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Major Indicators Down on Federal Oil & Gas During the Obama Administration ^[1]

DENVER – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released its data for fiscal year 2016 and all major indicators for the federal onshore oil and natural gas program are down. Western Energy Alliance offered the following comments to BLM’s data:

“Who needs the Keep-It-in-the-Ground movement when you have the federal government doing the job itself,” said Kathleen Sgamma, president at the Alliance. “Every major indicator of oil and natural gas activity on federal lands is down. There’s a reason federal production lags far behind private and state lands. The redundant regulation and red tape over the past eight years have had their intended effects. We look forward to working with Interior Secretary Zinke to realize President Trump’s vision of encouraging American energy development and job creation. The statistics speak for themselves.”

	2008	2016	Percentage Change
Total Number of Leases in Effect	55,085	40,143	-27%
Total Number of Acres Under Lease	47,242,495	27,207,018	-42%
Number of Producing Leases	23,293	23,926	3%
Number of Producing Acres	14,543,425	12,771,829	-12%
Number of New Leases Issued	2,416	520	-78%
Number of New Leases Issued by Acreage	2,615,259	577,317	-78%
Number of Permits Approved	6,617	2,184	-67%
Total Number of Wells Drilled	5,044	847	-83%

“It’s no wonder natural gas production is down on federal lands ^[2] 15 percent even as it has increased nationwide by 66 percent, and the growth of federal oil production at 69 percent lags far behind nonfederal production, which has skyrocketed 115 percent,” continued Sgamma. “The adversarial regulatory environment of the Obama Administration has had its intended effect. We hope the new administration will correct the bureaucratic foot dragging that has stifled responsible development on appropriate public lands and prevented tens of thousands of jobs ^[3]. We call on the Senate to do its part as well by overturning the redundant BLM venting and flaring rule that usurps EPA and state authority.

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[2] <https://cdn.westernenergyalliance.org/sites/default/files/CRS%20U.S.%20Crude%20Oil%20and%20Natural%20Gas%20Production.pdf>

[3] <file:///weadc1/SharedData/Advocacy/Public%20Affairs/Press%20Releases/Published/a>