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EPA links fracking, groundwater contamination

Pressure building to control fracking

The Environmental Protection Agency linked the use of hydraulic fracturing in oil and gas production to contamination of groundwater for the first time in a report released in December. An EPA report on the agency's investigation into problems at Pavillion, Wyoming, also found leaking pits, and inadequate well casings and cement jobs.

"Those of us who suffer the impacts from the unchecked development in our community are extremely happy the contamination source is being identified," said rancher John Fenton, Chair of Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens, a chapter of the Powder River Basin Resource Council.

EPA's report increases the pressure to restore or increase federal and state agency authority to regulate fracking. Many local governments facing oil and gas development for the first time have adopted, or are considering, bans or moratoria on fracking and oil and gas drilling. EPA's report may have spurred the oil and gas industry to a compromise on a new Colorado rule requiring disclosure of chemicals used in fracking.



Drilling rig on platform with shakers for mud recirculation. Photo from *Investigation of Ground Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming* DRAFT EPA 600/R-00/000 December 2011.

"We can't really call them 'nuts' any more"

"The public is skeptical of anything we say," Tisha Conoly-Schuller, President and CEO of the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, told an industry gathering a few weeks ago. "The favorable perception of the oil and gas industry polls at seven percent — that's lower than Congress. The public does not believe us. We need someone else delivering our message for us." Trying to label the industry's critics as extremists also won't cut it, she said. "These nuts make up about 90 percent of our population, so we can't really call them 'nuts' any more. They're the mainstream."

An Energy Department advisory panel last year urged EPA, the Bureau of Land Management, and state agencies to strengthen regulations on fracking, especially disclosure requirements, to enhance public support for the practice. Spurred on by the DOE panel, EPA granted part of a petition from environmental groups, and said it would require manufacturers to report extensive data on fracking chemicals, including available health and safety data.

"Fracking contamination" continued on page 13

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The View from WORC

By Lana Sangmeister, WORC Chair

As I begin my term as Chair of WORC, I reflect on the tremendous work of the members over the last twelve months. They've traveled thousands of miles to the Nation's Capital to support livestock market reform and pipeline safety or testify before a Senate committee to oppose the merger of the Office of Surface Mining with the Bureau of Land Management.

Hundreds of grassroots advocates have called for oil and gas companies to come clean by disclosing chemicals used in the search for and drilling of oil and gas wells, and members have organized to challenge coal mining and plans to export coal from the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming to Asia.

We have worked to protect the rights of landowners and communities affected by the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. Now caught up in political intrigue, the pipeline would move Canadian tar sands oil through Montana and South Dakota down to Gulf Coast refineries.

And we pressed for the clean up of the Yellowstone River after a leaking Exxon oil pipeline spilled 42,000 gallons into the river in July.

Hundreds of members and supporters responded to WORC's action alerts by taking nearly 7,000 actions this year, including calls to the White House, messages to members of Congress, and comments on proposed federal rules.

We welcomed a new local chapter, the Black Hills Chapter of Dakota Rural Action, in western South Dakota.

To strengthen the network and our seven member groups, WORC's Leadership and Capacity Building program trained 130 leaders at 11 workshops.

We accomplished a great deal in 2011. I know I'll ask for your help in 2012 as we continue to build Homegrown Prosperity by making our communities even better places to live, work, and raise a family.



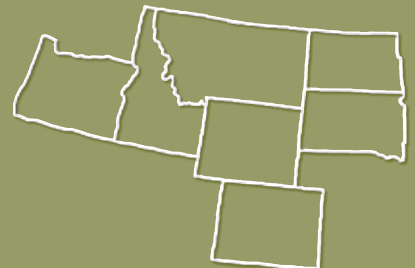
WESTERN ORGANIZING REVIEW

The *Western Organizing Review* is published quarterly by WORC, the Western Organization of Resource Councils.

WORC is a regional network of seven grassroots community organizations, which includes 10,000 members and 37 local chapters. WORC helps its member groups succeed by providing trainings and coordinating regional issue campaigns.

MEMBER GROUPS

Dakota Resource Council, North Dakota
Dakota Rural Action, South Dakota
Idaho Rural Council, Idaho
Northern Plains Resource Council, Montana
Oregon Rural Action, Oregon
Powder River Basin Resource Council, Wyoming
Western Colorado Congress, Colorado



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Around the Region

A look around WORC's region

In comments submitted in November, the **Dakota Resource Council** urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to move forward with its plan to require North Dakota to comply with regional haze standards. Adopted in Clean Air Act amendments over 30 years ago, the standards set time frames for reduction of sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxides pollution that impair visibility in national parks and other protected areas. Like many states, North Dakota fell behind schedule in developing a plan to address regional haze. When the state did offer a plan, it fell short of required emissions reductions. "It's time for North Dakota to stop beating a dead horse by urging special treatment for coal-fired power plants," DRC said in its comments.



County! campaign to dramatically increase small-scale renewable energy production in Union County. The Youth Garden Project, in Baker County, Blue Mountain, and Snake River Chapters, wrapped up a successful gardening season with 60 volunteers logging 475 hours!

Josh Fox, director of the Emmy award winning documentary, *Gasland*, captivated his audience as the keynote speaker at the **Powder River Basin Resource Council's** 39th Annual Meeting in November.

Fox started his documentary after learning that his Pennsylvania home was targeted for deep shale gas exploration and drilling. He then traveled the nation to learn about people's experiences with oil and gas development and found himself in Pavillion, Wyoming, where he interviewed Powder River members dealing with water and air contamination linked to nearby oil and gas production. His goal is "to show that what is happening in Pavillion is happening all over the place. That story is mirrored thousands and thousands of times across America."



Dakota Rural Action co-sponsored the first ever South Dakota Local Foods Conference in November. Sessions covered high tunnels (unheated greenhouse that extend the growing season), youth and community gardening, food safety, farm to school, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), value added products, organics, marketing local foods to grocers and retailers, success at farmers markets, and good agricultural practices. Local food producers and processors supplied lunch, dinner, and snacks. "Whether the topic was CSAs, organic farming methods, or farm-to-school, I learned a lot, and thoroughly enjoyed the presentations and discussions," said DRA member Brett Werner. "Conferences like this one really help to make connections."



