



THE
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Oil Shale Fact Sheet

Private Shale Resources Are Undeveloped

- **Though proponents of oil shale development claim the need for an expedited federal oil shale leasing program, the Department of Energy's Office of Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves has estimated that more than three million acres of oil shale lands in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming are already in private hands and have been for decades.**¹
- **Several large companies alone control over 200,000 acres of oil shale lands, but none to date has engaged in commercial-scale development.** For instance, the following companies already control extensive oil shale resources but have not yet established technologies to develop them:
 - **ExxonMobil** owns 50,000 acres of oil shale lands in Colorado's Rio Blanco and Garfield counties alone²;
 - **Red Leaf Resources** controls oil shale leases of about 16,500 acres on Utah state lands³;
 - **Great Western Energy, LLC** owns or controls oil shale leases on 16,500 acres of state lands in Uintah County, Utah⁴;
 - **Millennium Synfuels, LLC** controls approximately 34,000 acres of oil shale leases in Utah⁵;
 - **Shell** owns 36,000 acres of oil shale lands in Rio Blanco and Garfield counties Colorado⁶;
 - The **Oil Shale Exploration Company** controls over 45,000 acres of oil shale lands in Colorado⁷.
- **Several of these companies are also engaged in research and development on federal land controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.** BLM leased six 160-acre tracts of federal lands for the expressed purpose of facilitating technologies to overcome the significant obstacles to efficient and sustainable oil shale development. Shell holds 3 of these leases (480 acres total), all in Colorado. EGL Resources and Chevron each also hold a lease in Colorado. OSEC holds the only federal research lease in Utah.

¹ *National Strategic Unconventional Resource Model*, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves, April 2006, p. 6.

² *Secure Fuels from Domestic Resources: The Continuing Evolution of America's Oil Shale and Tar Sands Industries*. U.S. Department of Energy, 2007, p. 33

³ *Ibid.*, p. 61

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 70

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 47

⁶ *Mahogany Research Project – Doing Oil Shale the Right Way*, Royal Dutch Shell, (company brochure), www.shell.com/us/mahogany/

⁷ *OSEC's Privately Held Land*, The Oil Shale Exploration Company (company brochure), <http://www.oilshaleexplorationcompany.com/default.asp>

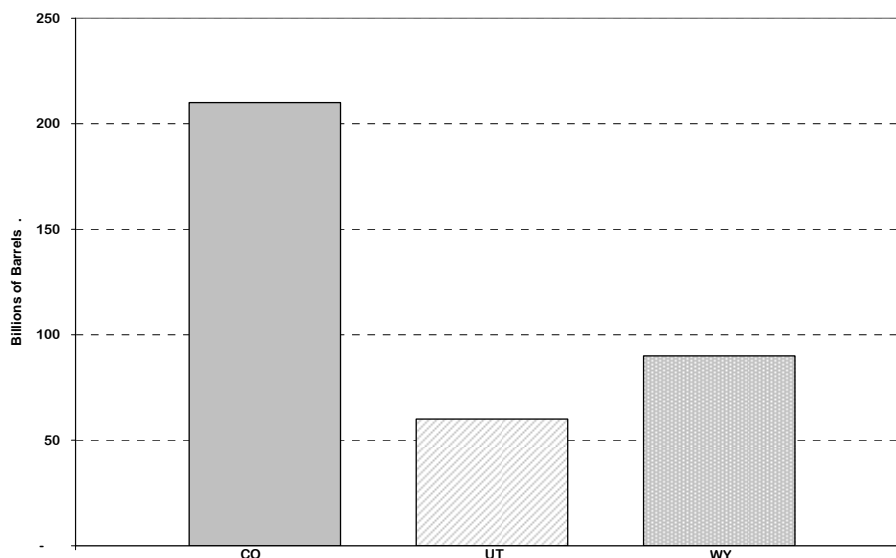
When coupled with the federal research and development leases currently held by private companies, industry has ample resources already at their disposal to begin developing a commercial-scale industry without the need for large scale commercial leasing of the public lands.

Department of Energy Overview of U.S. Oil Shale Resource (2006)

State	Ownership	Minimum thickness (feet)	Yield (gal/ton)	Average Yield	Acreage (thousands)	Resources (billion bbls)
CO	F	-	<10	5	570	-
	F	15	15-25	20	300	600
	F	10	>25	30	600	390
	NF	-	<10	5	165	-
	NF	15	15-25	20	80	130
	NF	10	>25	30	170	80
Subtotal					1,885	1,200
UT	F	-	<10	5	2,130	-
	F	15	15-25	20	1,070	150
	F	10	>25	30	600	70
	NF	-	<10	5	640	-
	NF	15	15-25	20	320	40
	NF	10	>25	30	170	20
Subtotal					4,930	280
WY	F	-	<10	5	1,500	-
	F	15	15-25	20	700	150
	F	10	>25	30	400	20
	NF	-	<10	5	890	-
	NF	15	15-25	20	440	80
	NF	10	>25	30	260	10
Subtotal					4,190	260
Totals					7,870	1,480
					3,135	360
					11,005	1,840

Notes
 F = federal NF = non-federal

Estimated Privately-Held Oil Shale Resources



Source: Adapted from data found in *National Strategic Unconventional Resource Model*, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves, April 2006, page 6.