

Where the deer and the antelope played

There was once a time when the wildlife played a much more important role in our lives than they do now. That time was not so long ago. I feel sorry for the folks who are trying to be heard, folks who are trying to work with the gas companies, trying to keep something worth living here for. We have been taken down the proverbial stream in a very insidious way.

First they said look, we are creating jobs. Along with this came the current inflated land prices. Try to buy an affordable home here in Sublette County.

Then came the lifting of winter drilling restrictions, first just one or two, until they fully completed their plan to extract every last vapor of gas out of the fields. Have you been out to either of the fields lately?

Last but not least is this latest maneuver to lift all winter drilling (and completions) restrictions.

The most ironic part of all is that we fell for it, hook, line and sinker. We have been assuming incorrectly that they were going to follow the plan (Record of Decision). Winning (if you choose to call it that) was the object all along, but we did not know we were playing a game.

THE DECLINE IN OUR DEER POPULATION, THE INCREASE IN CRIME, LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING, LOSS OF OUR SMALL TOWN VALUES, DEGRADATION (LOSS, DECLINE) OF OUR CLEAN AIR AND MOST OF ALL THE LOSS

OF SELF are all reasons we should be concerned. A 46% decline in the numbers of deer on the Mesa should have been a red flag to some official with the ability (forget conscience) to say, hey WAIT, the deer numbers are down, do you think our drilling in the winter is affecting their survival? Or hey the deer numbers are declining; do you think that maybe all the new roads and traffic on the Mesa could be the cause of the decline? Something.

I applaud everyone who has worked so diligently to try to cope with the changes that are occurring to this county. The meeting at the library a few weeks ago should have alerted the BLM that the crowd was getting restless. Last week it was revealed that BLM deemed public input unnecessary in this latest stunt (allowing winter well completions). So now that there is a precedent (keeping public comment out of decisions) what will happen next? It's hard to imagine. What was once important and meaningful maybe gone. Yep, gone.

LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS :CARE. Do it right. Really.

GAS INDUSTRY (ALL OF YOU): CARE. Show your INTEGRITY.

RESIDENTS: CARE. Make your elected officials accountable.

*Susan Kramer,
Pinedale*

Pinedale Roundup 11/24/05