



Fact Sheet



Keeping Ohio's Special Places Special

Overview

For years, the oil and gas industry has pushed to open up more public lands to oil and gas drilling. The industry suggests that there is a treasure trove of income the state can derive from leases and royalty payments from oil and gas development on state lands.

They also argue that the risk of a spill, explosion, or other dangerous event is miniscule.

A careful review of the facts confirms that there are better places to drill than on our precious state parks, state nature preserves, and state wilderness areas.

Facts

- **Unnecessary:** It is not necessary to open up Ohio's parks, preserves, and wilderness areas to drilling. Under current Ohio law, oil and gas development already is lawful on more than 99.5% of Ohio's landscape not covered by water, including all private property (with the owner's permission) and even the overwhelming majority of Ohio's public lands — including the Wayne National Forest and Ohio's state forests and state wildlife areas.
- **Unhelpful:** Even if all of the oil and gas under state lands could be developed all at once (which experts say is not practical), it likely would supply Ohio's energy needs only for a few years. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio — the state's regulator of natural gas pricing and delivery to homes and businesses — has stated that, "Although there are natural gas wells in Ohio, these wells alone can produce only a fraction of the natural gas necessary for the entire state."
- **Unightly:** Although only a small footprint remains at the wellhead after drilling is complete, oil and gas production poses unavoidable impacts before, during, and even long after the drilling ends. Excavation, tree removal, stream crossings, road building, toxic brine disposal, pipeline and collection tank construction and maintenance, and compressor station noises all are common.
- **Unsafe:** Though not common, the risk of spills and explosions are real. In 2004, a massive gas well blowout led to a 126,000 gallon crude oil spill and costly clean up in Delaware County. In 2007, an explosion caused by natural gas that had leaked from a gas well into a water well leveled a house in Geauga County.
- **Unfaithful:** The State of Ohio has set aside scenic parks, unique natural areas, unspoiled wilderness, and important historic sites for all Ohioans to enjoy. Opening these lands to drilling would break the state's promise to forever protect these special places from commercial development.
- **Unwanted:** Drilling is not wanted by those who use and enjoy Ohio's parks, preserves, wilderness areas, and historic sites — campers, hikers, nature and history lovers, and others. Mother Nature and historic events made some places more special than others. Ohio should keep its promise to keep these special places forever special and protected from development.

There are better alternative to fund our parks than drilling.

	Amount Generated
Portion of State Sales Tax	\$139 million (1/10 th cent share) \$349 million (1/4 cent share)
Water Supply Tap/Connection Fee	\$30 million
Plastic Container Fee @ 1 cent	\$22 million
Real Estate Transfer Fee	\$98 million/year at 0.5% \$196/year at 1%
Vehicle License Plate Fee @ \$5	\$56 million (vehicle) \$688,000 (boat registration)
Other Options	- increase “sin” taxes (alcohol, tobacco, etc.) - bottle bill, a container recycling bill - carbon tax / carbon credit trading

