

Micah Carpenter-Lott

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Northern Arapaho Tribal member
Moneta Divide Project
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To whom this may concern:

On June 18th, 2019, I had the opportunity to join Trout Unlimited and other concerned citizens on a tour of the proposed expansion of the Moneta Divide Project. Many citizens shared their concerns about the project and the necessity to protect the numerous species of wildlife whose habitats will be affected if this project is expanded. For example, the native Sauger and Walleye that live and mate in tributaries such as the Poison Creek and Badwater Creek around the Boysen Reservoir. The justification that allows companies and regulators to minimize the damage is that they have been polluting these seasonal streams for 55 years and now Aethon and Burlington are asking to expand the destruction of our ecosystems and continue the misuse of public lands that would allow more than a million barrels of briny water every day into tributaries that flow into Boysen reservoir during interval times of the year. The short life spans of various species that live in and around these areas also are often overlooked when talking about long term risks. The short term benefits of temporary jobs and short-lived profits for corporations continue to be the main reasoning behind the projects in which regulators "hold the corporations hands" throughout the process, helping them jump through regulations, legalities and such in hopes that it stimulates local economies, and our independence from foreign fossil fuels while neglecting the land & its finite resources and trampling over Indigenous rights, human rights, and nature rights .

SACRED SITES

There are 3 sacred sites within the designated areas. including Cedar Ridge, a sacred site to 18 different tribal nations & their respective citizens and also Castle Gardens, which is within the buffer zone of the project area. The Castle Gardens Petroglyph Site is a 6-mile by 1-mile region of vertical cliff faces in Fremont County, Wyoming, with extensive petroglyph images incised in the rock faces. The petroglyphs include images of water turtles and circular shields, as well as human and animal figures. There has been consultation between the companies and the tribes but consultation doesn't mean consent. I am worried about these areas, their vitality, and safe access to these sacred sites for tribal members in the far future.

NATURAL & RECREATION AREAS

The permit to discharge produced water from oil and gas development into Badwater predates the Clean Water Act of 1972. With a name like "Badwater" & "Poison Creek," this also minimizes the effects on the environment downstream and the native and naturalized species that still live in these streams. There are 12 additional discharge permits that are already discharging into the areas.

Aethon also has 5 aquifer-exempt permits that allow them to treat and pump water into the aquifer formation at designated spots. The amount of chlorine and salinity of the brine will affect plant life, wildlife, and human life as Boysen Reservoir is a recreational area and used to swim, fish, and camp for hundreds of people who live all over America. All of the discharge permits are outside the Wind River Reservation, yet, the water also could potentially flow into the Wind River, meaning flowing back into the exterior boundaries of the reservation putting Wyoming's most vulnerable people at risk for short-lived gains. I suggest you deny Aethons request for permits for the Moneta Divide Expansion Project.