

## WATER QUALITY EXPERTS URGE PROTECTION FROM E.COLI IN WYOMING WATERS

Jill Morrison  
Powder River Member

Over the past three years the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) has been engaged in a process to revise Wyoming's water quality regulations and the rules governing the permitted discharges to Wyoming's streams and rivers. Powder River has been engaged during the stakeholder process and in reviewing and commenting on the near final versions of the proposed revisions to Wyoming's Surface Water Quality Standards and Regulations. These regulations permit industrial discharges to Wyoming's streams and rivers while also ensuring compliance with the Clean Water Act and protecting Wyoming's water quality and uses.

The proposed water quality rules will go before the Wyoming Water Quality Advisory Board on December 12th for their final review. From there the rules will be reviewed by Governor Mark Gordon and Attorney General, Bridget Hill before proceeding to the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council for review, comment and final approval.

Powder River, along with our allies in the conservation community and with the expertise of our water quality scientists,



Dr. Joe Meyer and Dr. Harold Bergman, we provided comments to WDEQ, urging them to protect aquatic life on all streams. Our comments were directed at improving WDEQ's proposals that are less protective for aquatic life concerning levels of pH, ammonia and aluminum toxicity.

We also urged DEQ to protect humans from all exposures to E. coli in our streams, rivers and lakes, while the WDEQ has proposed limiting E. coli protections by focusing on just the use of a water body designating the uses as full body contact, infrequent full body contact or lightly used streams. Powder River, the organizations supporting our comments and our water quality experts agreed stating, "We do not believe such differentiation among use-intensity categories is protective of human health, because people do not magically become more resistant to E. coli infection simply because those

people swim in a less intensively used water body." We asked WDEQ to use only one maximum exposure to E. coli which is the one used in high use swimming areas.

We will keep you informed of this process and encourage our members and the public to urge WDEQ to implement new rules and regulations that protect Wyoming's water quality for current and future generations.

## Split Estate Protections in Converse County Oil & Gas Project

Maria Katherman  
Powder River Board Member

Thanks to decades-long efforts by Powder River, Wyoming has laws protecting landowners from mineral development impacts to their land when they own the surface but not the minerals below the surface, known as a split estate. Thanks to the Wyoming Split Estate law of 2008, the oil and gas companies in the Converse County Oil and Gas Project must negotiate in good faith with surface owners about how development proceeds on their property. The power to negotiate where roads will go, how waste-water is disposed of, what reclamation outcomes are required and address other problems are now much less disruptive and impactful.

The National Environmental Protections Act (NEPA) dictates that before the development of federally owned minerals, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) must consider impacts to humans, wildlife habitat, uses of the area, clean air and water and culturally important assets in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) when approving leases.

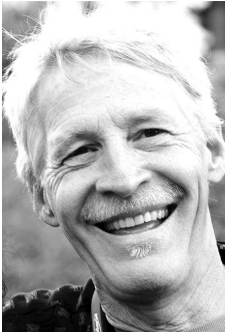
Powder River has been working with Western Watersheds

Project and Advocates for the West to monitor development companies' and BLM proposed remedies for flaws in the EIS. So far, the federal District Court has ruled only on the gross error in the EIS overstating the groundwater volume by 10,000 times (Page 3).

The companies in the Converse County Project want to correct only the groundwater error and address it separately. Powder River is urging the court to look at other flaws in the EIS. To properly address these problems and the groundwater error, Powder River recommends that the EIS be ruled inadequate and a new EIS developed. That allows all problems to be addressed together as required by NEPA. If the court follows that course of action, the present Record of Decision by the BLM would be voided.

Slowing the pace of this massive project will help landowners and towns prepare for inherent development impacts as well as give the BLM an opportunity to rethink their failure to require companies to test surface owner water well quality and quantity and protect raptor and sage grouse breeding seasons and sage grouse leks.

