

Who Benefits From The Broken Public Lands Leasing Program?

The Five Big Oil Corporations With The Most Public Lands Leases Made Over \$100 Billion In 2022 While Exploiting Public Lands.

All Of Them Have Cheated On Their Royalty Obligations.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) onshore oil and gas leasing system is broken in the favor of the biggest, wealthiest oil corporations in the world. An analysis of BLM data shows that the companies benefitting the most are multinational oil giants like ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips.

Together, the top five publicly-traded public lands leaseholders control a quarter of all public lands leases in the United States. The same five companies made over \$100 billion in profits in 2022 through corporate greed and price gouging. American taxpayers subsidize industry profits on both ends of the supply chain; through higher retail energy prices and a leasing system that benefits Big Oil at the public's expense.

Each of the top five publicly-traded public lands lease holders has a record of intentionally cheating on royalties- the portion of the value of publicly-owned minerals that companies are legally required to return to the public.

- **ExxonMobil:** Exxonmobil is the largest publicly-traded holder of federal onshore leases by acreage and one of the biggest multinational oil corporations in the world. In 2022, it had made \$55 Billion- the most profitable year of any US or European oil corporation in history.
 - ExxonMobil had to pay nearly \$1 Million for knowingly dodging royalties on federal land in 2018.
 - In 2018, ExxonMobil paid \$80 million to settle a class action lawsuit after cheating on its royalties for 15 years in Oklahoma. The company paid \$11 million to settle a similar case in Pennsylvania.
 - An ExxonMobil company had to pay \$32.2 million after it was caught underpaying federal royalties for over a decade.
- **Occidental Petroleum:** Occidental Petroleum is a multinational oil giant and the largest onshore federal leaseholder by number of leaseholders. In 2022, its profits ballooned by 473% over the previous year.
 - Occidental has been forced to pay tens of millions in False Claims Act penalties for dodging royalty payments.

- As recently as 2020, Occidental had to pay \$2 million when it was caught dodging federal royalty obligations in New Mexico.
- In 2020, Occidental paid \$13 million after knowingly underpaying private royalty owners in Colorado.
- **EOG Resources:** EOG Resources is a multinational oil giant that was penalized this year for trespassing and improperly profiting from selling federal minerals.
 - EOG Resources just this year paid \$240,000 after it was caught illegally drilling for federally-owned minerals.
 - EOG has been sued repeatedly for underpaying private mineral owners and once settled a case by paying \$6 million to the people it shortchanged.
- **ConocoPhillips:** ConocoPhillips is a multinational oil giant with operations in China and the Middle East that increased its profits by 131% in 2022.
 - ConocoPhillips has racked up \$159 million in penalties for shortchanging on its royalties.
 - ConocoPhillips had to pay \$26 million in 2007 after it was caught “systematically underreport(ing)” the value of the oil it produced on public lands for two decades.
 - A ConocoPhillips subsidiary had to pay a settlement of \$97.5 million after underpaying royalties on federal and Indian leases for 17 years in 2007.
- **Devon Energy:** Devon Energy is a major oil producer that had its most profitable year ever in 2022. The company has been penalized by the federal government for “systematically” shortchanging on its public lands royalty obligations.
 - Devon Energy had to pay \$6.15 million in 2021 after it was caught underpaying and underreporting royalties for natural gas from federal lands in Wyoming and New Mexico.
 - Devon Energy was also caught underpaying its federal royalties in 2012 and 2000, racking up \$14.4 million in penalties.
 - Devon Energy had to pay \$28 million to settle a class-action claim that it “secretly creat(ed) a lucrative profit center” to shortchange private mineral owners.

METHODOLOGY NOTE: The research in this document is based on data on authorized leaseholders from the BLM in April 2023. The company names refer to the lessee on authorized

leases, and not necessarily the operator. The list of companies includes the top five publicly-traded lease holders on authorized leases.

The BLM's Broken Public Lands Leasing System Benefits Big Oil Corporations With A History Of Price Gouging To Drive Profits And Cheating On Royalty Obligations.

The Most Prolific Leaseholders On Federal Public Lands Are Wealthy Big Oil Corporations.

The Five Biggest, Publicly-Traded Companies Drilling On Public Lands Have a Quarter Of All Leases Nationwide.

