

WESTERN ORGANIZING REVIEW

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Will Strip Mine Act Live Up to Its Promise?

As we mark 40 years with the federal coal strip mine law, there has never been a more crucial moment for its promise—that every acre of land mined for coal will be reclaimed—to be fulfilled.

On August 3, 1977, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) went into effect. The law governs coal mining and reclamation operations nationwide. SMCRA protects the water, land, and air for mine neighbors and the public in coal communities. It was won by a coalition of coal mine neighbors from across the country—including ranchers, farmers, and water users from Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota. Many of these grassroots leaders were members of organizations that eventually formed WORC.

“I was one of a number of westerners who joined people from Appalachia lobbying for years to pass SMCRA,” recounts Ellen Pfister of Shepherd, Mont., a board member of Northern Plains Resource Council. “We wanted to prevent in the West the kind of damage that was occurring in the East. The old spoils at Colstrip were a sign of what could happen if we failed. We wanted our rangeland reclaimed and functioning. SMCRA has not been perfectly enforced, but the land



is so much better off than it would have been without it. We saw this law as essential to protecting our way of life, livelihoods, and the productive future of the state of Montana.”

“The coal industry is in continuing decline as its markets slowly shrink,” said Bob LeResche of Clearmont, Wyo., Chair of the Powder River Basin Resource Council. “We must have full reclamation at every mine as the industry contracts. This will extend jobs in the industry and restore mined land and water resources for use after strip-mining is gone.”

SMCRA requires robust reclamation (think: clean-up) of mined lands, and that reclamation occur as mining continues. Under SMCRA, mine operators must successfully regrade and revegetate mined land and replace damaged surface water and groundwater

IN THIS ISSUE:

The View from WORC.....	2
Around the Region.....	4
WORC Groups "Pick Up The PACE".....	6
WORC Report Sets Record Straight on Carbon Capture	7
Administration Moves Against Methane Standards.....	8
Reclamation Bill Passes House Committee	9
Living with Oil and Gas.....	10

continued on page 3

The View from WORC

By Monica Wiitanen, WORC Chair

As the United States, Canada, and Mexico renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), WORC's Trade Campaign Team is focused on influencing the process.

WORC's Trade Bill of Rights sets principles for trade negotiations and agreements that benefit farmers, ranchers and consumers of any country involved in those agreements. It states, "WORC supports a trade system that strengthens the health, environment, food sovereignty, working conditions and labor rights of all countries."

Under this guidance, the team has three primary goals for the renegotiations process:

- End international corporate welfare by terminating the investor-state dispute settlement process, which allows foreign corporations to sue the U.S. when our health, environmental, and other public interest protections limit expected future profits;
- Reinstate country-of-origin labeling for beef and pork; and
- Advocate for a transparent and democratic negotiations process.

Family farmers and ranchers have felt the effects of NAFTA. According to Public Citizen, "U.S. agricultural exports to the NAFTA countries have lagged, agricultural imports from those countries have surged and family farms have disappeared under NAFTA." Some examples cited:

- One out of every 10 small farms folded, a loss of 203,000 U.S. small farms.
- A \$2.5 billion U.S. agricultural trade surplus in the year before NAFTA dropped to a \$6.4 billion deficit in 2016.
- Imports of beef and live cattle increased the U.S. trade deficit by almost \$2.5 billion, while exports to Mexico and Canada grew slightly.

Farmer and Dakota Resource Council member Todd Leake told Daily Yonder, an online news source, about his experience with NAFTA: "Right after NAFTA took effect, the border grain elevators expanded dramatically. The train traffic picked up. We lost our local market for barley, and we lost a lot of value, it's estimated to be \$1 per bushel, for our hard red spring wheat."

You can find the Trade Bill of Rights at www.worc.org. To learn more about the renegotiations, contact Rachel Zatterstrom, rzatterstrom@worc.org.



WESTERN ORGANIZING REVIEW

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

WORC is a regional network of grassroots community organizations, which includes 15,190 members and 39 local chapters. WORC helps its member groups succeed by providing trainings and coordinating regional issue campaigns.

