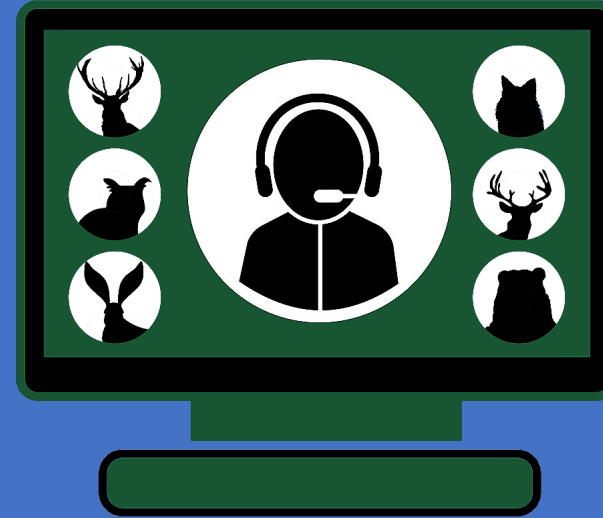




# Montana Environmental Information Center



## The Quarantine Series

**Why Oil & Gas Matters for  
the Climate – and What MEIC  
Is Doing About It**



MEIC

**V** is for  
**VICTORY!**

May 2, 2020:  
287 leases  
vacated on  
147,000 acres

The New York Times

## ***Judge Vacates Oil and Gas Leases on 145,000 Acres in Montana***

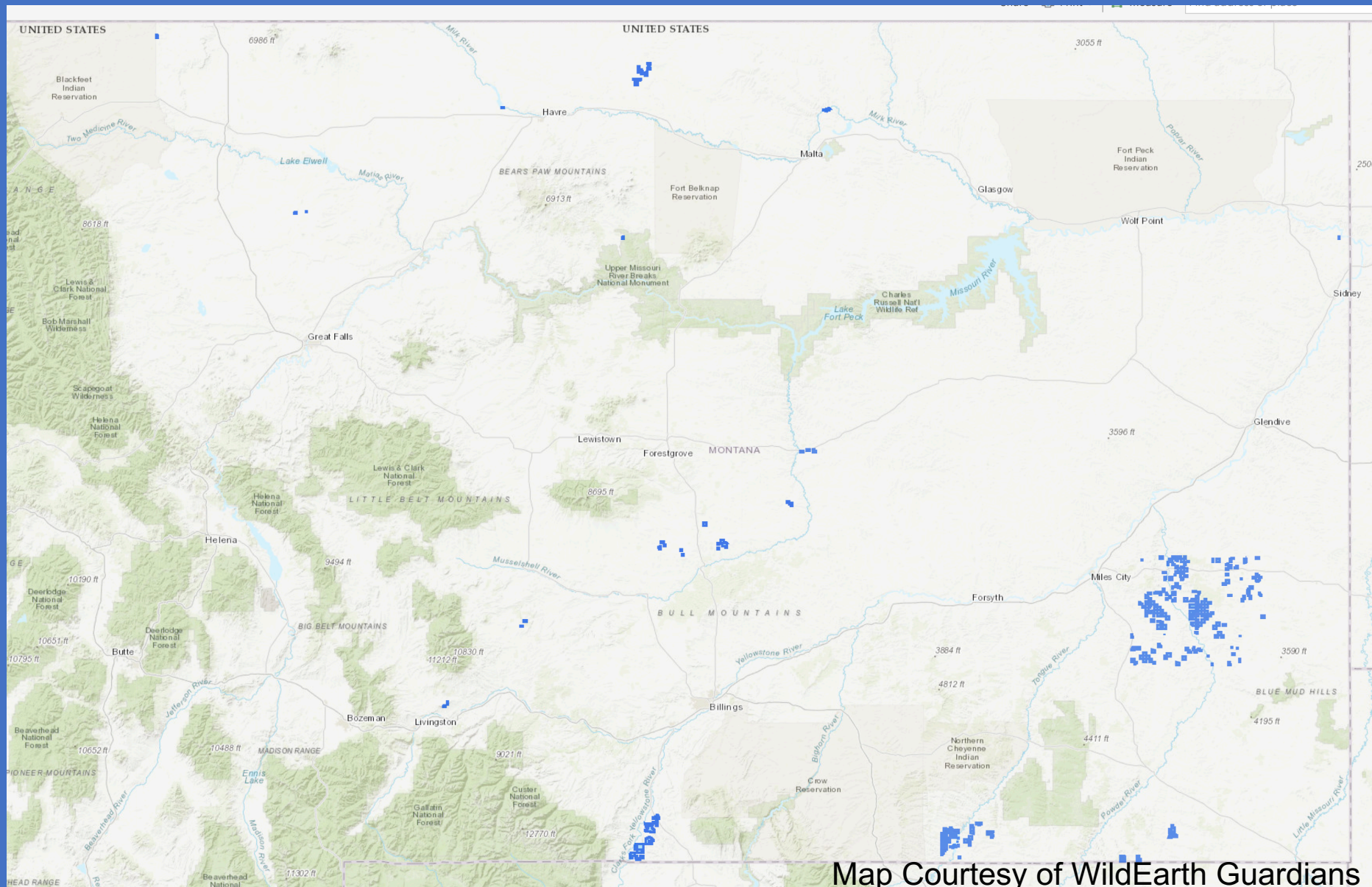
A federal judge, rapping the Trump administration for its weak environmental assessments, has vacated hundreds of oil and gas leases across a large swath of Montana.



