

NATURAL GAS:

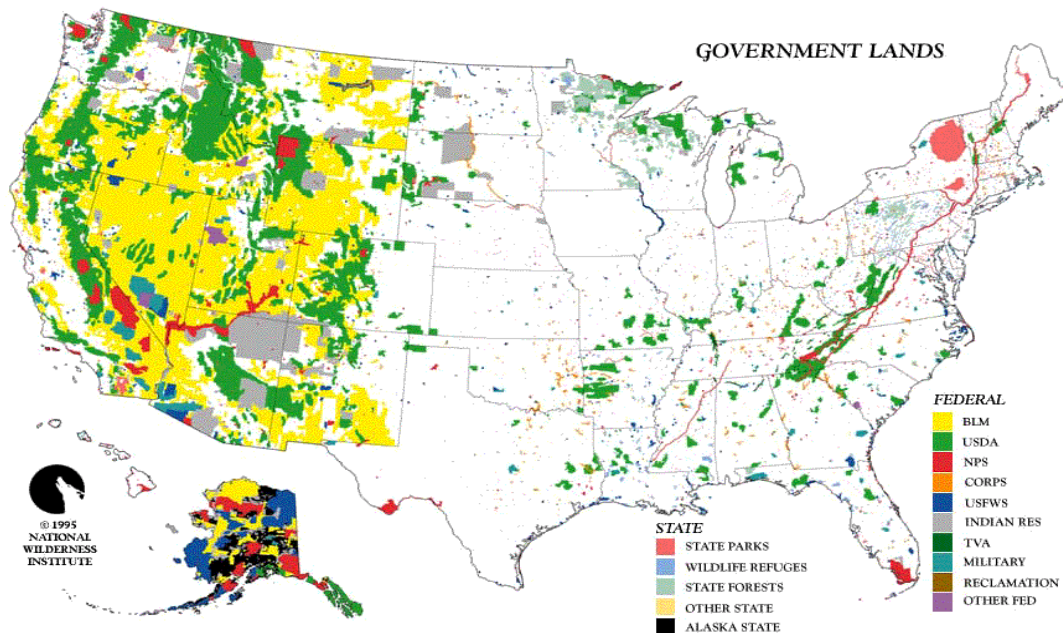
Clean Energy to Keep America Going Strong

Federal Government Lands Hold the Key to Our Natural Gas Future

Of our total estimated U.S. natural gas resource base, 47% or more lies beneath federal government lands.*

BUT,

- Most of the resource base that has been "proven" by enough drilling to assure that the gas is available to meet customer needs (as opposed to having been estimated by geology and geoscience techniques, with perhaps only test drilling) is under non-federal lands.
- Most of the "unproven" gas resource base that will require drilling to confirm and make available is under federal government lands that are supposed to be available for "multiple use" such as energy production. Those lands, mainly in the West, are shown on the map below. (Yellow areas are administered by the Bureau of Land Management, or BLM. The U.S. Forest Service administers green areas. Neither wilderness areas administered by these agencies, nor national parks shown in red, and which are closed to development, are at issue.)



- Put another way, government policies, sometimes inadvertent, have had severe effects on the natural gas resource base attributed to federal government lands:
 - In the Rockies 90% is unproven and unavailable. (*The 1999 NPC natural gas study identified that 137 trillion cubic feet (TCF) or about 40% of the Rocky Mountain Resource Base is subject to some form of access restriction.*)
 - In the Gulf of Mexico 90% is unproven and unavailable. (*This includes 24 TCF currently off limits in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.*)
 - In the Pacific Ocean 97% is unproven and unavailable.
 - In the Atlantic Ocean 100% is unproven and unavailable.

The importance of access to the natural gas resource base beneath federal government lands is far more critical in meeting future gas demand than may be initially apparent.

**Sources: National Petroleum Council, Natural Gas: Meeting the Challenges of the Nation's Growing Natural Gas Demand, December, 1999; US Geological Survey estimate 1995; US Minerals Management Service estimate 1996.* Contact: Bill Whitsitt, Domestic Petroleum Council, 202 742-4300 (5.15.01)