WORC's NETWORK

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Dakota Rural Action
Idaho Organization of Resource Councils
Northern Plains Resource Council
Oregon Rural Action
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Western Colorado Congress
Western Native Voice

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Please consider a donation to WORC. Your support enables us to work on tough challenges facing our region

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Monica Wiitanen".

continued from page 1

resources, all under the supervision of state regulators. SMCRA provided for reclamation bonds—mine operators must put up funds that are available to the state to reclaim the land if the operator abandons their mine without cleaning up. Central to the entire process is the opportunity for public comments and involvement, from the early stage of mine permitting all the way through the release of reclamation bonds if reclamation is successfully completed.

How far along is reclamation?

Federal data reveal that, since 1977, 609 square miles of land have been strip-mined throughout the West. However, only 97 square miles (16%) have been fully reclaimed and released from reclamation bond, and only 348 square miles (57%) have been revegetated.

This leaves a lot of reclamation work yet to be done, and time is ticking. Coal production peaked in 2008 in the Powder River Basin and across the country. Coal's role as a baseload fuel for electricity is being eroded by market forces choosing cheaper natural gas and renewable energy, including wind and solar. Coal company executives made the bad business decision to take on a lot of debt at the top of the coal market around 2008 and 2009, and the coal industry is still emerging from a wave of financial collapse and layoffs. The country's three largest companies, Peabody Energy, Arch Coal, and Alpha Natural Resources, filed for bankruptcy in 2015 and 2016. Together, these three companies mined 40% of the country's coal in 2015, much of it from beneath Wyoming's grasslands.

Although some powerful businesspeople have declared that "coal is dead" (Jim Barry, Global Head of Blackrock Infrastructure Investment Group, to the Australian Financial Review) or that "coal doesn't even make that much sense anymore as a feedstock" (Gary Cohn, National Economic Council Director, to reporters ahead of the G7 summit last May), many industry experts expect coal use will unwind over many years. That means there's time for reclamation to catch up with mining. At the same time, dwindling revenue from coal mining limits the cash companies have on hand to complete reclamation, or even to continue mining operations.

Weak markets are already claiming smaller coal mines. Recently, a company that operated a small underground mine in Utah forfeited its bond to state regulators, which will now take over cleanup of the facility. The bond? A condominium in Salt Lake City. The arrangement is technically allowed under the state's collateral bonding program, but it illuminates the risks of insufficient bonding: the condo sold for less than the estimated cost of reclamation. Although state officials

claim the proceeds will cover reclamation costs, the overriding need for reliable and secure reclamation bonds is clear.

Fortunately, the last twelve months have seen significant wins that bolster bonding in the state that produces the most coal each year, Wyoming. In Wyoming, 282 square miles of land have been mined since 1977. Of that, only 29 square miles have been fully reclaimed (10%), and 141 square miles have been revegetated (50%). Under pressure from Powder River Basin Resource Council, WORC, and federal regulators, \$2.4 billion of self-bonds were replaced in Wyoming during the bankruptcy proceedings of Alpha, Arch, and Peabody.

Self-bonds don't turn over any collateral to state regulators, and therefore do not provide any financial incentive to complete reclamation. Because of self-bond replacement, 141 square miles of Wyoming mines that have not yet been revegetated stand a chance to see full reclamation, even in the catastrophic event of bond forfeiture.

Reliable, collateralized reclamation bonds mean reclamation jobs. In a forfeiture without adequate bond money, there won't be enough in funds to hire workers to finish backfilling mine pits, regrading spoils, replacing topsoil, reseeding grasses and replanting shrubs, or monitoring the work to ensure success. An agricultural economy existed before the Western coal boom, and organized people will determine whether the reclamation and bonding provisions of SMCRA will keep the law's promise: that every acre mined for coal will be reclaimed, allowing an agricultural economy to flourish after mining.

