# THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

**STATEMENT OF DAVID ALBERSWERTH**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

**BEFORE THE**

**HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES**

**REGARDING**

**"DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS SUPPPLY AND DEMAND:**

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC LANDS & THE OCS"**

**MARCH 15, 2001**

Madame Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of The Wilderness Society and its 180,000 members on the important matter of the contribution of public lands to domestic natural gas supplies. My name is David Alberswerth, and I am the Director of The Wilderness Society's Bureau of Land Management Program. Prior to joining The Wilderness Society staff last year I served the Clinton Administration within the Department of the Interior as Special Assistant and Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, and Deputy Director of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.

It is The Wilderness Society's hope that in exercising its oversight role regarding this important matter, the subcommittee will seek to be as objective as possible in reviewing the extent of natural gas resources on our public lands, and the environmental values that also reside on those lands that can be placed at risk by natural gas exploration and development activities. For although natural gas extracted from our public lands is an important component of our nation's well-being, the environmental, wildlife, watershed, and wilderness values of those lands are also vitally important to Americans.

Some suggest that these two interests are incompatible, or that we cannot meet our energy needs without sacrificing some of our most precious lands. The Wilderness Society believes that we can meet our energy needs without sacrificing our most treasured national landscapes. In fact, America has a proud tradition of combining a strong economy with strong environmental values, and we urge the subcommittee to be guided by both goals. A review of some pertinent facts, which I will set forth below, demonstrates clearly that this is possible.

One fact of central importance that I wish to draw to the subcommittee's attention is that the vast majority of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Overthrust Belt states of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming are presently open to leasing, exploration and development by the oil and gas industry. In fact, information presented to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management by the BLM in 1995 indicated that over ninety-five percent of BLM lands in those states (including "split estate" lands) were available for oil and gas leasing. I have appended to this testimony the BLM's synopsis of the availability of BLM lands in those states for oil and gas leasing, exploration and development (see attachment I). Though there have been some changes in the land status of some of the lands indicated on the attachment since this information was prepared by the BLM in 1995, the data here is still essentially valid. I suggest that it would be in the subcommittee's interest to request an update of this information from the BLM for the subcommittee's consideration at next week's hearing on the same topic.

It is also relevant to any discussion of our public land energy policies to understand that the BLM has been carrying out a robust onshore oil and leasing program for the past decade. For example, the Clinton Administration issued oil and gas leases on more than 26.4 million acres of public lands during the last eight years (see attachment II). According to the BLM publication, *Public Rewards from Public Lands*, there are nearly 50,000 producing oil and gas wells on the public lands (see attachment III). Thousands of new drilling permits have been issued during the past eight years - 3,400 by the BLM in FY 2000 alone (see attachment IV). In fact, production of natural gas from onshore and offshore federal lands has steadily increased from 1981 to the present (see attachment V).

Criticism by some that in recent years too much public land has been made unavailable for oil and gas activities is simply not supported by the facts. Upon close examination, industry criticism of "lack of access" to onshore public lands really falls into two categories: lands that are off-limits entirely to oil and gas development; and lands available for development if the industry takes special care of the environment. The former areas include wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, and/or areas such as steep slopes, karst areas, and areas where other mineral activities are taking place, in other words, places where oil and gas activities could pose extreme environmental or safety hazards, or be incompatible with other values. Currently, such areas comprise roughly 5 percent of BLM-managed lands in the five states.

The latter category often encompasses areas where evidence indicates the presence of sensitive wildlife habitats, such as elk calving areas, or sage grouse leks, where operations at certain times of the year could pose severe threats to wildlife. In such cases, the BLM may require that operations only occur at certain times of the year, when such areas are not in use by certain wildlife species. In some cases, the BLM imposes "No Surface Occupancy" leases, whereby the lessee is required to access the oil and gas resource from off-site. Such "NSO" stipulations are also designed to protect wildlife habitats, while making the resource available for extraction. The types of special imposed to protect environmental values can be summarized as follows:

"Standard Stipulations" -- These are provisions within standard BLM oil and gas leases regarding the conduct of operations or conditions of approval given at the permitting stage, such as: prohibitions against surface occupancy within 500 feet of surface water and or riparian areas; on slopes exceeding 25 percent gradient; construction when soil is saturated, or within 1/4 mile of an occupied dwelling. These are generally applied to all BLM oil and gas leases, regardless of special circumstances.

