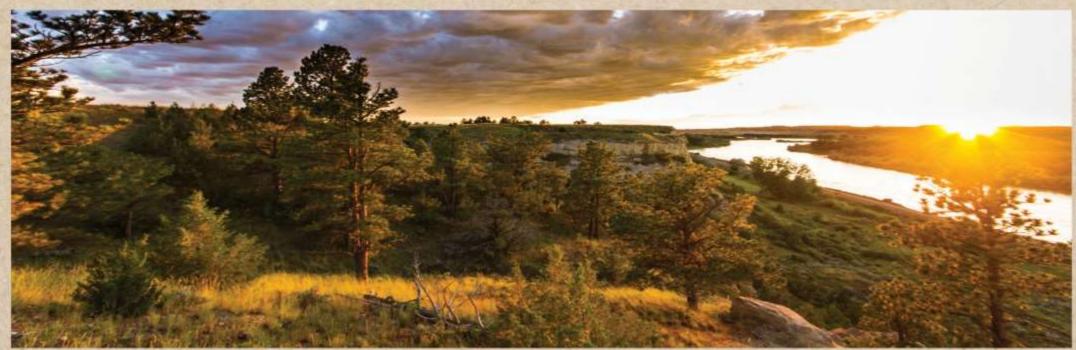
Making Conservation Matter









From Federal Policy to Protecting Our

Backyard---Rev. Andrew Black www.earth-keepers.org





From Energy Dominance to Mindfulness & The Need for Oil & Gas Reforms

<u>Revive Economic Growth & Reclaim Orphaned Wells</u> <u>Act 2021 -- Sen. Lujan (D-NM) & Cramer (R-ND)</u>

- 56,000 documented "orphaned" oil and gas wells (abandoned wells with no responsible party for cleanup)
 - EPA Estimates 2 million undocumented wells across U.S. This bill helps track undocumented wells
 - National Crisis--40 producers declared bankruptcy in 2019 walking away from wells
 - O&G Industry Lost 100,000 Jobs since COVID
- Methane and Community Health Impacts
 - Methane is 84x more potent than CO2
 - In 2018, Abandoned Wells Leaked 7 million metric tons=1.5 million cars
 - Carcinogens impacting Tribal & local communities
 - Water Contamination Of Farms, Rivers and Lakes



<u>Revive Economic Growth & Reclaim Orphaned Wells</u> <u>Act 2021 -- Sen. Lujan (D-NM) & Cramer (R-ND)</u>

- <u>\$4.6 billion to plug wells, restore &</u> <u>reclaim</u>
 - \$4.275 billion for orphaned well cleanup on state and private lands
 - \$400 million for orphaned well cleanup on public and tribal lands
 - \$250 million for public lands
 - \$150 million for Tribal Lands.
 - \$32 million for related research, development, and implementation
- Jobs, Jobs and More Jobs
- REGROW ACT



<u>The Orphaned Well Cleanup and Jobs Act of 2021</u> <u>Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM)</u>

• <u>\$8 billion to plug wells, restore & reclaim</u>

- \$7.25 billion for orphaned well cleanup on state and private lands
- \$400 million for orphaned well cleanup on public lands
- \$300 million for Tribal Lands.
- \$50 million for related research, development, and implementation
- Jobs, Jobs and More Jobs
- Also Requires Bonding Requirements



<u>How Do We Prevent This Problem in the Future?</u> <u>Bonding Reform</u>

- Before drilling, oil & gas companies must put down a bond that's like a security deposit covering the cost of clean-up of well sites.
 - Problem is that rates that establish the size of the bond were set in the 1950-60s so taxpayers are picking up the tab for the difference, which is billions of dollars.
- Congress needs to update bonding requirements to ensure taxpayers aren't liable for future remediation and companies cover the cost of cleanup.
- Companies must submit interim and final reclamation plans prior to drilling
- Establish a public database for leasing including:
 - Existing financial assurances
 - Current or future reclamation costs
 - Document orphaned and inactive wells
 - Violations or enforcement actions

Fair Returns for Public Lands Act, S.624 (Sen. Rosen D-NV and Grassley (R-IA).

