

**INCREASING ACCESS TO FEDERAL LANDS
IN WESTERN STATES THROUGH DATA SHARING**

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The Energy Policy Conservation Act (EPCA) Amendments of 2002 directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to inventory oil and natural gas resources beneath onshore federal lands and the extent and nature of any restrictions or impediments to the development of these resources. The Ground Water Protection Council has been working with the Department of Energy, the BLM, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's (COGCC's), and Premier Data Services, Inc. to combine EPCA data, federal lease stipulation data defined by the National Environmental Policy Act, and federal land resource management and land use plans with Colorado oil and gas well and environmental data. These comprehensive data sets are now available in a GIS format on COGCC's Web site. Similar data consolidation is now under way in New Mexico and Montana, with other western states to follow.

This project gives industry access to the data needed to target exploration in the full light of existing federal lease stipulations, resource inventory assessments, and environmental data available for proposed locations. For regulators, the project improves data accessibility for environmental and multiple land use decision-making.

This presentation details the types of information collected, how to use the online application, and ways in which this project provides critical decision support tools for industry and regulators.