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For Immediate Release

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**Bush's Last Minute Oil Shale Regulations An Effort To Handcuff Incoming Administration**

BOULDER, CO – Today, Karin Sheldon, Executive Director of Western Resource Advocates, issued the following statement on the Bush Administration's issuance of final oil shale commercial leasing regulations.

“Rather than focus on this nation's severe economic crisis, the Bush Administration is spending its last weeks in office creating rules favorable to its friends in the oil business. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today finalized rules governing the commercial leasing of oil shale, a potential industry for which no viable technology exists.

“The decision to pursue commercial leasing of oil shale at this time defies common sense, given how little the BLM knows about oil shale extraction technologies and their impacts. With low royalty rates and the consequences for our climate, the BLM's rules would subsidize global warming. The new regulations do not ensure a fair rate of return to federal taxpayers, nor do they protect the western communities, water supplies or environment that would be impacted by oil shale development.”

“The recent presidential election affirmed the nation's desire for a new direction. These rules are an attempt to handcuff the incoming administration to an unproven and economically unsound energy source, one with huge environmental consequences. With these regulations, the Bush Administration has signaled that it would rather stack the deck against a rational energy policy than allow for adequate evaluation and consideration of the potential contributions and risks of oil shale.

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*Western Resource Advocates is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the West's land, air, and water. For more information, please visit [www.westernresourceadvocates.org](http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org)*