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Comments: I would like to add expert testimony about the use of fracking technology in the use of Oil and Gas Exploration. I was a ditch rider in Weld county from 2014-2019. The ditch company I worked for provided water to Liberty Energy for the development of multiple pads that each had eight to sixteen 6000-10000' deep vertical wells with another mile of lateral pipes through the target frack area. I provided oversight for the shareholders of the ditch company to make sure there was no incident or negligent injury. None occurred due to the qualified crews of the oil patch.

I would caution the Medicine Bow National Forest to offer acreage for oil exploration due to the unknown consequences to the aquifers as well as groundwater usage, contamination and disposal of byproducts.

"Produced water" is a term the industry likes to glaze over, along with flaring. As I said no negligence occurred that i saw, but numerous pollutants are produced which the industry considers a byproduct or a necessary externalized cost they leave on the American public.

Proprietary chemicals and unknown concentrations of radioactive brine are common across the oil patch, is that something we want to be introduced into our wild areas? How does this company plan to deal with there produced water?

Flaring is the incineration of methane due to the lack of harvesting and transport infrastructure. I would be very interested to hear how this exploration company plans to limit the destruction of our valuable air quality, aka limit flaring? Development of wells involves connecting all of them with 18" pipes buried across open space, compressor stations need to be built throughout the network and all of them must be connected by high quality roads that can accommodate over size 18 wheeler semi trucks during all seasons. It is estimated that each well will take more than 100 trips of loaded semis to complete a frack, not counting labor commutes or long term upkeep. Habitat Fragmentation is a very destructive concept to migratory animals like Elk & Deer and our local endangered Sage Grouse. They also act as invasive weed vectors into untouched nature as well as permanently altering the hydrological aspect along every road.

The duration of productivity is another data point that the industry does not like to discuss. One would think that laying three miles of pipe into the ground and establishing roads and pipelines would warrant a twenty to thirty year recovery window. The industry average is under 5 years, with most being profitable for 3 years and some not working at all.

Is this really an industry we want to invite into our backyard?

I know I don't.

Thank you for considering some of the glaring inequities that the Oil & Gas Industry will inevitably leave in our wilderness. These things I speak of are not anomalies, they are the business plan.