# Message from the Chair



I'm writing this letter on the day following the 2024 US elections which have encouraged me to think about voting and voting's relation to our work at Powder River. Our mission statement has three parts. The first emphasizes our commitment to the preservation and enrichment of the state's agricultural heritage and rural lifestyle. The second articulates our role in the conservation of our natural resources consistent with the responsible use of those resources to sustain the livelihood of present and future generations. The third section of our mission statement notes our commitment to the education and empowerment of Wyoming's citizens to raise a coherent voice in the decisions that will

have an impact on their lives.

This last commitment is the one that relates directly to voting as voting requires an educated electorate in order to make thoughtful choices in pursuit of democracy. In educating ourselves, we learn to examine issues, form coherent and well-founded views on matters of public policy, and understand the ways in which we can work through differences in pursuit of the common good.

Voting is the bedrock upon which all other aspects of our democracy rest. It is at the ballot box where we experience equality. One person gets one vote. Every person. At the ballot box the view of each of us is meant to carry equal weight. This isn't always true but it reflects our aspiration to treat each person as equal before the law. The vote is one of the only places in society where we are considered to be equal.

I want to tell you a little story now about my experience of voting in the recent US elections. As a result of work I do translating Basque literature, I was in the Basque Country from the end of September through the first week of November. I wasn't planning to be home on election day so I would have to vote absentee. But you can't get an absentee ballot in Wyoming more than twenty-eight days before an election and on that date I would already be in Europe. I should have educated myself on this matter but I didn't so had to file a signed form at my county clerk's office allowing someone else to pick up my absentee ballot on October 8, the first day it was available.

Before leaving home I went to the post office and filled out the customs declarations and the air express envelope addressed to myself in Europe. I left the \$72.80 postage fee for three day service with the person who picked up the ballot and who mailed it on October 8, the first day allowed by law. My ballot arrived eighteen days later on October 25. I couldn't be sure the ballot would get back to Wyoming by November 5 even if I was able to mail it the next day, especially since Wyoming law requires that absentee ballots arrive by the day of the election rather than be postmarked by that date.

Because I wanted to vote, I paid a \$300.00 fee to change my flight home so that I could be here on November 5. I put my absentee ballot in my luggage and took off. But when I got to Wyoming, my bag wasn't with me. I spent two days on the phone and in email conversations trying to track it down. It arrived on Monday afternoon November 4 and I was able to take my ballot in just before closing time at the clerk's office. I cast my vote.

I tell this story not to complain about impediments to voting though there are many faced by large numbers of people in the US. Rather, I tell it to emphasize that voting matters deeply to me, that I believe it is essential to democracy. Without a healthy democracy, it would be that much harder to do our work at Powder River on behalf of a rich and diverse natural environment in Wyoming. I hope we can all remember that no matter how we vote, and no matter our opinions about the outcomes of elections, to vote is the first step in building democracy. And democracy is what allows us to work well on behalf of both society and the earth.

*David Romtvedt*

**POWDER RIVER BASIN RESOURCE COUNCIL (POWDER RIVER)** is a grass-roots organization of individuals and affiliate groups dedicated to good stewardship of Wyoming's natural resources. Powder River was formed in 1973 and stands for the preservation and enrichment of our agricultural heritage and rural lifestyle; the conservation of Wyoming's unique land, minerals, water and clean air consistent with responsible use of these resources to sustain the livelihood of present and future generations; and the education and empowerment of Wyoming's citizens to raise a coherent voice in the decisions that will impact Wyoming residents' environment and lifestyle.

**POWDER RIVER IS A MEMBER OF** the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC). WORC member groups are Dakota Resource Council, Dakota Rural Action, Idaho Organization of Resource Councils, Nebraska Organizing Project, North Dakota Native Voice, Northern Plains Resource Council, Oregon Rural Action, Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action, Western Native Voice and Powder River Basin Resource Council.

