

News Release



Western Energy Alliance
410 17th Street, Ste. 700
Denver, CO 80202

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Contact: Jon Haubert
(303) 623-0987
jhaubert@westernenergyalliance.org

FY2011 Federal Leasing Analysis *Federal Rockies leasing down dramatically since 2008* *Future job and economic growth constraints persist*

(Denver)- Federal onshore oil and natural gas leasing was down significantly in the Rockies in Fiscal Year 2011, which ends September 30th. Lease parcels offered have declined by 70%, acreage by 81% and revenue by 44% since 2008. Rockies states have experienced declines since 2008, with the exception of North Dakota which is enjoying the benefits of the Bakken oil boom.

There were a few bright spots in the West associated with the Bakken formation in North Dakota and Montana, and the Niobrara in Wyoming. North Dakota leasing, while surpassing 2008 only by 416 acres, garnered \$104 million in revenue, up 112%. Although Montana lease acreage offered was down 58%, revenue was up 119%. Wyoming BLM held its most profitable sale in history, generating \$49 million from the August sale, although overall 2011 revenues were down 33%.

"The Bakken and Niobrara formations are contributing lease revenues that help to reduce government deficits today, while holding the promise of future development and production," said Kathleen Sgamma, Director of Government & Public Affairs. "High value lease sales in these areas indicate industry interest and the potential for significant new government revenue. Now that BLM has worked through its new leasing policies, we hope it will offer sufficient acreage in FY 2012 to more closely align with industry interest and enable companies to increase jobs and economic activity across the West."

Despite the positive news, overall leasing in the Rockies is down significantly, representing lost job and revenue opportunities into the future. Colorado BLM offered a shockingly low four parcels in 2011, and Utah was close behind with just seventeen.

"These numbers clearly show there is interest in producing from public lands in the Rockies, but the government is constraining access. Without access to public lands, oil and natural gas companies will not be able to achieve the full job and economic growth potential of the West," continued Sgamma. "Our [Blueprint](#) demonstrates that we can displace significant imports from Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Algeria, Nigeria, and Colombia, but not if access to prospective lands in the West is denied."

[Click here for the Rockies leasing statistics for FY 2011.](#)

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About Western Energy Alliance

Western Energy Alliance, founded in 1974 as the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the West. More information on Western Energy Alliance and its members is available at www.westernenergyalliance.org.