To: The Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Office

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Subject: Comment on the Pinedale Anticline draft SEIS

When you step back from the draft SEIS and think about its implications, represents – or allows - an all out mobilization of the gas drilling activity that is-to us-somewhat staggering. The quality of life in this area has already been degraded by the level of drilling activity permitted under the existing BLM plan. And now the draft SEIS contemplates an exponential ramp-up of all the drilling dimensions that count. There could be incremental new surface disturbance of more than 12,000 acres which would undoubtedly further compromise wildlife habitat. The negative social impacts of year round drilling at a rate of more than 200 wells per year for the next 20 years would cause irrevocable harm to the community.

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But of all the threats posed by the SEIS, the one we feel most strongly about relates to air and, eventually, water quality. It does not require technical expertise to see and understand the deterioration in air quality that we are already experiencing—even at the current drilling level, which is very low relative to what is proposed. The current level of nitrous oxide emissions per year already exceeds what was predicted in 2000 by a multiple of 4x. Even in the face of this existing and growing threat to air quality, the draft SEIS offers no credible protection for the air. What is ironic about this to me is this: our so-called national energy policy emphasizes the use of natural gas and, here, we're seeing some of the best air in the country seriously degraded to get at it as fast as possible. If there is a genuine problem with deploying clean drilling technology in the near term, then the drilling should be postponed until it can be. After all, the gas isn't going any where.

Unlike the situation in 2000, we now have a lot of experience with the impacts – both good and bad--of the gas drilling on the Anticline. The draft SEIS makes no serious attempt to factor in this experience or represent the public interest as we have a right to expect from the BLM.

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