The **Idaho Supreme Court** has scheduled oral arguments for the Big Sky/Southview Dairy case for February 10, 2012 in Boise. The Idaho Resource Council has been working to protect family farmers near the proposed large feedlot in Jerome County. The site is up-wind of the Minidoka National Historic Site, which commemorates the former Hunt Camp for Japanese-American detainees during World War II.



Northern Plains Resource Council submitted testimony about the problems of leaking coal ash ponds at a December 6 meeting of the Montana Public Service Commission, Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Administrator Jim Martin, and staff of Montana's Department of Environmental Quality. Clint McRae, a rancher and Northern Plains member from Rosebud County whose family ranch has been severely impacted from leaking coal ash ponds at the nearby Colstrip Coal-Fired Generation Facility, offered testimony to the commission: "Make no mistake, this [leaking ash ponds at Colstrip] is a huge impact to our ranching operations. We were assured by the state agencies that these impacts would not happen and trusted them to uphold the law. This has not happened. Time has proven us right. If the state of Montana cannot, or will not, enforce the law, we have no choice but to ask for oversight from federal agencies."



Colorado has new rules on hydraulic fracturing, and **Western Colorado Congress** helped to ensure some of the strongest disclosure rules in the country. WCC was a formal party to the Denver-based rulemaking, presented expert witnesses, and teamed up with the Powder River Basin Resource Council! Together, the groups called for timely and thorough reporting of fracking operations and upfront disclosure of chemicals.



In September, **Oregon Rural Action** kicked off a series of producer workshops. The first "Food, Farmer, & Online Co-ops" gathered local producers and consumers together to dialogue on the topic of introducing co-ops to Union County. In October, the Blue Mountain Chapter's Energy Team sponsored a showing of the film "The Last Mountain" through the Eastern Oregon Film Festival, complete with panel discussion afterward. November featured ORA's Energy Team initiating the Solarize Union



Promises Broken—more of the same for U.S. ranchers

Member Commentary by Mabel Dobbs, Chair of WORC's Livestock Committee

Over a century ago, Theodore Roosevelt became the “trust busting” president and set the stage for passage of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 (P&SA). This law was intended to prohibit any unfair, discriminatory, or deceptive practices by meat packers. It was supposed to protect farmers, ranchers and consumers from the deceit that was rampant at that time, when only a few packers dominated the meat packing industry.

In December of 2011 President Barack Obama had the nerve to reference that era and its importance in a speech he gave in Kansas. Why, you may ask, did this take nerve?

Just one month before calling on the nostalgia of President Roosevelt’s trust busting and praising his actions, President Obama had caved to the big packers. Yes, he gave in to the money interests of the four major meat packers that control the livestock slaughter market and drive family ranchers out of business. Obama’s U.S. Department of Agriculture abandoned the portions of proposed rules that would help independent cattle and hog producers.

The 2008 Farm Bill directed USDA to finally determine which meat packer practices are unfair to hog farmers and cattle ranchers under the P&SA. As originally proposed, the rules would have made it easier for ranchers to challenge wrongdoing by the packers, and packers would no longer be able to discriminate against small- and medium-size ranches. The rules would have restricted livestock buyers from buying for more than one packer, a competition-killing practice. The rules would have helped to restore competition, stem the loss of independent livestock producers, and start efforts to end market manipulation by the meatpacking industry.

But none of the proposed livestock provisions survived in the final rules.

By submitting this deficient final rule, the Obama Administration broke the 2008 campaign pledge to “issue regulations for what constitutes undue price discrimination.” Not only did he break his promise, his decision has left ranchers and their rural communities at the mercy of a “do nothing Congress,” where reform in the short term is impossible.

As the Administration pandered to the meat packers, the Agriculture Appropriations Committee broke their 2008 Farm Bill promise by stripping all funding for livestock rule making, making it nearly impossible to move forward on any protections that would end unfair and discriminatory practices.

Ranchers have seen price spikes in the market for their cattle. At the same time, however, expenses continue to rise. Four meat packers slaughter 4 out of every 5 market beef in this country. With so few companies controlling so much market share, these meat packers can manipulate the market. High prices are short term, but the increasing expenses are long term and don’t go down when cattle markets fall. Cattle producers cannot plan for the future of their operations or earn a fair profit under conditions where packers can manipulate the markets.

Between 1980 and 2010 the United States lost 42% of its cattle producers. As the average age of those of us still on the land as family farmers and ranchers nears 60, we wonder if there is a future for our children and grandchildren on these places we have struggled to keep for so many years. We cannot build rural communities with blips of good prices when the long term trend is manipulation of cattle markets and losses of ranchers. Our ranchers need long term, permanent solutions.

I have been voting through eleven presidential election cycles and am coming to another election where a lot of promises will be made. What makes any of us believe that these promises made will be kept? How are we, the people on the land, supposed to believe anything we are told by any of these candidates—Presidential or Congressional?

Both Congress and this Administration have sided with the big meat packers and corporate concentration. They can keep talking the talk, but that does not mean anything when they refuse to stand up and take the action needed to return competition to the livestock markets.

President Obama needs to recognize that he failed rural America by siding with agri-business. He failed to enact the change ranchers could believe in. He should not invoke the ideals of a trust busting president as he lets the big meat packers continue to control the livestock markets.

Mabel Dobbs is a rancher and grandmother from Weiser, Idaho and Chair of WORC's Livestock Committee.

Obama Administration postpones Keystone XL decision

Attempt by Congress to cram permit through could kill tarsands pipeline

The Keystone XL tar sands pipeline has become a political football. As Congress tries to wind up and go home for the Holidays, it's not clear who has the ball, or -- if it was fumbled -- who will recover it.

In November, the Obama Administration announced that it would delay a decision on whether to issue a Presidential Permit to TransCanada for the pipeline until at least early 2013. The announcement followed arrests of more than a thousand protesters in front of the White House, demonstrations around the country, and then another White House protest, this time bringing thousands of people together to form a giant circle all the way around the White House.

