

Key Message Points

Hoback Basin Agreement Announcement

The Hoback Basin is a special place that deserves special protection.

- The Hoback is an extraordinary and unique land, part of Greater Yellowstone, an important wildlife crossroads, and a crucial pathway for migrating animals like mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and elk.
- Protecting the Hoback protects a Wyoming way of life, ensuring that future generations will have the same opportunities we have to hunt, fish, graze and enjoy the outdoors.
- If drilling plans went forward, this would be the only oil and gas development project located at the headwaters of a Congressionally designated wild and scenic river.
- This is one of the most significant oil and lease buyouts in American history.

This buyout shows what's possible when people come together to find solutions to our toughest problems—even people with diverse views and values.

- This agreement is a “win-win” solution that protects a rare and precious resource and respects the rights of leaseholders.

This announcement is the result of a long campaign born in Wyoming's small communities--in Bondurant, Pinedale, Jackson, Rock Springs and elsewhere.

This is a Wyoming solution.

- Wyomingites understand the need for natural gas and energy production, but they also understand that some places aren't appropriate for industrial development.
- [At event] We honor the persistence of the citizens who've helped bring us to this point today: the hunters, anglers, river users and conservations who made their voices heard, by speaking up at public meetings and writing letters and public comments. We are here today because of you (ID and acknowledge individuals from podium at event).
- [At event] We also thank the late Senator Craig Thomas and Senator John Barrasso, whose Wyoming Range Legacy Act made this outcome possible. [Also acknowledge other elected officials from podium at event.]

Facts about the Buyout

- The Trust for Public Land will purchase 58,000 acres of federal oil and gas leases from Plains Exploration and Production Company (PXP), a Houston-based energy company.
- The leases are located in the Upper Hoback Basin of the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Sublette County, Wyoming, about 30 miles south of Jackson.
- Under the terms of the Wyoming Range Legacy Act, the vast majority of affected leases will be permanently retired, protecting this area from drilling forever. The Trust for Public Land is working to find a way to permanently protect the few remaining leases that lie outside the Legacy Act boundary.
- Should the deal not be completed, the Hoback will again be vulnerable to drilling using “fracking” methods.
- The total cost of the buy-out is \$8.75 million, with a deadline of December 31 to raise all necessary funds. The Trust for Public Land needs to raise an additional \$4.5 million to complete the deal.

- (For local advocates): We are grateful to the Trust for Public Land for negotiating this deal, but now it's up to all of us to raise the money to complete the purchase.

This is a great day, and let's celebrate! But there's still work to be done—we need to raise \$4 million by December 31, or the Hoback will again be in jeopardy. We're off to a great start [acknowledge lead donors, if desired], but we still have a long way to go.

- We need everyone who worked hard to get us here to work equally hard to help raise the money we need to complete this deal. We're celebrating today, but it's back to work tomorrow!
- Every little bit helps. A donation of \$150 will save 1 acre of the Hoback. [Include instructions on how/where to donate].