The Top Leasers Of BLM Oil And Gas Include A Who's-Who Of Big Oil Corporations. ExxonMobil, the biggest oil company in the US, has more federal public lands leases than any other corporation. The other top five big, publicly traded oil corporations include Occidental Petroleum, Devon Energy, ConocoPhillips, and EOG Resources. [BLM Data, downloaded April 2023]

Five Publicly-Traded Companies Have 8,596 BLM O&G Leases. [BLM, downloaded April 2023]

Nationwide, the BLM Says There Are 34,509 Onshore Leases In Effect Covering 23,771,097 acres. [BLM Oil and Gas Statistics, accessed [06/07/23](#)]

Top Publicly Traded Public Lands Leaseholders By Acreage		
Company Name	Number of Leases	Total Acreage
ExxonMobil	2,093	458,466.79
Occidental Petroleum	2,200	284,562.81
EOG Resources	1,727	241,664.57
ConocoPhillips	1,134	197,973.98
Devon Energy	1,442	178,765.14
Sum of top 5 Companies' Leases	8,596	1,361,433.29
Total BLM Leases in effect	34,509	23,771,097

Source: Bureau of Land Management

The Five Biggest Public Lands Leaseholders Spent The Last Year Price Gouging Americans While Making Over \$100 Billion In Profits.

Corporate Greed Drove Record Profits While Americans Paid High Prices For Gasoline.

Four Of The Companies Saw Their Profits Increase By More Than 100 Percent Over The Previous Year.

- **ExxonMobil's Profits Of \$55 Billion Is The Most Any US Or European Oil Corporation Has Ever Made In A Year.** ExxonMobil earned nearly \$56 billion in profit in 2022, setting an annual record not just for itself but for any U.S. or European oil giant." [NPR, [01/31/23](#)]
- **Occidental Petroleum Improved Its Profits Over The Previous Year By 473%.** [BLM, downloaded April 2023]

While Big Oil Was Making Huge Profits In The Summer Of 2022, American Consumers Were Paying Record High Prices At The Pump. "Millions of Americans hit the road over Memorial Day weekend, with record-high gas prices pinching their wallets. The national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gas hit \$4.67 as of Wednesday, according to AAA, \$1.63 higher than a year earlier and about 14% above the pre-2022 high of \$4.11 set in 2008. Prices have risen about 12% over the past month, the organization's figures indicated, and was recently above \$4 in all 50 states." [Wall Street Journal, [06/01/22](#)]

Profits of top 5 Publicly Traded Leaseholders				
Company	2022 Profits	2021 Profits	% Increase	Source
ExxonMobil	\$55,740,000,000	\$23,598,000,000	136%	Link
EOG Resources	\$7,759,000,000	\$4,664,000,000	66%	Link
Occidental Petroleum	\$13,304,000,000	\$2,322,000,000	473%	Link
ConocoPhillips	\$18,680,000,000	\$8,079,000,000	131%	Link
Devon Energy	\$6,037,000,000	\$2,833,000,000	113%	Link
Total: 2022 Profits:	\$101,520,000,000			

Source: Securities and Exchange Commission

During The Same Year, The Top Five Publicly-Traded Public Lands Lease Holders Rewarded Their CEOs With Pay Raises As High As 52%.

- **ExxonMobil Rewarded Its CEO Darren Woods With An Executive Compensation Package Of \$35.9 Million- 52% Higher Than The Previous Year.**

- CEOs At Occidental, EOG Resources, And Devon Energy All Saw Their 8-Figure Pay Increase By Millions Of Dollars.
- One CEO's Pay Fell, But ConocoPhillips's Ryan Lance Still Enjoyed A \$3.2 Million Bonus And A Total Compensation Package Of \$19 Million.

CEO Pay For Top Public Lands Oil Drillers						
Company	CEO	2022 Total Compensation	2021 Total Compensation	% Change	Bonus	Source
ExxonMobil	D.W. Woods	\$35,909,231	\$23,572,488	52.34%	\$6,382,000	Link
Occidental Petroleum	Vicki Hollub	\$14,969,510	\$11,068,539	35.24%	\$312,000	Link
EOG Resources	Ezra Yacob	\$12,641,202	\$9,752,887	29.61%	\$1,867,000	Link
ConocoPhillips	Ryan Lance	\$19,972,339	\$23,886,640	-16.39%	\$3,425,614	Link
Devon Energy	Richard Muncrief	\$14,524,777	\$11,914,547	21.91%	\$2,442,100	Link

Source: Securities and Exchange Commission

ExxonMobil

ExxonMobil, One Of The World's Biggest, Most Profitable Oil Corporations, Locks Up 450,000 Acres Of Public Land Despite A Record Of Cheating Taxpayers Out Of Royalties.