- Increases royalty rate for oil and gas leases from 12.5% to 18.75%
 - Makes rates consistent with Fed. offshore rates
 - Makes rates comparable to state and private royalty rates
 - CBO estimates this will raise an additional \$200 million in federal revenue over the next 10 years, with an equivalent amount going to the states where the oil or gas is extracted
 - Increase won't impact production-reduction in production is estimated to be small or negligible



Fair Returns for Public Lands Act, S.624 (Sen. Rosen D-NV and Grassley (R-IA).

- Increases national minimum bid for oil and gas leases from \$2/acre to \$10/acre
 - Most leases issued at \$2 per acre are never developed.
 - Will help end speculative leasing & ensure that only the most productive lands are leased (See Cortez Masto bill)
- Increases the rental rates of oil & gas leases
 - Currently, \$1.50/acre for the first five years and \$2/acre after that
 - New rate would be \$3/acre for the first 5 years and \$5/acre after that.



<u>End Speculative Oil and Gas Leasing Act (S. 607)</u> (Sen. Cortez Masto D-NV)

- Prohibits BLM from offering leases on lands determined to have low/no development potential
 - Currently BLM doesn't consider development potential at planning or leasing stage
 - As a result, 90% of BLM lands are open to oil and gas leasing even though less than a quarter have moderate to high potential for production
 - Industry merely has to nominate parcel to be considered to lease
 - Locks up public lands and keeps them from multiple use
- <u>Requires BLM to regularly assess oil and gas development potential on public</u> <u>lands</u>
 - Many BLM Resource Management Plans are decades old, including assessments related to oil and gas potential

<u>Restoration & Resilience in the Upcoming</u> <u>Infrastructure Bill \$200 Billion</u>



- Put 3.5 million Americans to work. Over 10 million unemployed
- Capping Orphaned Oil and Gas Wells
- Abandoned Mines Cleanup
- Recover Imperiled Wildlife
- Expand Outdoor Recreation
- Forest Restoration
- Coastal Resiliency
- Watershed Restoration
- Restoring Sagebrush & Grasslands

Protection of the Caja del Rio

















Tribes Connected to the Caja del Rio

Cochiti,

Kewa/Santo Domingo,

Tesuque, Pojoaque, Jemez, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, San Felipe, Sandia, Santa Ana, **Ohkay Owingeh/San Juan** Nambe, Navajo, Apache & Comanche



Petroglyphs of the Caja del Rio

13-17th Century Kersean speaking Pueblo & Spanish Petroglyphs

1991 Archelogical Survey showed 4,400 petroglyphs in 1.5 Kilometers

Birds and Flute Players





Petroglyph Site El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

La Cieneouilla

"We don't have our histories in books, they are written on the walls of our canyons."

