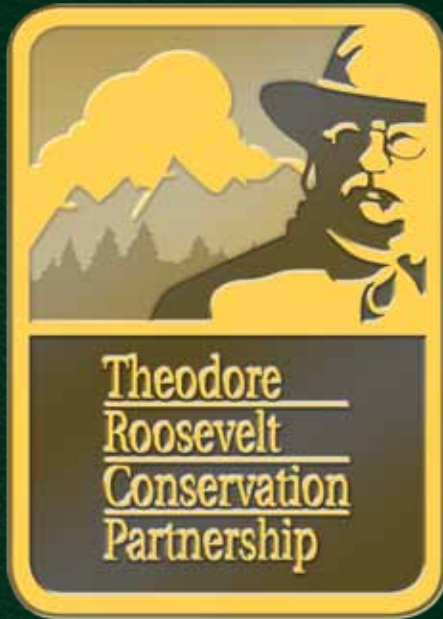


# FACTS

*for Fish and Wildlife*



Center for Responsible Energy Development

*Passport for*  
**RESPONSIBLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

# FACTS for Fish and Wildlife

Energy and our ability to access affordable, reliable fuel and electricity are fundamental to the American way of life. All forms of energy, oil, natural gas, coal, wind, solar, geo-thermal and nuclear energy must be transported via pipelines or transmission lines. These two realities pose challenges for energy development and natural resource management.

Energy production and transmission have been controversial for a long time in America, and in 2011 we still have no comprehensive policy that drives energy production and transmission. As a result, both have followed a scattershot approach, often based around variables such as markets, investment, permitting and access instead of a national strategy. One consequence of this approach is a great underestimation of how energy production and transmission affects fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation, often to the detriment or exclusion of these values and resources.

Sixty-seven percent of U.S. lands are privately owned. In the West, the division of private and public lands is about 50/50 with some states like Nevada (81%) and Utah (63%) being mostly publicly owned. Because wildlife does not understand or respect artificial boundaries like state or property lines, it is imperative that lands be managed across boundaries.

Traditionally, conservation and sportsmen organizations with a stake in energy issues have focused on public lands, and rightfully so, as those lands are held in trust for all Americans and are mandated to provide multiple-use, sustained yield for many values, including fish and wildlife. But as our need for expanded energy resources (particularly renewable energy) and transmission capacity increases, the impetus for managing fish and wildlife throughout all lands – regardless of ownership – is increasing as well. Good stewardship and conservation benefit both public and private lands, and management recommendations for fish and wildlife on public lands can easily be adopted on private lands.

As part of our Passport for Responsible Development, the TRCP has created the “FACTS for Fish and Wildlife,” specific recommendations for balancing fish and wildlife needs with the development of energy resources. First released in 2006, this revision updates those recommendations, expands their applicability to broader geographic regions and private lands, and addresses forms of energy development beyond traditional oil and gas. The “Passport for Responsible Energy Development” will allow for better fish and wildlife stewardship through better policy and management during energy development.

The **FACTS** recommendations are applicable, with a few exceptions, to land and water, traditional or renewable energy, public or private lands, and infrastructure associated with development. They can increase our ability to responsibly manage fish and wildlife during energy development, balance competing values, become conservation stewards and ensure a future for our fish and wildlife populations. These practices – driven by the **FACTS** – will sustain and uphold our nation’s shared natural resources and unique outdoor legacy.

The TRCP supports and promotes responsible energy development that balances land and resource values that sustain fish and wildlife populations and maintain opportunities for hunting and fishing. Our work is guided by the TRCP Fish, Wildlife and Energy Working Group (FWEWG), a team comprised of representatives of our conservation partner organizations, and a staff of experienced wildlife and policy experts. By combining the science-based expertise of the FWEWG with an active network of sportsmen, the TRCP Center for Responsible Energy Development is working with hunters and anglers throughout the country to conserve our outdoor traditions by supporting a balanced approach to energy development and the management of fish and wildlife resources.

## POST CARD

The future of wildlife, like this newborn fawn pronghorn, depends on healthy habitats and balanced land and resource management. Energy development can be done right, and fish and wildlife can be sustained during energy development by following the **FACTS**.



All images:  
N&C Thagard except as indicated

## A SPORTSMAN'S CALL TO ACTION!

Too often, sportsmen's voices are not heard when energy policies are being decided or when development is implemented. The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership believes that if the principles contained in this "Passport for Responsible Development" are followed, the management of fish and wildlife habitats will be improved and American sportsman will be given a voice, thereby resulting in the conservation of millions of acres of wild spaces that fish and wildlife need and that hunters and anglers cherish.