It was not immediately clear if the delay would mean the end of the Keystone XL pipeline. TransCanada first agreed to route the pipeline around the Oglalla aquifer and the Sand Hills in Nebraska, but the Administration said that wouldn't speed things up, as TransCanada had hoped.

Next, TransCanada tried claiming that it could build the first leg of the pipeline, from the Texas Gulf Coast to Cushing, Oklahoma, without Federal approval, because that leg of the project doesn't cross the Canadian border. (The State Department must issue a permit to allow construction of the pipeline because the proposed project crosses an international boundary.) But the State Department said that wouldn't fly, either.

Then Congressional Republicans took up the cause, hoping to embarrass President Obama for failing to permit a job creating, \$7 billion pipeline. House leaders attached a bill requiring the State Department to make a decision on the Keystone XL permit within two months to a measure extending payroll tax cuts. The tax cut bill was widely regarded as must-pass, end-of-year legislation. On an overwhelming bipartisan vote, the Senate passed a different payroll tax cut extension, which also had a provision seeking a rapid decision on the pipeline. Then, rather than accept the Senate compromise, the House voted to reject it, asking instead for a conference committee with the Senate -- even though the Senate had already adjourned and left town.

Christmas candy — or lump of coal?

As Christmas approached, it was not clear what would happen to the payroll tax cut extension or the Keystone XL pipeline provision attached to the House and Senate versions of that bill. President Obama, who had first said he would reject a payroll tax bill with a Keystone provision attached, said he would sign the Senate bill. But White House spokespeople and the State Department also made clear that passage of the Keystone provision would kill the pipeline, since it would not allow adequate time for the State Department to review the environmental consequences of a new Nebraska route.

"They've just killed the Keystone pipeline," said Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer of California. "They killed it because they forced the president to make a decision before he can make it so he's not going to move forward



with it." An unnamed official in the Obama Administration appeared to confirm that to a Reuters reporter, noting that the president had said he would not accept an attempt by Congress to mandate issuance of a permit before the State Department had done an adequate review of the pipeline.

The flap in Congress over the payroll tax cut further raised the public profile of the Keystone XL pipeline, following on the White House protests and the President's action in delaying his decision until after the election. Time magazine called the Keystone XL pipeline the biggest environmental issue facing the U.S. That is far different than the situation a year ago, when few people living more than a hundred miles from the proposed pipeline's route had heard of it.

—John Smillie

Clean energy possible through phase out of coal-fired power

A recent report by Synapse Energy Economics titled, *Toward a Sustainable Future for the U.S. Power Sector: Beyond Business As Usual 2011*, demonstrates how the U.S. can make the transition to more clean and renewable energy by phasing out electricity from all coal-fired power plants by the year 2050. Using current renewable energy technology, coal-fired power can be completely eliminated, nuclear power can be cut by almost a quarter of current consumption, and the growth of natural gas production can be staunched significantly.

In order to achieve this, there is the assumption that nuclear energy and natural gas will still play a role in meeting the country's energy needs, but both are reduced from current consumption and new growth in both sectors is slowed. To illustrate the transition scenario, the report uses comparisons to current energy levels, referred to as the "Business As Usual" scenario, and compares it to a future that is more sustainable and environmentally friendly. Added benefits include that this move is not only feasible but also affordable, and saves money in the long term—\$83 billion over 40 years, not including pollution-related public health savings.

Added benefits to this proposed transition scenario are reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 81% below 2010 levels, creating nearly 300,000 jobs in the first ten years, and encouraging energy efficiency at every step of the way. Geothermal, biomass, wind, and solar are all part of the new energy future, and are currently available technologies that can be deployed to better meet the country's energy needs, while maintaining reliability.

In early 2012, the Senate is expected to introduce a "Clean Energy Standard" legislation, which is likely to include incentives for clean and renewable energy as well as fossil fuels. The "Beyond Business as Usual" report can help inform policymakers about the real possibilities of bringing renewable energies on par with fossil fuels, and phasing out the dirtiest and most expensive ones.

This report has implications in both promoting renewable energy and the continued responsible development of fossil fuels. The technology to make

the transition away from coal-fired power is already available and on the market; what's mainly lacking is the political will to quickly employ these at a larger scale. Some states, like Montana, have implemented their own state-wide Renewable Energy Standard (RES), a policy that requires electricity providers to obtain a percentage of their power from renewable energy resources by a certain date. These standards have played a critical role in driving down the cost of renewable energies to make them more competitive on the energy market.

This new strategy for the U.S. electric industry provides large-scale public health and environmental benefits at a reasonable cost, and uses technologies that are already available. The study challenges the conventional wisdom that coal-fired power plants have to be a tenable part of the country's energy future, and will help inform and shape our energy policy debate.

Download this report at www.worc.org/beyondbusiness2011.

—Anna Lucas

Randolph Nodland 1931-2012

The WORC family mourns the loss of Randolph Nodland, a founding board member of WORC. Randolph died January 2, 2012 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Dickinson, North Dakota. At the age of 10, Randolph became the man of the family when his father passed away at a young age. Randolph married Ileen Kopp in 1961. They farmed and ranched on his parents' farm south of Dunn Center, N.D., where they raised four children. Randolph was a member of United Plainsmen. He served on the steering committee forming the Dakota Resource Council and helped to start the National Family Farm Coalition. Randolph led the successful fight to keep coal mining and coal gasification out of Dunn County. His foresight and organizing talents will be missed.

Our deepest condolences go out to Ileen and the Nodland family.



Randolph Nodland helped share the history of WORC on a panel at WORC's 30th Anniversary celebration in June 2009.

2011 Congressional Voting Record

The first session of the 112th Congress began with the House and Senate controlled by different party leadership, which set the stage for contentious battles and standoffs. WORC anticipated gridlock and, sure enough, House leaders moved aggressively, passing a number of pieces of radical legislation that met a deadend fate in the Senate, where many House bills did not clear their assigned committees, much less make it to the floor for a vote. As a result, Congress adjourned for the year without passing any legislation on WORC's priority issues except for a provision regarding the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline that was tacked onto a tax bill.

Environmental Attacks

The House made several attempts at gutting existing laws in order to relax environmental protections, including the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to limit greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act, and to implement more effective controls on toxic coal plant waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Although the House has passed several bills limiting EPA's authority, Senate moderates who support EPA's efforts to implement our nation's clean air and water protections have prevailed so far.