"Seasonal" or other "Special" Stipulations -- "Seasonal Stipulations" prohibit mineral exploration and/or development activities for specific periods of time, for example sage grouse strutting areas when being used, hawk nesting areas, or on calving habitat for wild ungulate species. These are often imposed at the request of state wildlife officials, as well as in compliance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requests to protect sensitive species.

"No Surface Occupancy" -- NSO leases prohibit operations directly on the surface overlaying a leased federal tract. This is usually done to protect some other resource that may be in conflict with surface oil and gas operations, for example, underground mining operations, archeological sites, caves, steep slopes, campsites, or important wildlife habitat. These leases may be accessed from another location via directional drilling.

The imposition of special, seasonal, or NSO stipulations are an attempt by the BLM to balance the industry's desire for access to oil and gas deposits, with the BLM's responsibility to manage other resources on the public lands. Although industry public relations campaigns frequently emphasize the benign nature of contemporary exploration and development technologies, when required by the BLM to utilize these technologies to minimize environmental impacts, the industry is reluctant to do so. However, the purpose of most of these stipulations, about which the industry now appears to complain, is simply to ensure that these advanced technologies are used to minimize environmental impacts of energy production on environmentally sensitive public lands. These stipulations do not reduce our nation's access to its energy resources.

With respect to the national forests, the national forests currently supply 0.4% of total US oil and gas production, half of which occurs on the Little Missouri Grasslands (*Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation FEIS, 2000*, pages 3-312 and 3-316). The remaining national forest land account for less than 0.2% of total production in 1999 (Ibid.). The vast majority of roadless areas on the national forests subject to the new Forest Service roadless protection policy have been open to leasing for decades, and there has been little interest in exploiting potential resources, even though the real price of oil in the past was much higher than it is today.

I would like to turn now to estimates of natural gas resources and their relationship to the public lands. A 1999 report published by the National Petroleum Council, *Natural Gas: Meeting the Challenges of the Nation's Growing Natural Gas Demand,* indicates that there is a "natural gas resource base" in the lower 48 states of 1,466 trillion cubic feet of gas (TCF) (pp.7-8, *Summary Report*). (The figure does not include estimated gas resources in Alaska, estimated at Prudhoe Bay to be in the neighborhood of 25 TCF.) The report also estimates that, although current yearly consumption is approximately 22 TCF, that figure will increase to 31 TCF by 2015 (p.5).

In addition, the NPC report estimates that approximately 105 TCF of this estimated gas resource base is entirely off-limits to development, including 29 TCF from federal lands in the Rocky Mountain states, and 76 TCF from OCS areas off the Atlantic coast, the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific coast (p.13). If we add to that figure the 9.4 TCF estimated by the Advanced Resources International analysis of the Forest Service's new roadless policy to be unavailable,[1] we have approximately 115 TCF of the 1,466 TCF lower-48 gas resource base off-limits to extraction. The *Summary Report* also indicates that 108 TCF in the Rocky Mountain states "are available with restrictions." These lands in fact are available for development under the stipulations outlined above, so should not be counted as unavailable for development.

If we eliminate the 115 TCF from the NPC's estimated "natural gas resource base" of 1,466 TCF, we are left with 1,351 TCF available for future extraction. At a 31 TCF per year consumption rate, that is enough gas to meet America's anticipated needs for approximately 40 years. Given this, it is difficult to understand the urgency with which the industry is pressing its case that it needs to invade some of America's most beautiful and environmentally sensitive landscapes, or reduce the environmental protection afforded wildlife and other values on the public lands, in order to meet anticipated future demands for natural gas.