**THE SERVICES PROVIDED** by Powder River include public education, community organizing and lobbying as permitted on behalf of its membership. Powder River is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:** \$30 for individuals, \$50 for families and \$20 for students and senior citizens. Powder River is dependent on contributions for its work; contributions, large and small, are welcomed.

#### ACTIVE AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

- Alliance for Renewable Energy (ARE)
- Clark Resource Council (CRC)
- Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition (CALC)
- Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens (PACC)
- Sheridan Area Resource Council (SARC)

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#### POWDER RIVER BREAKS

EDITOR: Pennie Vance  
 Photos by Powder River staff and members

# Powering Up Laramie at Renewable Energy Trivia Night

Natalie Johansen  
Powder River Staff

The Alliance for Renewable Energy wARE partnered with the Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club to host an engaging Energy Trivia Night in downtown Laramie. The event brought together over sixty community members, blending educational outreach with lively competition around Wyoming's evolving energy landscape.

An affiliate of Powder River Basin Resource Council, (ARE) is a group of passionate Laramie volunteers who advocate for renewable and sustainable energy in the community. One of the goals of ARE is to provide education and outreach on renewable opportunities for Laramie, and the Energy Trivia Night was a perfect example of doing just that. ARE has achieved notable wins, such as successfully advocating for the city council to pass a resolution for the City of Laramie to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and helping develop the city's Municipal Emissions Reduction Plan.

Local solar installers shared information at Trivia Night about residential and commercial installation opportunities, while ARE members provided information on how to get involved in the 4th Street Redevelopment project and make sure the rebuild has aspects of renewables. City representatives shared updates on Laramie's Municipal Emissions Reduction Plan, highlighting local climate action goals and opportunities for local involvement. Staff from the Wyoming Outdoor Council

traveled from Lander for the event to talk about financing opportunities in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for both residents and commercial interests.

Teams tested their knowledge on general renewable energy, the IRA and local initiatives, sparking discussions about everything from local sustainability initiatives to statewide energy policy. The event successfully combined learning, friendly competition, and networking around the shared goal of making both Wyoming and Laramie a better place for all residents.

"This felt like a true Laramie event" remarked one attendee. "I am going to speak at a city council meeting because of this," said another. For me as the new Powder River community organizer based in Laramie, the event's strong turnout and impact could not have been better. By educating, connecting, and mobilizing Laramie residents, the Alliance for Renewable Energy strengthened the local network dedicated to advancing renewable energy and sustainability.



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## Court Ruling Halts 5,000-Well Oil and Gas Drilling Project

*Conservation groups hail the decision as a victory for wildlife and residents*

Maria Katherman, Powder River Basin Resource Council, Erik Molvar, Western Watersheds Project, and Sarah Stellberg, Advocates for the West, was released on September 16, 2024.

WASHINGTON — A federal District Court has ruled that the Bureau of Land Management's approval of the 5,000-well Converse County Oil and Gas Project in eastern Wyoming was illegal because the agency's groundwater modeling contained major errors and grossly underestimated the depletion of groundwater by the massive oil and gas project. Drilling in this area has also already had a major negative impact on local communities including impacts to lands, air, wildlife, and water.

"Responsible production of oil and gas in Wyoming should not be a race," said Maria Katherman, a Board Member with Powder River Basin Resource Council and Douglas resident. "Best practices by the industry include properly planning for treatment of produced water and protections of groundwater in Converse County."

The lawsuit also raised legal violations around the agency's failure to require air quality mitigation measures, analyze cumulative climate change impacts, consider pacing project development to moderate impacts, and require customary seasonal protections to prevent disturbance of nesting birds of prey. Because the project was found to be illegal based on groundwater claims, the judge's ruling did not reach these issues.

"This project gave the oil industry a blank check to exponentially increase the footprint of industrial oil and gas fields in this part of eastern Wyoming, at the expense of rare and dwindling populations of sage grouse, hawks, and eagles," said Erik Molvar, Executive Director of Western Watersheds Project. "With the judge finding this massive oil and gas drilling approval illegal due to faulty groundwater estimates, the wildlife are getting a much-needed reprieve."

