

## **Keep the Shoshone free from energy development!**

### **Deadline for Public Comment: Feb. 8, 2010**

**What's Happening:** The Shoshone National Forest has announced plans to permit what would be the first oil well drilled on America's first national forest in more than 20 years — but that's not all. Scott Well #2 also could necessarily trigger many new wells in critical wildlife habitat along Brent Creek Road just north of Dubois. In short, an area with no current energy development — a prime migration corridor for elk and home to the threatened Canada lynx and grizzly bear, among other species — has the potential to grow into a full-fledged industrial zone.

**How It Could Happen:** More than a decade ago, Hudson Group LLC filed an application for a permit to drill (APD) and a surface plan of operations with the BLM and the Forest Service. Action on that permit was delayed for several reasons, most notably the company's lack of interest. Now, in an effort to simply "clear the books" and with no push from the energy industry, the agencies have nonetheless decided to reactivate this project.

**What You Can Do:** The Shoshone is seeking public comment on this drilling plan. Comments should be mailed to Rick Metzger, Wind River Ranger District, P.O. Box 186, Dubois, WY 82513, or by email at [comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone-wind-river@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone-wind-river@fs.fed.us) or faxed to (307) 455-3866, ATTN: Rick Metzger (include "Scott Well #2" in subject line of emails and faxes). Deadline for comments to Feb. 8, 2010.

### **Why It's A Bad Idea:**

- The Shoshone National Forest is the nation's first national forest, adjacent to Yellowstone National Park, and provides important wildlife habitat and world-class back-country recreational opportunities. This type of industrial activity conflicts with the core values and predominant uses of this forest.
- The Forest Service is proposing to fast-track the project under a controversial "categorical exclusion" rule, exempting it from thorough environmental review and public comment, even though the company and agency delayed action for years.
- This first well will require the clearing and leveling of a three-acre well pad, heavy truck traffic along Horse Creek and Brent Creek roads, drilling in the summer, and related industrial infrastructure, including on-site oil storage tanks.
- Drilling will take place in an area that is prime wildlife habitat for many species, especially elk. It contains elk winter range, spring calving grounds and is right in the middle of an elk migration corridor that links the forest to Yellowstone.

### **What You Can Say:**

- The Forest Service must prepare a thorough environmental analysis of this project — either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A categorical exclusion is not appropriate. Because this well is part of an oil and gas unit, it initiates a schedule of drilling other wells until the unit is established — so the impacts could be greater than this one well. Also, this would be the first drilling on the Shoshone in more than 20 years. The Shoshone, the country's first national forest, deserves the highest and most careful analysis.



- The company should be required to file a new APD under current regulations and rules to demonstrate its serious commitment to the project.
- This area is important habitat for elk. It has been officially designated as critical calving habitat, provides winter range for several hundred elk, and is right in the middle of a migration route linking Yellowstone National Park to the low elevation lands near Dubois.
- This area is important habitat for grizzly bears and Canada lynx. Both of these species are listed under the Endangered Species Act and require elevated protections. If the drilling proposal violates this or other laws the Forest Service has the authority to deny the drilling application.
- If the Forest Service authorizes Hudson to drill, it should require the company to post a reclamation bond sufficient to cover the costs of mitigating and completely restoring the well site after drilling.
- If you are opposed to this well, tell the Forest Service an oil field is not appropriate in this location on the Shoshone National Forest. Although the Forest Service doesn't treat these comments as a "vote" up or down on the project, it is important the agency knows public' sentiment.

## **For more information**

Contact any of those below if you'd like more information, a timeline of the project over the last 10+ years, or if you would like to be alerted to further updates or attend a meeting in Dubois about the issue.

- Hilary Eisen, Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
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- Lisa McGee, Wyoming Outdoor Council  
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- Steff Kessler, The Wilderness Society  
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