In conclusion, if we are careful, we can pursue energy policies that allow and even encourage increased natural gas use, while protecting sensitive public lands and the environmental values that all Americans have a right to have protected. But our policies must also recognize that there are adverse impacts to natural gas development, and valid safety concerns with natural gas distribution issues, that should not be swept under the carpet in a headlong drilling and development frenzy.

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[1] "...with implementation of the proposed roadless areas, about 9.4 Tcf of gas beyond that determined as no 'access' in the 1999 NPC study would be impacted as 'standard lease terms' and "access restrictions" resources move into the 'no access' category." *Undiscovered Natural Gas and Petroleum Resources Beneath Inventoried Roadless and Special Designated Areas on Forest Service Lands analysis and Results*, Advanced Resources International, Inc., November 20, 2000, p. 3.

**Availability of Public Lands**

The vast majority of public lands are available for leasing. In the states with considerable production of 116.6 million acres only 2.9 million acres are not open for leasing. In Colorado 16.2 million acres are open and 600,000 closed to leasing; in Montana out of 19 million acres 400,000 are closed; in New Mexico of 29.9 million acres of lands only 1.3 million is not open to leasing; in Utah 900,000 acres are closed to leasing leaving 21.2 million acres open; in Wyoming 700,000 acres are closed out of 28.6 million.

| State | Total Acres (Millions) | Acres Open to Leasing | Acres Closed to Leasing |
|---|---|---|---|
| Colorado | 16.8 | 16.2 | 0.6 |
| Montana | 19.0 | 18.6 | 0.4 |
| New Mexico | 29.9 | 28.6 | 1.3 |
| Utah | 22.1 | 21.2 | 0.9 |
| Wyoming | 28.6 | 27.9 | 0.7 |
| Total | 116.4 | 112.5 | 3.9 |
| Percent | | 96.6 | 3.4 |

# Wyoming
# BLM Acreage by Oil & Gas Stipulations

| Resource Area | Stipulations | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Standard Stips | Seasonal + Other | NSO | Off-limits | Total oil & gas estate |
| Buffalo | 3,948,900 | 671,800 | 80,300 | 30,100 | 4,731,100 |
| Newcastle | 1,566,284 | 123,590 | 126 | 0 | 1,690,000 |
| Platte River | 7,255,000 | 1,044,000 | 180,000 | 35,160 | 8,514,160 |
| Great Divide | 0 | 4,959,073 | 2,070 | 38,857 | 5,000,000 |
| Lander | 1,349,750 | 1,135,560 | 141,990 | 72,700 | 2,700,000 |
| Green River | 921,600 | 2,277,160 | 71,000 | 365,240 | 3,635,000 |
| Kemmerer | 832,192 | 681,922 | 1,701 | 34,456 | 1,550,271 |
| Pinedale | 437,000 | 709,000 | 21,485 | 21,501 | 1,188,986 |
| Bighorn Basin | 1,165,600 | 1,393,600 | 96,100 | 131,310 | 2,786,610 |
| Cody | 490,000 | 740,000 | 264,200 | 24,570 | 1,518,770 |
| Total | 14,017,426 | 13,063,905 | 778,672 | 723,794 | 28,583,797 |
| Percent | 49.0% | 45.7% | 2.7% | 2.5% | |

## AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

BLM, the State of Wyoming, the trona industry(UP), and the oil/gas industry are presently working together to find a solution for simultaneous development within the Known Sodium Leasing Area. BLM, the State, and the two industries have contributed over $600,000 to drill two surfaced cased wells for monitoring during underground mining of the trona. BLM has suspended all oil/gas leases within the KSLA for three years to complete the study.

Southwest Wyoming is 40% crucial winter range and 80% winter range which requires numerous stipulations for wildlife, cultural, T&E, and other resourse values. Wildlife stips range from November 15 thru April 30 and from February 1 to July 31 for raptor and sage grouse. In some cases the special requirements last 9 months of the year. The Bridger Tetons are a special case.*

Only one APD has been denied in the past two years for wildlife consideration, while 1131 were approved albiet some with special stipulations.

* See 4/20 memo, attached below.

