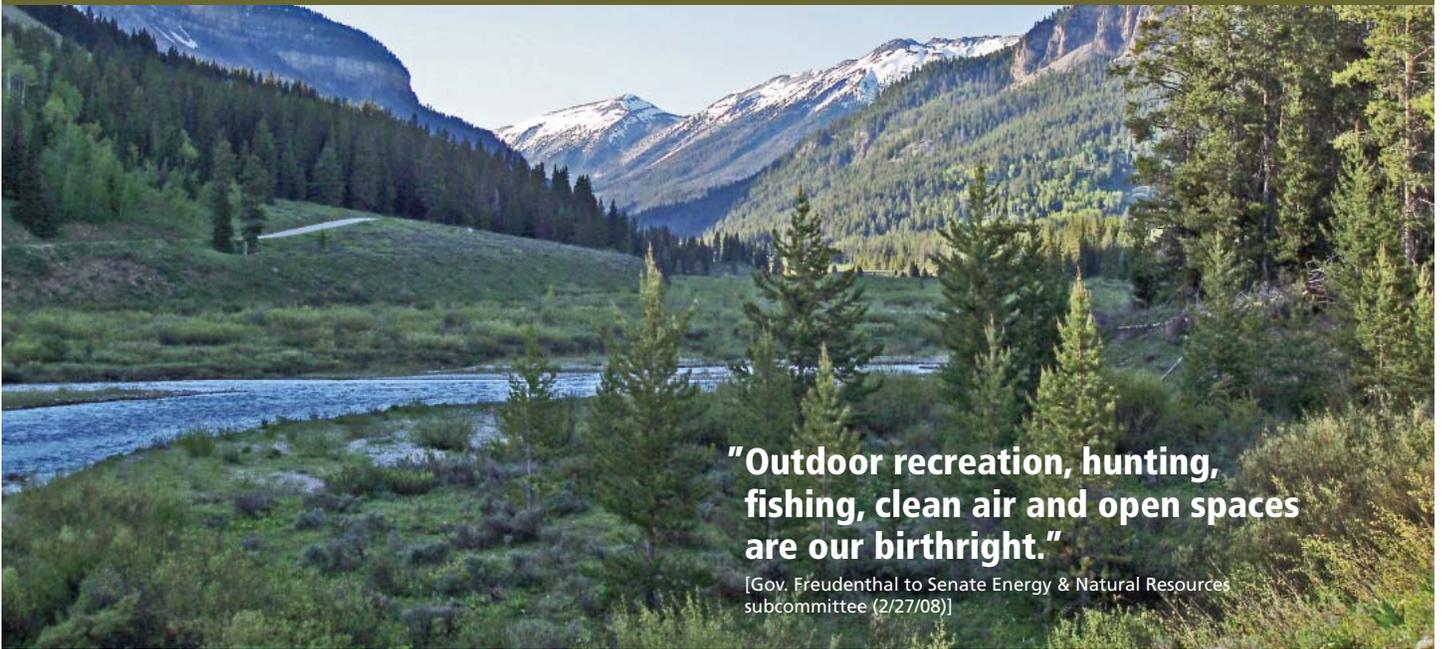


WY | SPORTSMEN FOR Responsible Energy Development

Bringing Balance to Oil and Gas Development in the West



"Outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing, clean air and open spaces are our birthright."

[Gov. Freudenthal to Senate Energy & Natural Resources subcommittee (2/27/08)]

OUR ABUNDANT WILDLIFE AND HEALTHY NATIVE and wild fish are a direct result of the foresight and determination of America's early sportsmen. Sportsmen-conservationists have historically been a major source of fish and game management funding, and have always championed our nation's fish and wildlife populations. As hunters and anglers, we must ensure our diverse recreational opportunities are conserved for future generations.

Over the past decade, the federal government has leased nearly 30 million acres of our public lands for oil and gas drilling, resulting in an unprecedented loss of fish and wildlife habitat in the Rocky Mountain West. With expedited energy projects threatening the public lands of Wyoming and other Western states, some of the most important areas for hunting and fishing could be dramatically affected by development unless we promote solutions that balance extraction with wildlife conservation.

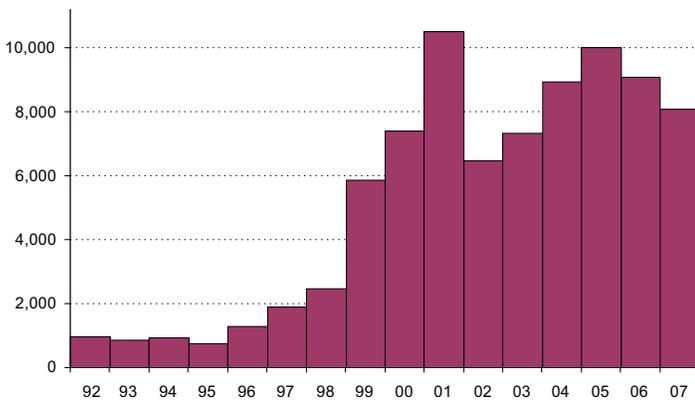
What Sportsmen Can Do

Hunters and anglers have a long, proud history of fish and wildlife conservation. We know our fish, wildlife and wildlands are not without limits. Please join us as we stand together to protect the water, wildlife and our way of life in the Rocky Mountains.



