



**Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (CO BHA)
Campaign for Responsible Energy Development**

CO BHA is participating in a campaign to promote responsible energy development on Colorado public lands. Below is a newspaper ad that is running in rural newspapers statewide:

Where the deer and the antelope played.		
<p>As oil and gas companies clamor into our state to drill tens of thousands of gas wells, they'll also bring extensive road building, noise, truck traffic, smells, toxins, pollution and other impacts -- all of which threaten wild life habitat and what we love about Colorado. Wyoming saw an astounding 43% decline of its wintering mule deer population recently due to drilling impacts around Pinedale.</p>		<p>Colorado can't afford that! Hunting, fishing and wildlife pump over \$3 BILLION per year into our economy and support 93,000 jobs. Make sure as we develop short-term energy resources, Colorado doesn't lose everything in the process.</p> <p>Energy. Make It Colorado Clean.</p>
<p align="center">Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers • www.coloradobackcountryhunters.org</p>		

And here is a billboard ad that is currently on prominent display in Grand Junction:

	<p align="center">Where the deer and the antelope played.</p> <p align="center">www.coloradobackcountryhunters.org Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers</p>
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Below is our position statement concerning Public Lands Energy Development

**Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Public Lands Energy Development
Position Statement**

The Colorado chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers supports *responsible* energy development.

By “responsible,” we mean energy development that is carefully planned and executed to ensure adequate long-term protections for fish, wildlife and their

habitats, together with traditional quiet-use hunting and angling opportunities and scenic values.

Yet CO BHA also believes that drilling and mining should never become the *dominant* use of our multiple-use public lands to the point it excludes or significantly dilutes hunting, angling, scenery or other traditional outdoor recreational activities. Additionally, CO BHA believes that some wild areas are simply too sensitive or otherwise important to natural processes and values to be subjected to *any* level of energy development.

Scientific studies confirm what sportsmen and women are seeing for ourselves throughout the American West – new energy development increases road densities and spawns increased motorized and other human activity that negatively impacts mule deer and elk, resulting in decreased buck-to-doe and bull-to-cow ratios while fragmenting, thinning or eliminating valuable security habitat that protects animals from hunters, poachers and other predators sufficiently to allow a majority to reach full maturity. The end result for wildlife is loss of cover, habitat fragmentation and dilution. For hunters the likely results are fewer tags, shorter seasons, and lower quality hunting in severely affected regions.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife, along with sportsmen, local communities and others, must be provided adequate and meaningful opportunities to engage in and influence leasing and development decisions so that accurate information on the location of critical fish and wildlife habitats and key migration corridors is taken into consideration prior to the issuance of energy leases, as well as in the crafting of energy extraction plans and restrictions.

Again, we acknowledge that energy development is appropriate on some public lands, providing short-term jobs and income. Yet hunting, fishing, guiding, and wildlife watching are integral parts of Colorado's culture that provide long-term, *sustainable* economic benefits to the tune of \$3 billion annually.

In sum, while domestic energy sources are important, Colorado BHA works to see that energy development occurs in concert with rigorous conservation planning that seeks to minimize negative impacts on fish, wildlife, scenic values, and our irreplaceable outdoor heritage. CO BHA also encourages increased national and global emphasis on energy *conservation* to lessen the need for energy extraction while helping to ameliorate the negative impacts on fish and wildlife habitat.