

News Release



IPAMS
410 17th Street, Ste. 700
Denver, CO 80202

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Contact: Jon Haubert
(303) 623-0987
jhaubert@ipams.org

IPAMS: Reinstatement of Bureaucratic Hurdles Will Hinder Energy Development, Make Obama's Energy Goals Unachievable

Decision on ESA rule will harm energy independence and cost jobs

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) warned today that President Obama's decision to roll-back a policy aimed at minimizing interagency debates over endangered species issues and streamlining bureaucratic red-tape could seriously hinder natural gas and oil development in the Intermountain West.

"The small, independent energy companies who produce 82% of our nation's natural gas are already struggling to jump through all of the regulatory and bureaucratic hoops required to develop energy on Western public lands where vast amounts of clean, affordable and domestic natural gas are found," said Marc Smith, IPAMS Executive Director. "Adding yet another layer of red-tape will make it more difficult for companies to produce the natural gas we'll need to move toward energy independence, address climate change and make renewable energy sources viable and affordable."

All Americans support the protection of wildlife, but this Administration risks putting the needs of animals before the needs of people. When construction and energy jobs are cancelled or needlessly delayed, it hurts the economy and it hurts people.

"As American families struggle to make ends meet, increasing the regulatory burden and costs associated with developing the energy that Americans need every day will place a further burden on family budgets by driving up energy costs for consumers and businesses. The unnecessary reinstatement of this bureaucratic hurdle will destroy jobs, reduce domestic natural gas and oil production, and slow our economic recovery," Smith concluded.

IPAMS and the more than 150,000 employees of natural gas and oil industry in the Intermountain West support Conservation in Action. Conservation in Action is a partnership of groups and individuals dedicated to improving and protecting wildlife habitat in the Intermountain West. Its mission is to identify and implement projects to improve wildlife habitat and further our understanding of the sustainable coexistence of wildlife and energy development.

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About IPAMS

The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent natural gas and oil producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants committed to environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.