# Utah
## BLM Acreage by Oil & Gas Stipulations

| Resource Area | Standard Stips | Seasonal + Other | NSO | Off-limits | Total oil & gas estate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dixie | | 28,715 | 91,304 | 56,120 | |
| Beaver River | | 199,625 | 24,357 | 0 | |
| Kanab | | 22,689 | 127,179 | 76,133 | |
| Escalante | | 38,644 | 66,889 | 85,713 | |
| Cedar City | 4,484,722 | 289,673 | 309,729 | 217,966 | 5,302,090 |
| Grand | | 866,170 | 136,613 | 60,434 | |
| San Juan | | 731,008 | 209,906 | 189,886 | |
| Price River | | 874,769 | 49,038 | 84,762 | |
| San Rafael | | 39,829 | 232,987 | 156,968 | |
| Moab | 2,173,440 | 2,511,776 | 628,544 | 492,050 | 5,805,810 |
| Henry Mountain | | 488,867 | 34,011 | 61,592 | |
| Sevier River | | 273,272 | 19,022 | 0 | |
| House Range | | 68,217 | 105,359 | 34,416 | |
| Warm Springs | | 96,028 | 49,949 | 5,041 | |
| Richfield | 5,686,679 | 926,384 | 208,341 | 101,049 | 6,922,453 |
| Pony Express | | 553,996 | 123,070 | 0 | |
| Bear River | | 224,323 | 5,531 | 39,705 | |
| Salt Lake | 1,563,164 | 778,319 | 128,601 | 39,705 | 2,509,789 |
| Diamond Mountain | | 523,255 | 49,603 | 17,946 | |
| Bookcliffs | | 692,283 | 53,659 | 15,100 | |
| Vernal | 255,784 | 1,215,538 | 103,262 | 33,046 | 1,607,630 |
| Total | 14,163,789 | 5,721,690 | 1,378,477 | 883,816 | 22,147,772 |
| Percent | 64.0% | 25.8% | 6.2% | 4.0% | |

### AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

McCracken Extension- This is a Navajo Issue involving 48,000 acres of split federal and Tribal estates. BLM has placed a moratorium on any new leasing until NEPA is completed. The Navajo have asked the Secretary for the Mineral Estate

Kane Spring Horizontal Well Play- Further development of this promising area has been delayed indefinitely because of the need to prepare an EIS.

Combined Hydrocarbon Lease Sale- Industry has expressed increased interest in a combined sale in order to gain access to conventional oil and gas associated with areas identified as Known Tar Sands areas.

# New Mexico
# BLM Acreage by Oil & Gas Stipulations

| | Stipulations | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Resource Area** | **Standard Stips** | **Seasonal + Other** | **NSO** | **Off-limits** | **Total oil & gas estate** |
| Farmington | 1,848,000 | 314,300 | 20,700 | 96,000 | 2,279,000 |
| Caballo | 1,704,800 | 39,000 | 8,200 | 0 | 1,752,000 |
| Mimbres | 3,532,000 | 262,830 | 65,000 | 266,950 | 4,126,780 |
| Socorro | 1,110,000 | 757,000 | 36,000 | 297,000 | 2,200,000 |
| Rio Puerco | 1,526,700 | 30,000 | 6,700 | 310,400 | 1,873,800 |
| Taos | 1,240,500 | 152,500 | 17,400 | 63,200 | 1,473,600 |
| Carlsbad | 3,591,000 | 315,000 | 99,000 | 63,000 | 4,068,000 |
| Roswell | 8,411,000 | 947,000 | 4,000 | 240,000 | 9,602,000 |
| Total | 22,964,000 | 2,817,630 | 257,000 | 1,336,550 | 27,375,180 |
| Percent | 83.9% | 10.3% | 0.9% | 4.9% | |

## AREAS OF CONCERN

There is controversy over oil/gas development in the Potash area.
105 Applications to Drill (APD) have been denied and are under appeal.
BLM requires directional drilling methods in certain sensitive areas such as the Carlsbad Caverns and other caves in the area. Also, BLM (New Mex) requires mitigation for State and Federally listed T&E species through special use stips. Industry thinks this is bad science. Further, we have been unable to get the oil and gas industries to come to agreement with the potash Industry on a study costing about $300,000. Negotiations are back on track for the study.

