

# Wildlife Management Guidelines for Oil and Gas Development

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# Primary Authors

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# Endorsements

- Over 35 sportsmen's, outfitter, environmental, and local citizen alliance groups endorsed the guidelines.
- Town councils, politicians, and county commissioners are supportive.
- Guidelines were referenced in State's comments on Roan Plateau DEIS/RMP.
- Discussions are ongoing with industry.

# Reasons Guidelines are Needed

- Magnitude of Oil and Gas Impacts
- Inconsistent and Inadequate Attention to Protection of Natural Resources
- Need to Get Ahead of the Problem
- Serious Concerns for Special Places and Important Fish and Wildlife Habitats



















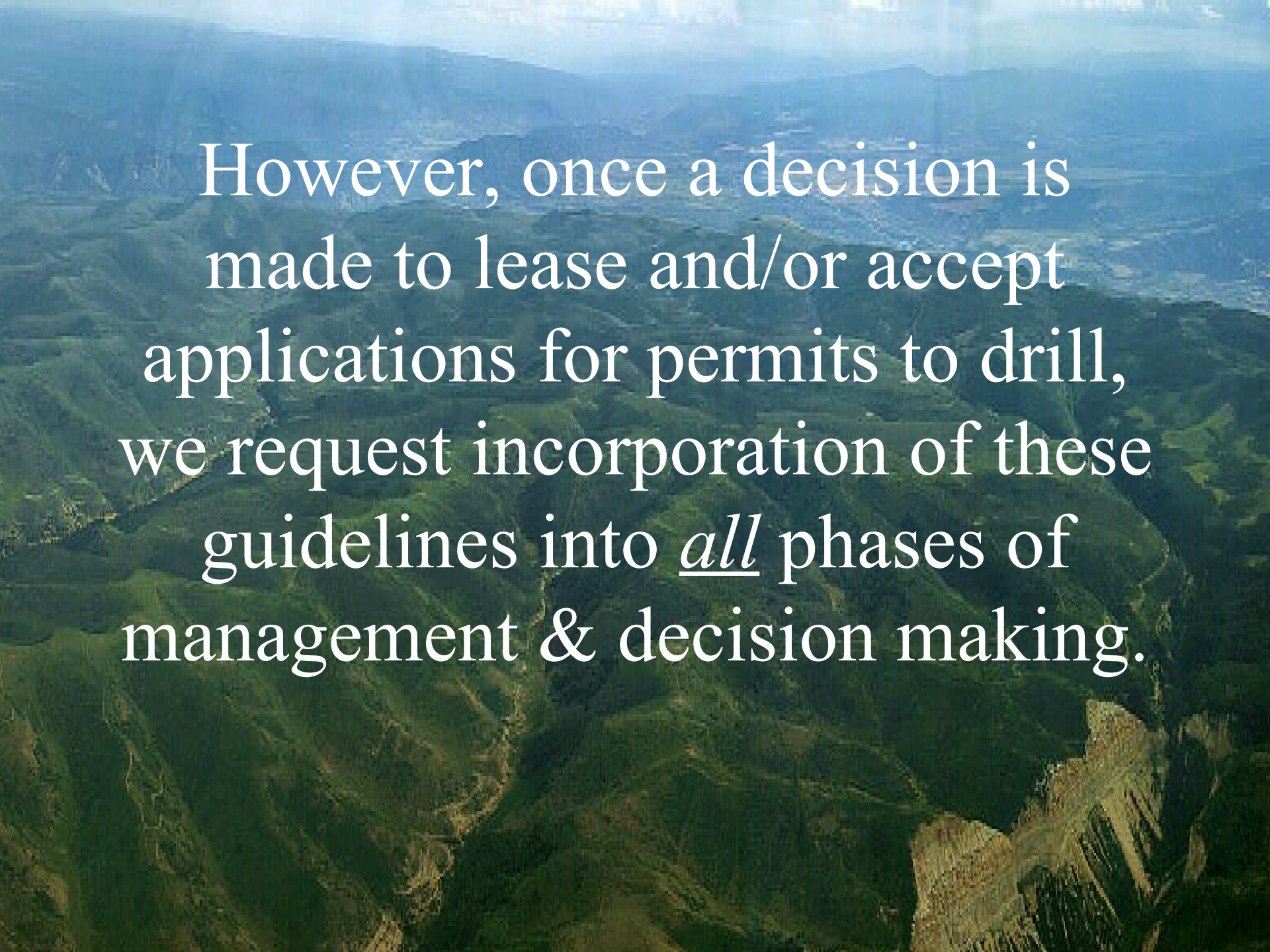
# Mitigation Sequencing

- First, avoid impacts to the degree possible.
- Then, minimize impacts.
- After satisfying the first two requirements, mitigate in this order of preference:
  - Reclamation and Restoration
  - Onsite/In-kind Mitigation
  - Offsite/In-kind Mitigation







An aerial photograph of a deep, green canyon with a winding river. The canyon walls are steep and covered in dense vegetation. The river flows through the bottom of the canyon, creating a series of rapids and falls. The sky is blue with some clouds.

However, once a decision is made to lease and/or accept applications for permits to drill, we request incorporation of these guidelines into all phases of management & decision making.



# Guideline #1

- Maximize distance between drill pads.
- Maximize use of directional drilling from those pads.
- Minimize road construction impacts and size of drill pads; share roads with others.
- Have one company drill where intermingled ownership exists.

# Costs to Implement #1

- Initial costs are high, but over time there can be cost savings. For example:
  - Reduced truck hauling
  - Reduced road, pipeline, electric line, compressor, and pad construction costs, and their associated maintenance costs
  - Reduced number of compressor stations
  - Increased use of closed loop systems that recycle water and other fluids



## Guideline #2

- Public Land: After input from CDOW, the BLM & USFS should delineate the allowable number and locations of drill pads in a Geographic Area Plan.
- Private Land: Colorado Oil and Gas Commission should work with affected landowners on acceptable drilling locations.

# Guideline #3

- Where large blocks of land are involved, sell leases in a manner that will promote:
  - Maximum surface well spacing
  - Minimum habitat disturbance and fragmentation



# Guideline #4

- Develop the field in phases.
- Once drilling has started, continue drilling on that pad until all the subsurface wells have been drilled that are needed to recover the hydrocarbons.
- Move to next pre-selected site and reclaim the old pad and roads immediately and completely.

# Guideline #5

- Require the use of applicable best management/operating practices such as:
  - Protection of stream riparian areas
  - Interim and final reclamation plans
  - Proper road and pipeline construction
  - Noise, pollutant, and soil erosion control
  - Remote monitoring of wells and compressors
- See BLM's "Gold Book"











# Guideline #6

- Assemble an interagency technical review team to implement and supervise a system for gathering baseline data and monitoring effects of drilling and development.
- Establish a citizen's advisory group to periodically assess research, impact analysis, monitoring, and enforcement efforts.

# Guideline #7

- Initiate a study to determine the effectiveness and longevity of the cement in abandoned well bores.



# Guideline #8

- Implement an an adequate reclamation guarantee system that follows a well regardless of its ownership.