ExxonMobil Is One Of The Largest, Most Profitable Big Oil Corporations In The World

In 2022, ExxonMobil Made \$55 Billion, Setting An All-Time Record For US And European Oil Corporations.

ExxonMobil Calls Itself "One Of The World's Largest Publicly Held International Oil And Gas Companies." "As one of the world's largest publicly held international oil and gas companies, ExxonMobil has a diverse portfolio of high-quality projects and opportunities across our Upstream, Downstream and Chemical businesses."

[ExxonMobil, accessed [06/08/22](#)]

ExxonMobil's Profits Of \$55 Billion Is The Most Any US Or European Oil Corporation Has Ever Made In A Year. ExxonMobil earned nearly \$56 billion in profit in 2022, setting an annual record not just for itself but for any U.S. or European oil giant." [NPR, [01/31/23](#)]

- **ExxonMobil Increased Its Profits In 2022 Over The Previous Year By 136%.** [Securities and Exchange Commission, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

ExxonMobil Used Its Extraordinary Profits To Boost Its CEO's Total Compensation By \$12.3 Million

ExxonMobil Paid its CEO Darren Woods \$35.9 Million In 2022. The compensation package included a \$6 million bonus and represented a 52% change over the previous year. [Securities and Exchange Commission, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

ExxonMobil Is The 2nd Largest Publicly Traded Lease Holder By Leases And The Largest By Acreage.

ExxonMobil Locks Up 458,000 Acres in Onshore Oil and Gas Leases Across 2,093 Acres. ExxonMobil's share of onshore federal public lands oil and gas leases makes it the the publicly traded oil company with the largest acreage and 2nd largest number of leases in the United States. [BLM Data, downloaded April 2023]

ExxonMobil Has A History Of Violating Federal Royalty Rules And Ripping Off Public And Private Mineral Owners.The Company Has Paid Over \$124 Million In Penalties And Settlements For Cheating On Royalties.

ExxonMobil Has Cheated On Royalty Payments For Its Federal And Indian Leases For Decades, Racking Up \$33 Million In Penalties.

An ExxonMobil Subsidiary Had To Pay Interior Nearly \$1 Million In 2018 For Violating Federal Leasing Laws. XTO Energy, in 2018, paid the Interior Department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue \$890,000 in penalties because it "knowingly or willfully failed to provide requested information for a royalty audit." [ONRR Penalty Collections, [FY2018](#)]

- **XTO Energy Is A "Wholly-Owned Subsidiary Of ExxonMobil.** "On June 25, 2010, ExxonMobil acquired XTO Energy Inc. (XTO) by merging a wholly-owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil with and into XTO (the "merger"), with XTO continuing as the surviving corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil. XTO is involved in the exploration for, production of, and transportation and sale of crude oil and natural gas." [SEC, 12/31/11]

Mobil Oil Was Forced To Pay \$32.2 Million In 2010 After Underpaying Royalties On Federal and Indian Leases For Over A Decade. "Mobil Natural Gas Inc., Mobil

Exploration & Producing U.S. Inc. and their affiliates have agreed to pay the United States \$32.2 million to resolve claims that they violated the False Claims Act by knowingly underpaying royalties owed on natural gas produced from federal and American Indian leases, the Justice Department announced today. The Mobil companies are alleged to have systematically under reported the value of natural gas taken from the leases from March 1, 1988, to Nov. 30, 1999, and, consequently, paid less royalties than owed to the United States and various American Indian tribes." [Department of Justice, [04/05/10](#)]

An ExxonMobil Subsidiary Paid \$80 Million After Oklahoma Landowners Sued The Company For Cheating On Its Royalty Obligations For 15 Years.

In 2018, An ExxonMobil Subsidiary Agreed To Pay \$80 Million To Settle A Class-Action Lawsuit With Oklahoma Landowners After Underpaying Royalties From 2002-2017. "An Oklahoma judge on Tuesday approved a settlement by ExxonMobil Corp.'s XTO Energy Inc. that requires \$80 million to be paid in a class action lawsuit regarding underpaid natural gas royalties. U.S. Magistrate Kimberly E. Ward also approved a payment of up to \$32 million to the group's attorneys in Chieftain Royalty Co. v XTO Energy Inc., No. 6:11-CV-00029-KEW. More than 22,000 potential class members initially were identified by the settlement administrator." [Natural Gas Intelligence, [03/28/18](#)]

An ExxonMobil Subsidiary Was Forced To Pay \$11 Million To Settle A Lawsuit Brought By Private Mineral Owners Who Said They Were Cheated Out Of More Than \$5 Million.