# Montana
# BLM Acreage by Oil & Gas Stipulations

| Resource Area | Stipulations: Standard Stips | Seasonal + Other | NSO | Off-limits | Total oil & gas estate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Judith | 252,760 | 596,081 | 3,553 | 15,197 | 867,591 |
| Valley | 486,599 | 579,920 | 1,600 | 66,525 | 1,134,644 |
| Big Dry | 4,658,000 | 2,600,000 | 160,000 | 82,000 | 7,500,000 |
| Billings, Powder River, South Dakota | 2,578,000 | 1,940,000 | 98,000 | 54,000 | 4,670,000 |
| Havre, Great Falls * | 1,227,014 | | | 111,000 | 1,338,014 |
| Headwaters, Great Falls | 251,000 | 315,000 | 30,000 | 60,000 | 656,000 |
| Phillips | 735,122 | 584,425 | 29,665 | 36,240 | 1,385,452 |
| Garnet | 112,810 | 84,076 | 8,180 | 520 | 205,586 |
| North Dakota ** | 253,583 | 206,811 | | 0 | 460,394 |
| Total | 10,554,888 | 6,906,313 | 330,998 | 425,482 | 18,217,681 |
| Percent | 57.9% | 37.9% | 1.8% | 2.3% | |

* Standard stipulation package includes timing, controlled surface use, and NSO stipulations.

** Includes both timing and NSO stipulations.

Note: Dillon RA covered by MFP. All lands except WSAs open subject to above standard stips.

## AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

SweetGrass Hills- This area involves protection of a large area considered sacred by Native Americans. The area is not reservation but raises the question of protecting cultural values through NEPA. There are oil and gas interests as well as several mining claims.

Issues in Montana center around the numerous stipulations to protect soils by restricting activities on roads greater than 30 degrees, Sagebrush grouse strutting areas, Elk wintering grounds, cultural values, grizzly habitat, etc. Leasing is perceived by industry as doable but only after exhausting opportunities on State and private land.

# Colorado
# BLM Acreage by Oil & Gas Stipulations

| Resource Area | Stipulations: Standard Stips | Seasonal + Other | NSO | Off-limits | Total oil & gas estate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| White River * | 1,721,470 | 2,187,280 | 148,450 | 83,730 | 4,140,930 |
| Grand Junction | 653,868 | 545,263 | 131,340 | 117,790 | 1,448,261 |
| San Luis | 219,291 | 384,105 | 13,855 | 3,620 | 620,871 |
| Gunnison | 595,344 | 49,962 | 35,605 | 46,007 | 726,918 |
| Royal Gorge | 1,715,897 | 736,847 | 37,220 | 70,984 | 2,560,948 |
| Uncompahgre | 511,074 | 174,542 | 80 | 21,038 | 706,734 |
| Little Snake | 765,610 | 1,248,870 | 57,894 | 35,380 | 2,107,754 |
| Glenwood Springs | 60,300 | 1,035,290 | 161,648 | 27,280 | 1,284,518 |
| Kremmling | 380,200 | 246,905 | 27,775 | 10,120 | 665,000 |
| Northeast Planning Area | 240,000 | 181,000 | 125,000 | 126,000 | 672,000 |
| San Juan/ San Miguel Planning Area | 721,872 | 910,408 | 110,128 | 103,152 | 1,845,560 |
| Total | 7,584,926 | 7,700,472 | 848,995 | 645,101 | 16,779,494 |
| Percent | 45.2% | 45.9% | 5.1% | 3.8% | |
| * Under proposed RMP | | | | | |
| White River - current | 1,721,470 | 1,423,240 | 19,730 | 83,730 | 3,248,170 |

## AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

The White River RMP is quite controversal as it proposes an increase of 750% in NSO's for protection of mostly cultural values. As in many areas most industry concern involves the time and layering of numerous stipulations attached to leases. Protection for wildlife habitat is a common concern. RMOGA has voiced concern for failure of the plan to consider socio-economic (jobs) values in the proposal.