Energy Stalemate

Early in 2011, President Obama announced his support for a "Clean Energy Standard" (CES), which includes fossil fuels and nuclear energy. WORC has criticized CES because it ignores the impacts of fossil fuels and nuclear power on air, land, water and public health, and misses an opportunity for the U.S. to become a leader in the production of truly clean and renewable energy. Although there is limited enthusiasm for the concept in the Congress, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee leaders reached out to the public for input on what should be included in a CES bill, which it may consider in 2012.

Tar Sands Pipeline

As the campaign to derail Keystone XL tar sands pipeline gathered steam in 2011, a vocal minority in Congress became fixated on pushing the pipeline forward through the legislative process. They claimed the pipeline would generate tens of thousands of jobs when, in fact the State Department's own analysis projects far fewer – about 20 permanent jobs and 5,000 to 6,000 temporary jobs.

The House twice passed bills to expedite the pipeline approval process, but companion bills introduced in the

Senate failed to gain traction until the House attached an unrelated pipeline provision to the must-pass payroll tax break extension bill, which passed both chambers. Both the President and Department of State have made repeated assurances that they are not able to expedite the approval process, as it requires additional extensive environmental review.

Hydraulic Fracturing: Congress Still Doesn't Get It

Although public concern about oil and gas development, particularly the controversial practice of hydraulic fracturing, continues to grow, Congress shows no signs of addressing the issue, other than holding a series of oversight hearings related to oil and gas development.

Fair Livestock Markets Foiled

The House led the charge against the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed livestock market fairness rules. A House-passed provision to zero out USDA's funding for finishing the rulemaking died in the Senate, but in November the Obama Administration caved in to pressure from the meatpackers and their cronies in Congress and announced that it would dilute the rules, striking all provisions of benefit to the cattle industry. Congress quickly solidified this loss in law, preventing USDA from taking additional, stronger action in fiscal year 2012.

"In his campaign, President Obama said he would fight to ensure family and independent farmers have fair access to markets, control over their production decisions, and transparency in prices," said WORC Livestock Committee chair Mabel Dobbs of Weiser, Idaho. "Instead of keeping that promise, with these rules the Administration has caved in to pressure from big meatpackers, and is allowing unfair and deceptive practices to continue."

Looking ahead to 2012

Most of these issues will continue to be debated in the second year of the 112th Congress, and WORC looks forward to working with the members of Congress on our priorities this year. However, we expect the second session of the 112th Congress to bring more grandstanding and gridlock, particularly as the election season swings into high gear.

One priority piece of legislation for the Congress and for WORC is the Farm Bill, which is scheduled to be passed in 2012—providing an opportunity for action on agricultural and food programs. We also expect more debate on energy and environmental issues.

2011 Congressional Voting Record

The following lists of legislation represent key votes on WORC's issues made by the members of WORC's House and Senate Congressional delegation in the year 2011. Each vote has a description and indicates if the vote was in favor of WORC's position on the bill or against it. To see how other members of Congress voted on these issues, go to: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/index.asp> for House members. For the Senate list of votes go to: http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/vote_menu_112_1.htm.

2011 House Votes

- +** Vote supports WORC's position
- Vote does not support WORC's position
- NV** Did not vote

H1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

H.R. 910 would have amended the Clean Air Act to prevent EPA from controlling greenhouse gases emissions. The bill passed the House on April 7, 2011 by a vote of 255-172 (Roll call vote # 249), but a similar vote failed in the Senate. WORC opposed this bill, and a plus represents a vote against the bill, in favor of WORC's position.

H2. Fair Livestock Market Rules

The House bill to fund the Department of Agriculture in fiscal year 2012, H.R. 2112, would have cut off funding for USDA's fair livestock market rules. The bill passed the House on June 16, 2011 by a vote of 217-203 (Roll call vote #459). Although the Senate did include funding for the livestock market rules in its version of H.R. 2112, the House conferees ultimately prevailed when USDA agreed to dilute the final rules, and a funding limit was included in the final version of the bill, which passed into law on November 18, 2011. WORC opposed

House

		H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	Score
		Energy Tax Prevention Act	Ag Approps	North American Made Energy Security Act	Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act	REINS Act	
Colorado	DeGette (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
	Polis (D)	+	+	+	NV	+	100
	Tipton (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Gardner (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Lamborn (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Coffman (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Perlmutter (D)	+	+	-	-	+	60
Idaho	Labrador (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Simpson (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
Montana	Rehberg (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
North Dakota	Berg (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
Oregon	Wu (D)*	+	+	+	x	x	100
	Walden (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Blumenauer (D)	+	+	+	+	+	100
	DeFazio (D)	+	+	+	-	+	80
	Schrader (D)	-	+	+	-	+	60
South Dakota	Noem (R)	-	+	-	-	-	20
Wyoming	Lummis (R)	-	-	-	-	-	0

* Representative Wu resigned from the House in July 2011 and his seat has not yet been filled.

H.R. 2112. A plus indicates a vote against the bill, and for WORC's position.

H3. Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline

The North American Made Energy Security Act, H.R. 1938, would have expedited the permitting and environmental review process for the Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline. On July 26, 2011, the House voted 279-147 to pass this bill. (Roll call vote # 650). H.R. 1938 failed to gain traction in the Senate, but the House later attached a similar provision to expedite the XL pipeline permitting process to an unrelated bill to extend a must-pass payroll tax break bill. That bill was signed into law, but the Administration is committed to not fast tracking the approval process. Instead, it will complete the necessary environmental reviews despite passage of the XL amendment. WORC opposed H.R. 1938. A plus indicates a vote against the bill, and for WORC's position.