Join *Hunters and Anglers for Responsible Development*, a free grassroots movement that will add your voice to those of other sportsmen and -women nationwide. Speak up to ensure your values are integrated into energy development on your public lands. For more information about how join the TRCP go to our website, [www.trcp.org](http://www.trcp.org), or call 202-639-TRCP.

**POST CARD**

In addition to the pressure on fish & wildlife from oil & gas development, renewable energy like wind, is now a real threat to 1000's of acres of quality habitat & favored sportsmen destinations. Let's not repeat the mistakes of the past & employ the **FACTS** to promote balanced and responsible development.

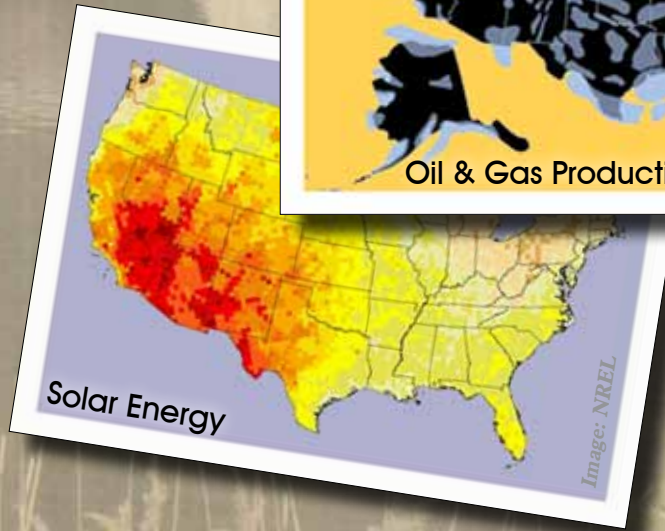
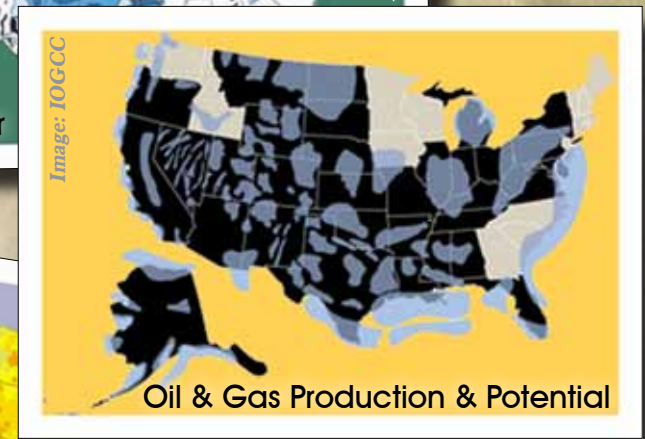
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

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## DEVELOPMENT AFFECTS ALL OF OUR BACKYARDS

Whether it's oil and gas wells, wind turbines, fields of solar panels or all of the transmission and infrastructure that comes with them, energy development affects all of the places we like to hunt and fish. Contrary to the public misconception that energy development is only occurring in the West, currently there is no place in America that does not feel its impact.



# FUNDING

NATIVE  
AT RISK  
SPECIES

## MULE DEER

Successful fish and wildlife management requires adequate funding. Traditionally, fish and wildlife programs are underfunded or rely on funding sources other than federal monies. While funding alone will not solve the problem, it plays a critical role in our ability to balance energy development with the needs of fish and wildlife. Funding must be secure, substantial and properly allocated to make a difference.

- F1** Determine adequate funding for sustainable fish/wildlife management, including monitoring, in areas proposed for energy development.
- F2** Prior to development, identify and secure appropriate funds for fish/wildlife monitoring and mitigation, including compensation if necessary or required.
- F3** Establish a long-term, dedicated “mitigation trust” to benefit fish/wildlife that is funded by royalties, rents, fines or voluntary payments.
- F4** Ensure that funds designated and intended for fish/wildlife management are not redirected to other causes.
- F5** Work cooperatively with various funding sources to leverage additional federal or state grants.

Mule deer, icons of western big game hunting, are declining in many parts of their range due to changes in land use, drought, predation, disease and periodic severe winters. Accelerated energy development that is reducing irreplaceable, critical winter range could spell disaster for existing populations. The most significant effects are not seen on the land at drilling sites (which can be reclaimed), but are caused by the trucks, personnel, equipment, roads and facilities that displace wintering mule deer. This is evident on the Pinedale Anticline natural gas field called the “Mesa” outside of Pinedale, WY where mule deer populations have declined approximately 60% in the decade since intensive development began.

