

4 million people don't visit Jackson Hole* each year in hope of seeing gas wells.

Did you know:

- Despite passage of the Wyoming Range Legacy Act in 2009, much of the 3.4-million-acre Bridger-Teton National Forest – *including some of Jackson Hole's best wildlife habitat* – is still threatened by energy development?

More forest facts:

- Nearly 1 million acres of the Bridger-Teton are still open to energy development under the forest's current management plan, which dates from 1990.
- About 200,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat and pristine backcountry have already been leased to the oil and gas industry, including areas in the Gros Ventre Wilderness north and east of Jackson.
- In 2003, then-Forest Supervisor Kniffy Hamilton announced that she would not authorize oil and gas leases on about 375,000 acres targeted for drilling in the northern Bridger-Teton. But this decision is not permanent – the current forest plan still designates these areas between the Bridger and Gros Ventre Wilderness as open for leasing. Kniffy's retirement in 2010 leaves the fate of this area up to her successor, Jacque Buchanan.

The good news is:

- National Forest Service officials are currently developing new rules that will determine how and for what purposes our nation's forests will be managed for years to come. (The proposed rules and accompanying draft environmental impact statement are expected to be published in early 2011.) *This means that we have the chance to tell them that we want the health and vitality of wildlife and their habitat to take precedence over extractive uses, such as energy development, mining, logging and grazing.* Information about the process and how you can get involved is available at <http://fs.usda.gov/planningrule>.
- These new rules will eventually guide Bridger-Teton officials as they revise the B-T's 20-year-old management plan. (This revision process, which began in 2005, has been on hold until the new national planning rules get hashed out.)
- Meanwhile, you can always let these forest and elected officials know that your favorite places in the forest should be designated "not suitable" for oil and gas development in the Bridger-Teton's upcoming revised management plan:

U.S. Senator Mike Enzi

Email via: <http://enzi.senate.gov/public>
379A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. Senator John Barrasso

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**Jackson Hole
Conservation Alliance**

307.733.9417 • www.jhalliance.org • Maps are available at www.jhalliance.org/BTmaps.html



Funding for data collection provided by The Community Foundation
of Jackson Hole's Conservation and Environment Fund.

*Total annual visitation to Grand Teton National Park,
GTNP Transportation Plan/DEIS 2005