

Ellen Blakey

Americans do not like change. They will drag their spurs — bootstraps and all — into the dirt, kicking and probably cursing all the way, to avoid even a hint of logic or economic analysis passing through their thought processes. Particularly when the subject is our natural resources. And heaven help the person who utters the two words together — climate change.

Even when our friends and neighbors bear the brunt and burden of past disasters, they too often refuse to back legislative measures that can make a difference.

Do your due diligence, prepare your legal documents, hold your community meetings. But be prepared to address the emotional reactions that frequently are not necessarily connected.

It is a lot like the old-time traveling revival that frontier families flocked to — repeat the main message at least three times just in case someone was not listening the first couple of times. Point to people involved - how non-government employees are working with neighbors/grassroots groups to move ahead — to those who have been affected — and how this will make a difference. And when. I lived in Oklahoma as a child when gas was flared as a common practice when they drilled for oil. The accidents and overflows commonly poisoned land and streams for years.

Even now we have active drilling that pollutes our major waterways here in Wyoming. Cleaning up abandoned wells and other facilities is absolutely needed. We need to consider long-term consequences if we ignore what is happening now. We need to admit that what may not be visible now can bring greater harm when we do nothing.

Whatever positive steps we can do to stop the pollution and provide action toward saving ourselves, our communities and our country, we owe it to our children and future generations to try.

We should be smarter than the ostriches who stuck their heads in the sand in old folklore. It caused their own demise.