The threats to mule deer range from heavy gas drilling and industrialization of the southwestern portion of Wyoming to the more dispersed, but pervasive, coal bed methane development in the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming. New development from south-central Wyoming to Colorado and Utah affects deer from the Red Desert, Sierra Madre, Piceance Basin and Book Cliffs. These impacts are most often felt in prime hunting destinations – public lands where multiple-use mandates are supposed to guarantee sportsmen that their wildlife will be sustained.

Recent analysis conducted by the TRCP shows a dismal level of coordination between federal land management and state wildlife agencies, making the tough job of managing habitats to meet population objectives much harder. Combined with severe winters (like 2010-2011), other pressures on habitats, the increased risk of poaching and inadvertent road killing, mule deer populations are in significant risk. Energy development could further reduce already declining populations unless federal agencies and industry make changes to current energy development processes. When mule deer lose crucial habitats, sportsmen are at risk of losing access, opportunities and their hunting traditions.

### POST CARD

Mule deer are especially vulnerable to impacts from energy development due to their fidelity to seasonal ranges. They avoid areas of high development and human activity during winter. Consequences are reduced populations and reduced hunting opportunities.

ship



Image: D. Smetana

Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)



# ACCOUNTABILITY

Doing what you said or promised defines accountability. It also entails accepting responsibility for actions that you may or may not have taken. On public lands, promises are made through various decision strategies and should be considered “contracts with the people” that mandate proper stewardship of the nation’s lands and minerals. On private lands, accountability increases trust, enabling projects to transcend conflicts that can delay or stop development.

- A.1** Proactively address fish/wildlife management and needs with a specific “**Conservation Strategy**” for each energy field or project. Finalize strategies before development starts, specify recommendations and actions to minimize impacts and establish plans for mitigation, detailed monitoring and adaptive management.
- A.2** Establish and update regularly a system of tracking commitments, in plans or agreements, along with any actions contrary to those commitments.
- A.3** Ensure that laws, regulations and policies intended to conserve and protect fish/wildlife during energy development are not abridged or abridged.
- A.4** Utilize lease development plans or master lease planning to evaluate and address potential impacts prior to development.
- A.5** Notify the public and allow comment on development projects involving public lands or resources. Provide the public with information on modifications to current development plans.

Fish and clean water go hand in hand. If you take care of the environment and manage all uses including energy in a balanced and responsible manner, quality hunting and fishing opportunities will continue to exist for generations. Apply the **FACTS** and ensure development is done right.



Image: WY Game & Fish

Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*)

# A NEW STRATEGY FOR MANAGING FISH & WILDLIFE

Managing for impacts before they occur could help conserve some of the species at risk from the current energy boom. The TRCP Fish, Wildlife and Energy Working Group recommends that a “**Conservation Strategy**” for resources be required before development begins. This would identify/direct management in coordination to provide a balanced approach. It also would allow stakeholders more involvement, incorporate the latest science and future information, provide for sustainable fish/wildlife, and help produce domestic energy with less conflict.

The basic elements of a **Conservation Strategy** are:

1. Identification and protection of special places where development should not occur, or be significantly restricted.
2. Establishment of baselines for resources and values for which all future development and mitigation will be compared.
3. Creation of specific plans showing how fish, wildlife, water and sporting recreation will be maintained during all phases of development, including minimum value levels and impact thresholds.
4. Coordination of development with the management of fish, wildlife, water and sporting recreation using adaptive management.
5. Establishment of monitoring protocols before development begins, coordination of monitoring with state fish and game agencies, and commitment of adequate funding for completion of monitoring.
6. Creation of mitigation plans for affected resources and values, implementation plans for mitigation actions based on adaptive management plans, and the creation of a mitigation trust to ensure adequate funding for mitigation activities.
7. Establishment of research protocols to address unknown resource impacts and to provide input to adaptive management programs.
8. Confirm a schedule of annual meetings to plan development scenarios, address impacts and incorporate adaptive management.
9. Commitment to protective stipulations and other restrictions for protecting and sustaining fish, wildlife, water and sporting values.
10. Development of a process to share information/data including publishing science, stakeholder involvement, and integrating new science and information into future plans, actions and management.

## COORDINATION

Energy development and natural resource management do not occur in a vacuum. Coordination is essential in ensuring that fish and wildlife are properly managed between boundaries. All stakeholders must be involved, and experts that manage fish and wildlife at the local, state or national levels must be included in energy project planning and implementation. Coordination enables us to address unanticipated actions that arise. A key stakeholder in public lands and fish and wildlife resources, the public must be included to build trust and brainstorm tactics.

