

# HYDRAULIC FRACTURING ON PUBLIC LANDS

Sportsmen's Perspective on Balanced  
Energy Development



# BACKGROUND

## Cathy Purves

- Science & Technical Advisor
- Energy & public lands issues, advocacy, policy
- Background in wildlife, fisheries, & natural resource planning
- Experience with state, federal, industry, & ngo's

## Trout Unlimited

- Coldwater conservation organization
- Protect, reconnect & restore vital fish habitats
- SCP -Sportsmen's Conservation Project
- Seek responsible energy development on public land resources



# HABITAT

- ✓ Headwaters originate on our public lands
- ✓ Some places too special to develop
- ✓ Resources at risk require increased oversight
- ✓ Fish and wildlife depend on clean water, clean air, & critical intact habitats
- ✓ Irresponsible development can harm all habitats, degrade water quality & quantity, canceling out hard-won conservation gains



# CONCERNS

- Industry's disregard for public's concern over possible fracturing impacts & other contamination events
- water resources required for drilling decreases stream flows, affecting fish & other aquatic dependent life
- spills, leaks, & discharges increasing with increased drilling rush
- wastewater management needs stricter oversight
- nation's increase in developing our own energy resources places a bigger burden on our public lands
- inadequate wildlife habitat restoration increases wildlife losses
- increase needed for monitoring, inspection, enforcement of our water & land resources



# OUTDOOR RECREATION VITAL TO ECONOMIES

- Hunting & angling important commodity in the West
- Roughly 4 million people in CO, NM, WY, MT, & UT are hunters, anglers or wildlife recreationists
- Nearly 6 million people hunted, fished, or recreated in these states, contributing nearly \$7.3 billion to state & local economies (2006).
- Public supports responsible energy development
- Organization of Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development coalition (SFRED)



# Self-Sufficient Nation?

- ✓ recognize some places too special to develop
- ✓ industry must acknowledge public concerns for water, wildlife, habitat, air, quality of life
- ✓ industry & agencies must create level playing field with public—transparency is key
- ✓ use of new, greener, safer technology for extraction practices
- ✓ increased accountability from industry & federal agencies



# Comprehensive Best Management Practices

- Establish protective lease stipulations such as increased stream/riparian buffers or setbacks for well pads
- Establishment of baseline water sampling prior to exploration & drilling, during drilling, & post-drilling
- Increased & improved fish & wildlife monitoring, with annual reports available to the public
- Increase in partnerships among stakeholders in mitigation projects
- Better implementation of API's industrial drilling practices, including well bore integrity



# Wyoming Oil & Gas Rules

## CHANGES MADE

- Chemicals identified on the WY Oil & Gas Conservation Commission website
- Well integrity emphasis --stronger surface casing, well casing & well cementing rules
- Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) number requirement allows tracking for specific chemical ID
- Fracking tanks must be used rather than pit liners in areas where the aquifer is 60 feet or less
- Groundwater control areas must be identified & reported prior to drilling
- Disclosure required for status of used fracking fluids & report of HF flowback %
- Increased communication & regular BMP meetings with industry & WOGCC
- Coordination among WY's 3 water regulatory agencies (DEQ, WOGCC, SEO)

## IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

- Complete disclosure of chemicals should be required; currently companies can claim "trade secret" option (norm rather than the exception currently)
- Pre-drilling baseline water sampling should be required—can only be suggested now
- Monitoring should be required; currently the WOGCC director can recommend it
- Lack of health care professional exemption (only occurs at federal level, not state)
- WY DEQ involved after-the-fact (after a contamination incident) . DEQ should be involved during drilling planning stages.

# PROGRESS

## DOI's Onshore Oil & Gas Leasing reforms

- ❖ Improves public participation
- ❖ Better environmental analysis
- ❖ Decreases protest issues

## EPA's Research Study on HF

## Formation of Secr. Energy's subcommittee to study HF risks

## Organized Sportsmen Coalitions

- ❖ SFRED – 2006; >500 businesses & organizations; 2008 convened symposium to develop recommendations for better energy mgt. on public lands
- ❖ Sportsmen Alliance for Marcellus Conservation-2010



# Thank You!

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