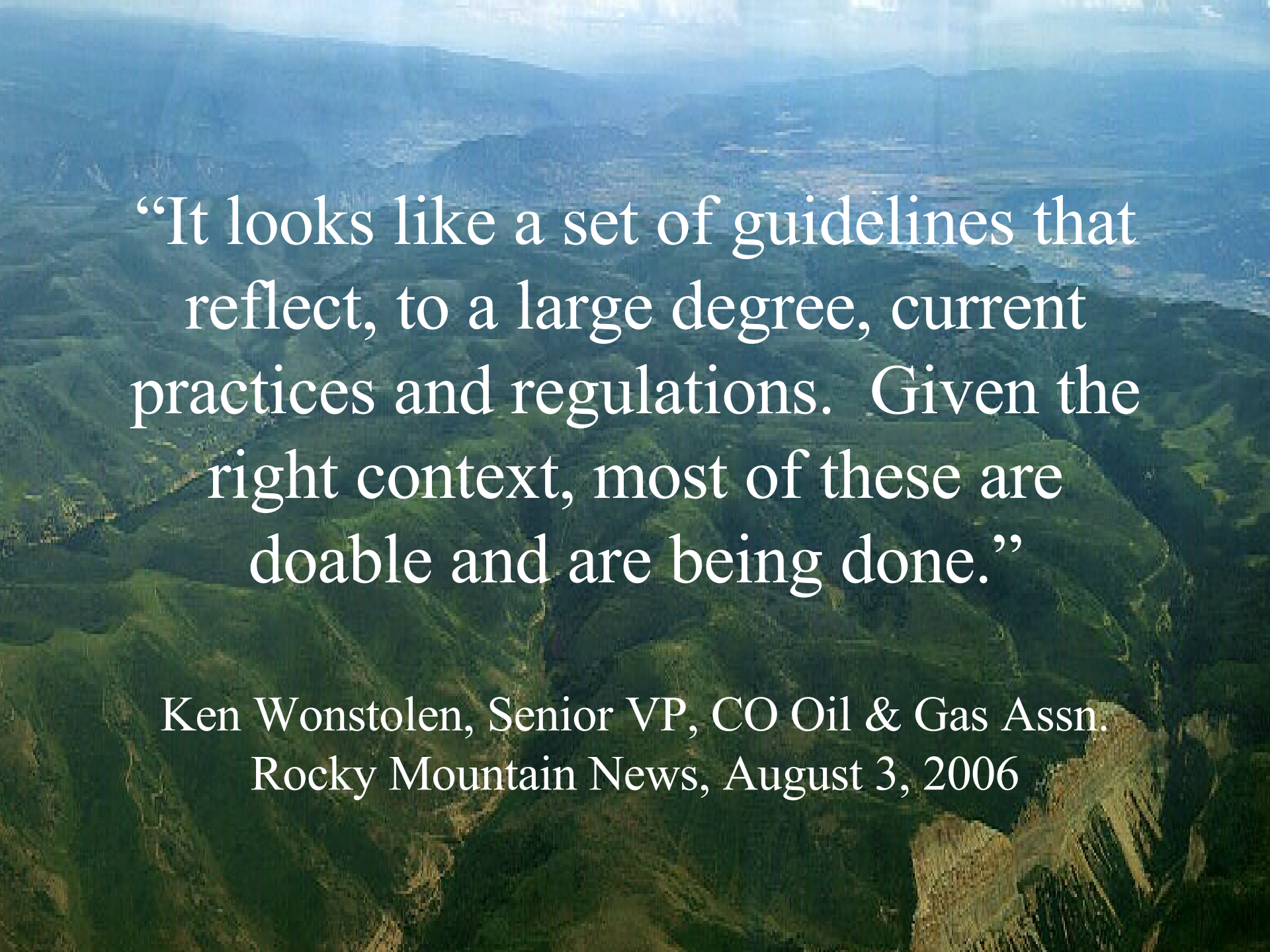
# Guideline #9

- Require that noxious weeds be rigorously controlled.
- Invasive species are the greatest ecological threat to our public lands and waters across the country.



# Guideline #10

- Make timely inspections and enforcement a higher priority.
- Companies should not be given years in which to come into compliance on violations.

An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The foreground and middle ground show deep, green valleys with winding roads and some small settlements. The mountains in the background are layered, with the nearest peaks appearing in shades of blue and the distant ones fading into a hazy sky. The overall scene is one of a rugged, natural landscape.

“It looks like a set of guidelines that reflect, to a large degree, current practices and regulations. Given the right context, most of these are doable and are being done.”

Ken Wonstolen, Senior VP, CO Oil & Gas Assn.  
Rocky Mountain News, August 3, 2006



An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The foreground and middle ground are filled with rolling green hills and valleys, showing some erosion patterns. In the far distance, the mountains transition into a blue haze, suggesting a large-scale landscape. The sky is a pale blue with some light clouds.

[www.coloradowildlife.org](http://www.coloradowildlife.org)

# Bottom Line

- Are most people in Colorado opposed to oil and gas development?
- Do they think it ought to be done in a manner that ensures the long term sustainability of our fish and wildlife?