In 2015, Mineral Owners In Pennsylvania Sued An ExxonMobil Subsidiary, Alleging They Had Been Cheated Out Of More Than \$5 Million In Royalties.. "Another lawsuit has been filed in Pennsylvania to recover post-production costs deducted from lessor's royalty payments, this time against ExxonMobil Corp. subsidiary XTO Energy Inc. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania by a family trust and a family farm that have a combined 303 acres under lease with XTO in Butler County. As lead plaintiffs, the group is also seeking class action certification for its complaint as others have done across the state" [Natural Gas Intelligence, [07/20/15](#)]

- **The Class Action Suit Alleged The Oil Giant Had Cheated Mineral Owners Out Of More Than \$5 Million.** "The lawsuit also claims that more than 100 landowners with XTO leases in Western Pennsylvania have similar grievances and are owed more than \$5 million combined." [Natural Gas Intelligence, [07/20/15](#)]

ExxonMobil's Subsidiary Resolved The Suit By Paying \$11 Million. "An \$11 million resolution to a lawsuit filed by two Butler County landowners against XTO Energy is pending in federal court. The resolution, which is subject to court approval, ends a

class-action lawsuit against the oil company after a lawsuit was filed claiming insufficient natural gas royalty payments.” [The Butler Eagle, [11/21/17](#)]

Occidental Petroleum

Occidental Petroleum Is An Oil Giant With The Largest Number Of Public Lands Leases Of Any Publicly Traded Company.

Occidental Petroleum Is A Multinational Oil Giant Whose Profits Ballooned By 473% In 2022.

Occidental, Also Called Oxy, Drills Across The United States And In The Middle East And Africa.

Occidental Is “One Of The Largest” US Oil Producers. It Also Operates Internationally. “Oxy is one of the largest oil and gas producers in the United States. Our U.S. onshore operations are in the Permian Basin and the Rockies.” It has oil production operations onshore and offshore in the United States, as well as in Oman, UAE, and Algeria. [Occidental, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

Occidental’s Profits Were \$13.3 Billion In 2022- A 473 Percent Increase Over The Previous Year. [Securities and Exchange Commission, [07/07/23](#)]

Occidental Petroleum Used Its Extraordinary Profits In 2022 To Give Its CEO A 35 Percent Raise.

Occidental Petroleum Paid its CEO Vicki Hollub \$14.9 Million In 2022. The compensation package is a 35 percent change over the previous year. [Securities and Exchange Commission, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

Occidental Petroleum Is The Largest Publicly Traded Holder Of Federal Onshore Leases With 2,200 Authorized Cases.

Occidental Locks Up 284,562.81 Acres in Onshore Oil and Gas Leases Across 2,200 Acres. Occidental’s share off onshore federal public lands oil and gas leases makes it the the publicly traded oil company with the largest number of leases in the United States. [BLM Data, downloaded April 2023]

Occidental Petroleum Has Been Forced To Pay The Federal Government Tens Of Millions In False Claims Act Penalties For Dodging Royalty Payments

Occidental Petroleum And Its Subsidiaries Have Paid \$34 Million For Knowingly Underpaying Royalties On Federal And Indian Leases.

In 2020, Occidental Petroleum Tried To “Dodge Paying” The U.S. Government Nearly \$2 Million In Gas Royalties In New Mexico. “Oxy USA Inc. can't dodge paying the U.S. government nearly \$2 million in gas royalties for leases in northeastern New Mexico despite the company's efforts to whittle down the price, a federal judge has ruled. U.S. District Judge Kea W. Riggs ruled Wednesday that the director of the Office of Natural Resource Revenue had appropriately relied on the terms of Oxy's gas lease to come up with the figure, instead of relying on outdated regulations from the 1980s.” [Law360, [12/17/20](#)]

Occidental Was Ordered To Pay \$2.05 Million In 2011 For Knowingly Underpaying Royalties Owed On Natural Gas Produced From Federal Leases. “Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation, and OXY USA Inc. have agreed to pay the United States \$2.05 million plus interest to resolve claims that the companies violated the False Claims Act by knowingly underpaying royalties owed on natural gas produced from federal leases, the Department of Justice announced today. Occidental Petroleum Corporation is an international oil and gas exploration and production company headquartered in Los Angeles.”

