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Montana oil, gas leases withdrawn over wildlife worries...

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Jul 20 2007 11:03AM
 Associated Press
Montana oil, gas leases withdrawn over wildlife worries

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) Federal officials say dozens of oil and gas leases in Montana will be withdrawn from

auction. And the **Bureau of Land Management** says it will look more closely at the environmental consequences of such development.

The announcement follows opposition from conservation groups and state officials who claimed the federal government's pro-energy policies threaten wildlife.

A petroleum industry representative Dave Galt says the **B-L-M's** action could complicate the development of resources in the Rocky Mountain West.

The B-L-M announced the deferral of lease sales on 73-thousand acres. And the agency says it will consider whether more restrictions are needed.

Studies have tied intensive oil and gas development to sharp declines in such species as mule deer and sage grouse.

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Sales will continue on 101 parcels covering some 263-thousand acres in Montana and [North Dakota](#).

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Posted by Jack Dale

on Jul 21 2007 6:50PM -

Oil exploration/ retrieval-when-found in Alaska has been

PROVEN to be an

ADVANTAGE to wild-life. I

can't think of a single instance when mule-deer/other

animals would be even inconvenienced, must less

endangered. Mule-deer should NOT

EVER be considered "endangered", because there

are thousands of them,more than enough to

stave-off extinction,



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