Custer County in Montana is predominately covered by livestock grazing and agricultural use with drilling sites and resource extraction scattered throughout.

Kristina Barker for The New York Times

# Oil & Gas Lease Sales – Dec. 2017 & March 2018





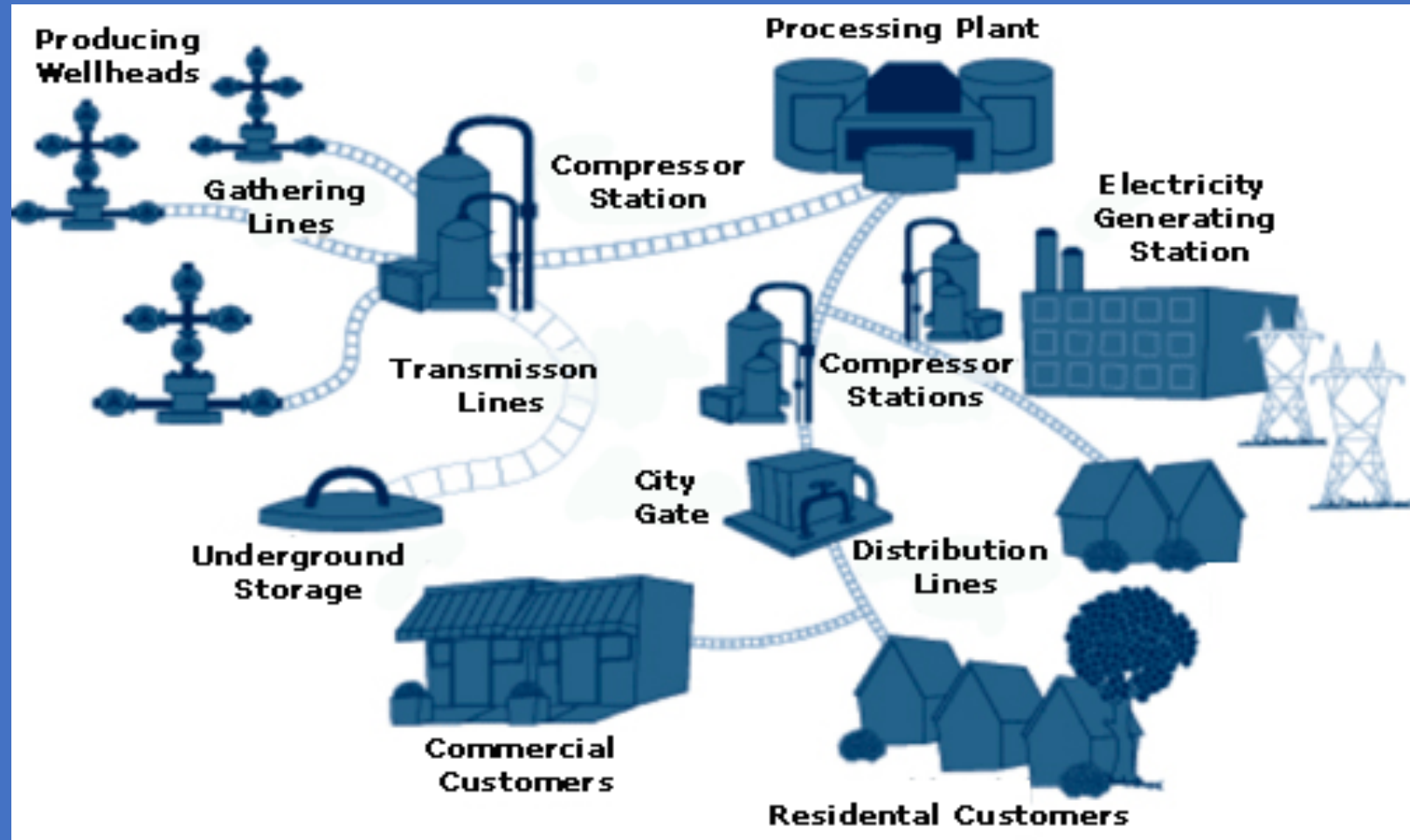
# MEIC's work on oil and gas



- **1989** MEIC wins a lawsuit that stopped CENEX from drilling for oil on the North Fork of the Flathead River.



