BLOWING THE COVER OFF GREEN DECOYS

Western Energy Alliance at Our New Offices This Week

Early Registration Discounts Available for the Washington D.C. Call-Up
President’s Message

BE CAREFUL ABOUT CERTAIN GREEN “SPORTSMEN’S” GROUPS

In my previous job, I had the opportunity to work with a host of sporting and conservation groups around the country on issues ranging from anti-hunting ballot measures to predator control, and modernizing the federal Endangered Species Act. The sporting and conservation community is large and powerful. It has substantial political clout and is a major economic powerhouse. Many of you and your co-workers hunt and fish. These activities are part of the backbone of western heritage. It’s America and apple pie.

However, over the years, I’ve noticed a change in the political activities of some groups inside this community. I’ve witnessed more aggressive political and legal strategies of certain groups, and campaigns have been initiated against coal, mining, and energy development.

A recent report from the Environmental Policy Alliance entitled “Green Decoys” shows how certain sportmen’s groups have morphed into radical environmental groups by shedding light on their activities and funding sources.

Many groups profiled in the report are familiar names such as Trout Unlimited and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Green Decoys brings out some important facts for you to consider about the changing internal dynamics of these groups.

The highlighted groups receive funding from foundations that oppose energy development. Some of the funding sources are truly radical in their views and politics. Leadership positions are filled with professional activists and D.C. policy advisors who have strong anti-oil and natural gas agendas. Some groups might be pressured to weigh in on the potential anti-fracking ballot measures in Colorado this year as cover for their activist sponsors.

Many industry employees are members of these groups because they take them at face value and don’t realize that they actively oppose our livelihoods. For example, TRCP regularly participates in protests against leasing on public lands and has for years spread misinformation about lacking of existing protections on public lands in a way to advance the new, redundant layers of control, and modernizing the federal Endangered Species Act.

I encourage you to read the short report for yourself and peruse the www.greendecoys.com site which highlights the groups. You need to know the facts about their decoy tactics.

Western Energy Alliance will continue to reach out to legitimate sportmen’s groups and build alliances while opposing those who oppose the industry. Thanks for your continued support of the Alliance.

Network & Events

WASHINGTON D.C CALL-UP
April 29th – May 1st
Our annual Washington D.C. Call-up will be April 29th – May 1st this year. Help share the positive message directly with policymakers in Washington that western oil and natural gas holds the solution to many of our nation’s economic, environmental, and energy security challenges. Early registration ends April 1st!

Potomac River Cruise: Back by popular demand! Join us for a three-hour private Potomac River dinner cruise on the Capitol Elite yacht Tuesday evening. View the monuments by moonlight along the historic Potomac River while visiting with other Call-Up attendees. This is an optional event on April 29th and additional fees apply. Space is limited to the first 50 registrants, available on a first come, first served basis. Register today!

Business casual is recommended. Boarding is at 6:45 pm, leaving promptly at 7:00 and returning at 10:00.

Early register ends April 15 – register now!

Member Rates
Early: $350
Regular: $400
Young Professional: $250 (first time attendees under 35 years of age)

Tuesday Night Dinner Cruise: $150 (optional)

Non-Member Rates
Early: $500
Regular: $550
Tuesday Night Dinner Cruise: $200 (optional)

CASE FOR COLORADO
April 17th
Denver, CO

RAS & Associates and the Western Energy Alliance are providing a forum for select students and industry leaders to examine and discuss the Energy issues currently affecting the State of Colorado through Case for Colorado. Case for Colorado was created by member company RAS & Associates to showcase the top-performing students from Colorado’s leading universities. The competition encourages teams of select, high-achieving students to compete against their peers by developing creative solutions to some of Colorado’s most prevalent issues. The 2014 event will highlight teams from Colorado’s leading universities actively discussing energy policy in Colorado against the backdrop of current events impacting energy production in the state. Directly following the event, we will host a cocktail reception with hor d’oeuvres.

Coloradoans for Responsible Energy (CRED) will be the presenting sponsor.

Sponsorships are available for this event!