- C.1 Foster broad-based coordination between fish/wildlife managers, landowners and affected stakeholders to ensure fish/wildlife sustainability.
- C.2 Establish expanded coordination across geopolitical boundaries between property owners (public and private). Ensure that managers consider the movement corridors of fish/wildlife.
- C.3 Coordinate among all affected stakeholders during planning and implementation of public-lands energy projects.
- C.4 Include state fish/wildlife agencies in energy development planning and monitoring of fish/wildlife during/after development.
- C.5 Establish a process for annual review and adjustments of actions that affect fish/wildlife. An adaptive management strategy is appropriate if based on established adaptive management guidelines and science.



Image: J. Dahlke

Sage-Grouse  
(*Centrocercus urophasianus*)

### WARD

Sage-grouse are the grandest of huntable grouse species. Energy development has resulted in loss and fragmentation of habitats and has this game bird on the brink of being listed under the Endangered Species List.

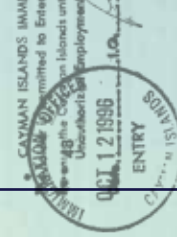
Theodore Roosevelt

## SAGE-GROUSE

Sage-grouse are synonymous with the expanses of sagebrush prairies in the West and have been a favored game bird for Western hunters for generations. Human alteration of sage habitats for more than 100 years has reduced grouse populations, and there are now less than half the number encountered by early western settlers. Sage-grouse behavior is negatively affected by the increased level of development from drilling and energy production. This fact is confirmed by a growing body of research on the impacts to sage-grouse, which have experienced an approximately 80% decline in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. Breeding activity is reduced because sage-grouse males are likely to abandon key display grounds within four miles of active drilling. Young birds do not return to sites with heavy development activity, suggesting that populations will not sustain themselves near active well fields. Sage-grouse populations are affected by other factors like drought and human disturbance, but managers cannot ignore or discount the impact we create by developing energy resources. To complicate matters further, wind power is now proposed on many of the remaining core sage-grouse habitats, and it is unknown how sage-grouse will react to this new threat.

In 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the sage-grouse deserved protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) but was found to be “precluded from listing” by higher priority species. This move effectively makes the bird a “candidate” species and efforts are now under way from the western states and federal resource agencies to address the deficiencies that will prevent the bird from being listed under the ESA. There is also a push by some advocates to stop hunting sage-grouse in states that still have healthy and viable populations in a misguided attempt to address the declines even though the biggest threats are to habitat and the ability of the BLM to manage energy operations in occupied sage-grouse habitat.

Research in the Powder River Basin and the Upper Green River Basin has shown that large blocks of undisturbed sage habitat are necessary to sustain sage-grouse populations. Scientists predict that sage-grouse will disappear from developed areas unless some key habitats are protected. If we lose the ability to hunt sage-grouse or have the species listed under the ESA, the bird will lose one of the biggest advocates they have – American sportsmen.



NATIVE  
AT RISK  
SPECIES

General Migration  
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IPC  
CANADA

# TRANSPARENCY

“There is no disinfectant like sunshine.” That statement was used to describe how transparency can avert undesirable activities, particularly in the public interest. Transparency is essential to building trust among stakeholders. Transparency can prevent unnecessary delays, stoppages or bad press. Openness during energy development enables fish and wildlife management that benefits all stakeholders, not just project proponents.

- T.1** Identify “Special Places” with exceptional resource concerns or values where energy development should not be allowed. Map these places and incorporate these values into management plans.
- T.2** Provide up-to-date information through a range of media and informational outlets to the public and fish/wildlife managers for energy development projects.
- T.3** Guide leasing/development by complete and up-to-date baseline information on fish/wildlife resources and by coordinated plans for energy development and fish/wildlife management.
- T.4** Provide the public with information about all proposed public-lands energy leases and development; allow sufficient time for public comment.
- T.5** Make all meetings related to public-lands use and energy development part of the public record.

## POST

Recent advancements in technology and a rise in market prices have resulted in very dense energy development. The results can be up to 128 wells per section! By applying the **FACTS**, we can site energy projects in areas where this level of development has limited impacts on fish and wildlife.



Image: C. Davidson

# IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIAL PLACES

All landscapes and habitats are not created equal, nor do fish and wildlife utilize habitats in the same way. The same can be said of sportsmen. There are places that provide such unique, important, sensitive or extraordinary values that energy development should be restricted or significantly limited. The TRCP calls these areas “Special Places” and recommends that during responsible and balanced energy development these areas be identified and protected. The following criteria are recommended for identification and inclusion into special places, but each part of the country will be different and affected stakeholders (including state wildlife agencies, NGO’s, sportsmen, and landowners) should work together to identify areas before the commitment to development begins.

