

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

High Plains Economic Development District Presents
“1st Annual Southeast Wyoming Oil Shale Seminar”

CONTACT: Anja Bendel
High Plains Economic Development District

Wheatland, WY. August 2010. The High Plains Economic Development District, which coordinates economic development in southeast Wyoming, will host the First Annual Southeast Wyoming Oil Shale Seminar the end of August and beginning of September.

The seminar will have speakers from industry, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and other impacted counties to discuss technology, timeline, environmental concerns, and socioeconomic impacts that can be expected from oil exploration. The speaker panel will present in three locations:

Cheyenne: August 31, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
LCSD Admin Building Auditorium,
2810 House Avenue

Torrington: September 1, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Lincoln Community Complex Gym,
436 East 23rd Avenue
*Box lunch can be purchased for \$5 or bring your own

Wheatland: September 1, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wheatland High School Auditorium,
1207 13th Street

The goal of the seminar is to provide information to policy makers and the general public about what is happening, what industry needs and challenges are, and what communities can anticipate might happen if exploration continues.

Oil exploration has begun in southeast Wyoming, northern Colorado, and eastern Nebraska with companies examining the viability of extracting oil from the Niobrara shale formation. The State has already held two auctions for leases in the area that brought in record prices, and private landowners are seeing similar activity.

Southeast Wyoming has not seen much activity in mineral extraction in its past, so many people in the area are looking for more information and wanting to know what they might expect to see. “People know that there will be impact if this oil is economical, but they are interested in the details: where is the formation, what is fracking, what are the environmental concerns, what is industry doing, and how will this affect my community? This speaker series will begin to address those questions and will give a framework for the activity,” said Anja Bendel, Executive Director of the High Plains Economic Development District. As the District covers the four counties in southeast Wyoming, Albany, Goshen, Laramie, and Platte, it is working together with the local economic development organizations, the counties, and Building the Wyoming We Want: the High Plains Initiative to bring the speakers to the

area. “The shale doesn’t pay attention to county lines or even state lines. This affects the whole area and we are taking a regional approach,” Bendel said.

The events are free and open to the public. Bendel anticipates a healthy turnout, and has also heard from contacts in Nebraska and Colorado who are interested in attending.