the analysis:

- potential impacts to wildlife habitats within the analysis area, including big game, sage grouse, and raptors;
- increased traffic and associated impacts on existing county, state, and BLM roads and highways;
- social and economic impacts to local communities;
- impacts to surface and ground water resources, including sedimentation/salinity to the North Platte River System and Seminoe Reservoir;
- potential impacts to sensitive soils within the project area;
- impacts from emissions resulting from additional drilling and production activities;
- reclamation of disturbed areas and control of noxious weed invasions;
- potential conflicts with livestock management operations in the analysis area, including possible impacts to range improvements;
- potential impacts to cultural and historical values within the analysis area;
- potential impact to listed, or proposed for listing, threatened and endangered plant and animal species, including potential effects on downstream listed fish species;
- cumulative effects of drilling and development activities when combined with other ongoing and proposed developments on lands within the BLM Rawlins Field Office area;
- potential conflicts between mineral development activities and recreational opportunities; and
- visual impacts to the National Back Country Byway.

### **Interim Drilling Activities**

While the Seminoe Road EA is being prepared, the BLM will allow limited development of test wells within the proposed analysis area, and a total of two federal wells may be authorized to allow for the acquisition of data necessary for completion of the project EA. Prior to development of these two wells the BLM will require an APD for each well and the BLM will implement a site-specific EA for each APD. Interim drilling will be monitored by the BLM to ensure activities do not significantly affect the environment or are prejudicing the completion of the EA.

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### **Interdisciplinary Team**

Based on the current understanding of issues, concerns, and opportunities and established objectives from other plans, an interdisciplinary team (IDT) made up of the following specialists and skills has been identified:

- Air Quality Specialist;
- Archaeologist;
- Coal Specialist;
- Environmental Scientist (surface protection);
- Geologist;
- Hydrologist;
- Interdisciplinary Team Leader;
- NEPA Specialist;
- Petroleum Engineer;
- Public Affairs Specialist;
- Range Management Specialist;
- Realty Specialist;
- Recreation Planner;
- Soil Scientist; and
- Wildlife Biologist.

### **Timing Needs or Requirements**

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigative opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

An open house will be held to discuss the Seminoe Road Pilot Project. The meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., June 26, 2000, at the following location:

Bureau of Land Management  
Rawlins Field Office  
1300 North Third Street  
Rawlins, WY 82301

There will be no formal presentation at the open house. Rather, personnel from Dudley and BLM will be on hand to answer questions regarding this project. There will also be an opportunity to submit any issues or concerns on the proposal.

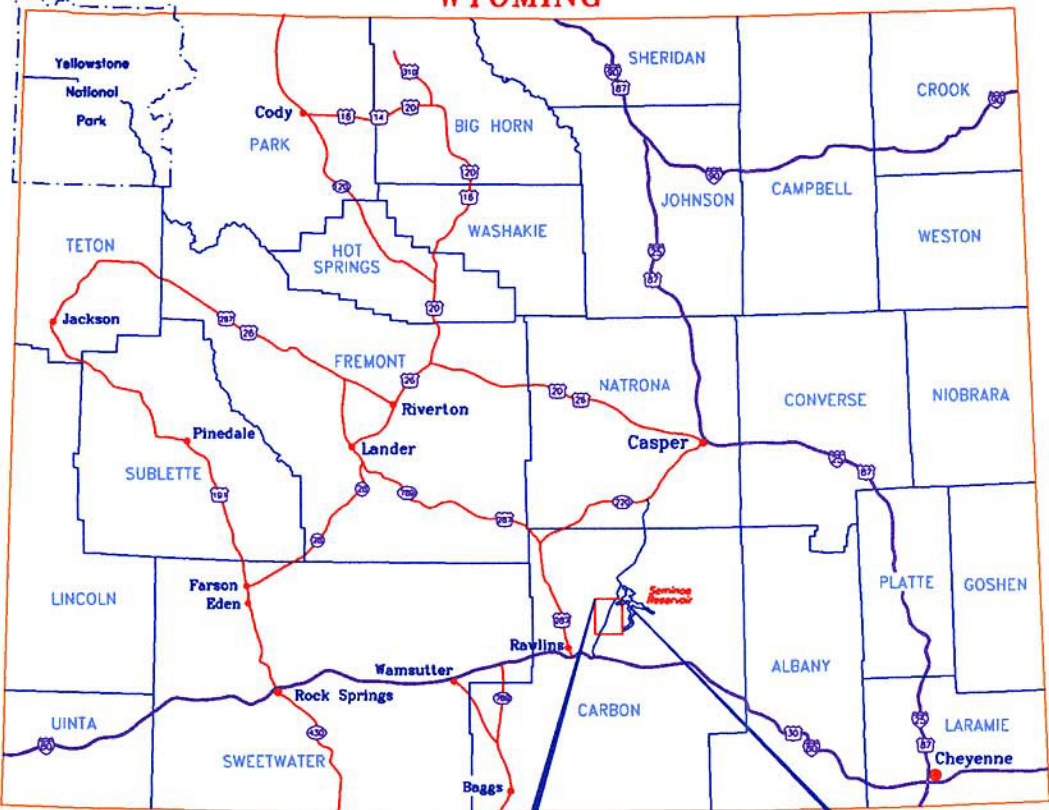
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Your comments are due by July 12, 2000. Please submit your comments to:

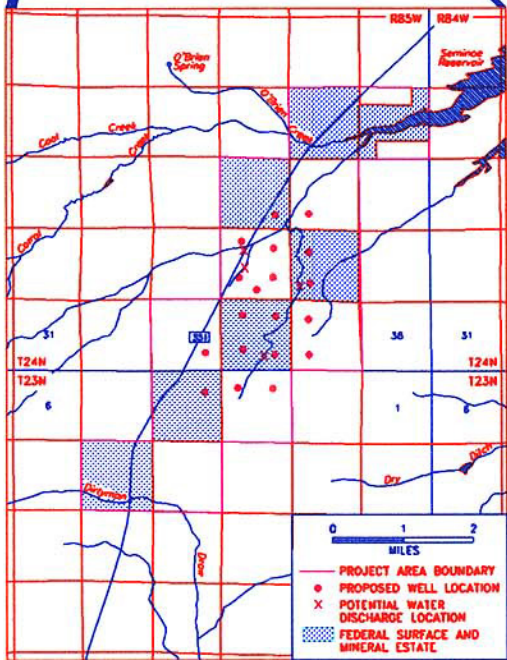
Address: Brenda Vosika Neuman, Project Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Rawlins Field Office  
1300 North Third Street  
P.O. Box 2407  
Rawlins, WY 82301

Email: rawlins\_wymail@blm.gov  
(Please refer to the Seminoe Road Pilot Project in your email response.)

# WYOMING



28757/LOC-MAP



# *Scoping Statement, Seminoe Road Pilot Project EA*

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The following individuals and organizations will receive a copy of this scoping statement:

### **FEDERAL OFFICES**

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Library of Congress  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs

U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
Washington, D.C., Office  
Rock Springs Field Office  
Wyoming State Office  
Library, Denver  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Forest Service  
U.S. Geological Survey  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin  
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi  
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas

### **STATE AGENCIES**

Dept. of Employment, Research & Planning  
Division  
Governor Jim Geringer  
State Land Officer  
State Representatives  
State Senators  
Wyoming Department of Environmental  
Quality

Wyoming Dept. of Commerce  
Div. of Economic & Commercial  
Development  
Wyoming Department of Transportation  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Wyoming Highway Commission  
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation  
Commission

Wyoming Public Service Commission  
Wyoming Recreation Commission  
Wyoming State Engineer's Office  
Wyoming State Geological Survey  
Wyoming State Historical Preservation  
Office  
Wyoming State Planning Coordinator

### **COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Carbon County Commissioners  
Carbon County Planning Commission

Carbon County Public Library

Carbon County Road and Bridge

### **MUNICIPALITIES**

City of Bairoil  
Mayor - Hanna  
Mayor - Medicine Bow

Mayor - Saratoga  
Mayor - Sinclair  
Medicine Bow Town Council

Rawlins Chamber of Commerce  
Rawlins City Manager  
Rawlins Planning Commissioner

