

TRUMP'S FIRST YEAR



DESTROYING OUR PUBLIC LANDS, ENDANGERING OUR FUTURE

The Trump administration's "energy dominance" agenda is endangering public health, threatening wildlife and fueling the climate crisis. The administration is expanding fossil fuel development on public lands by slashing environmental reviews and repealing rules that protect public participation, science-based decision making, wildlife and the environment.

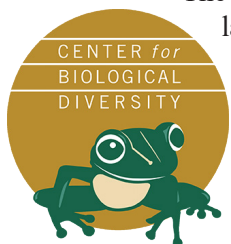
On the ground in mostly western states, these changes are upending communities and putting a growing number of species at risk, from greater sage grouse in Montana to the desert tortoise in Nevada. They're threatening precious groundwater sources and fueling more [deadly ozone](#) in rural communities, increasing the risk of birth defects, asthma and cancer.

The Center for Biological Diversity reviewed federal oil and gas leasing data for 2017, the first year of the Trump administration, and found:

- A dramatic 56 percent increase in the amount of public land put up for auction;
- Growing use of a troubling regulatory scheme that short-changes environmental review and hides information from the public before lands are leased;
- Threats to public health, wildlife habitat, drinking water and recreational areas; and
- Shrinking transparency, with public notice and protest opportunities curtailed.

TRUMP RAMPS UP OIL AND GAS LEASES

The Trump administration, guided by its "[Energy Burdens](#)" report, has sharply increased the amount of public lands offered for lease to the fossil fuel industry. In 2017 the amount of public land offered in the lower 48 states increased by 56 percent compared to 2016, to more than 1.6 million acres. There was a 54 percent increase in the amount of land that received at least one competitive bid, to more than 700,000 acres. Lands that don't receive bids at competitive auction remain available for another two years at \$1.50 per acre.



BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sales in Lower 48 States¹

Year	Acres Offered	Acres Receiving Bids	% of Acres Receiving Bids
2009	2,916,200	1,023,875	35
2010	1,416,288	749,044	53
2011	1,329,263	976,736	73
2012	1,554,879	1,282,823	83
2013	1,240,466	836,673	67
2014	1,213,948	682,114	56
2015	849,182	495,222	58
2016	1,025,713	463,592	45
2017	1,602,367	712,825	44

TRUMP CUTS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Last year Trump’s Bureau of Land Management began increasing the use of a regulatory shortcut that abandons full environmental review and public disclosure of harms before fracking leases are sold, which is required under the National Environmental Protection Act. These “Determinations of NEPA Adequacy,” or DNAs, are cursory documents that forego site-specific analysis before public lands are leased to private companies for fossil fuel extraction. DNAs don’t compare how projects could harm water, wildlife, climate and public health, all key parts of NEPA analyses. Under Trump’s direction any opportunity for public comment before administrative protests is eliminated.

The agency is claiming that DNAs are sufficient to plan 201,340 acres of lease sales across mostly western states. Reliance on DNAs has increased dramatically in 2018, even in places where imperiled wildlife — such as the greater sage grouse — are at risk.

Oil and Gas Lease Sales and Planned Sales Using DNAs January 2017-June 2018, by BLM Region²

BLM Region	2017 DNA Acres	2018 DNA Acres
Eastern States	541.62	345.49
Colorado	15,865.00	61,119.08
Montana-Dakotas	4,425.47	102,814.00
Nevada	3,715.16	1,900.00
Utah	0.00	10,614.00
Total:	24,547.25	176,792.57
	Grand Total:	201,339.82
DNAs as Percent of All Acres Planned, 2017:		1.5%
DNAs as Percent of All Acres Planned, 2018:		19.2%

¹ Lower 48 acres offered and receiving bids were calculated by subtracting acres offered and receiving bids in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR) from acres offered in all BLM lease sales for each calendar year. Data were obtained from BLM oil and gas leasing statistics. See:

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Table%2011_Acreage_Offered_at_Competitive_Lease_Sale_Auctions_Since_January_1_2009.pdf

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Oil_Gas_Alaska_NPR-A_LeaseSale_Statistics_1999toPresent.pdf

² Acres planned using DNA were derived from planning documents for quarterly oil and gas lease sales on BLM’s website. Acres in 2018 include quarters one and two only. Acres planned may exceed acres offered in lease sales owing to agency decisions to defer parcels from sale. For BLM planning data, see: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/leasing/regional-lease-sales>

Fossil Fuel Industries in Charge of Public Lands

In January 2018 the BLM released an [instruction memorandum](#) that radically weakens the policy governing oil and gas leasing across 245 million acres of public land and the nation's 700 million-acre federal mineral estate.

This dangerous rollback of protections threatens public lands, wildlife, human health and the climate while promising more litigation by curtailing public participation and environmental analysis before lands are leased.

Trump's oil and gas leasing directive:

- Pushes the BLM to use more DNAs for planning oil and gas lease sales, which will eliminate public participation before lease sale decisions, site-specific environmental review, analysis of alternatives and disclosure of harms — all required under NEPA;
- Slashes the time the public has to raise objections to lease sale decisions to just 10 days from 30 days;
- Eliminates the geographically rotating quarterly lease schedule designed to allow BLM offices sufficient time to review nominated parcels in particular areas;
- Eliminates new “master leasing plans,” which guide the location of leases to reduce harm to endangered species, wildlife habitat, recreational lands, air, water and communities;
- Instructs BLM managers to include all industry-nominated land in lease sales and makes it harder for them to remove land parcels from lease sales to protect sensitive resources.

What It Means for Public Lands

- Putting More Sensitive Lands at Risk: Taken together, Trump's directive means that more sensitive lands will be offered for industry leasing, including sensitive wildlife habitat, pristine landscapes, recreational lands and lands next to national parks and monuments, including Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and Bears Ears National Monument.
- Cutting the Public Out of Public Lands: Even as more sensitive lands are put on the auction block, the public is excluded from the decision-making process. One or two opportunities to comment on lease sales become zero under DNAs; 30-day protest periods are cut to 10 days. This makes it far more difficult for local communities to learn of proposed lease auctions, or to make the BLM aware of what that means for public health, recreation, water quality and wildlife.
- Hiding Environmental Harms With a Shell Game: Broad resource-management plans promise closer analysis when the BLM leases land, but reliance on DNAs pushes that analysis to the drilling stage — *after* private companies hold the leases. Then, despite earlier promises, the agency does only cursory analyses and routinely claims that it can't deny industry the right to frack. People will learn about fracking at their favorite campsite when the trucks roll in.
- Provoking More Lawsuits: Shirking environmental reviews and cutting the public out of decision-making will result in more sensitive lands being leased, more dangerous carbon pollution, and fewer opportunities to resolve conflicts administratively, before the BLM finds itself in front of a judge. _

Pollution from methane and fracking waste pits also will see less scrutiny under the administration's attacks on common-sense environmental protections.

By nearly a [3-to-1 margin](#), westerners say protecting public lands and preserving access to the outdoors should be the Trump administration's priority. These policy changes do the opposite.