The Converse County project encompasses sage grouse Priority Habitats designated under federal sage grouse plans, including the Douglas Core Area, where the combined effects of past drilling and other forms of habitat disturbance already exceeded allowable disturbance thresholds under the federal sage grouse plans. There is presently a plan amendment underway, and the Bureau of Land Management's preferred alternative would cave in to state demands and abolish the Douglas Core Area, paving the way for further oil and gas development in an area with a dwindling sage grouse population.

The court also blocked the approval of additional drilling permits in reliance on the flawed Environmental Impact Statement while the final remedy is being decided.

"We hope BLM will take this opportunity to get its analysis right and adequately protect Converse County's water, air, and wildlife from this massive drilling project," said Sarah Stellberg, Staff Attorney at Advocates for the West, whose team of attorneys delivered the winning arguments. "We are pleased the court made the sensible decision to block BLM from issuing new drilling permits based on a significantly flawed assessment of impacts."

"It is entirely appropriate to temporarily pause approval of new drilling permits until the short comings in the EIS are addressed and real-world remedies are lined out by the companies involved," said Katherman. "We hope that slowing this boom will also allow for proper seasonal protections for wildlife, especially in light of the massive wildfire that burned through this summer, and allow nearby communities time to prepare."

**"Responsible production of oil and gas in Wyoming should not be a race." - Maria Katherman**

# PRBRC Comments on New Rule to Reduce Harmful Air Pollution

Ronn Smith  
Powder River Member

EPA recently announced a rule that will sharply reduce emissions of methane and other harmful air pollution from oil and natural gas operations, which represent the largest industrial source of methane pollution in the U.S. The final action includes updated and strengthened standards for methane and other air pollutants from new sources, as well as guidelines to assist states in developing plans to limit methane emissions from existing sources. Wyoming DEQ solicited public comments on how the state should go about regulating the latter category.

PRBRC submitted comments that summarized the final rule's benefits to both public and commercial interests. It will phase out routine flaring of natural gas from new oil wells, require all well sites and compressor stations to be routinely monitored for leaks, and provide companies with greater flexibility to use innovative and cost-effective methane detection technologies. This rule will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change. Along with methane, it will reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hazardous air pollutants by 80%. These toxic vapors, which co-exist with methane as constituents of produced gas, could drop by 32,000 tons per year in Wyoming alone. Since VOCs contribute to ground-level ozone formation, the rule will also reduce respiratory damage from inhaling ozone.

In conjunction with other federal actions, the rule will provide economic benefits by capturing valuable natural gas that is currently wasted by venting or flaring on site. By preventing methane emissions, it will allow recovery of enough natural gas to heat nearly 8 million homes for the winter.

“This rule will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change.”

The rule enables DEQ to leverage infrared satellite surveys to identify “super emitters” who accidentally release large amounts of methane from oil and gas facilities in Wyoming. This will help ensure that industry operates with a high degree of integrity and accountability.

The methane rule reflects feedback and buy-in from the world's major oil and gas companies. Their endorsement seeks regulatory predictability, environmental sustainability for their shareholders, and a level playing field for their profitability. Consistent with EPA's goal, 50 independent producers and national oil companies have agreed to reduce their methane emissions by 80 to 90%.

State officials have exaggerated the rule's potential negative impact on small oil and gas producers. In fact, the rule provides Wyoming with flexibility to account for economic and scheduling constraints that might otherwise create a hardship for small producers. For example, the state may account for remaining useful life, demonstrated economic infeasibility, or alternative paths toward compliance. The rule also provides for phase-in periods and reasonable compliance schedules. Since small producers account for one third of Wyoming's production, they should answer for their emissions even as DEQ may grant them special consideration.