The Resourse Use and Protection Directorate is evaluating this concern in concert with BLM economists in Denver to pilot a project to better address their issues.

Attachment II

January 4, 2001

# Federal Oil & Gas Leases Issued

## Calendar Years 1989 to 2000

**(includes all O&G leases issued on BLM, FS, and all other Federal lands, except NPR-A shown below)**

| | Number of Leases | Acres Leased | Bonus Bids Received* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1989 | 8,344 | 6,559,544 | $62,847,022 |
| 1990 | 6,383 | 5,121,444 | $49,363,154 |
| 1991 | 5,289 | 4,110,355 | $41,493,134 |
| 1992 | 3,654 | 2,710,843 | $18,804,174 |
| 1993 | 3,960 | 3,060,888 | $22,747,870 |
| 1994 | 4,315 | 3,780,180 | $41,430,784 |
| 1995 | 4,418 | 3,660,764 | $47,339,046 |
| 1996 | 3,924 | 2,780,209 | $31,979,336 |
| 1997 | 4,726 | 3,901,194 | $58,494,833 |
| 1998 | 4,591 | 4,295,852 | $77,214,000 |
| 1999 | 2,531 | 2,346,662 | $64,992,064 |
| 2000 | 2,818 | 2,634,874 | $52,359,670 |

* Bonus Bids Received are by fiscal year rather than calendar year

# Oil & Gas Leases Issued in the NPR-A

## Calendar Years 1989 to 2000

**(National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska)**

| | Number of Leases | Acres Leased | Bonus Bids Received |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 132 | 861,318 | $104,598,258 |

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Attachment III

From Public Rewards from Public Lands - 1999, BLM, p. 4

# National Commercial Use Activity

*on BLM-Managed Land, Fiscal Year 1998*

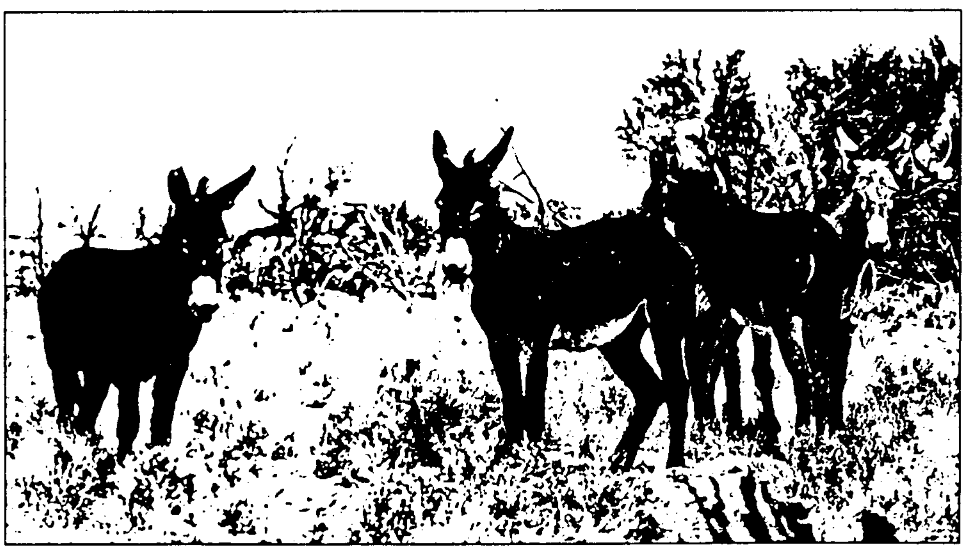
| | |
|---|---|
| Grazing Permits and Leases | 18,698 permits and leases, 13,015,303 AUMs |
| Timber Volume Sold | 43.7 million cubic feet/260.6 million board feet |
| Oil and Gas Leasing | 2,363 new holes started, 10.79 million acres in producing status, 49,633 currently producing wells |
| Geothermal Production | 58 producing leases, 4.8 million megawatt hours of energy |
| Coal Production | 125 producing leases, 347.7 million tons produced |
| Mineral Materials (Salables) | 3,030 permits issued, 12.9 million cubic yards produced |
| Nonenergy Leasables | 463,189 acres under lease, 16.99 million tons produced |
| Exploration and Mining Activity (Locatables) | 638 notices reviewed, 247 plans of operation reviewed |
| Rights-of-Way | 2,837 granted |

