Protecting and Enjoying the Land that helps Define Our Identity

Municipalities co-exist with the rural areas around them and often use them for activities such as **hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping, hiking, ATV trail riding and snowmobiling**. The industrialization of the rural landscape puts all this at risk.

Sportsmen and Public Lands

- **Access: Lands that have been traditionally available to all sportsmen may now be posted by a gas company**, thus limiting or forbidding access, especially during active drilling. Hunters, anglers and trappers may find new or modified roads in many areas and encounter large volumes of truck traffic.
- **Firearms: Firearms usage** will be **restricted** near **drilling operations**.
- **Private lands:** Even access to **private lands may be restricted,** if they are leased.

Wildlife and Hunting

- **Game habitat loss:** Many studies show that the construction of **access roads, well pads, and pipelines displaces wildlife** into less desirable and more crowded habitats, increasing their vulnerability to predation and reducing their winter survival.
- **Excessive noise: Excessive noise and activity drive away game** and make it difficult for hunters to hear and track wildlife. Encountering heavy industrial development in the woods undermines the experience that so many hunters value.
- **Contamination: Wildlife** is attracted to the open soil and wastewater in the areas around well pads, and **can be poisoned** by eating and drinking at those sites. Also, massive withdrawal of fresh water for **fracking has dried up usual surface and underground sources of drinking water** causing stress and death.

Fishing

- **Contamination:** There have been countless spills that allowed toxic chemicals to reach streams; in some cases, **widespread fish kills** resulted. Even low concentrations of fracking chemicals may affect aquatic invertebrates — the tiny water bugs that grow into mayflies and stoneflies, which are in turn eaten by fish and birds. A

stream without bugs becomes a stream without fish, and then a valley with fewer birds, and so on up the food chain.

- **Siltation: Clearing of vegetation for access roads, pipelines, and large multi-well pads carries large amounts of soil into streams**, where it settles and may smother aquatic life, especially bottom-dwelling insects upon which many fish feed.

Forests

- **Habitat fragmentation:** Land clearing for well pads, access roads, and the mind-boggling web of gathering pipelines required to connect every individual gas well to larger lines, will **carve the forests into smaller, unconnected sections**. This new large 'edge' landscape will **change the nature of the forest for the plants and animals** that live there, and allow invasive species to thrive, which will affect all forest related activities.
- **No regrowth:** Much of the disturbed area will not be allowed to re-grow trees. **Pipelines, access roads, and parts of well pads must remain clear of tall vegetation.**

"**The whole area was laced with pipelines and roads, and it seemed as though we were never far from the hum of a compressor moving gas** through the line. This was **no longer a working forest that balanced resource management and recreation. It was an industrial forest**, a kind of open-air factory, and it's a sign of things to come. **Eastern sportsmen need to speak up now** to make sure some of our last remaining wild places stay that way."

Licata, Anthony. July 24, 2009. "Natural Gas Drilling Threatens Trout in

Air quality

New industrial activity, in areas that are primarily rural, forested and open space, is **a new source of air pollution** that can adversely affect local residents, hunters, anglers and trappers, as well as the plants and animals of the region.

Sources:Legere, Laura. June 21, 2010. "Hazards Posed by Natural Gas Drilling Not Always Underground." The Times-Tribune (Scranton, PA)

Shankman, Sabrina. January 27, 2010. "Pennsylvania's Gas Wells Booming--But So Are Spills." ProPublica; Williams, Ted. March 2004. "The Mad Gas Rush." Audubon.

Thomson, Janice L., Ph.D.; Tim S. Schaub; Nada Wolff Culver; and Peter C. Aengst. February 2005. "Wildlife at a Crossroads:

Energy Development in Western Wyoming, Effects of Roads on Habitat in the Upper Green River Valley." Wilderness Society

"*Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling Impacts on Hunting, Fishing and Trapping", Sportsmen Alliance For Marcellus Conservation*