In Other Coal News

In August, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reopened a loophole that allows coal companies to shirk their royalty payments on coal that is owned and leased by the federal government. Coal can only be mined once, and the public is owed every dollar due by law. Coal companies use self-dealing among their subsidiaries to avoid royalty payments. Zinke's Interior repealed a rule that would have closed the loophole that allowed self-dealing. Closing the loophole would have generated \$750 million over ten years, according to the federal Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

Around the Region

A look around WORC's network

Dakota Resource Council

DRC is calling for policies in the next Farm Bill to cap payments and produce fair market structures.

DRC's Farm Bill Platform hinges on three major tenets.

- Ending Farm Program eligibility and farm payments to individuals that do not provide labor or management on a farm that receives federal payments.
- Leveling the playing field for all farmers by eliminating unlimited crop insurance premium subsidies by instituting a crop insurance premium subsidy cap.
- Ensuring all size farmers and ranchers have access to fair and open markets.

"Dakota Resource Council will continue its 40-year tradition of standing with family farmers to ensure the upcoming Farm Bill includes policies that are good for North Dakota agriculture," said Jeri Lynn Bakken, a rancher from Adams County.



Resource Councils, has managed and operated the Evelyn Stover Recycle Center in Washington County to prevent the center from being closed down. WRRC has found support from local governments to help with maintenance and equipment, but little inclination for taking over management and operation of the center.

In recent months, the group has ramped up efforts to push the county to take over the center. WRRC hosted a well-attended public forum on the recycling program, similar programs across the state, and the peril the center faces if the county does not rescue it. WRRC is gathering petition signatures to show public support for the center.

"Recycling is very important to the business community here. There are also benefits to people, the environment, and there are cost savings from not throwing everything away in the landfill," said WRRC member Jim Felton.



Northern Plains Resource Council

Nearly 400 Montanans participated in Northern Plains Resource Council's second annual Montana Local Food Challenge. During all of August participants statewide tried to eat something local every day, plus participate in weekly challenges related to eating local.

"Montana has such a rich agricultural history, so it has never quite made sense that a major portion of our produce, grains, and meat leaves the state to be processed. The Local Food Challenge gives people an opportunity to play a role in supporting our local family farms and ranches, building community, and bolstering our economy," said Jean Lemire Dahlman, a Northern Plains spokesperson and a family farm/ranch partner in Rosebud County.

A separate website provided helpful resources such as where to eat and grocery shop locally, sources for local ingredients, and why it all matters.



Dakota Rural Action

Homegrown Sioux Empire, a chapter of Dakota Rural Action, is hosting Yard to Table month, a celebration of producing, preserving, consuming, and sharing homegrown products, in September. The chapter offers skills events and information each week to celebrate urban and rural sustainable agriculture throughout the month. Yard to Table month culminates in the 6th annual Tour de Coop, a showcase of chickens and gardens in and outside of Sioux Falls.

The Idaho Organization of Resource Councils

Idaho Organization of Resource Councils

Since 2014, the Weiser River Resource Council (WRRC), a local chapter of the Idaho Organization of

Oregon Rural Action

October is a month of happenings for Oregon Rural Action. Plans are underway for the 2017 Annual Meeting and Fundraising event October 14 at the Union County Fairgrounds in

La Grande. Ahna Kruciz, Director of Publications & Communications for Food First, Institute for Food and Development Policy, is the featured presenter. The title of her presentation is “The Future of Rural America: Equity, Sustainability and Justice.” Festivities include a community potluck, pie auction and raffle.



On October 15, Kruciz offers an information session about Food First’s Food Sovereignty Tour to Cuba. Later in the day, she is participating in a listening session with local farmers, ranchers and members of ORA’s Food and Ag Policy team.

On October 24-25, the Snake River and Blue Mountain chapters are hosting the Oregon Humanities Conversation Project, “The Space Between Us: Immigration, Refugees, and Oregon.” Teacher and consultant, Manuel Padilla, Executive Director of Portland Meet Portland, facilitates the conversations in Ontario and La Grande. Participants will be encouraged to consider questions on displacement, hospitality, identity and how to build vibrant, diverse communities.



