

Drilling Along Grand Mesa Near people, ag and streams?

Colorado has roughly 50,000 active oil & gas wells and more are planned 15 miles south and east of Grand Junction. Drilling and fracking may have been in the Rocky Mountains for decades, but now oil & gas is knocking on the doors of Mesa County communities like Whitewater, Palisade and East Orchard Mesa.

Among open space, orchards, wineries and ranches, Fram is proposing to drill up to 108 oil wells using horizontal drilling techniques. The exploratory development would occur on 26,000 acres of public land that flanks the western side of Grand Mesa, an area critical for local water supplies, wildlife and tourism. From Kannah Creek to Horse Mountain, industrial activities may occur for the next 4 years—if oil prices stay high—bringing hazardous chemicals, heavy truck traffic and more.

Residents of the gas and oil fields know there are impacts, ranging from degraded air & water quality, to increased traffic, and public health concerns. Recent health studies validate some of those public health concerns, and now it's coming closer to the Grand Valley. Unless high standards are set, companies are held accountable and citizens are involved, communities cannot proactively protect themselves or ensure future land use opportunities.

What is the Problem?

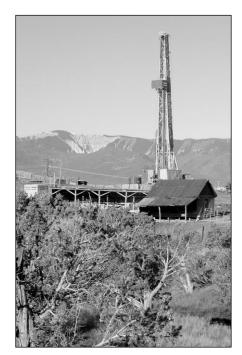
- **BLM** can allow drilling close to water, sensitive habitat and homes.
- Toxic chemicals are used, fires happen and explosions occur.
- The Grand Valley's regional air quality could be reduced.
- Experts are studying impacts, finding potential cause for concern.
- Ag & Residential areas can turn industrial, or lose property values.
- Bonding rates haven't been updated since the 1950's.
- Limited water supplies, their quantity & quality, are threatened.
- "Burden of proof" lies in the hands of the impacted citizen.
- Towns, property owners, neighbors and renters have **limited voice**.

We are Working for:

- More time so BLM hears from you & waits to use their own new info.
- Analysis of the proposal's cumulative impact on local air quality.
- High standards, and better site selection, if drilling is allowed.
- Local government to exercise their power to regulate industry.
- More inspection of wells near people, populated areas or waterways.
- Higher penalties for rule-breakers, especially repeat offenders.
- Financial Assurance that covers damage to nearby properties.
- Investment in air & water quality monitors near oil & gas facilities.
- Comprehensive study of public health impacts before drilling near Colorado communities.
- Smart traffic plans that limit tax payer liability when private companies use public roads.

What You Can Do:

- Join Western Colorado Congress!
- Write BLM! (BLM Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506)
- Request a copy of WCC's "Your Land, Your Rights"
- Contact Frank Smith at (970) 256-7650 or frank@wccongress.org



^{*} Western Colorado Congress is an alliance for community action, dedicated to empowering people To protect and enhance their quality of life in western Colorado *



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Since 1980, Western Colorado Congress has connected citizens in pursuit of environmental justice with filmmakers, journalists, authors and artists. Recently, WCC was especially fortunate to have collaborated with two award winning filmmakers as they endeavored to illustrate the national struggles of "Life in the Gas Patch."

Increases in Colorado gas drilling has led WCC to focus on achieving Gasfield Justice: Responsible extraction of natural gas that ensures our environment and human health are conserved, private property rights are protected, and citizens are treated fairly by both government and industry. The poignant works of Mr. Josh Fox and Ms. Debra Anderson clearly depict widespread injustice and inequality associated with fossil fuel development, and the citizens pushing tirelessly for Gasfield Justice in their communities.

Gasland

- Oscar-nominated for Best Feature Documentary in 2010
- Featured at Telluride Mountain Film 2010
- Sundance Film Festival Special Jury Prize for Documentary 2010,

When filmmaker Josh Fox receives a cash offer in the mail from a natural gas company to lease his property in the Upper Delaware Basin, he sets off on a multi-state journey that includes Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Texas to meet with other rural residents on the front line of the gas drilling boom. He discovers toxic streams, ruined aquifers, dying livestock, unexplained illnesses and kitchen sinks that burst into flame.

Western Colorado Congress introduced Mr. Fox to Colorado's gas-bearing Piceance Basin and the people who live there. During his time in Colorado, Mr. Fox toured well sites from Rifle to Paonia, chased tanker trucks on county roads, befriended landowners, smelled chemical-filled ponds, and interviewed local scientists. *Gasland*: http://www.gaslandthemovie.com/

Split Estate

- > 2010 Vail Film Festival, Best Activism Film
- > 2010 540 Film Festival, Green Screen-Environmental Impact Award

This compelling documentary shows the dirty side of natural gas, an energy source the industry touts as a clean alternative to fossil fuels. In this award-winning feature film, WCC teamed with filmmaker and producer Deb Anderson to illustrate natural gas development's untold story of public health degradation, loss of private property rights and invasion of privacy. WCC introduced Ms. Anderson to families and ranchers impacted by oil &gas development, highlighted the work of scientists researching Industry's secret chemicals, and explained the critical role citizens can play in the pursuit of responsible gas development.



In 2009, WCC organized public showings to increase awareness of the issues surrounding oil and gas development. From the Los Angeles Premiere and the Vail Film Festival, to Garfield and San Miguel Counties, WCC leaders spoke at panels and provided their local perspective. http://splitestate.com

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