

Phoonswadi-Brewer, Sean

From: Lander RMP
Subject: Comments on Wyoming BLM study areas

From: mrneutra@comcast.net [mailto:mrneutra@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2012 11:59 AM
To: BLM_WY_LRMP_WYMail
Subject: Comments on Wyoming BLM study areas

To decision-makers at the BLM, Lander Field Office:

I have explored the Wind River country including the Dubois badlands, the Dunoir valley, Whiskey mountain and other parts of the Shoshone National Forest, by foot, horseback and vehicle for many, many years. As a biomedical researcher I have seen many other countries of the world. No country is so blessed as ours, with areas of spectacular beauty that has been protected from individual exploiters by our government and foresighted leaders, and set aside for all people to experience and enjoy in the centuries to come. The areas of Wyoming currently under study are among the few large tracts of relatively undisturbed spots on this ever more crowded planet of ours.

Surely the hope of those who established our National Forests and other federally-administered lands was that significant tracts of the remaining unspoiled land in Wyoming will be preserved for all Americans and foreign visitors to appreciate America's natural beauty, unique geology and vulnerable wildlife. The areas now under study are national treasures, worth much more over time as a recreational resource and refuge for the entire human population (to say nothing of the wildlife) than it will be for the few who would benefit from commercial exploitation by mining and drilling with inevitable damage to surface ecology and water resources. The extra energy gained by exploiting these unique areas will be rapidly sucked up and spent, and the wealth created will line the pockets of a very few. Meanwhile Wyoming will have lost the potential future value of these pristine areas as a travel destination for the entire world of tourists, hikers and responsible hunters in future decades and centuries.

It took millions of years for the forces of Nature to make Wyoming into the unique place that it is. It will take only days or weeks for a few profit-seeking individuals to drain or contaminate the very limited water resources, and inevitably damage the fragile ecosystem of the entire area. Once destroyed, such biological and geological wonders are gone forever, despite self-serving promises of "restitution" and "environmental protection" by energy industries. I urge you to do all you can to resist short-sighted pressure for energy development, and to take the long view with the interests of all humanity in mind.

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