



WYOMING AERO PHOTO LLC

POWER SWITCH

GPS: 42.85239, -110.0614

A guide for visitors

***Welcome!** To view the Power Switch from JB Bond's house at 29 Cutoff Road, Daniel, Wyoming, proceed to the north side of the house (toward the mountains). Continue to where the hill drops away to the pasture. From this point you can see the Power Switch inscribed on the flat ground in the middle of the pasture.*

The Power Switch is on private land. Please respect the rights of property owners and obtain permission before entering any private land in this area. To view the Power Switch, please contact Pipeline Art Project.

What is the Power Switch?

The Power Switch is a land art collaboration between three members of Pipeline Art Project: JB Bond, David K. Klarén, and Sue Sommers, all artists in Sublette County, Wyoming. The project began in May 2014. The artwork is a 100-foot-diameter power button symbol tilled into a pasture on a flood plain near Daniel, Wyoming. Wildflower seeds were planted in the fall of 2014. Orange wallflowers (annuals) bloomed in the summer of 2015. Purple Rocky Mountain penstemons (perennials) began blooming in the summer of 2015 and will continue to bloom in future years.

Who funded the project?

The project is entirely supported by the artists.

What is land art?

Land art (also called “earth art”) uses elements found in nature to build artwork that harmonizes with a given location. Ultimately, this means the work is also subject to the forces that will alter or destroy it.

Land art doesn’t freeze a moment in time like a painting or sculpture might, but works with constant change to remind the viewer that time is always unfolding. Photography and video can capture moments in the life of the piece, but the artwork’s significance lies mainly in its changing nature, and in the viewer’s memory of the experience. There are many examples of land art in the western United States. Perhaps the earliest and best-known in our region is Robert Smithson’s *Spiral Jetty* (1970), constructed on the edge of the Great Salt Lake.

Where is the Power Switch site?

The Power Switch is on private land belonging to JB Bond at GPS 42.85239, -110.0614. It borders Horse Creek and is a mile or two from the historic Green River Rendezvous site. Between 1833 and 1840, six trapper rendezvous took place there. Power Switch shares an access road with the DeSmet Monument, site of the first Catholic Mass west of the Mississippi (1840). The Gros Ventre Mountains rise to the north and the Wind River Mountains are prominent in the east. The area is extremely rural with a mix of residential, agricultural, and public land.

Why did the artists choose a power button symbol?

The design is the combination of a line and a circle (in the binary system, the digits one and zero), found on countless appliances and signifying “on/off.” A power button on the earth is a provocative metaphor for power and energy in all its natural and human forms. The artists have no agenda or political position; they invite every viewer to bring his/her own insight and imagination to the work and to engage in conversation about it.