Occidental’s Subsidiaries Were Ordered To Pay \$17 Million For “Knowingly Underpaying Royalties” on Federal And Indian Leases In 2011. “Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Kerr-McGee Corporation and their affiliates have agreed to pay the United States more than \$17 million to resolve claims that the companies violated the False Claims Act by knowingly underpaying royalties owed on natural gas produced from federal and Indian leases, and numerous additional administrative claims.” [Department of Justice, [06/20/11](#)]

- Kerr-McGee was a subsidiary of Anadarko Petroleum, which was later purchased by Occidental. Houston-based Anadarko Petroleum acquired Oklahoma City-based Kerr-McGee Corp. for \$18 billion in 2006.” [The Journal Record, [04/17/20](#)]

Occidental’s Subsidiary Paid \$13 Million In 2000 For Knowingly Underpaying Royalties For Oil On Federal And Indian Leases For A Decade. “Kerr-McGee Corporation has agreed to pay \$13 million to resolve claims under the False Claims Act and administrative claims that the corporation underpaid royalties due for oil produced on federal and Indian leases from 1988 to 1998, the Justice Department announced today. Federal leases are administered by the Minerals Management Service of the United States Department of the Interior. Each month, Kerr-McGee is required to report the amount and value of oil produced on federal and Indian leases. The oil company pays royalties based upon the value of the oil they report.” [Department of Justice, [10/24/00](#)]

Occidental Petroleum Also Shortchanges Private Mineral Owners.

In 2020, The Company Paid \$13 To Settle A Suit Brought By 1,800 Mineral Rights Owners In Colorado.

Occidental Paid \$13 Million To Settle A Suit With 1,800 Royalty Owners Who Accused The Company Of Improperly Subtracting Costs From Their Royalty Payments. “Some 1,800 gas royalty owners have reached a confidential settlement with Oxy USA Inc. in their \$13 million suit accusing the company of shorting them on payments, according to court documents filed Monday. The settlement announced in Kansas federal court ends a two-year battle that started when lead plaintiff Hitch Enterprises Inc. claimed the oil and gas business shouldn't have subtracted processing costs from the royalties it paid out. The royalty owners also argued that their payments weren't based on the best available price, according to court documents.” [Law360, [06/08/20](#)]

EOG Resources

EOG Resources Is A Profitable Oil Giant That Got Caught Illegally Selling Public Oil And Has Been Sued For Shortchanging Royalty Owners Multiple Times.

EOG Is A Profitable Oil Giant With Operations Across The United States And Overseas.

EOG Resources Brags About An “Outstanding” Year In 2022, Making \$7.7 Billion In Profits.

EOG Resources Is A Multinational Oil Corporation With Operations Across The United States, In Australia, And In Trinidad And Tobago. [EOG Resources, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

EOG Resources Made \$7.7 Billion In Profits In 2022, A 66 Percent Increase Over The Previous Year. [Securities And Exchange Commission, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

- **EOG Resources Brags About Its “Outstanding Year” And Doubling Its Buybacks And Dividends In 2022.** “2022 was an outstanding year for EOG. The

company earned record return on capital employed of 34%* and record adjusted net income of \$8.1 billion*, which generated a record \$7.6 billion of free cash flow*. Over \$5 billion was returned to shareholders, nearly double the 2021 return." [EOG Resources, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

EOG Resources Used Its Massive Profits To Give Its CEO A Multi-Million Dollar Pay Increase In 2022.

EOG Resources Paid its CEO Ezra Jacob \$12.6 Million In 2022. The compensation package included a \$1.8 million bonus and represented a 29.61% change over the previous year. [Securities and Exchange Commission, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

EOG Resources Is The Third Largest Publicly-Traded Public Lands Lease Holder With Nearly A Quarter Million Acres Of Public Lands Locked Up Across 1,727 Leases.

EOG Resources Locks Up 241,664.57 Acres In Onshore Oil and Gas Leases Across 1,727 Acres. EOG Resources's share of onshore federal public lands oil and gas leases makes it the the publicly traded oil company with the 3rd largest acreage and number of leases in the United States. [BLM Data, downloaded April 2023]

EOG Resources Has Been Caught Selling Federal Minerals That It Drilled Through Trespass And Been Sued Multiple Times For Failing To Pay Royalties

EOG Resources EOG Paid \$240,000 To Settle Claims That In Trespassed To Steal And Sell Federal Minerals.

