

Pinedale Roundup 10/29/05  
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## ***Hoback Ranches residents concerned about effects of well***

*Forest will perform  
environmental analysis*

By Noah Brenner

Residents of Hoback Ranches are concerned about the effects of three proposed gas wells on area wildlife and their water table.

"I took a stand against drilling in the Hoback Basin and Wyoming Range several years ago," Chair of the Hoback Ranches Service and Improvement District Judi Adler said. "I am very concerned about the consequences of development on the local wildlife."

Hoback Ranches resident Rollie Sparrowe, who is the chair of the Wildlife Task Group for the Pinedale Anticline Working Group echoed Adler's fear.

"It is the summer range for a lot of the deer herd that winters on the Mesa and 70 percent of the does go there to have their fawns," he said. "It is pretty important- maybe more important than a lot of people realize."

Besides the effects of development on wildlife, Adler was concerned about its effects on the water underlying Hoback Ranches.

My gravest concern is for the impact drilling will have on the area's water supply. There is no aquifer under Hoback Ranches and wells are drilled to varying depths throughout the area. Springs could be affected also. This issue has not been adequately addressed and that alarms me. Maybe you can live without deer, but you can't without water!

Plains Exploration and Production Company, a small Houston-based inde-

pendent, has filed a Notice of Staking and three Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs) with the U.S. Forest Service to drill a well in the Hoback Basin near the Rim.

The well, Eagle 1-8 is located approximately 12 miles due north of the Merna intersection west of Daniel. It is a gas well, with a TD of 12,500 feet.

The Eagle 1-8 wildcat will target over pressured, tight gas sands in the Lance and Mesaverde formations like the Pinedale Anticline and Jonah Fields. In 1970, said Mr. Winters, Shell drilled a deeper well close to the Eagle 1-8 wildcat.

This is just the latest of several wildcats that have been drilled recently in the Merna area. EOG Resources and Burlington Resources have both drilled unsuccessful wells in the area and Williams Field Service also ran a pipeline to service the area.

"It's more of what's facing the entire Upper Green, but it does get more personal when it is near your property," Sparrowe said. "We were aware that the property is under active lease but it was done without public comment. There are a lot of fears about which property they will develop and what the timeline is."

The Forest Service will do some environmental analysis but the agency has not decided what form that analysis might take.

"We will eventually be doing some NEPA (environmental analysis) and its the APD that kicks that off," Teresa Trulock of the Forest Service's Big Piney Ranger District said. "It is not going to look at if they will drill but how, where and when."