



**WESTERN RESOURCE**  
ADVOCATES

For Immediate Release

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In response to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne's issuance of oil shale leasing regulations, Western Resource Advocates executive director, Karin Sheldon, releases the following statement:

“The Department of Interior, through its Bureau of Land Management, is giving consumers false hope that oil shale is a near-term solution to the pain Americans are feeling at the pump. The oil industry acknowledges that the technology does not yet exist to commercially produce oil shale and repeatedly has said it won't know whether it's even a viable resource for at least another decade.

“Issuing premature regulations only shows a disregard for the enormous impacts to lands, wildlife, water, and air quality that Americans will suffer should oil shale ever come into production. Oil shale is, by definition, expensive energy. It will never drive down prices at the pump. This nation will be far better off if the federal government focuses its efforts on providing incentives for increasing fuel efficiency and promoting clean energy technologies.”

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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)*