EOG Resources Agreed To Pay \$234,604 To Settle Claims That It Illegally Drilled And Sold Federal Minerals. "EOG Resources, Inc. ("EOG"), a Texas based oil and gas company, paid \$243,604 to settle claims related to its alleged unauthorized drilling, extraction and sale of federal minerals, announced United States Attorney Robert J. Troester. EOG is headquartered in Houston, Texas, and owns the Spitfire 0817 1H Well ("Spitfire"). [Department of Justice, [03/01/23](#)]

DOJ Prosecutors in 2023: EOG "Was Unjustly Enriched By The Unauthorized Sale Of Federal Minerals."

The United States Said EOG Was "Unjustly Enriched By The Unauthorized Sale of Federal Minerals." "The United States owns a twenty-five percent interest in the mineral rights below the surface of the Spitfire. On or about January 7, 2019, EOG commenced drilling the Spitfire well and, on or about March 1, 2019, began to extract and sell federal minerals. The United States alleges EOG drilled the well and extracted and sold the federal minerals without approval from the United States. The United States further alleges that EOG is liable for trespass and conversion damages and was

unjustly enriched by the unauthorized sale of the federal minerals.” [Department of Justice, [03/01/23](#)]

EOG Resources, in 2020, Was sued in Federal Court For Failing To Pay Interest On Late Royalty Payments.

EOG Resources Is Being Sued For Failing To Pay Royalties On Time And Shortchanging Mineral Owners On Interest. “A federal lawsuit was filed last month in Wyoming alleging EOG Resources, the largest oil and gas operator in Laramie County, has failed to pay royalty proceeds on time, as well as the accompanying interest from failing to meet those deadlines, to those who are owed them.” [Wyoming Tribune Eagle, [10/08/20](#)]

EOG Resources Allegedly Violated The Wyoming Royalty Payment Act. “Wake Energy LLC, an Oklahoma-based company that acquires oil and gas interests nationwide, submitted the lawsuit in U.S. District Court late last month. The company argues EOG has violated the Wyoming Royalty Payment Act, which requires oil and gas operators to pay proceeds to everyone with interest in the operation within six months of an initial sale of oil or gas, or within 60 days after the month of subsequent sales.” [Wyoming Tribune Eagle, [10/08/20](#)]

EOG Resources Paid \$6 Million to Settle A Class-Action Lawsuit For Underpaying Royalties In Wyoming In 2003.

Mineral Rights Owners In Wyoming Sued EOG Resources After Failing To Pay Its Fair Share Of Royalties. “Plaintiffs filed a suit against EOG alleging individual claims and class action claims seeking, among other things, declaratory and compensatory relief. [...] This suit involves claims brought under Wyoming Royalty Payment Act [...] for disputed deductions, undervaluation claims, statutory interest, statutory reporting assessments and attorneys’ fees.” [State of Wyoming Court Order, [05/02/03](#)]

- **In May 2003, EOG Resources Was Ordered To Pay \$6 Million To Compensate Mineral Owners, Their Attorneys, And Court Costs.** “The aggregate amount to be paid from the escrow amount to plaintiffs and settlement class members, including interest, is and shall be four million eighty four thousand fifty one dollars and seventy-nine cents [...] the reasonable fees of class counsel are and shall be one million eight hundred thousand dollars [...] the reasonable litigation costs are and shall be one hundred forty thousand dollars.” [State of Wyoming Court Order, [05/02/03](#)]

ConocoPhillips

ConocoPhillips Is A Multinational Oil Giant That Has Had To Pay \$159 In Penalties For Cheating On Its Royalty Obligations.

ConocoPhillips Is A Multinational Oil Giant That Made \$18.6 Billion In Profits In 2022.

ConocoPhillips Has Operations Worldwide, Including In China, The Middle East, And South America.

ConocoPhillips Is One Of The World's Largest Oil Corporations. "ConocoPhillips is one of the world's largest independent E&P companies based on production and proved reserves." [ConocoPhillips, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

- **ConocoPhillips Is A Multinational Oil Giant With Operations In China, Africa, The Middle East, Australia, South America, And Europe.** [ConocoPhillips, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

ConocoPhillips Made \$18.6 Billion In 2023, A 131% Increase Over The Previous Year. [Securities And Exchange Commission, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

EOG Resources Used Its Massive Profits To Give Its CEO A Multi-Million Dollar Pay Increase In 2022.

ConocoPhillips Paid its CEO Ryan Lance \$19.9 Million In 2022. The compensation package included a \$13.4 million bonus. [Securities and Exchange Commission, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

ConocoPhillips Is The Fourth Largest Publicly-Traded Public Lands Lease Holder With Nearly 200,000 Acres Of Public Lands Locked Up Across 1,134 Leases.

