



02/08/2008 06:40 AM

To WYMail_PAPA_YRA@blm.gov

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Subject Strengthen wildlife protections in the Pinedale Anticline SEIS

Caleb Hiner, PAPA RDSEIS Project Manager
 BLM Pinedale Field Office
 1625 West Pine Street, P.O. Box 768
 Pinedale, WY 82941

Dear Mr. Hiner,

I am outraged that your agency has failed to include adequate protections for wildlife and local communities in its revised proposal to drill 4,400 new natural gas wells in the Pinedale Anticline of the Upper Green River Valley. I urge the BLM and cooperating agencies to amend the Pinedale Anticline supplemental environmental impact statement so that the final decision incorporates both the positive components found in Alternative D and the wildlife protections found in Alternative E.

In addition, specific changes must be made to strengthen and/or clarify several air and wildlife provisions, including: concentrating development where it is already occurring on the narrow crest; requiring the best available technology to prevent further impacts to wildlife or air quality; limiting the number of additional well pads to 250; prohibiting drilling on the flanks of the Anticline to preserve Wyoming's highest concentrations of wildlife on crucial winter range; preserving wildlife migration routes; removing Alternative D's Potential Development Areas; requiring stronger watershed protection measures to control sediment run-off into the blue-ribbon fisheries of the Green River; protecting visibility in airsheds of Grand Teton National Park and Wind River Wilderness Areas; and withdrawing unleased lands, adjacent lands, and any areas with upcoming lease expirations from leasing availability.

Thousands of gas wells in the area already contribute to increased haze that obscures the Upper Green River Valley's once-pristine air and clear views of the Wind River Range. Wintering big game has declined, and Pinedale's quality of life and community services have been dramatically impacted. Unless strong and enforceable mitigation measures are included in your agency's plan, this ramped-up drilling in the Pinedale Anticline will harm the area's quality of life, exceptional vistas, and extraordinary wildlife—all the things that make Wyoming's Upper Green a great place to live and visit. Wyoming deserves better.

Sincerely,

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AQ/SWW/G/LS

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