Powder River Basin Resource Council

Tongue River landowners and the Powder River Basin Resource Council praised the August 1 decision of the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council to reject Ramaco’s Brook Mine permit application as submitted.

The council ruled that the proposed coal mine needed to fix “deficiencies” in its plan. Powder River members were concerned about subsidence, blasting, water wells, coal dust, and traffic.

“Our members were subjected to a trial-like hearing with intimidating cross examination from state and industry lawyers, and we are grateful that justice has been served,” said Powder River board chair Bob LeResche. “We will remain vigilant and continue our efforts to ensure that any future proposed mine meets fair standards to protect our water and our land and does not threaten our safety.”

Western Colorado Congress

The grueling battle for landowner and community rights in Battlement Mesa continues this fall as Battlement Mesa Concerned Citizens (BCC) and the Grand Valley Citizens Alliance, a Western Colorado Congress community group, gear up for two land-use hearings in Garfield County.

The first hearing will decide on special use permits for two new large-scale well pads, a water storage facility, two



pipelines, and a wastewater injection well. Residents are determined to push back on “Pad A,” which is within 500 feet of many homes in the lower income communities of Battlement Mesa.

BCC members and WCC staff learned that many residents were told they could not stop the project and were encouraged to sign waivers allowing Ursa Resources to break setback rules by siting oil and gas facilities less than 500 feet from homes. In addition, many residents did not receive proper notice of the land-use process and subsequent hearing.

Western Native Voice

Carla Lott has joined the Western Native Voice (WNV) staff as the Program Director. Carla has a vast array of experience in working in Montana’s Native American communities and has worked the last 20 years in Native American issues, including education, health, economic development, legislation and policy making.



Carla is a veteran of the U.S. Army and a former owner of a small business. Most recently, she was on the staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs in Washington D.C.

WNV launched its annual Tribal College Tour, a statewide tour of all seven tribal colleges, in August. WNV has exceeded its goal of 180 new members thanks to high student and community participation and great work from our community organizers. WNV looks forward to finishing the tour and building the membership base so WNV can unite communities for change and to amplify the Native voices across Montana.

WORC Groups “Pick up the PACE”

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) is a financing tool used to provide property owners affordable, long-term capital to implement clean energy improvements—from energy efficiency upgrades to rooftop solar power systems. Financing is repaid as an assessment on the property tax bill over a term of up to 20 years. Communities across the country use PACE programs to save money on energy costs and revitalize local economies.

PACE requires state enabling legislation to facilitate state and local programs, and several WORC member groups are making progress to advance PACE programs in their states.

Colorado first passed PACE enabling legislation in 2010 and efforts are underway to ramp up participation in Colorado’s commercial PACE program. Members of Western Colorado Congress (WCC) launched a campaign this year to persuade counties in their region to opt in to PACE and are celebrating a recent win. Montrose WCC members cheered the decision of the Montrose County commission to opt in to the program on May 31.

Leaders of the Uncompahgre Valley Association (UVA), WCC’s local affiliate, had spent the preceding couple of months introducing and advocating the program to the county commissioners and staff. UVA first approached the county treasurer, then teamed up with Montrose Economic Development Council (MEDC) Director Sandy Head to organize local support for PACE. The Montrose county commissioners made the unanimous opt-in decision a little more than a month later, citing the County’s Strategic Plan Priority #4, “Effective and Responsive Government,” and the fact that this stimulates local business and costs the county nothing to implement. Similar efforts continue in Mesa and Ouray Counties.

Northern Plains narrowly missed passing enabling legislation in Montana earlier this year. Despite building a strong and diverse coalition of support, the effort was ultimately defeated by the powerful banking lobby and party politics. The Northern Plains clean energy task force has now turned its attention to the potential of implementing PACE type programs at the county level, bypassing the need for state legislation.

Meanwhile, members of Dakota Rural Action are organizing to get state enabling PACE legislation in South Dakota. After a campaign planning session this spring, members hit the ground running to organize support for PACE and are crafting legislation for introduction during the 2018 legislative session. DRA was able to learn from the experience of Northern Plains’ efforts in Montana and have adjusted their plans accordingly. Notably, they have decided to focus on a commercial PACE program, since including residential properties was one factor that contributed to the defeat in Montana.