# National Wild Horse and Burro Program

*Fiscal Year 1998*

| Animal | Estimated Current Population | Animals Taken Off Range | Number of Animals Adopted* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wild Horses | 39,470 | 5,983 | 6,506 |
| Wild Burros | 5,025 | 406 | 1,337 |

* Some animals are not adopted the same year that BLM removes them from the range.



With a population hovering around 5,000, wild burros are primarily found in the Mojave Desert in Arizona, California, and southern Nevada.

Attachment IV

| Year | Lower 48 Competitive leases Issued Number | Acres Leased | Bonus Bids | Bid Acre | Non Competitive Leases Issued Number | Acres Leased | Total Issued Number | Acres Leased | APDs Approved |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1980 | 301 | 71,623 | 22,048,947 | 307.85 | 10,208 | 11,184,951 | 10,509 | 11,256,574 | |
| 1981 | 527 | 126,070 | 103,314,389 | 819.50 | 12,038 | 26,000,116 | 12,565 | 26,126,186 | |
| 1982 | 445 | 991,186 | 95,304,216 | 96.15 | 19,762 | 54,927,921 | 20,207 | 55,919,107 | |
| 1983 | 505 | 131,702 | 31,150,106 | 236.52 | 11,469 | 18,247,476 | 11,974 | 18,379,178 | |
| 1984 | 879 | 394,264 | 49,484,379 | 125.51 | 6,714 | 10,114,669 | 7,593 | 10,508,933 | |
| 1985 | 1596 | 1,585,851 | 48,671,382 | 30.69 | 9,893 | 16,385,732 | 11,489 | 17,971,583 | 3,318 |
| 1986 | 1263 | 353,055 | 26,643,088 | 75.46 | 7,746 | 9,584,437 | 9,009 | 9,937,492 | 1,886 |
| 1987 | 890 | 211,488 | 33,345,494 | 157.67 | 6,357 | 7,215,215 | 7,247 | 7,426,703 | 1,486 |
| 1988 | 2464 | 1,913,023 | 51,208,738 | 26.77 | 6,770 | 10,302,550 | 9,234 | 12,215,573 | 1,772 |
| 1989 | 4058 | 2,831,737 | 62,847,022 | 22.10 | 4,294 | 4,974,040 | 8,352 | 7,805,777 | 1,851 |
| 1990 | 3496 | 1,723,845 | 49,363,154 | 28.64 | 3,056 | 5,560,364 | 6,552 | 7,284,209 | 2,617 |
| 1991 | 3140 | 1,845,365 | 41,493,134 | 22.49 | 2,325 | 2,591,651 | 5,465 | 4,437,016 | 1,969 |
| 1992 | 2034 | 1,118,816 | 18,804,174 | 16.81 | 1,956 | 2,072,447 | 3,990 | 3,191,263 | 1,947 |
| 1993 | 2614 | 1,744,777 | 22,747,870 | 13.04 | 1,426 | 1,439,134 | 4,040 | 3,183,911 | 2,222 |
| 1994 | 2887 | 2,147,415 | 41,430,784 | 19.29 | 1,286 | 1,677,147 | 4,173 | 3,824,562 | 2,113 |
| 1995 | 3151 | 2,394,854 | 47,339,046 | 19.77 | 1,369 | 1,473,920 | 4,520 | 3,868,774 | 1,870 |
| 1996 | 2477 | 1,589,795 | 31,979,336 | 20.12 | 898 | 933,763 | 3,375 | 2,523,558 | 1,959 |
| 1997 | 3192 | 2,265,452 | 58,494,833 | 25.82 | 988 | 1,201,646 | 4,180 | 3,467,098 | 2,580 |
| 1998 | 3177 | 2,480,035 | 77,214,000 | 31.13 | 928 | 1,122,096 | 4,105 | 3,602,131 | 3,148 |
| 1999 | 2509 | 2,962,094 | 59,624,005 | 20.13 | 566 | 640,456 | 3,075 | 3,602,550 | 1,823 |
| 2000 | | | | | | | | | 3,496 |