# Gas Processing & Distribution System





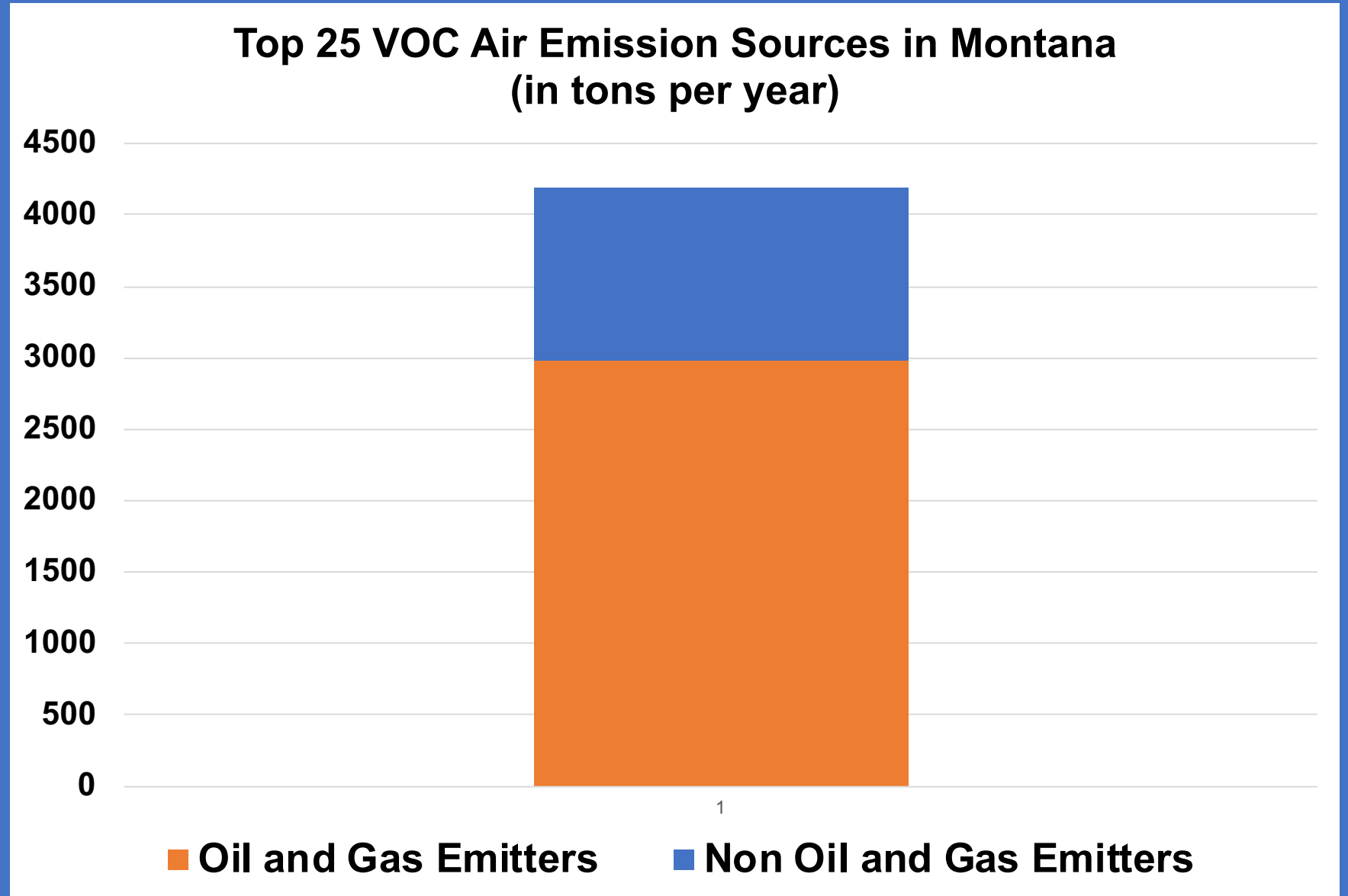