PACE Finances clean energy improvements by businesses and home owners

Career Opportunities in the WORC Network

Northern Plains Resource Council

- Communications Director
- Experienced Field Organizer

Oregon Rural Action

- Outreach Coordinators

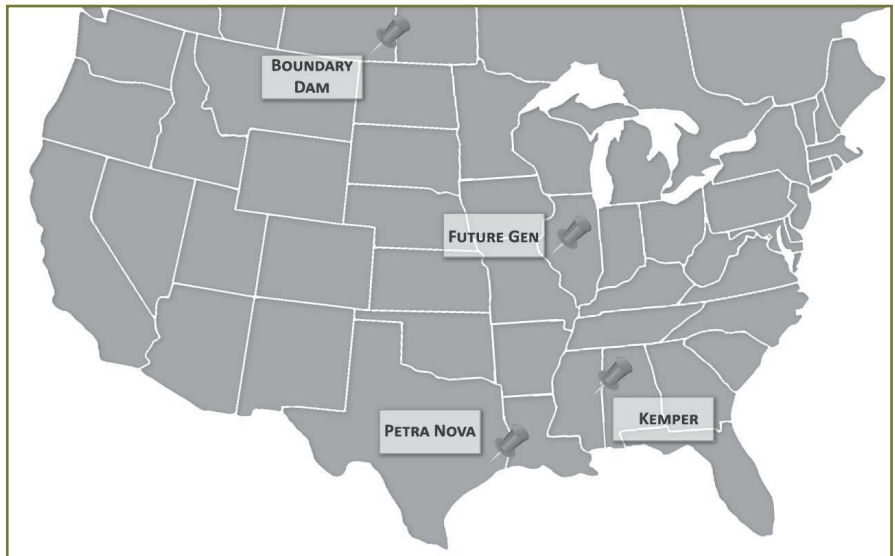
WORC

- Communications Director

For more information visit
www.worc.org/who-we-are/career-opportunities

WORC Report Sets Record Straight on Carbon Capture

A new WORC report released this summer criticizes federal and state policies aimed at supporting carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology. The report, titled *Too Good to be True: The Risks of Public Investment in Carbon Capture and Sequestration*, pulls back the curtain on the role CCS is likely to play in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and profiles the difficulties that companies have encountered in designing carbon capture plants. The report argues that renewable technologies are better positioned to reduce greenhouse gases and make the electric grid more resilient without requiring the additional cost and risk associated with transporting and sequestering waste CO₂.



“The fact of the matter is CCS can’t survive unless taxpayers pay for it,” said WORC board member Bob LeResche.

As coal’s share of domestic electricity production declines, coal companies, electric utilities, trade associations, politicians, and even some environmental organizations have embraced CCS as a way to keep coal competitive in a world that is working to address climate change by reducing atmospheric CO₂ concentrations. Unfortunately, CCS has not delivered the low-cost, reliable, clean electricity that its backers have promised.

Carbon capture and sequestration technology has quietly gained support from several corners of American politics. The Office of Fossil Energy that announced \$50 million in grants available for “transformational” coal projects in August 2017 is the very same office that spent \$4.8 billion on CCS research under President Barack Obama.

One of Rick Perry’s first acts as Energy Secretary was a visit to the only operating carbon capture power plant in the country. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) in July 2017 re-introduced a bill to increase a massive tax break to coal and oil companies that sequester carbon underground. The bill is cosponsored by 24 of Sen. Heitkamp’s colleagues, including 17 Democrats. Texas GOP Rep. Mike Conaway prepared a similar bill in 2016 that, if passed, would have provided up to \$4.5 billion in tax benefits to a single project over ten years.

Despite the political support, federal investment, and tax incentives, CCS has not seen much success. “After billions of federal dollars and dozens of projects, there is only one operating carbon capture power plant in the whole country,” said LeResche. “There are better solutions out there.”