ConocoPhillips Locks Up 197,973.98 Acres In Onshore Oil and Gas Leases Across 1,134 Acres. EOG Resources's share of onshore federal public lands oil and gas leases makes it the the publicly traded oil company with the 3rd largest acreage and number of leases in the United States. [BLM Data, downloaded April 2023]

ConocoPhillips Has An Extensive Record Of Skipping Out On Federal Royalty Obligations, Racking Up \$159 Million In Penalties.

ConocoPhillips And Its Subsidiaries Have Repeatedly Been Caught Underpaying Their Royalties For Production On Public Lands.

ConocoPhillips Had To Pay \$26 Million In 2007 For Underpaying Federal And Mineral Leases For Nearly 20 Years. “Conoco has agreed to pay \$26 million to resolve claims under the False Claims Act and administrative claims that the company underpaid royalties due for oil produced on federal and Indian leases since 1988, the Justice Department announced today. The settlement resolves allegations that the Ponca City, Oklahoma-based company systematically underreported the value of oil it produced and, consequently, that they paid less royalties than they owed. ‘Today's settlement is an example of the Justice Department's determination to insure (sic) that the government is compensated for underpayment of oil royalties,’ said David W. Ogden, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division.” [Department of Justice [03/27/07](#)]

ConocoPhillips Agreed To Pay \$21.7 After It Was Caught Shortchanging The Federal Government On Coalbed Methane Royalties. “ConocoPhillips and the US Minerals Management Service negotiated a \$21.7 million settlement of a royalty dispute involving coalbed methane (CBM) produced from federal leases in New Mexico. ConocoPhillips agreed to pay MMS for royalties from Jan. 1, 1989, through the end of this month. MMS will split the settlement equally with the state of New Mexico. The issue was whether ConocoPhillips could deduct from royalty payments the cost of removing carbon dioxide from CBM. The settlement followed a June 10 decision in a separate case before the US District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia upholding MMS's contention that the cost related to making production marketable and shouldn't be borne by the lessor.” [Oil and Gas Journal, [06/15/05](#)]

ConocoPhillips Subsidiary Burlington Resources Paid \$97.5 Million After The Company Was Caught Underpaying Federal And Indian Royalties For 17 Years In 2007. “Burlington Resources Inc. has agreed to pay the United States \$97.5 million to resolve claims that it underpaid royalties owed on natural gas produced from federal and Indian leases, the Justice Department announced today. Last year, Burlington became a wholly owned subsidiary of ConocoPhillips, the third largest integrated energy company in the United States. The settlement resolves allegations under the False Claims Act that Burlington systematically under-reported the value of natural gas that it produced from onshore federal and Indian leases from March 1, 1988, to March 31, 2005, and consequently, paid less royalties than it owed to the United States and various Indian tribes.” [Department of Justice, [08/15/07](#)]

- **Burlington Resources Separately Had To Pay \$8.5 Million To Resolve Claims For Underpaying Royalties In 2001.** “Burlington Resources Inc. has agreed to pay the United States \$8.5 million to resolve claims under the False Claims Act and administrative claims that the corporation underpaid royalties due for oil produced on federal and Indian leases between 1988 and 1998, the Justice

Department announced today. Federal leases are administered by the Minerals Management Service of the United States Department of the Interior. Each month, Burlington is required to report the amount and value of oil produced on federal leases. The oil company pays royalties based upon the value of the oil they report.” [Department of Justice, [02/02/01](#)]

Devon Energy

Devon Energy, Which Had Its Most Profitable Year Ever In 2022, Has Paid Millions In Penalties For “Systematically” Shortchanging The Federal Government For Its Royalty Obligations On Public Lands

Devon Energy Is A Major Publicly-Traded Oil Corporation That Had Its Most Profitable Year In Its History In 2022

CEO Bragged That Devon Energy Made Over \$6 Billion In Profits In 2022– The Best In The Company’s History

Devon Energy Says It Is “A Leading” Oil Corporation. “Devon Energy Corporation is a leading independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company. Devon’s operations are focused onshore in the United States.” [Devon Energy, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

In 2023, Devon Energy Made Over \$6 Billion, A 113 Percent Increase Over The Previous Year. [Securities And Exchange Commission, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

Devon Energy CEO Rick Muncrief Boasted That The Company Had Its “Best Financial Performance” In Its Entire History. “As you can see, for Devon Energy, 2022 was another year of outstanding accomplishments. We achieved all the capital objectives associated with our disciplined operating plan. We delivered the best financial performance in our company’s prestigious 52-year history.” [Seeking Alpha, [02/15/23](#)]

Devon Energy Used Its Record-Setting Profits In 2022 To Give Its CEO A 21.9 Percent Raise.