Source: Public Land Statistics
Note: APD's not reported in PLS until 1985

# NEWS

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**For Immediate Release: January 17, 2001** Contact: Mike Gauldin (202) 208-6416

**STRONG RECORD FOR ENERGY PRODUCTION ON FEDERAL LANDS DURING CLINTON ADMINISTRATION**

The Interior Department has maintained a robust energy production program on our public lands at the same time that it has taken steps to protect special lands through both Congressional and administrative action. The Department's oil, gas and coal program, administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management and the Minerals Management Service, has continued energy development on federal lands at a pace that matches, or exceeds, production levels during the Reagan years, and during the previous Bush Administration.

Secretary Babbitt commented that "The facts tell a clear story: the President's actions in protecting special landscapes will not adversely affect our nation's ability to produce energy on those federal lands that are appropriate for oil, gas or coal development. We are producing more energy from our federal lands than ever before, but we are doing so in a prudent manner."

The protection of special lands in this Administration through Congressional action, or under the Antiquities Act, will not have an impact on the continuation of appropriate energy development on federal lands. The lands set aside as national monuments are not currently relied upon for significant energy supplies, and the amount of Bureau of Land Management land that the President has placed in protected status amounts to less than 2% of the BLM lands that are potentially available for energy development.

The Administration's record in promoting responsible oil and gas development in Alaska also is strong. The Interior Department offered for lease nearly 4 million acres of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, the largest federal lease sale in Alaska since the mid-1950s. Secretary Babbitt commented that "it is outrageous for the oil and gas industry to clamor for access to the pristine lands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge at the same time that industry has barely begun to tap the significant new resources made available during this Administration in the National Petroleum Reserve."

The Interior Department also supports the natural gas industry's utilization of the 25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas supplies that are currently available in the Prudhoe Bay area. Despite the availability of this enormous block of Alaskan natural gas, however, the oil and gas industry has not invested in infrastructure to bring this gas to market. Instead, it continues to request access to the pristine lands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to explore for additional supplies of oil and gas.

Secretary Babbitt summarized: "These facts demonstrate that the industry's request to open up the Arctic Refuge is a political issue, not an energy issue. Drilling should not be allowed in the Refuge. Readily-available natural gas supplies should be brought to market, and exploration and development should go forward in the National Petroleum Reserve while we preserve the Arctic Refuge -- one of the last, unspoiled, intact ecosystems in the world."

**-DOI-**

# Production of Oil, Gas, and Coal from Offshore and Onshore Federal & Indian Lands 1981 to 2000

| | **Oil** *(Barrels x $10^6$)* | **Gas** *(BCF)* | **Coal** *(short tons x $10^6$)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Clinton Administration *(1993-2000*)* | 18,615 | 156,705 | 8,477 |
| Bush Administration *(1989-1992)* | 10,788 | 73,933 | 4,004 |
| Reagan Administration *(1981-1988)* | 25,154 | 142,674 | 6,983 |

*(CY2000 data is preliminary)

| *Outer Continental Shelf Leasing* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Reagan Administration** | | Bush Administration | | **Clinton Administration** | |
| | ***1981-1988 (8 years)*** | | ***1989-1992 (4 years)*** | | ***1993-2000 (8 years)*** | |
| | **Total OCS** | **Gulf of Mexico** | **Total OCS** | **Gulf of Mexico** | **Total OCS** | **Gulf of Mexico** |
| Tracts Leased | 6,509 | 4,948 | 2,754 | 2,669 | 7,091 | 7,032 |
| Million Acres Leased | 34.7 | 26.0 | 14.2 | 13.8 | 37.7 | 37.5 |
| | | | | | | |