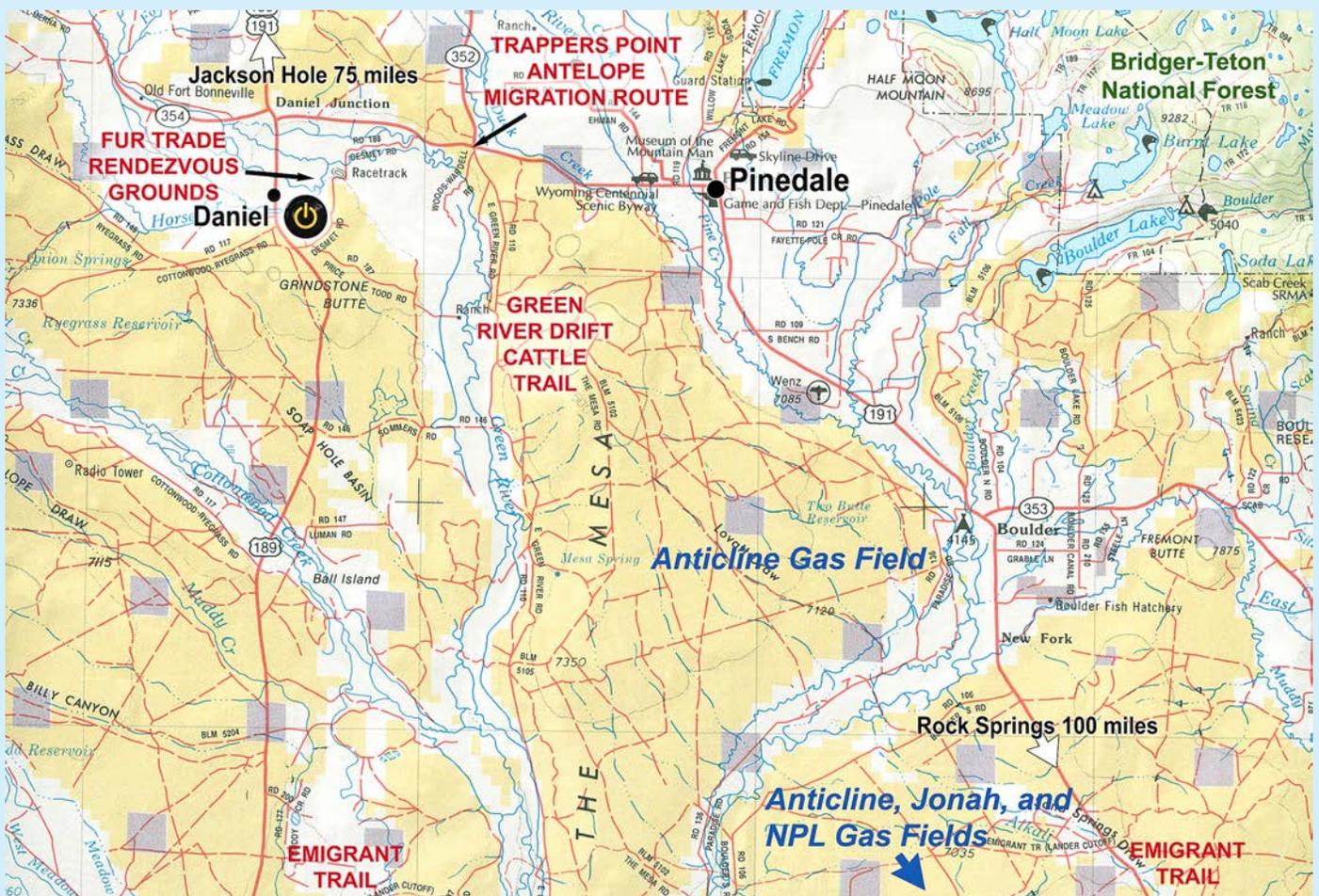


Why is the Power Switch location important?

Many strands of western American history weave together at this location, including seasonal use by Native Americans, expansion of Euro-American commerce and settlement, natural resource use from prehistory to the 21st century, and wildlife migration.

The area played an important but often overlooked role in 19th century American art history. In 1837, artist Alfred Jacob Miller arrived and made the only eye-witness sketches of a fur trade rendezvous. In 1859, celebrated painter Albert Bierstadt came over South Pass and into our valley, collecting data for landscape paintings that would forever change American art and Americans' understanding of the West.

Sublette County is one of the top natural-gas-producing areas in the US; Bond, Klarén and Sommers all live close to the Anticline and Jonah fields, where in the 1990s, fracking was first developed into a commercially viable gas extraction method. The artists have lived in Sublette County for many years and have experienced the benefits and costs of the energy-based boom/bust economy. They are also proud of Sublette County's track record of citizens, agencies and industry working together for better industry practices that preserve our area's beauty and quality of life.



An area map shows important man-made and natural features related to the Power Switch.



JB Bond, Sue Sommers, and David K. Klarén overlooking the Power Switch in late 2014.

How long will the project last?

This Power Switch will sooner or later return to a natural condition. If opportunities arise, the project may be implemented at other sites on private or public land. Documentation (photos, video, discussion) about the Power Switch is a significant part of the project. Presentations and discussion have taken place several times on site and at the University of Wyoming campus in 2015. We are scheduling future venues.

What is the purpose of this project?

Our primary goal is to spark widespread conversations about art, power, and energy by placing a visually striking artwork on the land where we live and work. We welcome comments, questions, and visitors!

The artists thank Karen Clause of the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Julie Kraft of Sublette County Weed and Pest for valuable information and assistance.

PIPELINE ART PROJECT

pumping art from the energy state of wyoming

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