Over one dozen projects have failed, including the high-profile Kemper Plant in Mississippi. In June, Mississippi regulators directed the plant’s owner to abandon its CCS technology and “just burn gas” after the project exceeded its budget by more than \$5.5 billion and still was unable to show results.

Download *Too Good to be True: The Risks of Public Investment in Carbon Capture and Sequestration*
at www.worc.org

Administration Moves Against Methane Standards

WORC is continuing to defend standards reducing methane waste and pollution against moves by the Trump administration to kill the rules. Both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are attempting to roll back the standards.

The EPA standard cuts methane emissions from new and modified oil and gas wells. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt tried to postpone implementing the rule, but a federal court ruled in July that the EPA cannot suspend the standard. The court is considering industry's petition for a rehearing.

On July 10, five members and one staffer from WORC member groups testified at an EPA hearing in Washington, D.C., in favor of keeping the methane rule intact. Following the hearing, the team visited members of their Congressional delegation to garner more support for the EPA and BLM methane standards.

Also on July 10, WORC, Fort Berthold P.O.W.E.R. and several WORC allies filed suit challenging the suspension of the BLM's Methane Waste Standard. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke had postponed enforcement of the standard on June 14. Currently, a federal judge in the Northern District of California is hearing the suit. In August, industry attempted to move the case from California to the federal court in Wyoming. The judge denied their request on September 7, which was a big win.

In a June statement opposing the suspension of the BLM rules, WORC board member Lisa DeVille provided the following statement:

"As an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes in North Dakota, I have seen firsthand the impacts of rampant oil and gas development on our people. Without this rule, we will lose money as a result of waste and our air will be dirtier."



Homegrown Stories,
similar to our Living
with Oil and Gas series,
will be available soon.
Please check [www.
homegrownstories.org](http://www.homegrownstories.org)
for updates



Reclamation Bill Passes House Committee

Last June, the House Natural Resources Committee advanced legislation designed to provide an economic boost to coal country while putting people to work reclaiming old mine sites.

The RECLAIM Act, sponsored by Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY) and over two dozen other representatives from both political parties and a variety of coal basins, proposes to spend \$1 billion over five years to clean up legacy pollution from abandoned mine sites. The bill includes a provision that prioritizes cleanup of sites with potential for economic development. The appropriation would come from an existing fund in Washington that is designated for abandoned mine cleanup.

The RECLAIM Act is designed to create a one-two punch of economic stimulus targeted to coal regions undergoing economic changes. If the bill becomes law, workers will be hired immediately to reclaim abandoned coal mines in basins across the country. Once those sites are cleaned up, they will be suitable for businesses or entire industries to locate. Across the country, reclaimed mine land has been repurposed for industrial parks, renewable energy developments, and recreational tourism like kayaking and fly-fishing.

Four WORC states would benefit from the RECLAIM Act. In its current form, the bill would send \$30 million to Colorado and \$20 million to North Dakota for mine cleanup, while Montana, Wyoming, and the Crow Nation would each be eligible to compete for grants from a \$25 million pool.

WORC is preparing to send members on a fly-in to Washington, D.C., in early October to garner additional Western support for RECLAIM in Congress and to help the legislation pass the House. Rep. Jared Polis (CO-2) is the sole cosponsor from a WORC state, so far.

There are two distinct versions of RECLAIM in the Senate — one sponsored by Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and a handful of eastern Democrats and another sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and some Republican colleagues. Both Senate bills have policy problems; neither is as well-written as Rep. Rogers' version of RECLAIM in the House.

RECLAIM was one pillar of former President Barack Obama's Power Plus Plan to help revitalize and diversify the economies of coalfield communities. If RECLAIM becomes law, it will be a major step toward bringing immediate and long-term economic opportunities to coal country while cleaning up legacy pollution caused by decades-old abandoned mines.



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Living with Oil and Gas



“My name is Dawn Stein and I live in Greeley, Colorado. My house is right next to a large-scale residential drilling project. And by right next to my property, I mean there is access road just a less than 10 feet from bedroom window and several wells being drilled about 1000 feet from my house. I know that I will probably never be able to enjoy my property like I once did, so I’m telling my story so that other people who find themselves in a situation similar to mine will know what to do, and what to expect.”