H4. Coal Ash

The Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act (H.R. 2273) would supersede the EPA's pending rulemaking on coal ash, allow for the continued disposal of coal ash in unlined ponds, and continue existing reliance on states to set standards for disposal of coal ash. Further, it would encourage the wet disposal of coal ash, which prevents future recycling. On October 14, 2011, the House voted 267-144 in favor of this bill. (Roll call vote # 800). The Senate has introduced a similar version

Senate

		S1	S2	Score
		Greenhouse Gas Standards	Big Oil Tax Loopholes	
Colorado	Bennet (D)	+	+	100
	Udall (D)	+	+	100
Idaho	Crapo (R)	-	-	0
	Risch (R)	-	-	0
Montana	Baucus (D)	+	+	100
	Tester (D)	+	+	100
North Dakota	Conrad (D)	+	+	100
	Hoeven (R)	-	-	0
Oregon	Merkley (D)	+	+	100
	Wyden (D)	+	+	100
South Dakota	Johnson (D)	+	+	100
	Thune (R)	-	-	0
Wyoming	Barasso (R)	-	-	0
	Enzi (R)	-	-	0

of this bill, but has not voted on it. WORC opposed H.R. 2273. A plus indicates a vote against the bill, and for WORC's position.

H5. Congressional Veto of New Regulations

The REINS Act (H.R. 10, the "Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny" Act), would increase Congress's authority over the executive branch by making any major regulation subject to Congressional approval. Congress already has the power to override proposed regulations, but both houses must vote to do so. H.R. 10 would give just one house the ability to veto important regulations such as food safety, environmental standards and worker protection. The House voted 241-184 in favor of this bill, but the Senate has not considered a similar measure. (Roll call vote # 901). WORC opposed H.R. 10. A plus indicates a vote against the bill, and for WORC's position.

2011 Senate Votes

S1. Clean Air Act Amendments

The Small Business Authorization Bill (S. 493) became a target for unrelated amendments that would, by one means or another, limit the EPA's ability to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. Four amendments were proposed, with varying degrees of severity, but the amendment (S. Amdt. 183) by Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) was the most extreme. It would have prohibited EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. On April 6, 2011, the Senate voted all of the amendments down. S. Amdt. 183, which needed 60 votes to pass, was rejected on a vote of 50-50 (Roll call vote #54). WORC opposed the amendment. A plus indicates a vote against the bill, and for WORC's position.

S2. Close Big Oil Tax Loopholes

The Close Big Oil Tax Loopholes Act (S. 940) bill would have repealed five tax subsidies for U.S. oil companies. The revenue generated by closing the loopholes would have gone toward reducing the federal budget deficit. This vote was on a motion to proceed with debate (that is, to end a filibuster), not a final passage of the bill. On May 17, 2011, the Senate voted 52-48 on the motion to proceed, failing to win 60 votes needed take up the bill. (Roll call vote #72). WORC supported S. 940. A plus indicates a vote for the bill, and for WORC's position.

—Sara Kendall and Anna Lucas

States fill cracks in fracking oversight

Days after an Environmental Protection Agency investigation linked fracking and groundwater contamination, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission approved rules requiring oil and gas companies to disclose the names and concentrations of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing. The Commission acted under pressure from the Western Colorado Congress (WCC), which intervened as a formal participant in the rulemaking process, and other community and conservation groups in Colorado.

Members of citizens groups, industry representatives, and others packed an 11-hour hearing held by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to consider the new rules in early December. Citizens groups and industry representatives alike generally supported rules proposed by the agency, but disagreed on whether fracking formulas of chemicals alleged to be trade secrets should have to be disclosed, and how quickly the information would have to be turned over to regulators.

Under the rules, oil and gas companies will have to make public some information about all the chemicals they use in fracking in a way that won't reveal trade secrets. They will have to give 48 hours notice to landowners and local governments before fracking. Colorado's rules go further than those adopted by other states by requiring the concentrations of chemicals to be disclosed.

"The rule permits operators to report the required information in a format that does not link chemical ingredients to their respective hydraulic fracturing additives," the regulation states. Although companies will be able to request that some of the information they report to the agency remain secret from the general public, they will have to justify their requests, and affected citizens will have the right to challenge those requests.

WCC participated as a formal intervenor in the rulemaking process, and pointed out the need for much more regulation of fracking beyond disclosure. WCC helped make the case for a stringent disclosure rule without a large trade secret loophole, and with enforceable penalties for violations. The Powder River Basin Resource Council provided expert assistance to WCC in making the case, based on its experience with Wyoming's disclosure rule.

North Dakota rules seek to limit reserve pit spills

New rules to restrict oil waste dumping in western North Dakota could go into effect in April. North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple, who Chairs the North Dakota Industrial Commission, which is scheduled to approve the rules in January, said exemptions in the proposed rules to a ban on reserve pits were unclear and should be clarified.

The Dakota Resource Council urged the Commission to eliminate the exemptions, which would allow drillers to have a reserve pit for wells less than 5,000 feet deep. Some North Dakota reserve pits overflowed last spring because of water from heavy rains and melting snow. The proposed changes would ban most liquid waste dumping. Oil and gas companies would have to recycle drilling liquids.

North Dakota's rule would require companies to post information they do not consider trade secrets on FracFocus, an industry sponsored website, without providing an opportunity for citizens to challenge trade secret claims, and without advance disclosure to landowners.

Idaho Rulemaking

The discovery of commercially viable natural gas resources in southwest Idaho prompted the state to re-write its rules regulating the oil and gas industry. The Idaho Department of Lands initiated a negotiated rulemaking in June of 2011 to update existing oil and gas rules which had not been updated in nearly 20 years.

The rulemaking sessions ran from June 2 to August 10 at the state capitol in Boise. Several leaders from the Idaho Organizing Project participated in the rulemaking, making the two hour commute to Boise once a week to go toe-to-toe with industry representatives. WORC leaders in Idaho were able to keep several important protections for communities, landowners and the environment in the rule despite pressure from the industry to weaken key protections.

Leaders were successful in requiring a public comment period on all oil and gas drilling permit applications submitted to the Idaho Department of Lands. They demanded drinking water well owners adjacent to gas wells be notified of any well treatments, or frack jobs taking place near their property. In addition to notification, we fought to make sure water well owners

"Fracking rules"
continued on page 11

Carbon capture and sequestration falling short

Two recent news stories highlight the magnitude of the challenges to public and private initiatives to make coal cleaner by capturing and storing carbon dioxide (CO₂), thereby preventing its emission into the atmosphere, where it threatens climate stability.

