

# Wyoming Range Legacy Act

## *A Wyoming Legacy Worth Protecting*

Responding to broad-based and bipartisan support from Wyoming residents, in October 2007, Senators John Barrasso and Mike Enzi introduced the Wyoming Range Legacy Act:

- Withdraws 1.2 million acres of Bridger-Teton National Forest lands from future mineral leasing, while not affecting valid existing lease rights.
- Sets up a process for voluntary retirement of mineral leases.
- Ensures that if leases expire or are retired, the area is not available for future leasing. Federal funds may not be used to buy out leases, but other funds can be used.
- Is similar to other legislation has been successfully used in the Rocky Mountain Front of Montana and Valle Vidal in New Mexico.

## Wyoming Bill Brings Balance: Protects Range and Continues Important Energy Work

### **Fact: Legislation allows access to WY Range energy resources**

- Does not impact valid lease rights. Currently, there are 75,000 acres of valid, undeveloped leases in the Range. Because most of the identified resource falls under these leases, access to energy will remain open even after passage of the legislation.
- Does not include currently producing gas fields in the southern portion of the Range. Production will continue there.
- Allows for directional drilling and access to oil and gas resource under the withdrawal area from already developed fields on the Forest.

### **Fact: Legislation Protects Wyoming Western Values**

- Protects Wyoming's best trophy mule deer hunting, blue-ribbon trout streams, and world class elk and Shiras moose hunting.
- Safeguards a western way of life, outdoor heritage, and recreational activities for families.
- Maintains traditional livelihoods of ranching, outfitting, and tourism.

### **Fact: Three government reports show legislation will not impact energy effort**

- Independently, the Wyoming State Geologic Survey and the US Geologic Survey have concluded (2008) there is relatively little oil and natural gas resource in the Wyoming Range—only 1.1–1.5 trillion cubic feet (tcf), especially in comparison to the adjacent Jonah and Pinedale Anticline Fields which hold about 37 tcf.
- The federal Congressional Budget Office, which provides research to Congress, issued a report showing legislation “would have no significant effect on the federal budget.” This analysis looked at future revenue from energy development and did not anticipate an impact.

We don't have to choose between energy for our country and Wyoming's world-class outdoor legacy. We can have BOTH.

**It's called BALANCE.**

## **The Wyoming Range Legacy Act enjoys broad support in Wyoming**

A wide variety of Wyomingites have mobilized to protect the Wyoming Range, including both Republican Senators---Sen. John Barrasso and Sen. Mike Enzi, as well as Governor Dave Freudenthal, a Democrat, the Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association, Wyoming AFL-CIO, Wyoming State Tourism Board, state legislators, local landowners, ranchers, hunters & fishermen, business owners and chambers of commerce.

## **Wyoming – Doing its Share to Produce Energy for the Nation**

In Wyoming we pull our weight producing energy for the rest of the country. But pulling that weight doesn't mean we have to sacrifice the hunting, fishing, and recreation spots we take our children. It's not an either/or choice. We can have it both ways. Senator Barrasso's Wyoming Range Legacy Act allows Wyoming to continue producing more than its share of energy resources and protects a special place that defines Wyoming and safeguards our wildlife and outdoor heritage.

We all know that energy development brings great benefits to our state and nation, but it must be balanced to ensure our kids and grandchildren will have the same great opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife and outdoor recreation that we have. We'll continue to do our share when it comes to energy production, but not at the expense of what makes us Wyoming. We don't have to choose one or the other. We can have both. The Wyoming Range Legacy Act will make that happen.

**Want more information? Visit [www.wyomingrange.org](http://www.wyomingrange.org)  
Citizens Protecting the Wyoming Range**