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To <WYMail_PAPA_YRA@blm.gov>
cc <daniel.sandoval@casperstartribune.net>, <governor@state.wy.us>, <bpendery@pcu.net>
bcc
Subject Comments on the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project

Matt Anderson, Project Lead
BLM Pinedale Field Office
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Mr. Anderson,

I am writing to respectfully register my concerns regarding the expansion of the Pinedale Anticline natural gas field in the Upper Green River Valley. I would first like to register my opposition to ANY expansion of the current gas field. Continuing to allow the exploitation of our rapidly declining natural resources in pursuit of non-renewable, polluting energy sources is at the very root of a much larger global environmental danger. Realizing that the field is going to be expanded regardless of this concern, I would like to register my hopes that the BLM and associated offices will take steps to minimize the dangers which an expanded field poses to the very fragile surrounding ecosystem. Namely I would like to see the BLM consider and enact these provisions to your plan:

W-1 G-1 AQ-1 M-1/RC-1 W-2 G-2 I-33-1

-Preclude development outside the core area to provide wildlife with somewhere to go as drilling pushes them off their traditional range on the Anticline.

-Make the performance-based objectives of your plan enforceable standards that will hold industry accountable for its practices.

-Require the best-available technology for all development to limit emissions and protect air quality and human health from gas-field air pollution.

-Set well-defined and binding mitigation requirements, including for reclamation.

-Adopt all the components of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Minimum Recommendations report, which establishes practices that allow for oil and gas development while protecting wildlife.

-Establish requirements for phasing development over time and space to protect wildlife and air quality.

It is extremely important that we as a community recognize the lasting impacts that the decisions we make today will have on the generations of the future. Long after we have drilled these wells dry, burned the fuel, and moved onto other projects to sustain our energy demands, the mule deer, bald-eagles, fish, and trees surrounding these fields will be paying the price, if they are there at all. In the meantime, while drilling an exploration occurs, surrounding communities receiving little of the economic benefit of the drilling will be held prisoner to deteriorating water quality, haze filled skies, and the noise and disruption of an ever encroaching industrial process.

If the BLM will not take steps to halt the expansion of this field, it is my sincere hope that it will, along with other offices that exist to promote the PUBLIC good, will at least take steps to mitigate the impact of the expansion, protect surrounding ecosystems, and let corporate interests exploiting the field know that they will be held to extremely high standards.

Respectfully,

James Cafferty