

# OIL AND GAS ON U.S. PUBLIC LANDS

## GET THE FACTS

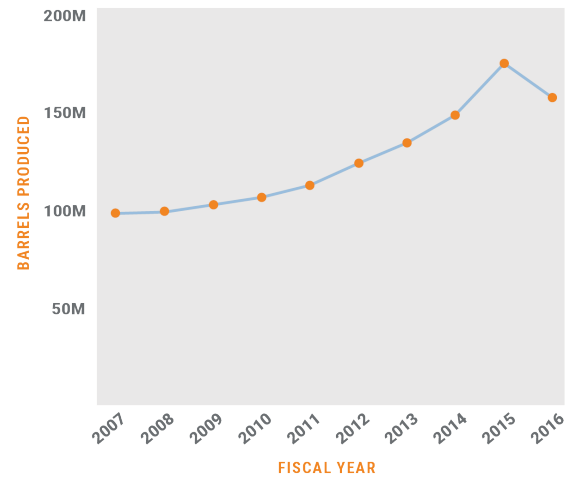
Americans expect federal officials to strike a balance between conservation and energy development on public lands, while guaranteeing taxpayers receive a fair return from the use of taxpayer-owned resources.

However, the current system is tilted toward the oil and gas industry. Private companies drive the process for where to drill, pay extremely low rates to taxpayers, and are not held accountable for spills and other long-term impacts of development.

Learn more at [RiggingTheSystem.org](http://RiggingTheSystem.org).

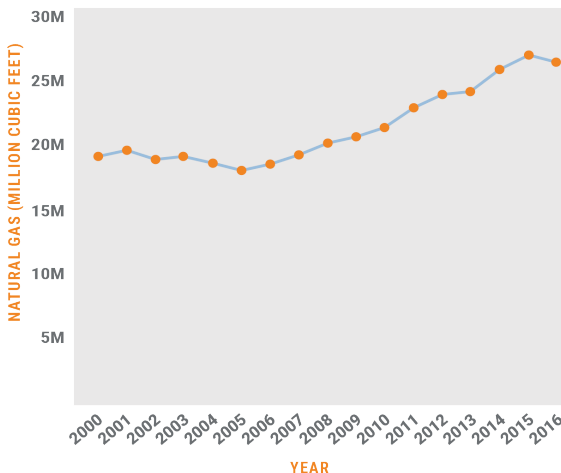
Oil production on U.S. public lands is up 60 percent<sup>1</sup> over the last decade.

**ONSHORE OIL PRODUCTION**  
U.S. Public Lands, 2007-2016



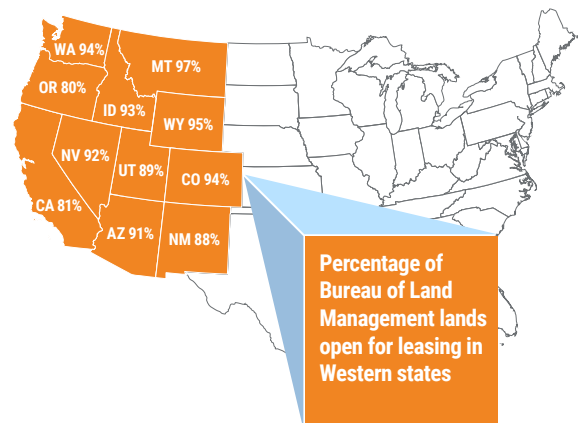
Natural gas production is near all time highs<sup>2</sup> in the United States, increasing dramatically over the last decade.

**U.S. NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION**  
2000-2016

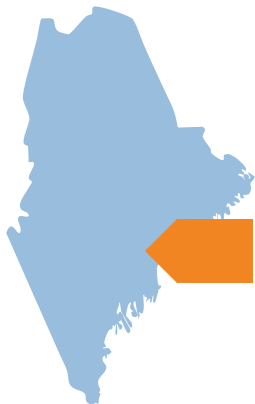


90 percent of U.S. public lands are open to oil and gas leasing and development. Only 10 percent are protected for recreation, conservation, and wildlife.<sup>3</sup>

**LANDS AVAILABLE TO OIL AND GAS**  
Bureau of Land Management lands open to leasing



Between 2009 and 2016, oil and gas companies passed on over 23 million acres<sup>4</sup> of oil and gas leases offered for sale by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—that's more land than all of Maine.



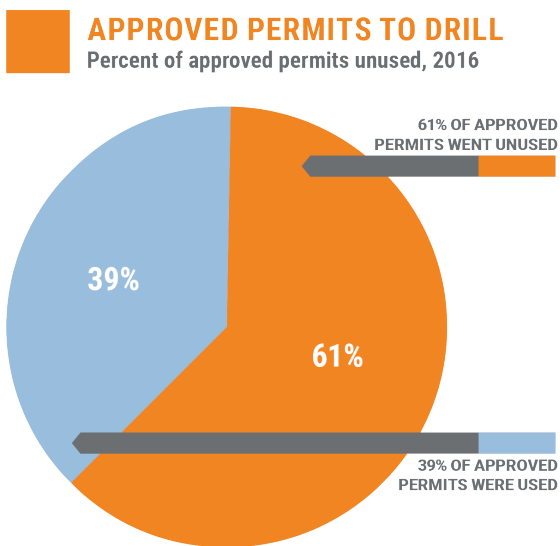
**MAINE,  
23 MILLION ACRES**  
Number of acres open to leasing that were passed over by oil and gas between 2009 and 2016

At the end of fiscal year 2016, oil and gas companies were sitting on nearly 8,000 approved, but unused drilling permits.<sup>5</sup> That's a record high.<sup>6</sup> At the same time, companies are sitting on over 14 million acres of unused public lands leases.<sup>7</sup>

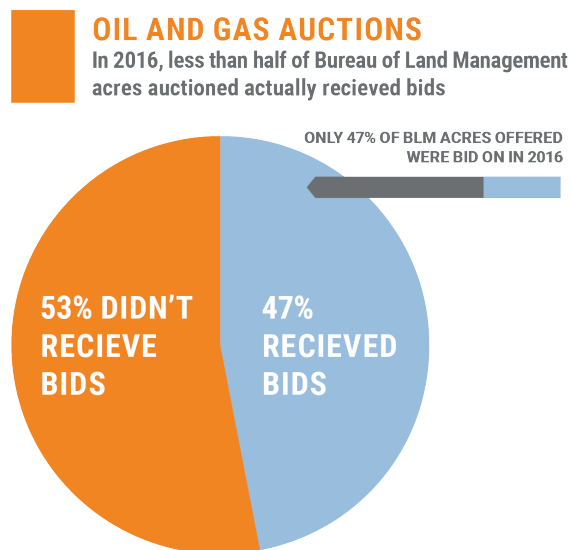


In 2015 and 2016, BLM postponed multiple lease sales because industry officials failed to nominate any parcels for leasing.<sup>8</sup>

In fiscal year 2016, BLM approved 2,200 new drilling permits, but oil and gas companies used only 850. That means companies received 2.5 times more drilling permits than they needed.<sup>9</sup>



In 2016, oil and gas companies bid on less than half of land offered by BLM at auction—the U.S. government auctioned nearly 2 million acres for oil and gas drilling but companies bid on less than 1 million acres.<sup>10</sup>



CITATIONS

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