When: April 17th, 3:30 – 8:30 pm
Where: Westin Hotel, Lawrence Room, Denver
Price: $150 individual ticket, $1,500 for a table of 10
To register for this event, click here!
Kathleen Sgamma & Jack Ekstrom Continue the Oil & Gas Conversation
February 25, 2014 - published in: KFGO Radio by Joel Heitkamp

If the federal government had the same type of regulatory and business attitude as North Dakota, you could see that same prosperity across the country and particularly in public-land states across the West,” Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government and public affairs at Western Energy Alliance.

May Utah O&G sale doesn’t include disputed parcels

Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government & public affairs for the Western Energy Alliance, said she was not optimistic IBLA will rule in time to require BLM to add the November tracts to the May sale. “BLM will probably take another 30 days to respond to our appeal, and then IBLA will rule when it rules, probably months later,” she said February 22.

Industry Events

Rockies Energy Action Lunch
Join IPAA and COGA for the next Rockies Energy Action Lunch (REAL) on March 18th for the latest on legislation and listing actions related to the Endangered Species Act.

Guest Speakers:
• Kristen Lingley manages IPAA’s federal lands issues, including the IPAA Endangered Species Act Task Force. She will provide updates on ESA issues on Capitol Hill and IPAA’s efforts.
• Kathleen Sgamma is Vice President of Government & Public Affairs for Western Energy Alliance. She will provide an overview of the status of the Sage Grouse listing and industry activities in the West.

When: Tuesday, March 18th, 12:00 pm
Where: Denver Petroleum Club, 1325 Glenarm Place, Denver

Register online or by fax.

Contact Susan Fakharzadeh for more details.
Advocacy Update

Advocacy Announcements

Regulatory
FWS Rulemaking for Non-Federal Oil and Gas Development on NWRS Lands
EPA Guidance on Fracking with Diesel
EPA Hearing for Tribal NSR
Utah DAQ Proposed GAO
Utah DAQ Retrofit Rules

Public Lands
Meeting with BLM Colorado State Office

Upcoming Meetings
BLM Colorado State Office, Utah and Wildlife Committees, Uinta Basin Air Quality Working Group

Regulatory
FWS Rulemaking for Non-Federal Oil and Gas Development on National Wildlife Refuge System Lands: On February 24th, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) released an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) regarding the expansion of regulations for non-federal oil and natural gas development on National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) lands. FWS will consider expanding its existing permitting authority for non-federal oil and natural gas activities on NWRS lands by adopting regulations similar to the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. The rules will apply to private, state, or tribally owned mineral estate where the surface estate is administered by the FWS. FWS is pursuing the rulemaking due to recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office as well as increasing interest in non-federal mineral resources on NWRS lands in the Marcellus and Bakken formations. There is a 60-day comment period, which ends on April 25th. We’ll discuss the rule and determine whether Western Energy Alliance will file comments at the next Wildlife Committee meeting on March 19th at 10:00. Contact J.P. Roy or click here for additional information.

EPA Guidance on Fracking with Diesel: EPA released its final guidance for fracking with diesel fuels under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The guidance will require additional federal regulation if diesel is used in frac jobs, and EPA has included several chemicals that are NOT true diesel in their definition of diesel fuels. Operators should work with their service companies and other contractors to ensure none of the listed chemicals are used for their wells. The guidance applies only to fracking and not to other uses of diesel at sites.

EPA Hearing for Tribal NSR: EPA will hold a public hearing in Denver on March 12th from 8:30am – 5:00pm on the proposed changes to Tribal NSR. The hearing will take place at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), 4300 Cherry Creek Dr S, Denver, CO 80246 in the Sabin-Clarke Conference Room.

Utah DAQ Retrofit Rules: UDAQ is starting to move again on its retrofit rules and has asked for our feedback. These rules were posted on UDAQ’s website for a stakeholder meeting back in July, and they are next on UDAQ’s list after the General Approval Order. The rules cover four areas – general provisions, pneumatic controllers, auto igniters and tank truck loading – but UDAQ is also thinking about including tanks in a fifth rule. Please review these draft rules and provide your comments to the Regulatory Committee. Please review the draft and send Ursa’s comments/edit by COB Friday, as they’re due to EPA March 17th.