Visit www.Sportsmen4ResponsibleEnergy.org to speak up on behalf of our hunting and fishing heritage, and sign the Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development Bill of Rights.

Drilling Permits Approved Annually in Wyoming



Source: Wyoming Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain West: The Numbers

- From 2000-2008, the rate of drilling on public lands has doubled, and in 2006 more applications for permits to drill were approved for Wyoming than for all other states combined.
- Approximately 20 percent of Wyoming, accounting for more than 13 million acres, is leased for oil and gas development.
- According to a 2005 Government Accountability Office report on oil and gas development, “Increased drilling permit activity has lessened BLM’s ability to meet its environmental protection responsibilities.” Due to a dramatic increase in drilling permits, more staff time was dedicated to processing drilling permits and less time to enforcement, mitigation and other management activities.
- Energy development is currently the major land use impact for fish and wildlife in Wyoming, increasing at an unprecedented rate and expected to continue at a high rate for at least the next 20 years. [Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. 2007]



Sportsmen Recreation Areas: Reasons for Responsible Development

Pinedale Anticline

The Pinedale Anticline is located in the Upper Green River Valley. It encompasses 200,000 acres, 80 percent of which is public land managed by the BLM. Exploration began in earnest in late 2000 with 700 wells approved. Developers have requested permission to drill an additional 4,399 wells, many of which would be in crucial big-game winter range. The impacts to wildlife from intense industrial activity have already been dramatic. Mule deer respond to energy development immediately, avoiding areas where development occurs and changing the habitats they use. In the first four years of development, mule deer populations in the Anticline declined by 46 percent. The first-ever air pollution advisory was issued by the Department of Environmental Quality in early 2008 due to high levels of ozone, a noxious gas and respiratory irritant discharged during oil and gas development.

“Decreased hunting opportunities are expected... with decreased abundance of big game and upland game birds as density of wellfield development increases... making it a less desirable place to recreate.”

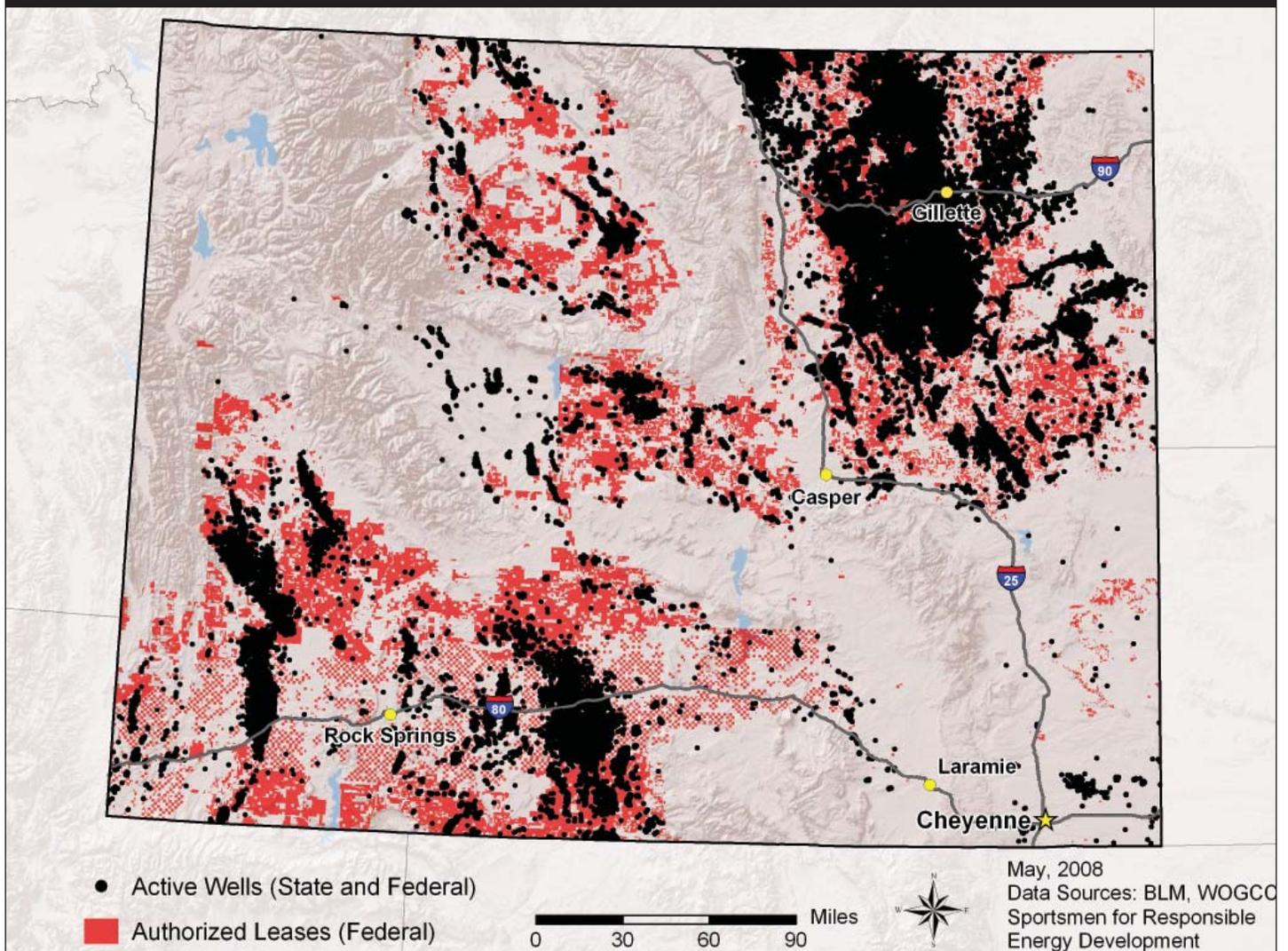
[BLM Pinedale Anticline RDSEIS vii]