The first is an article in a Department of Energy (DOE) newsletter (“Fossil Energy Today” Fourth Quarter, 2011) by a ranking Energy official advocating that in light of the challenges and risks inherent with carbon capture and storage (CCS) the federal government redirect its efforts in research, development and commercialization from underground capture and storage to using captured CO₂ in industrial processes, largely enhanced oil recovery.

Also in November, Alison Redford, newly elected Premier of Alberta, Canada, indicated her dissatisfaction with Alberta’s ambitious and expensive plan to turn over \$2 billion to energy companies to bury CO₂, saying she would move to diversify Alberta’s energy portfolio toward better initiatives and opportunities, including wind and smart grids.

DOE shifting focus to utilization over storage

In the DOE newsletter, Charles McConnell, Chief Operating Officer in the Office of Fossil Fuels (and nominee for Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Fuels), wrote that the economic barriers to commercialization [of CCS] have been “particularly daunting. Simply focusing on storing CO₂ – where the main considerations are cost and risk – hasn’t yet provided a compelling incentive for industry to commit capital and resources to invest in these technologies... [R]ight now, industry, policymakers and the public are asking ‘At what cost will we commit to deploying them.’”

He goes on to assert that this reality “requires that we move away from a focus on CO₂ storage alone,” and advocates, instead, for redirecting efforts toward putting CO₂ to commercial use. He adds a new acronym for carbon capture technologies, CCUS – for carbon capture utilization and storage.

New Alberta Premier skeptical

North of the U.S. border, Alberta’s \$2 billion allotment for CCS, the largest anywhere in the world, is out of favor with newly elected Premier Redford, but not before \$1.6 billion was already contracted for three projects. Redford spoke about making Alberta a “global energy capital” in a meeting with the editorial board of the Calgary Herald (November 15, 2011), but she is taking a systemic approach that includes consumer programming of the grid and wind energy.

Saskatchewan-Montana project scrapped

The recent news was preceded in April by the quiet announcement that Saskatchewan, Canada, and Montana scrapped a \$270 million CCS project that was to take CO₂ from SaskPower and pump it into underground storage in northeast Montana. The provincial and state initiatives failed to garner the \$100 million each from Ottawa and Washington national governments.

“This was a project announced with an extreme amount of fanfare and hype,” Len Taylor, North Battleford, Saskatchewan New Democratic Party member and former Member of Parliament as well as the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, commented. “But cheerleading and simple hope of federal funds to come isn’t the same thing as concrete plans.”

Wyoming CCS project still active

One of the largest U.S. research CCS projects is the Wyoming Carbon Underground Storage Project (WY-CUSP) which is drilling into the Weber formation in Southwest Wyoming. The crucial phase two of the project, where geologists run tests for safety of the process and its ability to keep the CO₂ underground, is not yet funded and would require \$45 million in state funding and \$45 million in corporate matching funds, according to University of Wyoming Carbon Management Institute (CMI) deputy director Shanna Dahl.

“Fracking rules” continued from page 10

were afforded the opportunity to have their water tested at the operators expense, both before and after a well treatment is conducted in the immediate vicinity. Despite industry objections, members of the Idaho Organizing Project demanded that all short and long term waste pits be lined and were successful in keeping this key provision in the proposed rule.

The proposed rule, posted on WORC’s website, has officially been submitted for consideration by the 2012 Idaho Legislature. Members of the

Idaho Organizing Project plan on engaging in the 2012 legislature to fight for strong regulations and a fair tax structure that will help counties affected by oil and gas development deal with the impacts this new industry will bring to Idaho.

—John Smillie and Tom Schwarz

WTO rules against U.S. country-of-origin labeling law

The World Trade Organization (WTO) announced in November that part of the United States' requirement for mandatory country-of-origin labeling of food is a violation of international trade law. This is a blow for U.S. ranchers and consumers who have worked for years to pass and implement this law.

WORC joins eleven Senators from the WORC states in calling on United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Ron Kirk to appeal the decision, which affects consumers' right to know where their food is coming from and our nation's producers' ability to sell their high-quality products.

In a letter to Secretary Vilsack and Ambassador Kirk, Senator Johnson (D-South Dakota) said, "I applaud the panel for acknowledging that we have the right to require labeling, but I am concerned about the impact that the decision by the WTO panel will have on USDA's ability to continue implementing country-of-origin labeling. I want the Administration to appeal the decision because people want to know if the beef or pork they are eating was raised in the USA," Johnson said.

Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyoming) agrees. "Our producers give us their best and we in government need to continue to step up and give them our best," said Enzi. "The COOL [country-of-origin labeling] statute is trade compliant and helps guarantee consumers have confidence in the labels they find in the grocery aisle. The Administration needs to stand firm behind this program and make sure the WTO panel considers all sides before any changes are made."

The rule for mandatory country-of-origin labeling for meat, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, and several kinds of nuts went into effect in 2008, providing American consumers with vital information they need to make informed choices about where their food is from and how it was produced.

Since its inclusion in the 2002 Farm Bill, country-of-origin labeling has had overwhelming support from both consumers and U.S. producers, despite repeated attempts by the food industry to kill the program and delay its implementation.

Canada and Mexico challenged the rule for mandatory country-of-origin labeling in 2008, arguing that the requirement that meat with a 'Product of USA' label come from animals that were born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States, is a barrier to trade. This definition of 'Product of USA' was the result of years of work by consumers and U.S. ranchers and farmers to ensure that country of origin labeling would be accurate and informative for consumers.

USTR has until March 2012 to file an appeal to the WTO.

Senators Max Baucus (D-Montana), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and James Risch (R-Idaho) did not sign on to the letter.

—Jeri Lynn Bakken

Interior Dept. considering merger of OSM and BLM

In early November, the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar put together a Secretarial Order that would consolidate certain functions of the Office of Surface Mining and the Bureau of Land Management as a cost-savings measure. This order was slated to go into effect on December 1st, but when news of this order reached Capitol Hill, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing to hear testimony from the Interior Department and other stakeholders to learn more details.