**MEIC**

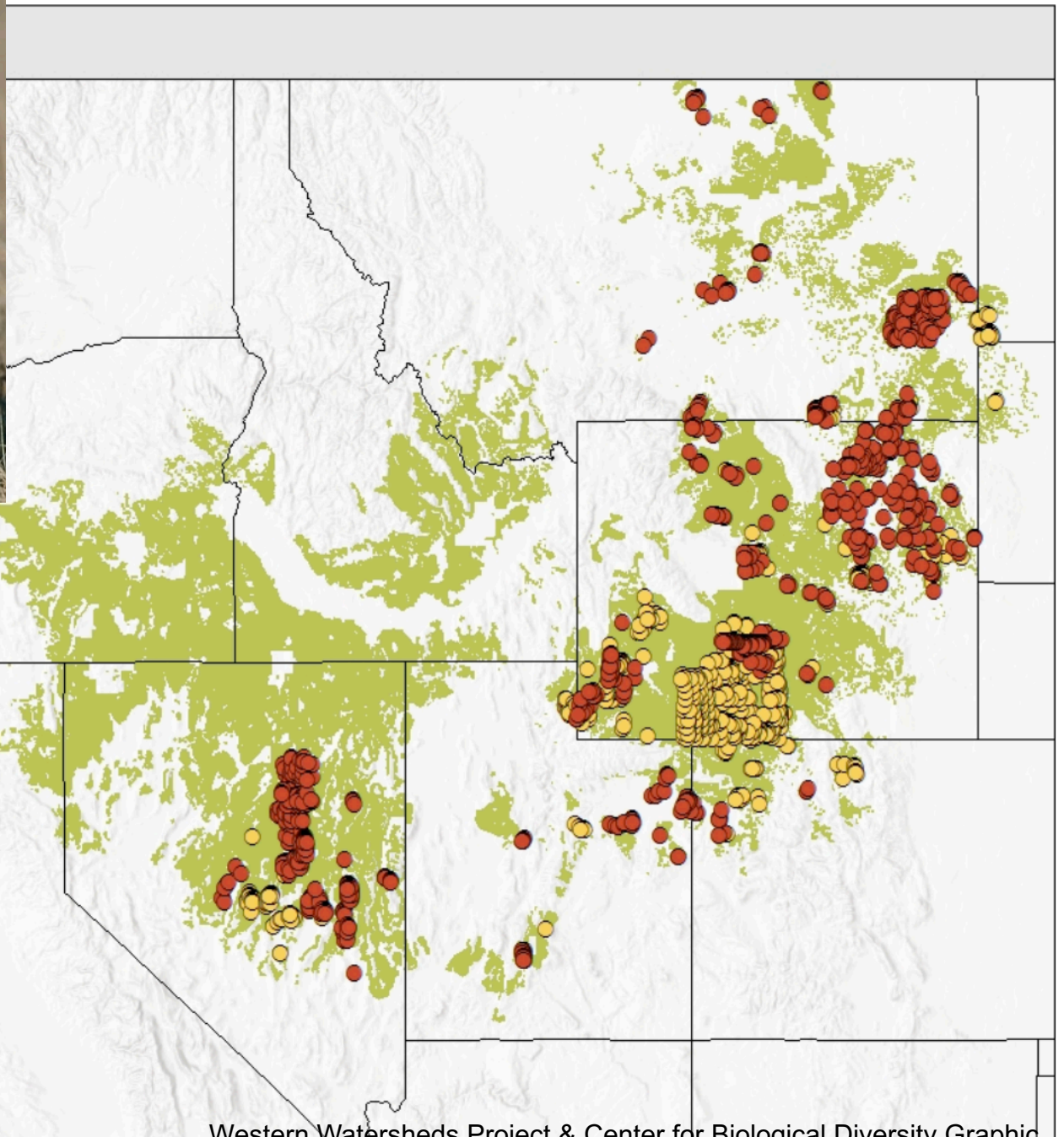
#1.