—Dawn Stein, Greeley, Colo.



“The company, [Extraction Oil and Gas], has consistently lied about the project. In September 2014, they told us that there would be a pipeline to carry the minerals off the site, and take them to a processing facility elsewhere. Well, that story lasted for about a year, until the price of oil had dropped to under \$40. That’s when they started to tell us that there was no way they were going to have a pipeline, and that instead they would have to truck the oil off site. Trucking the oil off the site meant a major disturbance to our neighborhood. It has been estimated that over the life of (25-30 years) the drilling project that more than 200,000 truck trips would be required to move the oil from this project to pipelines or processing facilities. And now that the price of oil is up, they are saying they will build a pipeline, which is wonderful when compared to 200,000 truck trips.”

—Lowell Lewis, Greeley, Colo.

Living with Oil and Gas



"I'm Wayne Lax from, originally, Detroit, Michigan. We moved to Wyoming in 1999 and have been here ever since. We had no knowledge or background on split estates and mineral rights. So, when we bought our house in 2000, we bought a five-acre place near to town [Cheyenne], and we're happy as hell. We love it out here. We're on top of a hill and it's a beautiful view, the mountains and the valley around us.

"Somewhere around 2010, a land man came knocking on our door and, you know, asked about doing seismic testing on our land. About the same time Paul Cook, the founder of the Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition, had an article in the paper where he was interviewed, under same circumstance as mine about a mile up the road from where we lived.

"That's when we first were kind of pushed out our cocoon and exposed to all this oil and gas stuff."

—Wayne Lax, Cheyenne, Wyo.



"I think that it's really troubling and startling to see how our state, our police force, our legal system, and our politicians are seemingly looking out for the best interests of oil development, and no longer looking out for the interests of all the citizens of North Dakota.

"I am NOT taking the stance that we shouldn't develop oil; I understand the things that oil has done for our economy, but I do think that we need to be completely cognizant of protecting the land of North Dakota for our future. We also need to be protecting the rights of the North Dakota citizens, while at the same time looking into the future and building a healthy North Dakota community, and not just selling our state out for short-term financial gains."

—Angie McGinness, Mandan, N.D.

WORC

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PUBLICATIONS

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE: THE RISKS OF PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN CARBON CAPTURE AND SEQUESTRATION Pulls back the curtain on the role of CCS is likely to play in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and profiles the difficulties that companies have encountered in designing carbon capture plants

NO TIME TO WASTE Examines standards and disposal practices around radioactive oil and gas waste in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming

UNDERMINED PROMISE II Examines coal production in the West and find that mining companies and regulatory agencies are falling short on keeping promises made in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act

FLARING BOOM Explains the underlying causes and the problems caused by flaring and venting methane from oil and gas fields in six western states

WATERED DOWN: OIL AND GAS WASTE PRODUCTION AND OVERSIGHT IN THE WEST Examines dangers to water quality from oil and gas production in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming

GONE FOR GOOD: FRACKING AND WATER LOSS IN THE WEST Finds that oil and gas extraction is removing at least 7 billion tons of water from the hydrologic cycle each year in four Western states

Download these publications at www.worc.org

2017 EVENTS

OREGON RURAL ACTION ANNUAL MEETING
LA GRANDE, OREGON.....OCTOBER 14

DAKOTA RESOURCE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
DICKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA.....OCTOBER 27-28

DAKOTA RURAL ACTION ANNUAL MEETING
BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA.....OCTOBER 27-28

POWDER RIVER BASIN RES. COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
Sheridan, Wyoming..... November 4

NORTHERN PLAINS RESOURCE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
Billings, Montana November 10-11

IDAHO ORG. OF RESOURCE COUNCILS ANNUAL MEETING
Boise, Idaho November 11

WORC BOARD AND STAFF WINTER MEETING
Billings, Montana December 1-2