Northern Plains member DarAnne Dunning of Helena, MT came to Washington, DC to testify at the Committee hearing on behalf of Western landowners who live and work in and among the coalfields and were integral to the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act in 1977. SMCRA is the primary piece of federal law that regulates

the environmental effects of coal mining in the US, and through this law the Office of Surface Mining in the Department of the Interior was born.

BLM and OSM have distinct, and to some degree, conflicting missions. BLM's main priority is to manage the use of public land resources (primarily coal)

"OSM/BLM merger" continued on page 14

“Fracking contamination” continued from cover

Bureau of Land Management plans to regulate fracking were bolstered by the DOE panel’s recommendations as well.

State regulators and legislators have also moved to adopt fracking disclosure and other measures tightening up state control over oil and gas regulation in Wyoming, Montana, Texas, California, North Dakota, and even in states where little or no oil and gas development has occurred, such as Idaho and Oregon (see States Rush to Fill Cracks in Fracking Oversight).

EPA’s Pavillion report was released just before the hearing on a proposed rule in Colorado, and may have affected the outcome there. “Protection of drinking water in Colorado is of the highest importance to us,” said David Neslin, director of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. “... We look forward to reviewing EPA’s draft analysis, as well as feedback from other parties, including Wyoming, on this matter.”

Pavillion report could spur further federal action

EPA’s report on fracking chemicals in Pavillion may advance the agency’s efforts to regulate oil and gas development. One EPA rule will require reduced emissions of air pollution from new oil and gas wells, as well as increased monitoring. EPA is developing standards for water discharges from fracking, called effluent guidelines, likely to be proposed in 2014. (EPA will also adopt effluent guidelines for the discharge of coal bed methane wastewater, in a move many landowners affected by CBM water consider long overdue.

A third rule would require Halliburton and other oil field service companies which conduct fracking and other services for oil and natural gas producers to disclose the chemicals they use in fracking under the Toxic Substances Control Act. And EPA has just finished a detailed outline and begun to collect information for an ambitious national study of the risks of fracking to water supplies. The final report is due out in 2014, but some pieces may be released this year.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will soon propose a draft rule requiring disclosure and increased regulation of oil and gas chemicals on federal lands. David Hayes, deputy secretary at the Interior Department, which oversees BLM, told DOE’s natural gas advisory panel last year that the department hopes to issue disclosure rules for hydraulic fracturing on federal lands in “a couple of months.” It plans to finalize the guidelines about 12 months after that. “The high level of concern about the nature of fracking chemicals suggests the complete disclosure of all chemical components and composition of fracking fluids would improve public confidence,” Hayes told the panel. He said BLM’s existing hydraulic fracturing rules, developed in 1982, were “outdated.”

Pavillion: A growing list of problems

Residents of Pavillion began complaining about water quality issues several years ago, and organized Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens. Oil and gas production in the area is not new, but the pace of drilling, fracking, and complaints about odors, health problems, and foul water have picked up significantly in recent years. In response to complaints about bad water, Encana, a Canadian oil and gas company that owns the gas field, provided some Pavillion residents with water, but denied that drilling was responsible for the problems.

EPA researchers have been trying to identify the exact chemicals and the source of contamination in Pavillion’s water. In the first part of its investigation, EPA found petroleum compounds in the drinking water wells. Although levels of contamination the agency first found were below drinking water standards, health officials advised residents not to use their well water.

EPA’s latest report found that chemicals likely associated with gas production practices, including fracking, were in test wells it drilled in Pavillion. In addition to finding heavy contamination of shallow aquifers, most likely from fracking fluids in pits on the surface, the EPA report says that “the explanation best fitting the data... is that constituents associated with hydraulic fracturing have been released into the Wind River drinking water aquifer at depths above the current production zone.”

Protesting too much?

The agency carefully pointed out that this report was a draft which would be subject to a 45-day public comment period and a 30-day peer review process by independent scientists. Despite EPA’s cautious tone, the oil and gas industry and its allies blasted the report. “Unsubstantiated statements coming from the EPA today stretch the data and cause unwarranted alarm and concern about a proven technology that allows our industry to safely extract oil and natural gas,” said the President of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming, Bruce Hinchey. To Pavillion residents, though, any alarm EPA’s report may have caused is more than warranted.

Even before the EPA report came out, Encana had said that its plan to sell the Pavillion field to Midland, Texas-based Legacy Reserves for \$45 million fell through because of Legacy’s concerns about the ongoing EPA investigation.

“EPA’s highest priority remains ensuring that Pavillion residents have access to safe drinking water,” said Jim Martin, EPA Regional Administrator in Denver. “We look forward to having these findings in the draft report informed by a transparent and public review process.”

“It was a whole series of bad practices that led to this problem. Fracking was just one of them,” said Fenton. “After being told for years that this wasn’t happening, that there was no scientific evidence, this is a relief to us.”

—John Smillie

“CCS” continued from page 11

In late October the Casper Star-Tribune reported that the project might be halted due to its high expense. Ironically, the project was having difficulty paying for CO₂ because it is currently in such high demand by Wyoming oil producers who are using it for enhanced oil recovery.

During a legislative interim committee hearing overseeing the state’s involvement in the project in Cheyenne in late October, Casper Sen. Kit Jennings said “I think this reminds me of the old movie called ‘The Money Pit,’ and that’s what we have here,” referring to a 1986 movie about a young couple struggling to fix up a dilapidated house.

Federal legislation pushing the technology

Enormous federal subsidies have been put forward by Congress over the past ten years to underwrite research, development and commercialization of liquid fuels or gasification of coal for electricity, requiring CCS.

In the current Congress several bills are in the pipeline that would repeal a provision of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 which prohibits federal support for alternative fuels if the emissions of greenhouse gas exceed those of conventional petroleum.

Sen. John Barrasso’s (R-Wyoming) S. 937 (co-sponsored by Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyoming), American Alternative Fuels Act would repeal that prohibition. It also promotes Department of Defense development and purchase of expensive liquid fuels derived from coal and fast tracks federal loan guarantees for coal liquids. The bill was heard in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in June.

WORC is vigilantly monitoring a possible push for a “Clean Energy Standard” that would, ironically, force expensive and dirty coal liquids into the current gradually increasing federal standard for clean, renewable fuels.

