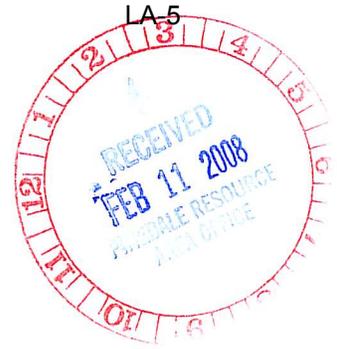


Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
Caleb Hiner, Project Manager
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PO Box 768
Pinedale, WY 82941
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RE: Support for Year-Round Access with the Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement fro the Pinedale Anticline

Dear Mr. Hiner,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Revised Draft SEIS document. Wyoming is a truly beautiful place to live; our world-class wildlife and pristine air quality will always be defining characteristics of our state. And while those qualities are a vital part of Wyoming, so are the remarkable communities that make up our state. We believe that the operators' year-around access plan for the Pinedale Anticline truly balances all of the resources that are important to Sublette County residents.

As representatives and leaders for the town of Big Piney we would like to voice our support for the operators' responsible year-around access plan and mitigation commitments for the Anticline. The operators have developed a plan that takes into consideration the socioeconomic impacts of natural gas development in Sublette County and we applaud their efforts.

The proposal for year-round access offers the communities in Sublette County the benefit of stability. Planning for a community that has a large transient population is nearly impossible. Our local businesses suffer from an uneven flow of revenue that fluctuates from season to season, the amount of children in our school system is constantly changing, and our local government is constantly challenged by ever-changing infrastructure needs. Year-round development on the Mesa would allow us to prepare for community needs based on a predictable growth pattern.

Year-round development will greatly benefit Sublette County's economy. Current seasonal restrictions on the Mesa increase the amount of temporary workers in our communities. We believe that, if given the opportunity, these workers would likely relocate their families to Sublette County and become active members of our communities. Even more, the money that these workers earn will be funneled back into our county to support our local businesses and economy.

The year-around access plan will successfully maintain air quality on the Mesa, which is an important issue for many Sublette County residents. The operators' have committed to installing a Liquids Gathering System across the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA) if year-round development is granted. This will greatly decrease truck traffic on the Anticline, reducing associated emissions and dust. Developing year-round will also allow

the operators a level of certainty to invest in advanced technology to reduce rig emissions. Both of these commitments will help preserve the excellent air quality that Sublette County resident's value.

The operators' plan will help to conserve our abundant wildlife population. The Mesa is home to several unique wildlife species such as the sage-grouse, mule deer and pronghorn antelope. Whether for recreational purposes or visual aesthetics, Sublette County residents are proud of our world-class wildlife population. Several of the operators' mitigation commitments were developed to lessen the impact on wildlife such as:

- Suspending development on leases that lie outside of the development area to leave large migration paths open;
- Installing a Liquids Gathering System that will minimize disturbance across the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA); and
- Contributing to a \$36 million fund to monitor and mitigate impacts to the wildlife population.

As local leaders, we are confident that the operators' plan will recover the energy that our nation needs while maximizing benefits to our communities. It is important to note that the points we have made above cannot be achieved without the certainty of year-round access. We would like to reaffirm our support for responsible year-round development with the operators' carefully planned mitigation commitments.

Best regards,


Phillip V. Smith
Town of Big Piney Mayor

