

Citizens United for Responsible Energy Development
P.O. Box 28
Pinedale, WY 82941

Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region
324 25th St.
Ogden, UT 84401

December 10, 2008

Dear Mr. Forsgren:

Citizens United for Responsible Energy Development (CURED) is a growing group of local, concerned residents committed to protecting air quality, water quality, the environment, and human health in and about Sublette County, Wyoming, and to educating the public regarding energy development-related issues.

The spectacular, jagged peaks of the Bridger Wilderness Area's Wind River Mountains are literally in our backyards. They provide the backdrop for our towns, tourism, outfitting, and outdoor education industries, and the ability to actually see them is critical to these local businesses, our quality of life, and continual enjoyment of this special place.

And as you know, the Bridger Wilderness contains a Class I airshed protected by provisions in the Clean Air and Wilderness Acts. Intensive natural gas development is occurring just upwind in the Jonah and Pinedale Anticline gas fields. Recently over 7500 new wells were approved by the BLM, on top of the existing ~1500 in those two fields alone. We are concerned for the cleanliness, health, and visibility of our air.

The CAA goal for this Class I area is to prevent any future and remedy any existing impairment of visibility, and to preserve, protect and enhance air quality. As the Federal Land Manager, you "shall have an affirmative responsibility to protect the air quality related values (including visibility)" of lands within a Class I area.

The Wilderness Act requires the Forest Service to maintain the area "unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness" so as to "preserv[e] the wilderness character of the area."

To meet these affirmative responsibilities, you have the ability to certify to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality that impairment of visibility is occurring in this Class I area, which would require the State to carefully consider your concerns, and to take appropriate action.

Every day, since intensive natural gas development began, we personally witness increasing evidence that visibility impairment is occurring in the Wind River Range. We

respectfully request that you, in your capacity as Regional Forester, give careful consideration to certifying to the State of Wyoming and the Environmental Protection Agency that impairment of visibility is occurring in the Bridger Wilderness.

We look forward to working with you and your agency and stand ready to assist in what ever way necessary in protecting our air, our views, and our treasured Wind River Range. Thank you for your careful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn Worl, Chair
For CURED members