### **NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES**

Francis Brown  
Eastern Shoshone Tribal Council  
Comanche Tribal Council  
Crow Tribal Administration  
Clifford Duncan  
Northern Arapahoe Tribal Council

Northern Cheyenne Cultural Committee  
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council  
Ogalala Sioux Tribal Council  
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council  
Shoshone Tribal Cultural Center  
Shoshone-Arapahoe Joint Tribal Council

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
Uinta Ute Cultural Rights and Protections  
Uinta-Ouray Tribal Council  
Ute Mountain Tribe  
Ute Tribal Council  
Haman Wise, Sr.

### **LOCAL MEDIA**

Casper Star-Tribune  
Denver Post  
KCWY TV  
KFBC RAdio  
KGWC TV - Casper  
KRAL - Rawlins

KRKK - Rock Springs  
KSIT - Rock Springs  
KTWO - Casper  
KTWO TV - Casper  
KUWR - University of Wyoming

Laramie Boomerang  
Laramie News Service  
Rawlins Daily Times  
Rocky Mountain News  
Saratoga Sun  
Wyoming State Tribune/Eagle

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### OTHER AGENCIES, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, INDIVIDUALS, GRAZING PERMITTEES, LEASE AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY HOLDERS, LANDOWNERS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Museum of Natural History  
Anadarko Petroleum Corp.  
Anderson Oil Co.  
Arch of Wyoming  
Archaeological Services  
James Alan and Betty C. Archard, Trustees  
Craig Barber  
Barlow & Haun, Inc.  
Richard H. Bate  
Robert L. Bayless  
Dallas Bennett  
Ken Besel  
Terry L. and Janet L. Binger  
Bio Environmental Associates  
Biodiversity Associates, Friends of the Bow  
Bjork, Lindley, Danielson, & Baker, P.C.  
Michael J. Blevins  
Doug Blewitt  
Bow River Ranches  
Roland E. Bowen  
Dennis J. Brabec  
Steven Brady  
G.W. Brashier  
Robert J. and Gwenn D. Brewer  
Vern Brodsho  
Howard M. and Audrey Brokaw  
James M. and Joanne H. Bryan  
Van K. Bullock  
Cabot Oil and Gas Production Co.  
Tim Calvert  
Vanessa Cameron  
Lewis F. and Connie M. Capehart  
Carbon County Coalition  
Carbon County Farm Bureau  
Carbon County Stockgrowers  
Brice Carpenter  
Gene Carrico  
James L., Jr., and Patricia Ann Chant  
Del Clair  
Coleman Oil & Gas  
Colorado Interstate Gas Co.  
Colorado State University  
Nancy H. Comeau  
Conoco Inc.  
Conservancy of the Phoenix  
Leroy J. and Margaret M. Cope  
Leon Corpuz, Jr.  
Robert J. and Patricia L. Corrado  
Council of Governments  
Cowboy 3-Shot Sage Grouse Foundation  
Gerald D. and Judith N. Cox  
Defenders of Wildlife  
David R. Deleuil  
Donald and Mary Dixon  
Dolar Oil Properties  
Richard Ducharme  
Dudley & Associates, LLC  
Brenda Dawn and James E. Dyer  
Earth Tech  
Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund Inc.  
Patrick Eastman  
Elk Mountain Ranch, LLC  
Elk Mountain Trading Co.  
Energy Analysts  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Field Museum of Natural History  
Department of Geology  
Byron Fitzgerald

