

# SPLIT ESTATE

## Bullfrog Community Screening & Discussion Guide

### what you'll find inside!

- about the film & filmmakers
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- ready to act! handout

**Roll out the red carpet!** Use your SPLIT ESTATE film screening as an opportunity to build community and spark debate and action on natural gas development in the US and the industry practice known as “fracking”. This guide offers some background information plus helpful tips and discussion questions for a stirring, informative, and rewarding screening. **Good Luck!**

For additional resources, visit [splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split\\_resources](http://splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split_resources)

## About SPLIT ESTATE

SPLIT ESTATE maps a tragedy in the making, as citizens in the path of a new drilling boom in the Rocky Mountain West struggle against the erosion of their civil liberties, their communities and their health. Exempt from federal protections like the Clean Water Act, the oil and gas industry has left this idyllic landscape and its rural communities pockmarked with abandoned homes and polluted waters. As our appetite for fossil fuels increases despite mounting public health concerns, SPLIT ESTATE cracks the sugar-coating on an industry that assures us it is a good neighbor, and drives home the need for alternatives -- both here and abroad.



## About the Director

Debra Anderson has worked in the film and television industry for seventeen years as an editor and a producer. Anderson began to shoot *Split Estate* in 2006 after reading a story in “On Earth Magazine” about a woman named Laura Amos from Garfield County, Colorado, who developed a rare adrenal tumor after drilling commenced in her neighborhood. Anderson was moved to tell the story of a growing number of people who are experiencing serious health effects associated with drilling practices.

# ready to watch!

## Here are some ideas and best practices to help make your community screening of SPLIT ESTATE a success!

- 1. Publicize Your Event!** This is the most important step because it not only tells the world what you're up to, but it lets the Bullfrog Community team know what your plans are so we can help you publicize your event. Visit [splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split\\_screenings](http://splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split_screenings) to register your SPLIT ESTATE screening. When you register your event, additional online publicity tools become available.
- 2. Visualize Your Goal!** What do you hope to achieve with your screening of SPLIT ESTATE? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion with your audience about questions to ask and actions to take if a natural gas company wants to drill/frack in your area. Or, perhaps you want to motivate members of your community to participate in a letter writing campaign to your government representatives. Or, simply provide an opportunity for families to watch and learn together.
- 3. Where To Host?** Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating a community film screening of the size you anticipate: churches, town halls, private homes and even high schools have been venues for many successful community screenings.
- 4. Find A Partner!** Give some thought to who is already working on energy issues and the health of your water resources in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Speak on a panel discussion after the screening? Some potential partners include: your local watershed association, water-conservancy organizations, a solar panel or wind power provider, a local (or national) organization fighting fracking.
- 5. Invite A Guest Speaker!** Guest speakers and panels are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. Contact local non-profit representatives, teachers, professionals, or government officials who have expertise or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend and participate in a discussion or Q&A session.
- 6. Engage Your Audience!** Included in this guide is a section called Ready to Act!, which links to relevant resources online and can be used as a hand-out at your screening. It will help your audience know what they can do in their own lives to fight fracking and protect the environment and safety of our water supplies.
- 7. Spread The Word!** Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing the film screening to people in your community. Sending emails, creating event notifications on Facebook or Meetup, using Twitter, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. Find the SPLIT ESTATE screening poster, discussion guide (includes handout), and press photos on [splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split\\_resources](http://splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split_resources) to help publicize your event around town.
- 8. Tell Us How It Went!** We would love to know how your SPLIT ESTATE screening went! Visit [splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split\\_discussion](http://splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split_discussion) to tell us about your event. Where was it held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? Did the film have a positive impact and inform people about the dangers of fracking? Your feedback will help others in organizing their own successful events and will energize the Bullfrog Water Community as a whole.

# ready to talk!

**After watching the movie, your audience will be excited to discuss the issues raised by SPLIT ESTATE. Here are some questions that will help get people talking!**

1. What does the term “split estate” mean? Do you know if you own the mineral rights for underneath your property? How will you find out?
2. Is hydraulic fracturing and natural gas extraction a good way to ease our use of foreign oil? Why or why not, and what are the alternatives?
3. Before watching SPLIT ESTATE, what did you expect would happen to the landscape if a gas drilling company decided to drill in your area? What would you expect now?
4. Is SPLIT ESTATE a biased documentary? What would a film from the opposing view look like, and how would it be different?
5. Extraction industries tell us that fracking is a safe process. If one of their representatives were here, what would you ask or say to them?
6. If approached from a natural gas company for the rights to drill and fracture on your land, what would you do? What questions would you ask them?
7. If your local watershed became contaminated because of natural gas drilling, from where would you source your water? For long could you do this? Who would be responsible for the cleanup?
8. As it stands, companies carrying out fracking are exempt from the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act. Why do you think this is? Who benefits from this decision? Who is hurt?
9. How would you and your community protect your land and waterways from natural gas drilling? What safeguards can you put into place now? What should you research more about?
10. If your legislative representative were here tonight, what would ask or say to them?
11. How can you, as an individual, raise further awareness of the risks of natural gas drilling and fracking? How can your community get the word out?
12. What can we do about the issues illuminated in SPLIT ESTATE? Share the READY TO ACT handout and visit [splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split\\_resources](http://splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split_resources) for additional ideas and resources.

# ready to act!

handout

Share this handout with your  
SPLIT ESTATE screening audience!

1. Join a local or national organization fighting fracking. Some organizations are:

Clean Water Action Group - [www.cleanwateraction.org](http://www.cleanwateraction.org)

Clean Air Council - [www.cleanair.org/](http://www.cleanair.org/)

Earthworks - [www.earthworksaction.org/home.cfm](http://www.earthworksaction.org/home.cfm)

Food and Water Watch - [www.foodandwaterwatch.org/](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/)

Environmental Working Group - [www.ewg.org/](http://www.ewg.org/)

2. Contact your local elected officials! Write letters, call, and email to express your worry about the dangerous effects that hydraulic fracturing for natural gas can have on your community's water, air, land, and public health.

3. Send a letter to congress and tell your Senators and Representatives to support the FRAC Act...(H.R.2766 and S.1215). Ask them to close the so-called "Halliburton Loop-hole" in the Safe Drinking Water Act. More info on the FRAC Act: [bit.ly/kwFe6x](http://bit.ly/kwFe6x)

4. Call or Write to the EPA. Tell them that you support their investigation of Hydraulic Fracturing: [www.epa.gov/epahome/comments.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epahome/comments.htm)

5. Read the White House's "Fact Sheet on America's Energy Security" and voice your concerns about natural gas fracking: [1.usa.gov/i2mbeZ](http://1.usa.gov/i2mbeZ)

6. Arrange screenings of this film with other groups in your community that need to be brought up to speed on this issue. [splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/](http://splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/)

7. Sign petitions at [www.bullfrogcommunities.com/bc\\_take\\_action](http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/bc_take_action) and share in the discussion about SPLIT ESTATE and natural gas/fracking issues in your community. [splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split\\_discussion](http://splitestate.bullfrogcommunities.com/split_discussion)

8. Join the Bullfrog Water Community at [www.bullfrogcommunities.com/bc\\_water](http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/bc_water) Show other WATER films to expand understanding of the health and environmental risks surrounding natural gas exploration and fracking.