

NEWS RELEASE

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NOW ON-LINE: BMP Website and Database for Oil and Gas Development in the Intermountain West

The Natural Resources Law Center of the University of Colorado Law School and partners have developed a free-access, web-based oil and gas best-management practices (BMP) database for the Intermountain West. This database provides broad-based information about natural resources affected by oil and gas development — *air and water quality, wildlife, visual aesthetics, tranquility, health and safety, and other resources*. The website and searchable database is now on-line at: <http://www.oilandgasbmps.org>

The database includes practices currently in use, required, and/or recommended for responsible resource management. The information for this database was, and continues to be, obtained from a variety of government, industry and environmental group documents and websites. Users of the BMP website will be able to search for management practices by a variety of criteria, including:

- general resource categories (such as water quality, vegetation, wildlife);
- more specific categories (such as riparian areas, sage grouse);
- location (such as oil/gas field, state recommending the practice, state in which the practice is being used); and
- general text search.

The BMP project arose out of the need to provide a central repository for BMP data and case studies such that owners, agency professionals, government planners, conservationists, the interested public, and oil and gas to identify and access this information. The next phase of the project will refine and expand the database's functionality, will expand the database beyond the intermountain West, will provide additional BMP data, and will develop additional website support materials.

The Natural Resources Law Center continues to seek partners to guide project development and to critique practices being included in the database. For more information or to participate in the project, please contact the project leader, Kathryn Mutz, at Kathryn.Mutz@colorado.edu.

The Natural Resources Law Center (NRLC) was founded at the University of Colorado Law School in 1982 to promote discourse over crucial natural resources law and policy issues and to foster practical and effective solutions to identified problems. The NRLC is committed to producing objective research and providing a neutral forum for discussions about these issues. The NRLC also provides information to help national policy-makers understand western trends, challenges, and innovations and to foster national policies that reflect western realities.