Flying J Oil and Gas  
Forrest Construction Inc.  
Dale Forsberg  
Dwight France  
John W. France  
Virgil Franklin  
Chris Frost  
Gary Holson Environmental Planning  
Earl J. and Bette Jo Gorman  
Thomas A. and Jeanne Graebert  
Greystone  
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Roy L. and Marie E. Hall  
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Max D. and Naomie Hardy  
Alton Harrison  
Don Hartley  
John and Lois Haun PTS  
Hayden Wing Associates  
William C. Heisner, Jr.  
Bobbie Herman  
Darlene G. and Carrie Herman  
Ivan Herold  
Highland Enterprises  
Earline Hittel  
John A. Hoehenauer  
Humane Society of the U.S.  
Mary E. Hunt  
Neil Hurst  
Oliver D. Ihasz  
IHS Energy Group  
Independent Petroleum Association of  
Mountain  
States  
Industrial Gas Resources  
Gerald Jacob  
Catherine J. and John V. Jaramillo  
Mary Ann Jerome  
Bob Johnson  
M.C. Johnson  
Johnson-Fermelia Co.  
Bill Jones  
Leroy and Margaret Jons  
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Kaiser-Francis Oil Company  
Ken Kamon  
Fred R. Kelly, Jr.  
Lois M. Kelly  
Stanley W. Kempa  
Jack Kersting  
Klabzuba Oil and Gas  
Jerry E. Kromrey  
G.A. Larsen  
Karen Larsen  
Sain Larsen  
D.E. and M.C. Lawson, Trust  
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Marjorie P. Lunden  
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Marathon Oil Co.  
James F. and Vicki J. Martzke  
Joe Maxson  
Mary Kay Maxson  
McElvain Oil and Gas Properties  
Lee G. and Barbara J. McKean

Terrence M. McNulty  
Miller Estate Company  
Gert Milliken  
Montana Oil Journal  
Trent Morgan  
Jimmy D. Morrison  
Orvie E. and Carolyn Morrison  
Lance Morrow  
Moe Morrow  
Candy Moulton  
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National Weather Service  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Nature Conservancy  
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People for the West  
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Petroleum Association of Wyoming  
Petroleum Information Corp.  
PFUSA  
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Platte Valley Construction  
Pat R. and Faye Porter  
Poulson, Odell & Peterson  
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Predator Project  
PTI Communications  
Public Lands Advocacy  
Purves Environmental  
RAG Shoshone Coal Corp.  
Randall Ramsey  
Noah C. Ravia  
Joseph C. Reiker  
River Gas Corp.  
Curtis Rochelle  
Rocky Mountain Casing Crews Inc.  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association  
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Rosebud Coal Sales Co.  
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Irwin Rubenstein  
Salisbury Livestock Co.  
Santa Fe Snyder Corp.  
Thomas R. Sarver, Jr.  
Robert Scherer  
Schmid Oilfield Services, Inc.  
SeaCrest Group

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Seminoe Boat Club  
William K. Shaffer  
Sierra Club  
Lorraine T. Sikocinski  
Charles W. and Evelyn M. Simon  
Sinclair Oil Corp.  
Frederick M. Slattery, Jr.  
Judith A. Smith  
Louis H. and Mabel Southerland  
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Southwest Wyoming Mule Deer Foundation  
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SWEDA/Den Costantino  
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Three Forks Ranch Corp.  
Thunder Basin Consulting  
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Assoc.  
Trout Unlimited  
Uintah Engineering & Land Surveying  
Union Pacific Resources Company  
URS, Woodward Clyde  
US Energy/Crested  
US West Communications  
UW Dept. of Range Land Ecology  
Joseph S. and Charlott L. Vold  
Mary F. and Lewis C. Waldron  
Ray Weber  
Angel R. Wegner  
WESTECH  
Western Ecosystems  
Western Wyoming Mule Deer Foundation  
Dick Wildermann  
Wilderness Society  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Williams Field Services  
Bo Wilson  
Wolf Continental Divide Trail Society  
Wyoming Advocates for Animals  
Wyoming Assoc. of Municipalities  
Wyoming Association of Professional  
Archaeologists  
Wyoming Assoc. of Professional Historians  
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation  
Wyoming Mining Association  
Wyoming Natural Diversity Database  
Wyoming Outdoor Council  
Wyoming Public Lands Council  
Wyoming Sportsman's Assoc.  
Wyoming Stockgrowers Association  
Wyoming Wildlife Federation  
Wyoming Woolgrowers Association  
Yates Petroleum Corp.  
Gordon Yellowman  
Art Zeiger  
Richard Charles Zielinski