A few facts about oil & gas development on public lands

**LEASING**

- 25 million acres of U.S. public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, an area the size of Indiana, are leased for oil and gas development.¹
- 90% of U.S. public lands managed by the BLM are available for oil and gas leasing.²
- 10% of U.S. public lands managed by the BLM are protected for recreation, conservation, and wildlife.²

Wilderness-quality lands are nearly 3 times less likely to be managed to protect those characteristics if they are overlapped by oil and gas leases.³

**BONDING**

- Federal minimum bonding rate for single well⁴: $10,000
- Average cost to fully reclaim and plug a well⁵: $76,000
- Estimated number of federal orphan wells⁶: 16,000
- Estimated cost to fully reclaim all federal orphan wells: $1.2 billion

**SPILLS**

Oil and gas companies reported 2,418 spills in Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico in 2021, over 6 per day.⁷

**REFERENCES**

1. The Bureau of Land Management
2. The Wilderness Society
3. Center for Western Priorities
4. Bureau of Land Management
6. Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
7. Center for Western Priorities