Regina Whiteskunk, 2016 National Congress of American Indians



People of the Caja del Rio







<u>Agriculture on the Caja del Rio</u>















Birds of the Caja del Rio





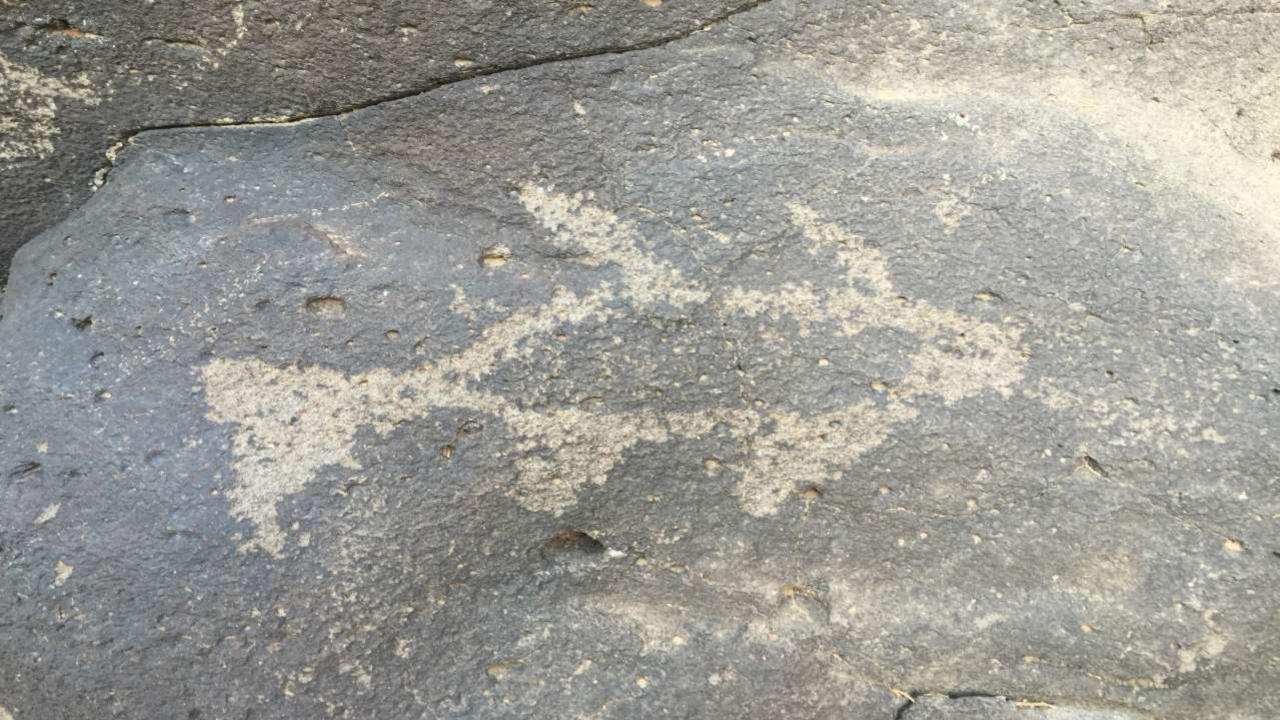




















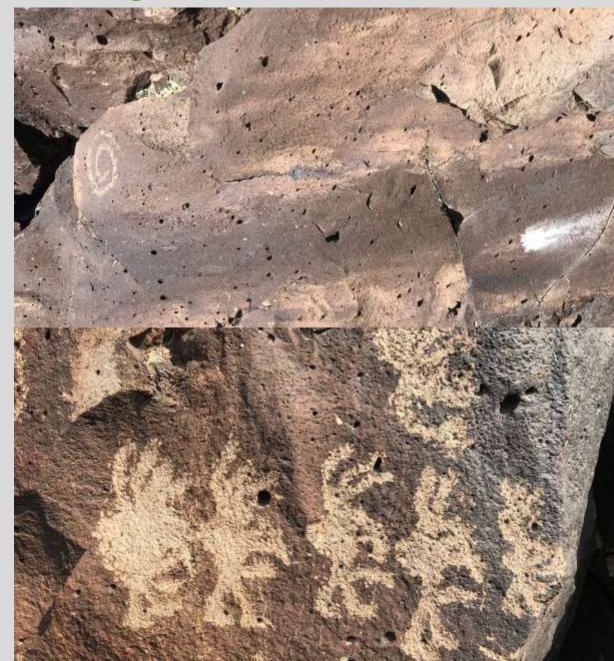






Threats Facing the Caja del Rio

- Road development
- Desecration & theft of petroglyphs/sacred sites
- Rampant off-road vehicle use
- Illegal dumping
- Unregulated shooting
- Poaching and destruction of endangered species
- Illegal wood cutting and rock
 removal
- Potential mining on BLM lands





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