Despite the political rhetoric, Wyoming has demonstrated leadership in its past efforts to reduce VOC emissions from oil and gas production facilities, gas compressor stations, and natural gas processing plants. Wyoming has established more rigorous VOC emission standards than most states for pneumatic controllers and pumps, oil storage tanks, dehydration units, truck loading, and fugitive emissions. Producers in southwest

Wyoming meet the strictest standards and have already proven the technical and economic feasibility of certain requirements set forth in the rule.

Statewide, DEQ has lowered emission control thresholds over the last two decades without impairing the competitiveness of Wyoming producers. The increase in average annual crude production in Wyoming over the last decade was virtually identical to the nationwide increase, after removing figures from Texas. As the nation's largest producer, Texas showed much higher growth due to the disproportionate effect of hydraulic fracking.

PRBRC also offered specific recommendations to DEQ with the intent of ensuring EPA approval of Wyoming's State Implementation Plan. We recommended updating standards of performance to replicate those set forth in the rule, including: methane emissions survey and monitoring frequencies; equipment leak detection and repair response times; control of storage vessel emissions; gas-driven pump and process controller leak standards; centrifugal compressor wet and dry seal leak standards; reciprocal compressor leak standards; best management practices for well completions; and the requirement for produced gas recovery, sales, and utilization.

For sources deemed eligible for less-stringent performance standards, we encouraged the state to document their reasons. Consistent with EPA guidance, DEQ must demonstrate that there are fundamental differences between the facility-specific information and the information EPA used to establish relevant performance standards. To apply a less stringent standard, DEQ must also demonstrate that the facility in question cannot achieve the required emission limitation using any available system of emission reduction.

The methane rule targets the “low-hanging fruit” in the broader effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There is no excuse for any public official serious about human and planetary health not to support it. The rule is reasonable and has the backing of responsible oil and gas producers nationwide. However, the incoming Trump Administration has pledged to repeal it. This would render any DEQ enforcement plan moot. Presumably, it will require a public process orchestrated by a Trump-compatible EPA. As we voice support for the rule's numerous benefits, we will underscore EPA's original rationale, which has solid legal and technical grounding. Most likely, the rule will end up in litigation, with extremely weak arguments justifying its repeal.

“Despite the political rhetoric, Wyoming has demonstrated leadership in its past efforts to reduce VOC emissions from oil and gas production facilities, gas compressor stations, and natural gas processing plants.”

“The earth, the air, and the water are not an inheritance from our forefather but on loan for our children.” -Ghandi

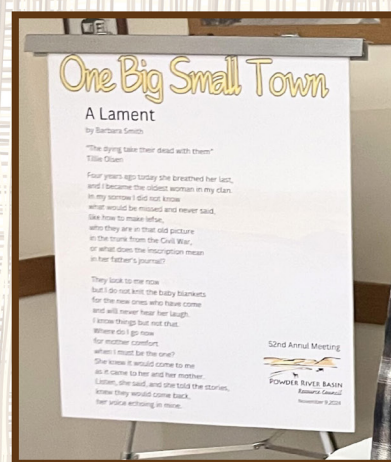


# 52nd Annual Meeting



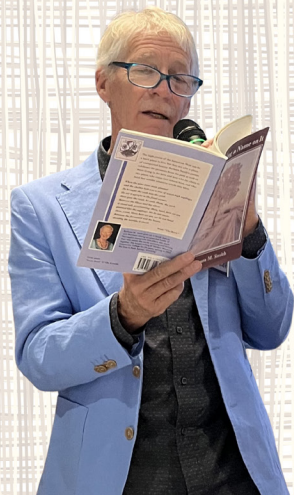
Reuniting with friends.

Fire Ants strutting their spicy stuff!



Connections Galore: Members & Guests Unite!

The spotlight shone on  
Barbara Smith's  
insightful poetry!



Poetry Reading by  
Board Chair  
David Romtvedt

Bidding Bonanza!