Utah DAQ Proposed GAO: UDAQ has finally officially proposed the General Approval Order (GAO) for oil and gas. Comments are due March 29th, and we’ll work on comments in our Uinta Basin Air Quality Working Group. The proposed rule is similar to the many drafts UDAQ shared with us, but there are significant changes to the LDR provisions. Please review their proposal and contact Ursula to provide input on our comments.

PUBLIC LANDS
Meeting with BLM Colorado State Office: On March 10th at 1:00, Western Energy Alliance will be meeting with BLM Colorado’s new Acting State Director, Ruth Welch, at the BLM office in Lakewood. We’ll suggest ideas for extending our onshore reform efforts to improve processes and coordination. You may recall that we started that effort with BLM Wyoming, including a Leasing 101 seminar last year, and we’re looking to extend our efforts with other states. We’ll also discuss the hydraulic fracturing rule, air quality monitoring and modeling, and Greater Sage-Grouse management. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Brian so we can get a tally of participants to BLM.

Upcoming Meetings
BLM Colorado State Office – March 19th, 1:00 in Lakewood.
Utah Committee – March 11th, 10:00
Uinta Basin Air Quality Working Group – March 11th, 11:00-1:00
Wildlife Committee – March 19th, 10:00

All meetings unless otherwise indicated are Mountain Time, and at our office and via teleconference. Contact Brian for the call-in number.
Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on our committee pages.

Please Join Us in Welcoming Our New Members:

Please join us in welcoming our new members! New members who join today will enjoy many of the benefits of membership immediately. Our sincere thank you to the 330 member companies who have renewed their dues for 2014. Help us continue to grow—our best source of new members is referrals from our existing membership base. Contact Susan Fakharzadeh or Wendie Wollert today to receive a membership kit or to set up an introduction to a prospective member of the Alliance!

Advising Resources Inc.
J.P. Roy
Stephoe & Johnson PLLC

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Industry News

ND Dems want special session to address oil impact
February 24, 2014 - published in: SFGate by James MacPherson
Gov. Jack Dalrymple should call a special session of the Legislature to address funding problems tied to western North Dakota’s oil boom, some Democratic lawmakers say. In a letter to Dalrymple on Monday, the lawmakers said the additional funding can’t wait for the start of the 2015 Legislature in January.

State lawmakers clear bill to fight EPA
February 25, 2014 - published in: E&E Greenwire (subscription required) by Staff
Wyoming lawmakers yesterday passed a bill that would set money aside to fight U.S. EPA regulations in court and a resolution that would give the state more power to set its own carbon emissions standards.

Obama to act on Keystone in ‘a couple of months’
President Barack Obama told governors at a White House meeting Monday that he expects to decide on the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada in the next couple of months, two Republican governors said.

Wyoming Senate gives early nod to split-estate bond hike
February 20, 2014 - published in: Casper Star-Tribune by Laura Hancock
The Wyoming Senate approved Thursday morning a bill that would increase the bond amount oil and natural gas operators have to pay on split-estate drilling sites from $2,000 to $10,000.

Colorado Fracking Rules Could Become National Blueprint
Colorado doesn’t want its natural gas industry to go up in flames, which is why the sector there joined with its environmental counterparts to craft new rules to curb potent methane releases that are linked to climate change.

No sign of NEPA climate standards 4 years after CEQ guidance
February 25, 2014 - published in: E&E Greenwire (subscription required) by Jean Chemnick
Standards to guide federal agencies in using the National Environmental Policy Act to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate resiliency have been on the to-do list of President Obama’s Council on Environmental Quality for several years.

Colorado communities push back as state leaders laud air rules
February 25, 2014 - published in: Denver Post by Bruce Finley
Just as Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, industry leaders and environment advocates are celebrating passage of new statewide air-pollution rules for oil and gas operations, local elected officials and community activists have launched campaigns to buttress local control.

White House to focus on curbing methane emissions, financing clean power
February 25, 2014 - published in: E&E News PM (subscription required) by Katherine Ling
The White House intends to act on solutions for combating methane emissions and promoting energy finance as part of its efforts on climate change and a comprehensive federal energy strategy, top officials in the Obama administration said today.