

4/16/08

BLM Oil Shale and Tar Sands Draft Programmatic EIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Ave.
Argonne IL 60439

Dear Bureau of Land Management:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Oil Shale and Tar Sands. This development envisioned by the study would come at a time when our land is already experiencing severe pressure from the current energy boom and significant population growth across the West. It is difficult to understand why the BLM is rushing toward a commercial leasing program without even knowing if oil shale development is feasible economically. In light of that, it's even more difficult to understand why the BLM seems so anxious to give oil shale development priority over other uses on our public lands as shale development would likely preclude all other activity, including natural gas development in priority areas.

We must ensure the oil shale research and development projects already authorized by the BLM provide sufficient information to assess the impacts of experimental extraction technologies on energy consumption and water use before proceeding with the PEIS. It will be years before companies developing oil shale technology will know if it is technologically or economically feasible.

I urge the BLM to consider the cumulative effects of this industry on wildlife habitat and protected areas across the West. This plan proposes development in some of the best hunting, fishing and recreation areas in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah and it is my opinion we can and should protect these areas from impacts such as diminished air quality and habitat fragmentation.

Agency regulations and federal law require that the BLM manage its lands for multiple uses, yet the agency admits oil shale development will displace every other use of public land. The cumulative impact of this massive development will negatively affect our air, water, wildlife and communities in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. I urge you to slow down and carefully consider the gigantic effect commercial oil shale development would have before committing the west slope to a future of industrial development and environmental degradation.

Sincerely,

OSTS_00245: National Wildlife Federation Campaign Letters, Sent April 17

FN	LN	City	State
Virginia	Allgaier	Stirling	NJ
David	Aust	Spanish Fork	UT
Susanne	Burtis	Lynbrook	NJ
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Gordon	Grant	Chicago	IL
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Cheryl	Hogan	San Francisco	CA
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Earl	Preston	Blackfoot	ID
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