

The Economic Trade-offs of Oil and Gas

Protecting our natural capital protects our economy.

Access to public lands for recreation, clean air and water, open spaces, and unmarred landscapes help drive our diverse economy.¹

- Recently a group of economists, including two Nobel Laureates, said the West's natural environment contributed to prosperity by attracting workers, firms and investments.²
- Hunting on Roan Plateau is worth \$3.8 million annually to Garfield County.³

Over-reliance on a single industry threatens long-term economic health.

- After a lengthy recovery from the 1980's oil shale bust, Garfield County's economy is as diverse as ever.⁴
- Even without drilling on the Plateau's top, energy development will provide steady revenue for the county.⁵
- Given the amount of gas drilling and development, it makes sound fiscal sense to adopt a balanced approach that safeguards our few remaining undeveloped public lands.



A balanced plan for the Plateau that protects the top and cliffs would also protect economic activity that relies on public lands, open spaces, and quality-of-life.

This even-handed vision would safeguard the undeveloped public lands of the Plateau as they are today: bold, dramatic, and undisturbed.



JOIN US IN PROMOTING THIS EVEN-HANDED VISION FOR ROAN PLATEAU.

More 

SaveRoanPlateau.org

Citizens' Campaign to Save Roan Plateau

Visit us online or call Gregg at 970-243-0002 /Clare at 970-618-1341

Roan Plateau Fact Sheet-Economics

Responsible energy development must safeguard natural areas, quality-of-life, and Western landscapes.

Public lands and private property values can both be negatively impacted by energy development.

- Residential property taxes contributed 31% of Garfield County revenue in 2002.⁶
- A study from La Plata County found that proximity to gas development lowers residential values.⁷
- Turning undeveloped public lands into industrial landscapes jeopardizes tourism, recreation and the quality-of-life so important to our communities.⁸

Gas profits flow out of state as Colorado consumers pay more.

- Garfield County's largest operators, Canadian giant EnCana and Williams of Oklahoma, are pocketing record revenues. By the end of the 3rd Quarter 2003, EnCana revenue had doubled from 2002; ⁹ Williams revenue shot up over \$10 billion.¹⁰
- Residential gas rates have gone up as much as 73%. Small businesses could see a jump of 85%. The delinquency rate for gas accounts at Xcel Energy has increased in 2003 88% over 2002.¹¹
- Sens. Harry Reid D-NV, John McCain R-AZ, Robert Bennett R-UT and others have recently called for an investigation into industry price-fixing and profiteering as the reason behind the spike in natural gas prices.¹²

AT A GLANCE

Garfield County Profile-Total Personal Income
Total personal income (TPI) consists of income from current work and the non-labor income associated with past work.

By 1998, self-employment accounted for 29% of Garfield County's TPI, a jump of nearly 300% from 1970 to 1997.

Non-labor income, such as retirement income, now makes up one third of Garfield County's TPI, reaching 32% in 1997. Maintaining quality of life is important to retaining & attracting entrepreneurs and retirees.

From 1970 to 1997, Garfield County added over 18,000 jobs, a 306% increase. One third of these have been created in the catchall Service sector, which includes tourism-related jobs as well as jobs in the health care and high tech fields.

Resource Extraction industries—including oil and gas related jobs—accounted for only 1% of Garfield County's TPI by 1997, a steep decrease from 12% in 1970.

SOURCE- Colorado County Profiles compiled by The Wilderness Society and found at: www.wilderness.org/Library/Documents/county_econ_profiles.cfm

A balanced plan for the Roan Plateau will protect key natural areas on the top and cliffs while providing for gas development at the base. This even-handed approach would safeguard our special places and ensure that development is compatible with local communities and diverse livelihoods.

TELL BLM TO KEEP DRILLING OFF THE TOP OF ROAN PLATEAU !

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¹Dr. Thomas Michael Power, *Post-Cowboy Economics: Pay and Prosperity in the New American West*. Island Press, 2001

²"Economisits challenge Bush Western land policies," *Forbes.com*, 12/03/03 (forbes.com/home_europe/newswire/2003/12/03/rtr1168448.html)

³Colorado DNR Management Proposal for the Roan Plateau. Department of Natural Resources Denver Office, 2003

⁴Colorado County Economic Profiles. Compiled by The Wilderness Society, found at: wilderness.org/Library/Documents/county_econ_profiles.cfm

⁵"Gas-well drilling fuels west GarCo economy," *The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*, 11/8/03

⁶Status of the Oil & Gas Industry in Garfield County. Garfield County, 10/31/03

⁷"Gas wells drop property values 22%," *Durango Herald*, 11/03/02

⁸"Economisits challenge Bush Western land policies," *Forbes.com*, 12/03/03 (forbes.com/home_europe/newswire/2003/12/03/rtr1168448.html)

⁹Canadian Broadcasting Corporation online at www.cbc.ca/stories/2003/10/28/encana_031028

¹⁰CNN-Money online at money.cnn.com/MGI/snap/A1C50.htm

¹¹"\$10 million to put a chill on soaring heating bills," *Rocky Mountain News*, 12/22/03

¹²"Update: Congress looking into natgas price jump," *Reuters*, 12/12/03.