

Local residents who have added their names to the growing list of endorsements of the *Responsible Energy Development Plan*. (July 15, 2004)

Courtney Skinner, of Skinner Brothers Outfitters and lifelong Sublette County resident:

“We require caring and careful, meticulous, responsible development, not just get rich and get out. Concerned citizens have considered how to do this, and now the energy companies have to do their part. I think they can be and want to be responsible in protecting the valuable natural resources we have here. Once we do the damage it’s done forever...Let’s not devastate our western heritage and lifestyle by moving too fast and carelessly. It can be done right.”

Loren Racich, young outdoorsman, lifelong Sublette County resident:

“The areas that are the focus of gas development are not like everywhere else. Important watersheds like the Green and New Fork Rivers flow through those areas. The Green River is a headwater for the Colorado River and the land is fragile—it’s desert. Things don’t grow back quickly. You can’t disrupt one part of the habitat and not have it affect other things. If you disturb a small part of the animals’ winter habitat, you can lose a large part of the herd. If you ruin part of the river, it affects life and river quality downstream. The BLM is legally supposed to manage our public lands for multiple use; but in some places, like the Jonah Field; the predominant use is natural gas development, not hunting or grazing. The *Responsible Energy Development Proposal* protects the things I care about and requires sensible energy development. We have to protect the things that we all love, to make sure they are here after the energy boom.”

Gretel Ehrlich, author, *Solace of Open Spaces*, longtime Wyoming resident, Sublette County resident:

“I live in the Upper Green River Valley. I am a co-resident here with an estimated 111,000 animals: 15,000 elk, 52,000 mule deer; 40,000 pronghorn antelope; 3,500 moose, 1,000 white tail deer, not to speak of the bears, wolves, cougars, lynx, bobcats, trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes, bald eagles, beaver, birds, bugs, and domestic animals with whom I share this exquisite place. This is my Africa, everyone’s Africa – it is the sanctuary from which we can listen to the songs of aspen, pine, sagebrush, water, and to the stories the land tells us. Let’s work hard toward making all-inclusive land plans that result in a sound economy and a healthy environment and a rich, local, and diverse society.”

Rita Donham, Sublette County resident, local business owner and pilot- aerial photography:

“I spend hundreds of hours in the air, out west, mostly in Wyoming. When someone drives by an oil or gas field, it doesn't have the same impact as seeing the big picture from the air. Flying over the Jonah field, all one can see for many miles is incredible sprawling development of gas wells and several random, large industrial sites. We are so wrong if we don't stand our ground and protect it for long-term MULTIPLE USE. The past three years have marked a sharp decline in the visual quality of our Sublette County air. Wyoming used to be the paradigm of clear, clean air. The bottom line is that we need to slow down the industry's push. The people's land was not meant to bring riches to the few, and be totally ruined for future generations.”

Bev Sharp, Sublette County resident, local volunteer:

“ALL Americans own public lands. ALL Americans value their lands for many different uses. Many Americans treasure nature for respite, revitalization and recreation. Many value the importance of leaving this legacy for their children, the future. Many are concerned about clean air and clear water. And many feel it's essential to revisit cultural and historical sights. Land and abundant vegetation are economically important to the rancher. And oil, gas and mineral extraction are important to other Americans. But, BALANCE between ALL of these entities needs to be fair and equitable!”

Ted Kerasote, nature writer, outdoorsman, longtime Wyoming resident:

”The Upper Green River Basin was one of the most hauntingly beautiful valleys in the West. That energy development has come to a land that so many of us love is not the major cause of lament. Rather, it's that the extraction of a commodity all of us use is proceeding with such haste, with such little thought, and with such a lack of respect for a land that supports us in a multitude of ways. What seems most sad about the situation in the Upper Green is that energy development could be done with care if the political will existed...it behooves everyone who has been touched by the place to help make sure some of it remains.”

For more quotes and further information, call the Upper Green River Valley Coalition: Lauren McKeever (307) 367- 8472 or Linda Baker (307) 367-3670. On the Web: uppergreen.org.