

WYOMING STATE GRANGE

5201 Fishing Bridge
Cheyenne, WY 82009
207-778-0040

Matt Anderson
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 768
Pinedale, WY 82941

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Wyoming State Grange (WSG) thanks you for this opportunity to provide comments on the Draft SEIS for the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project. The WSG does not have agriculture members who are directly affected by the Project we are deeply interested in the activities. As you well know, citizens of Wyoming and the state itself are recipients of the project- from lower taxes to better schools, and many other benefits.

It is not only Wyoming that benefits from mineral development and production, and right now in history it is absolutely necessary to keep domestic production up for our national needs.

WSG acknowledges the critical importance of production of Wyoming's minerals and the wealth brought to the state via development. Conversely, there are many impacts that occur also. Cities and towns have an influx of workers (and their families) and their needs become a burden on services. Housing is an issue, or lack thereof. The seasonality of the project will be helpful to lessen the problems of the small towns in the vicinity when there is rapid growth and a small window of time to become prepared.

Livestock operators in the Pinedale area are experiencing significant impacts. The industry as a whole believes they would like to work to help plan and coordinate the negative side of the issue so there will be a minimum of problems, and long-term the benefits will outweigh the problems. Agriculture fears the introduction of noxious weeds and know that some AUM's will be lost, but expect that to be a temporary situation. Grazing patterns for livestock will be impacted by change in some areas. BLM must work with the ranchers to find alternative grazing areas, and if that is not possible there should be up front compensation for those permittees.

Potentially there will be vandalism and destruction of private property. We expect mitigation for this issue, as well as for some of the above mentioned problems.

SE-1
BI-38-2
GR-1
BI-38-1

— G-1 —
— BI-38-3 —

In perusing and studying the three alternatives in the Draft SEIS, WGA is supportive of the Proposed Action as the preferred alternative to ensure that PAPA goes forward and with the fewest overall impacts on agriculture.

With that alternative we acknowledge that there will be more severe short-term impacts in the areas of concentration, especially that of a temporary loss of AUM's in the area. There is a balancing, however, in that the proposed year-round drilling and expedited development will be helpful to the agriculture industry as a whole. Seasonal use of the area by livestock operations will be helped via the proposed winter drilling, which in turn means less vehicle traffic and dust.

— RC-1 —
— BI-38-4 —

Wyoming has seen state-of-the-art reclamation in areas impacted by mineral development. It is expected that the Pindale Project will equal or better any reclamation accomplished in the state.

WSG asks that BLM select Alternative B, the Proposed Action.

Thanks you for the opportunity to comment and your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Paseneaux

Carolyn Paseneaux,
Wyoming State Grange