Devon Energy Paid its CEO Richard Muncrief \$14.5 Million In 2022. The compensation package is a 22 percent change over the previous year and includes a \$2.4 million bonus. [Securities and Exchange Commission, accessed [07/08/23](#)]

Devon Energy Is The Fifth Largest Publicly-Traded Public Lands Lease Holder With Over 178,000 Acres Of Public Lands Locked Up Across 1,142 Leases.

Devon Energy Locks Up 178,765.14 Acres In Onshore Oil and Gas Leases Across 1,142 Acres. Devon Energy's share of onshore federal public lands oil and gas leases makes it the the publicly traded oil company with the 5th largest acreage and number of leases in the United States. [BLM Data, downloaded April 2023]

Devon Energy Has A History Of Cheating On Its Royalties For Oil & Gas Production On Federal And Private Land, Accruing \$75 Million In Penalties.

Devon Energy Has Paid \$21.5 Million To Settle Claims For "Systematically" Underpaying Royalties On Public Lands Leases.

In 2021, Devon Energy Paid \$6.15 Million After It Underpaid Natural Gas Royalties On Federal Public Lands In New Mexico And Wyoming. "Devon Energy Corporation, an Oklahoma-based oil and natural gas exploration and production company, and its affiliates, Devon Energy Corp. (Oklahoma) and Devon Energy Production Company, LP (collectively, "Devon"), have agreed to pay \$6.15 million to resolve allegations that it violated the False Claims Act by underpaying and underreporting royalties for natural gas from federal lands in Wyoming and New Mexico." [Department of Justice, [09/27/21](#)]

- **Devon Energy "Knowingly Underreported And Underpaid Royalties To The Department Of The Interior.** "The United States leases federal lands for the production of natural gas in exchange for the payment of royalties on the value of the gas produced. Lessees must put the gas in marketable condition at no cost to the United States. The settlement resolves allegations that, in calculating royalties, Devon improperly deducted payments to third-parties for gas transportation and processing that included costs to place the gas in marketable condition, and thereby knowingly underreported and underpaid royalties to the Department of the Interior (DOI)." [Department of Justice, [09/27/21](#)]

In 2012, Devon Energy Paid \$3.5 Million After It Underpaid Royalties For Natural Gas Produced On Public Lands And Waters. "Devon Energy Corporation and its affiliates have agreed to pay the United States \$3,492,463 to resolve claims that PennzEnergy, a predecessor to Devon, violated the False Claims Act by knowingly underpaying royalties owed on natural gas produced from federal and Indian lands, the Justice Department announced today. Devon is an independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company with operations focused onshore in the United States and Canada." [Department of Justice, [03/12/12](#)]

In 2000, Devon Energy Paid \$11.9 Million After It Was “Systematically Underreported” Its Obligations And “Paid Less Royalties Than They Owed” On Federal And Indian Leases. “Devon Energy Production Company (formerly Pennzoil Company) has agreed to pay \$11.9 million to resolve claims that Pennzoil underpaid royalties due for oil produced on Federal and Indian leases between January 1, 1988 and December 31, 1998, the Justice Department announced today. [...] The settlements resolve allegations that Pennzoil and Sunoco systematically underreported the value of oil they produced on Federal and Indian leases and, consequently, that they paid less royalties than they owed.” [Department of Justice, [06/06/00](#)]

Devon Energy Has Paid \$60 Millions Settling Claims That It Shortchanged Royalties To Private Landowners

Devon Energy Paid \$28 Million In A Class Action Suit After Underpaying Mineral Owners In Texas. “Devon Energy Production Co. will pay \$28 million to Texas well owners who say they were underpaid royalties after a federal court in the state granted final approval of a class action settlement and plan of allocation.” [Bloomberg Law, [06/17/21](#)]

- **Devon Was Accused Of Underpaying Royalties To “Secretly Create A Lucrative Profit Center.”** The royalty owners “argued they were underpaid millions of dollars in royalties for processing gas extracted from wells at the Bridgeport Gas Processing Plant owned by Devon Energy’s affiliate, Devon Gas Services, between 2008 and 2014. Devon Energy could have obtained a higher price through a lower processing fee, but it ‘failed to do so in order to secretly create a lucrative profit center,’ according to the complaint.” [Bloomberg Law, [06/17/21](#)]