



The Wyoming Range Legacy Act: Chronology of a Great Success

2004. The Bridger-Teton National Forest announces its intention to lease 175,000 acres in the Wyoming Range for oil and gas development. Many of these acres are roadless.

2004. The Wyoming Outdoor Council and other conservation and sportsmen's groups voice strong opposition to any such lease sales.

2004. Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Craig Thomas, along with state and local officials, also express opposition to the lease offerings.

2005. The U.S. Forest Service scales back its proposed lease sale to 44,720 acres along the eastern front of the Range.

file an appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. We also appeal the April sale.

June 2006. The IBLA grants our stay request, halting development on the parcel offered in December.

June 2006. Concerned citizens, outfitters, sportsmen, and conservationists meet to discuss a long-term solution to protect the Wyoming Range. **The participants agree that federal legislation prohibiting future oil and gas leasing is necessary.**

Summer 2006. Citizens Protecting the Wyoming Range—a coalition of outfitters, ranchers, conservation groups, landowners, labor union members, and sportsmen—is founded. Sportsmen for the Wyoming Range, a group of hunting and angling organizations, is also founded.

Sept. 2006. IBLA grants our second stay request, halting development on the April lease parcels.

Jan 2007. Citizens Protecting the Wyoming Range and Sportsmen for the Wyoming Range host a well-attended legislative reception in Cheyenne. Freudenthal speaks in support of federal legislation to protect the Wyoming Range.

Winter/Spring 2007. The documentary "Too Special to Drill" is released as part of an effort to reach out to citizens, Rotary and civic clubs, and university groups.

June 2007. Sen. Thomas announces his intention to draft legislation that would protect the range. A few days later he dies of leukemia.

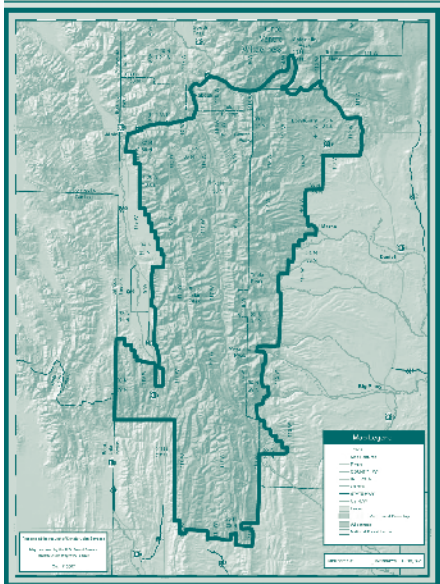
Summer 2007. Freudenthal appoints John Barrasso to replace Thomas. Barrasso pledges to hold more than 20 town hall meetings on this and other issues.

Oct 2007. Sen. Barrasso introduces the Wyoming Range Legacy Act, which would prohibit future oil and gas leasing on 1.2 million acres of the Wyoming Range and facilitate a process by which existing leases could be purchased and retired.



photo by Lisa McGee

Wyoming Range Withdrawal Area



Courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service

2005. The Outdoor Council and others attempt to persuade the Forest Service to update its environmental analyses prior to making a decision to lease, citing degraded air quality from nearby oil and gas development and the listing of the Canada lynx under the Endangered Species Act.

Dec. 2005. The Forest Service ignores our requests and authorizes the BLM to proceed with the first lease sale in the Wyoming Range. The Council files a protest.

April 2006. The second and largest of four lease sales occurs and we also protest this sale.

The BLM dismisses our protest of the December lease sale, and we

Feb 2008. Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests holds a hearing on the bill. Wyoming citizens and conservationists, **including the Council's Laurie Milford and Lisa McGee, travel to D.C.** to attend the hearing and meet with our delegation. **Freudenthal and the founder of Citizens Protecting the Wyoming Range, Gary Amerine, testify in support of the bill.** The bill passes committee.

Winter 2008. The bill is packaged with more than 150 other public lands bills in a bipartisan omnibus lands package.

Jan 15, 2008. The Omnibus Public Land Management bill—including the Wyoming Range Legacy Act—passes the Senate.

March 25, 2008. The bill passes the House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

March 30, 2008. President Obama signs the historic legislation into law.

April 2009. We receive a \$20,000 **Conservation Alliance** grant to help finish the job in the Wyoming Range.*

Today. The Wyoming Outdoor Council continues to work to defeat the authorization of the 44,720 acres, which are not affected by the legislation. We believe the Forest Service should never have consented to the lease sales and the agency can remedy this by canceling and withdrawing these parcels.

We will also negotiate with companies to sell or donate valid existing leases so the Forest Service can permanently retire them.

**The Conservation Alliance is a group of outdoor industry companies that contributes its collective annual membership dues to grassroots environmental organizations. Since 1989 the Alliance has contributed more than \$7 million to conservation projects throughout North America.*

BY LISA MCGEE