When there is  
music we dance

## Thank you for attending

# Montana Rancher Shares Best News for Cattle Industry Since 1921



Gilles Stockton, Rancher  
Grass Range, Montana  
Northern Plains Resource Council Member

I was puzzled when I received an email inviting me to a meeting at the White House. I accepted the invitation but was still puzzled when I passed through White House security early the morning of October 8th. Exiting four and a half hours later I was instead stunned in having heard some of the most significant news for cattle producers since the passage of the Packers and Stockyards Act in 1921.

“The most significant news for cattle producers since the passage of the Packers and Stockyards Act in 1921.”

Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack announced an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking “...to solicit feedback on an

identified set of regulatory options that AMS (Agricultural Marketing Service) could employ to address concerns regarding price discovery and fairness in fed cattle markets.” In other words, Sec. Vilsack officially acknowledged what we all have all been saying - the market for fed cattle is rigged. USDA is now looking for input as to the best way to establish honest price discovery.

This was not the only stunning announcement because USDA also released the “Interim Report: Competition and Fair Practices in Meat Merchandising.” We know that it is not only the packers who are stealing, but that big retail is also taking a larger and larger share of the consumer dollar from ranchers and feeders. This report describes the impact of the big grocery chains’ market power on beef and cattle prices and how it is nearly impossible for smaller packing plants to get their products on supermarket shelves. This is the first step to get beef and other local foods into the big grocery stores. It is a fight well worth doing.

There was yet a third announcement. This one will also benefit animal agriculture but more indirectly. Through some quirk or corruption of patent law, corporations like Monsanto have been allowed to patent genes.

“ This is the first step to get beef and other local foods into the big grocery stores. It is a fight well worth doing. ”

These corporations prevent university plant geneticists from studying or using the patented genes in research to breed publicly available seed varieties. USDA’s third report - “More and Better Choices for Farmers: Promoting Fair Competition and Innovation in Seeds and Other Agricultural Inputs” is a critical step in freeing our publicly funded agricultural scientists to breed less expensive, better yielding plant varieties.

When you couple those three announcements with one that was made the week before, which allocates \$1.7 billion for purchase of locally and regionally produced food by schools and other public institutions, the possibilities are truly stunning. One thing that cattle producers agree upon is that our children should have locally grown and slaughtered beef in their school lunches. Many producers have been struggling to build demand for their own brand of locally grown beef, but it is an uphill battle. This investment by the Biden Administration will open up a huge market for locally produced beef and other fresh food.

These four announcements have the potential to significantly improve the lives and economy of ranchers, independent feeders, and rural communities

but will take time and perseverance before any of it becomes a reality. The first priority shall be to provide input as to the best way to create an honest pricing benchmark for the fat cattle market. What we have now, where the negotiated spot market is used as the basis for pricing the captive supply (alternative marketing agreement -AMA) cattle, is hopelessly dysfunctional - not to mention dishonest.

What the fat cattle market needs is a video/internet auction to price both the spot market and forward contracts. In this era of electronic communications, this is the best and cheapest way to determine the actual market value of fed cattle. There will be intense pushback from the packing cartel and their paid and unpaid stooges. Unless independent ranchers and feeders come together in a unified response, the packers will confuse the issue preventing any meaningful change.

This is just the beginning of a process that will take time and perseverance to see to a fruitful end. It deserves our full attention because this is our chance to save independent family farms recommendations to USDA.

“This investment by the Biden Administration will open up a huge market for locally produced beef and other fresh food.”

# Shannon Anderson Honored for 17 Years of Contributions to Powder River

Bob LeResche  
Powder River Board Member

At Powder River's 52nd Annual Meeting on November 9th, the ninety assembled members and guests gave a heartfelt tribute and thanks to Shannon Anderson, our long-time staff attorney and organizer. After 17 years with Powder River, Shannon resigned on September 13th to become Distributed Power Plant Policy Director at Solar United Neighbors.



