

# HISTORY OF OIL AND GAS LEASES IN THE BADGER-TWO MEDICINE

The Blackfeet Nation has been fighting to prevent oil and gas drilling in the Badger-Two Medicine region for more than three decades. The Tribe's history in the area is one filled with culture and spirituality, but also misunderstanding with the U.S. government.



1800s

**1855**

Blackfeet signs The Lame Bull Treaty, defining the Tribe's boundaries.

**1874**

Congress sets southern reservation boundary at Birch Creek without consulting Blackfeet.

**1896**

Blackfeet's possession of the Rocky Mountain Front is extinguished through 1896 agreement.

1900s

**1910**

President Taft establishes Glacier National Park.

**1924**

Blackfeet people obtain United States citizenship.

**1981**

USFS issues an Environmental Assessment and recommends that oil and gas leases be issued at the Badger-Two Medicine.

**1981**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) begins issuing oil and gas leases without required consultation with Blackfeet.

**1985**

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and BLM approve the first application to drill.

**1987**

Montana Senator John Melcher introduces a bill requiring the USFS to prepare a "joint management plan" for the area in consultation with Blackfeet.

**1993**

Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) introduces the Badger-Two Medicine Protection Act, S. 853 (103rd Cong.) proposing to conduct a wilderness review of the area by a committee that includes tribal representation.

**1993**

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt suspends activity on oil and gas leases.

**1997**

USFS puts a moratorium on new oil and gas development along the Rocky Mountain Front, including the Badger-Two Medicine.

2000s

**2004**

Blackfeet sends a letter to the leaseholders urging them to voluntarily and equitably terminate their leases.

**2006**

Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT) sponsors a bill in the 109th Congress that would make the 1997 USFS moratorium permanent.

**2006**

Congress passes legislation that prohibits further oil and gas leasing of federally controlled leases within the Badger-Two Medicine.

**2007**

President Bush signs a bill making the 1997 USFS moratorium permanent, stating that any leases sold or let go would never be re-issued.

**2007**

The Bush administration encourages the buy-out of all oil and gas leases.

**2007**

Blackfeet again writes to leaseholders urging them to relinquish leases.

**2010**

Five leaseholders relinquish leases encompassing 28,730 acres.

**2011**

The Lewis and Clark National Forest adopts a travel plan for the Badger-Two Medicine area, prohibiting non-traditional motorized vehicles on 200 miles of trail.

**2013**

Sidney Longwell of Solenex, LLC, files a lawsuit with the district court to begin drilling at the Hall Creek lease site.

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

Blackfeet issues a letter to consulting parties, including Sidney Longwell, asking them to review the adverse effects posed by Solenex, LLC on the Badger-Two Medicine region.

**OCTOBER 2014**

Tribal leaders issue a joint proclamation calling on the U.S. Department of the Interior to cancel oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine.

**OCTOBER 2014**

Blackfeet issues a letter to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, and Secretary of the Agriculture Tom Vilsack, requesting a meeting to discuss the Badger-Two Medicine oil and gas leases.



BLACKFEET NATION