Wyoming Range

The Wyoming Range is one of the most popular destinations for Wyoming’s hunters and anglers because of its big game, native cutthroat trout populations and unspoiled natural waterways. With additional proposals in the works, more than 120,000 acres of the Wyoming Range have been leased for oil and gas development. In 2007, Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso introduced legislation that would permanently set aside 1.2 million acres of the area’s most important fish and wildlife habitat from energy leasing and allow buyouts of existing leases from willing sellers. While a vote from Congress is pending, sportsmen also are closely monitoring 44,700 leased acres along the eastern flank of the range. Conservation groups, outfitters and hunters and anglers formally appealed the area’s existing leases and are awaiting a verdict from the Bush administration. The proposed development could increase sediment in streams, threaten native trout habitat and interfere with wildlife migrations.

“Doing the right thing matters. It matters for future generations of Wyoming people who will someday hunt and fish and hike in these mountains.” [Sen. John Barrasso 10/25/07]

OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN WYOMING



“Wildlife habitat would generally only be protected if a mineral commodity is not present for extraction.” [BLM Pinedale Anticline DEIS 4-210]

The Atlantic Rim

Home to some of the best mule deer, elk, pronghorn and sage grouse hunting in Wyoming, this region is slated for future oil, gas and oil shale development. The Rawlins BLM Field Office has recently dedicated 98 percent of the region as “open for exploration.” More than 12,000 wells and 1.8 million acres of development are approved, or are being approved for development. The Atlantic Rim area in particular is one of Wyoming’s most popular mule deer hunting regions and currently a stronghold for sage grouse. In 2007, the BLM approved 2,000 gas wells on 250,000 acres of predominantly public land. Drilling in the Atlantic Rim will continue for 20 years, and the development will remain in production for 30-50 years.

“The natural setting would be converted to an industrialized setting by development of the Proposed Action. ...The duration of the effects would be for the life of the project [and] may affect more than one generation.” [BLM Atlantic Rim FEIS 4-102]





Powder River Basin

The Powder River Basin covers much of northeast Wyoming and is home to some of the state's best upland game bird hunting and big-game hunting, including a trophy prairie elk herd. It also hosts Wyoming's largest coal-bed natural gas field. In the past 10 years, more than 20,000 wells have been drilled in the Powder River Basin. The BLM estimates full-field development will include more than 51,000 wells, resulting in extensive roads, pipelines, power lines and 1.4 trillion gallons of water pumped to the surface.

Game populations in the region are taking a hit. Impacts to important sage grouse habitat are causing populations to plummet. The Fortification Creek elk herd, currently numbering 230, must contend with recent proposals for drilling in crucial parts of its range. Under current proposals, a BLM study indicates the area will be able to support as few as 46 elk for the 20 year duration of development.

Be a Part of the Solution

Sportsmen across the Rocky Mountains are banding together to ensure oil and gas development is conducted responsibly on our public lands. We recognize America needs energy, and we know it is possible to develop our resources and protect vital fish and wildlife habitat at the same time. We must not needlessly sacrifice our wildlife, water and public lands for short-term gains. The time has come for a new national energy policy that develops domestic energy responsibly, takes all the uses of our lands into account and keeps our Western hunting and fishing heritage alive. Join Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development, and help bring balance to oil and gas development in the West.

Visit us at

www.Sportsmen4ResponsibleEnergy.org

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