

U.S. Interior Department Fracking Approvals to Fuel Climate Change



15,000 new oil and gas wells in NW Colorado to release more carbon than a coal-fired power plant

The **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, is proposing to authorize the drilling and fracking of more than **15,000 new oil and gas wells in the White River area of northwestern Colorado**.

According to the agency's environmental analysis, this oil and gas development will release nearly **4.2 million metric tons of carbon pollution every year**.

These emissions will be released during the construction of oil and gas wells and during production and will include **2.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide and methane releases equaling 1.7 million metric tons of carbon**.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports **an average coal-fired power plant releases 3.8 million metric tons of carbon annually**, <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/refs.html#coalplant>.

See BLM Final Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Development in the White River Field Office at p. 4-24, http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/rmp/white_river/Proposed_RMPA_FEIS.html.