## CATEGORIES

1. Areas where no development takes place because of extremely important resources or values, where energy development would irreparably harm those resources, and where no mitigation or compensation could replace their loss or degradation.
2. Areas where development would be restricted to avoid or minimize impacts to important resources and where impacts could be mitigated or compensated for so that no net loss is achievable.

## CRITERIA

1. Area of concern provides significant recreational opportunity (hunting/fishing) and is a major component of a local economy. The term “World Class” may be used to describe this resource. The “World Class” designation would indicate that quality of the hunting or fishing experience could not be matched anywhere else in the world.
2. Area of concern is a designated wilderness, a wilderness study area, currently a roadless area, or provides significant wildlife habitat that is not impacted by motor vehicle access.
3. Area provides irreplaceable and substantial habitat for one or more game animals or fish at least during one season of the year and is considered a limiting factor in species population management.

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# SCIENCE

Science is the foundation of good land and resource management. It is essential to understanding how fish and wildlife react to energy development and maintaining sustainable populations during and after development. Utilizing known science enables a balanced approach that sustains energy **AND** fish/wildlife instead of energy **OR** fish and wildlife.

- S.1** Utilize science in all fish/wildlife decisions, particularly when specific research has been conducted on the impacts of energy development. Assure that mitigation and monitoring based on new scientific information is implemented in the energy development process.
- S.2** Incorporate science-based mitigation, using tested and proven methods of adaptive management, when making decisions about fish/wildlife management and energy development. Identify and address “gaps” in science prior to development and implement coordinated research to address these gaps.
- S.3** If necessary, utilize a third-party review of development and mitigation proposals.
- S.4** Establish a credible and qualified “science review team” and engage science-based organizations for fish/wildlife management and development decisions.
- S.5** Establish a process to incorporate new information/science into planning/implementation of existing and new energy projects.

## POST

There's nothing better than a hunting/fishing buddy or two, better yet a sportsmen family. By taking steps to conserve the amount of energy we use and applying the **FACTS** to development, sportsmen can be leaders in energy conservation and development. A BTU never used is one that saves habitat.



# A SPORTSMAN'S RESPONSIBILITIES

As a nation, we have come to expect energy awareness and conservation from corporations but sometimes forget that individuals also play a big role. Sportsmen and -women are leaders in fish and wildlife conservation and it's no surprise that they are stepping up as leaders in energy conservation as well. Here are five simple steps every sportsman can take to reduce their demand for energy, save money, improve their experiences and ensure they have less impact on our fish, wildlife and water resources as they pursue their passions in the great outdoors.

**Camp, Don't Commute** – If you spend more than a day at your destination, camp, don't commute. You will be rewarded by fresh air, the sounds of nature and less stress. You will save fuel, reduce vehicle wear and tear and be safer (because you will not be driving drowsy after spending all day outside). Isn't an evening spent relaxing around the campfire much more enjoyable than commuting?

**Hunt or Fish With a Friend** – When you hunt or fish with a buddy or group, you need fewer vehicles. You will reduce your fuel, create life-long friendships, and have help to retrieve your game or pack your gear.

**Use Refillable Water Bottles** – Disposable water bottles create tons of waste every year. Even when recycled, the amount of energy needed to make them is tremendous. Buy a water jug and/or water filter and some refillable water bottles. Not only will you save money, you may have the chance to enjoy some of Mother Nature's purest spring water.

**Scout From Home** – Both time and fuel are wasted getting to know your location and access points. Use the internet and maps to study from home before you go, reducing your need to drive around to become familiar with the area. You'll save fuel and have more time to spend hunting and fishing – and you'll be less likely to get lost!

**Take the 5% Reduction Pledge** – Make a personal pledge to reduce your energy footprint by 5%. It may not sound like much, but 5% will make a big difference both in our environment and in your wallet! For example, U.S. citizens drive an average of 13,476 miles each year. By reducing that by 5% (673.8 miles at \$3.50/gallon and an average 18 mpg per light duty truck), that's over \$130.00 more you could spend on hunting or fishing!

# TRCP Partners

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**Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**  
1660 L St. N.W., Suite 208, Washington, DC 20036  
[www.trcp.org](http://www.trcp.org)

A 501c3 nonprofit corporation, the TRCP is a coalition of hunting, fishing and conservation organizations, labor unions and individuals who represent the wide spectrum of America's outdoor community.

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*“There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country”*

*Theodore Roosevelt*  
*August 6, 1912*