Thanks to a chance conversation almost two decades ago between then Powder River organizer, John Vanvig and Shannon's father, Mick Anderson, Shannon returned to Wyoming as a recent graduate from law school to join the Powder River staff.

Since then she has contributed mightily to Powder River, influencing and leading important work pursuant to Powder River's mission to conserve Wyoming's unique land, mineral, water, and clean air resources and to empower our members to have a voice

in decisions that impact their environment and lifestyle.

It's difficult to capture the magnitude of Shannon's contributions to Powder River and the Rocky Mountain West. Here are but a few of Shannon's accomplishments:

- She helped with Powder River's decades-long fight to protect ranchers' groundwater and land from coalbed methane development and save the unique Fortification Creek Resources.
- She became a nationally significant player in the drama surrounding regulation of Powder River Basin's huge surface coal mines. She led the charge to eliminate self-bonding in Wyoming, to pressure industry to provide contemporaneous reclamation of mines, and to focus regulators on "bad actor" companies during lease transfers.
- She was a leader in the successful decades-long campaign to reform the federal government's coal leasing program.
- Shannon flew to Washington DC many times to carry members' messages to federal agencies and congress.
- As a brilliant attorney, in collaboration with fellow organizer, Jill Morrison, Shannon represented affected members during the proposed Ramaco development north of Sheridan, prevailing against high-paid Cheyenne lawyers when the Environmental Quality Council denied Ramaco's first permit, then defended the EQC when the Wyoming legislature attempted to disband the agency because of that decision.
- She helped expose the phantom "Two Elk" project, where millions of dollars of government grants for a proposed power plant in Wyoming were never used for the project, but were instead spent by the scam developer on extravagant personal expenses.
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- She led years of battles to ensure that coal plants operated within air quality regulations and reduced regional haze.
- In partnership with Earthjustice, she filed and won landmark cases that required oil & gas operators to reveal the ingredients of fracking fluids being injected near groundwater resources.
- She worked on stopping ill-considered legislative and agency initiatives such as a proposed state purchase of billions of dollars of Occidental Petroleum land and mineral rights and another that mandated coal power portfolios be charged to ratepayers.
- She convinced agencies to be more transparent to citizens about their work, by accepting citizens' email comments and providing public records at a reasonable price.
- Early in her career, Shannon helped the legislature enact one of the nation's first pore-space statutes, an essential law protecting surface owners in the age of carbon sequestration.
- She led almost annual fights to preserve Wyoming's net billing law that makes distributed solar economic to ratepayers, and co-counseled with fellow Powder River attorney, Claire Deuter, to prevail in the Supreme Court over utilities that tried to pervert the law.
- Shannon defended the U.S. Interior Department reforms of the federal oil & gas leasing program, after drafting a proposed new DOI leasing program for the Western Organization of Resource Councils.
- She participated on many regional and national panels and webinars – taking Powder River's and Wyoming's policy messages far and wide.
- And Shannon developed broad relationships with the Wyoming and national press as a go-to expert on issues and earned the trust of top reporters, resulting in their acceptance of her suggested stories, increasing Powder River's influence on politicians and citizens.

Through all of these accomplishments, Shannon has been first and foremost available and responsive to Powder River members. She's one of those rare extra-busy people who will call or text you back within minutes when you have a question. Members think of her as Shannonipedia. She's prepped members for countless testimonies and meetings. She's provided suggestions, talking points and even drafts for countless member Op-Eds and letters to the editor – some of which have even influenced government action. And there have been very few issues of Powder River Breaks without at least one article by Shannon.

While Shannon has been doing so much for Powder River, she's also served the Sheridan community as a very active Director of the Fulmar Library Foundation and has contributed countless hours to other civic organizations. And who doesn't love her weekly 'Flower Friday' Facebook post!?

Shannon Anderson leaves a large hole in the Powder River family. We send her away with tremendous gratitude for her many contributions to Powder River's successes.



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