“Bound to Fail”

Two years ago, WORC published a white paper *Bound to Fail, the Costs and Risks of Capturing and Sequestering Carbon from Coal-fired Power*

Plants. It noted that “Capturing and sequestering carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants is an extremely expensive option for cleaning up the earth’s atmosphere. Every dollar spent on CCS technology is a dollar not spent on clean and renewable energy technologies.”

The paper went on to state that “CCS would require an enormous new infrastructure to capture, process, and transport large quantities of carbon dioxide. Additionally, there are serious concerns about the ability of carbon dioxide remaining safely underground and not contaminate aquifers or leak back into the atmosphere. Moreover, CCS would increase the cost of building and operating coal plants while at the same time actually reducing power output.”

Surveying the present landscape on energy technology and policy, WORC’s white paper remains a prophetic and insightful analysis of the overwhelming inherent risks and problems and exorbitant public expense of technologies that purport to make coal clean.

—Margie MacDonald

“OSM/BLM merger” continued from page 12

in the West and to get a fair market value for them. OSM’s job is to regulate coal mining on public and private lands, although mostly in the East. OSM is fundamentally a regulatory agency, while BLM’s role is partly to manage federal coal reserves, including leasing activities that bring in large amounts of revenue to the federal government. Keeping these agencies and their missions separate is crucial to avoid conflict of interest concerns. One lesson learned from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is when the government failed its oversight of oil well drilling because its role in promoting the leasing and development of federal oil in the Gulf divided its regulatory responsibilities. In response, the Minerals Management Service was split into three sections, including two distinct and independent bureaus.

After hearing testimony from various stakeholders and meeting bipartisan resistance from all of the members of the Committee against the proposed merger, the Department of the Interior halted plans for the initial implementation. Instead, the bureaus will hold stakeholder outreach meetings across the country to solicit feedback on their proposed plan and issue a report of recommendations to the Secretary on February 15, 2012. A stakeholder outreach meeting is scheduled to be held in Billings on January 23, at the BLM Montana State Office from 8:30 am to 11:30am.

—Anna Lucas

WORC Members Featured in New Book

Two WORC members are profiled in a new book, *Working the Land: The Stories of Ranch and Farm Women in the Modern American West.* Author Sandra K. Schackel focuses on the grassroots activism of Mabel Dobbs, chair of WORC’s Livestock Committee, and Diane Josephy Peavey, the first director of the Idaho Resource Council. For more information, visit kansaspess.ku.edu.

Organizing Nuts & Bolts

Building the Capacity to Effect Change

As practitioners of community organizing, we always keep two basic goals at the forefront of our efforts. One goal is to win our issues. The second goal is to build our organizations. We strive to integrate both goals into everything that we do, from meeting agendas to strategic plans to issue campaigns to actions. These two goals are inseparable.

To use an analogy, an organization is like an internal combustion engine. It takes 80% of the power produced by the burning fuel to get your car to move down the road at 60 mph. To get a group of people to act with confidence and clout takes a certain amount of energy and effort, or to use an in vogue term – capacity.

Working for social change is never easy and many barriers must be overcome: the apathy and cynicism of citizens that they can make a difference, people in power who are invested in maintaining the status quo, an unequal distribution of resources, etc. Successful organizations know that they need to build their capacity to effect change.

We define organizational capacity broadly as an organization's ability to effect change and fulfill its mission. The capacities that a grassroots organization must have if it is to be an effective agent for change are defined below.

Organizing capacity: involving large numbers of people in building and exercising their own power.

Leadership capacity: ensuring that members have the support, skills and resources they need to effectively direct, represent and own the organization.

Fundraising capacity: facilitating the development of a diversified fundraising plan and healthy cash flow.

Issue campaign capacity: organizing deep, far reaching, action oriented issue campaigns.

Strategic planning capacity: providing a clear sense of purpose and direction, and wisely allocating limited resources against unlimited needs.

Communications capacity: implementing proactive communications strategies that get our messages heard, understood and remembered.

Networking capacity: working together with other organizations and partners to achieve common goals and amass the power necessary to do something we cannot do alone.

Delivery capacity: securing the resources we need to carry out campaigns and programs that will have the greatest impact.

Technological capacity: using technology as a means to achieve organizing objectives, not as an end in itself.

Learning capacity: maintaining a consistent focus on team work, strategic thinking, training and action/reflection, where people are continually learning how to learn together.

No one organization is likely to stack up well on every single one of the above capacities, but to the extent we can nurture them all our organizations will not only survive, but thrive.

—Kevin Williams

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BOUND TO FAIL: THE COSTS AND RISKS OF CAPTURING AND SEQUESTERING CARBON FROM COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

White Paper by WORC discusses why carbon capture sequestration technology is a risky and ineffective solution to reducing our nation's carbon emissions

A REVIEW OF THE POTENTIAL MARKET IMPACTS OF COMMERCIALIZING GM WHEAT IN THE U.S.

Report by Dr. E. Neal Blue analyzes the likely reaction of foreign customers for U.S. wheat if GM wheat is deregulated

LAW AND ORDER IN THE OIL AND GAS FIELDS - 2009 UPDATE

Report by WORC reviews state and federal oil and gas inspection and enforcement programs in five Western states

HOMEGROWN PROSPERITY FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Report by Wilbur and Elizabeth Wood looks at the biodiesel industry as it is emerging in the rural economies across the region

BIODIESEL BENEFITS FOR CATTLE PRODUCERS

Report by Dr. Greg Lardy provides ranchers with nutritional information about using oilseed meal byproducts from biodiesel production from crops in the Northern Great Plains

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Report by WORC and the Natural Resources Defense Council examines reclamation and enforcement of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act

Download these publications at www.worc.org

CALENDAR

OREGON RURAL ACTION ANNUAL MEETING
La Grande, Oregon*March 3*

WORC JUNE BOARD AND STAFF MEETING
Ontario, Oregon*June 7-9*

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZING TRAINING
Billings, Montana*July 18-21*

DAKOTA RESOURCE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
Bismarck, North Dakota*October 27*

WORC DECEMBER BOARD AND STAFF MEETING
Billings, Montana*December 7-8*