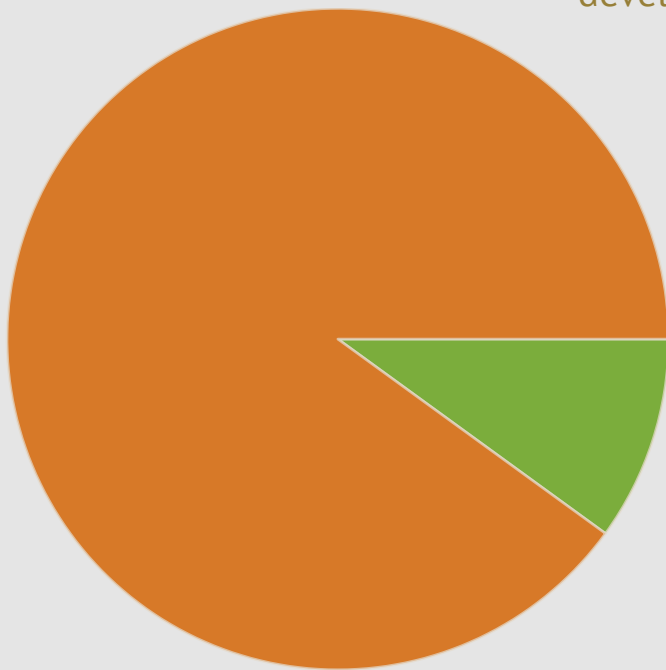


A few facts about oil & gas development on public lands

LEASING

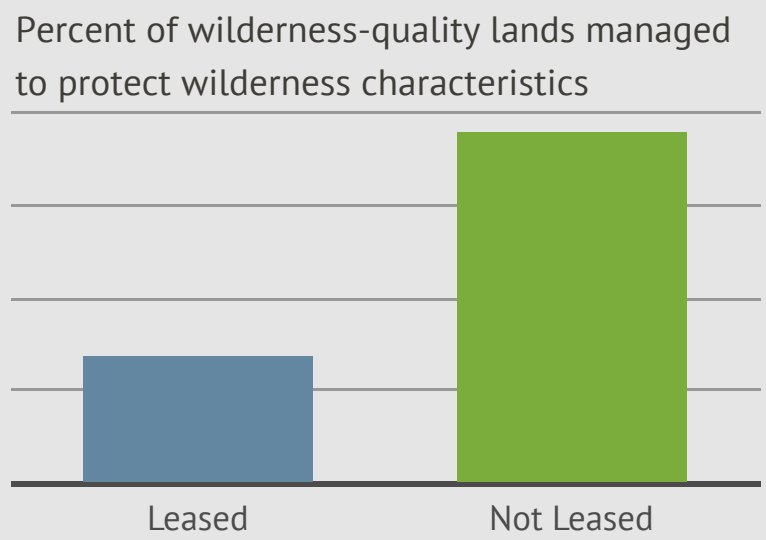
25 million acres of U.S. public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, an area the size of Indiana, are leased for oil and gas development.¹



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 well ⁴	\$10,000
Average cost to fully reclaim and plug a well ⁵	\$76,000
Estimated number of federal orphan wells ⁶	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](#)
- [5. Environ. Sci. Technol. 2021, 55, 15, 10224–10230](#)
- [6. Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs](#)
- [7. Center for Western Priorities](#)