Air Pollution:

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Particulates

# The Problems of Oil & Gas



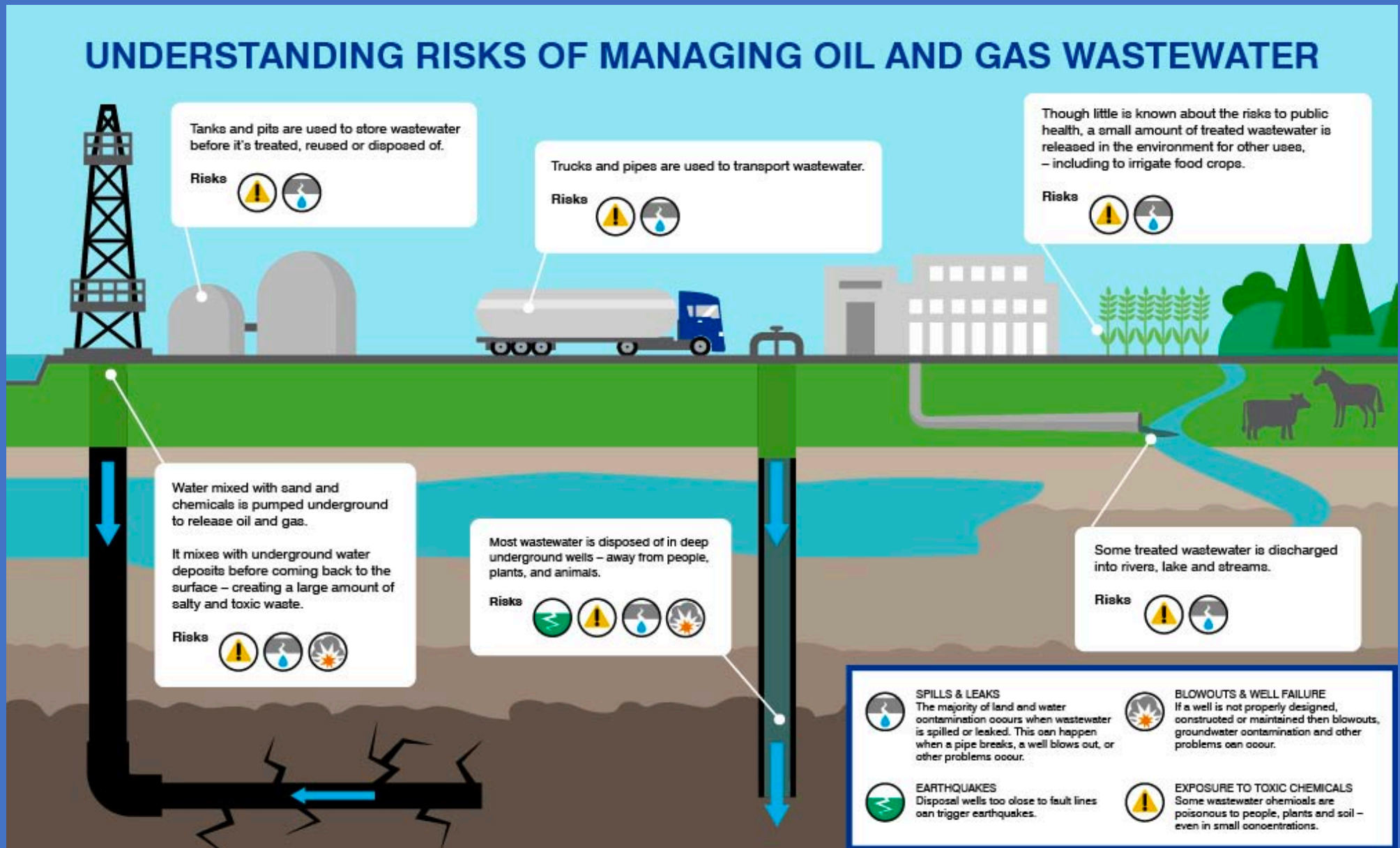


## #2 Habitat Destruction



MEIC

# #3 Water Pollution



EDF Graphic

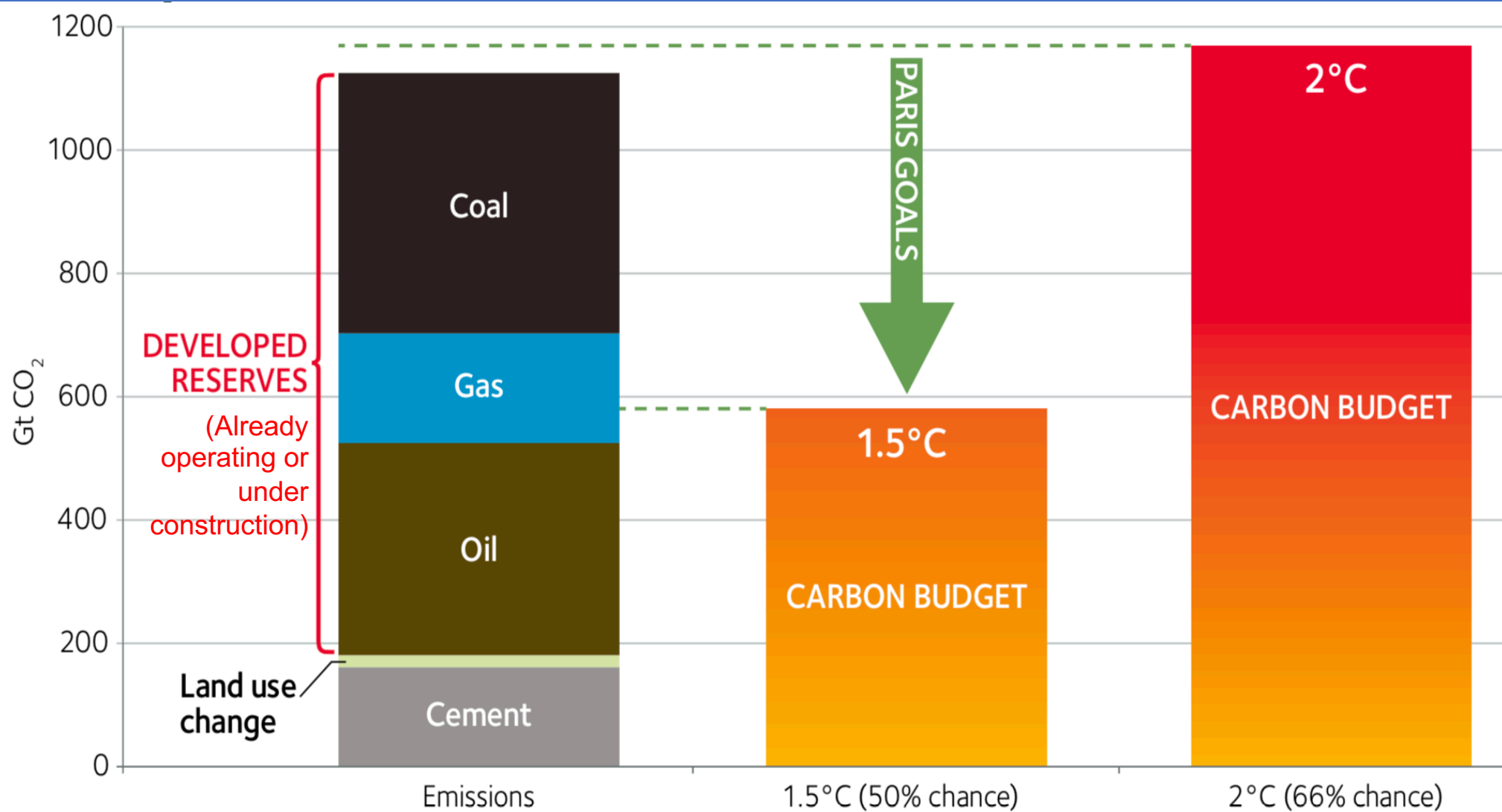
The Environmental Protection Agency says the vast majority of land and water contamination from oil and gas development is caused by surface spills and poorly constructed and maintained wells.





# CO2 Emissions from Global Developed Fossil Fuel Reserves, Compared to Carbon Budgets

#4  
The  
Climate!



Source: Rystad Energy, IEA, World Energy Council, IPCC, OCI analysis<sup>23</sup>



MEIC

**METHANE**

METHANE'S 20- AND 100-YEAR CLIMATE EFFECT IS LIKE 'CO2 ON STEROIDS'  
It traps atmospheric heat 87 times more effectively than CO2, then it becomes CO2 itself.

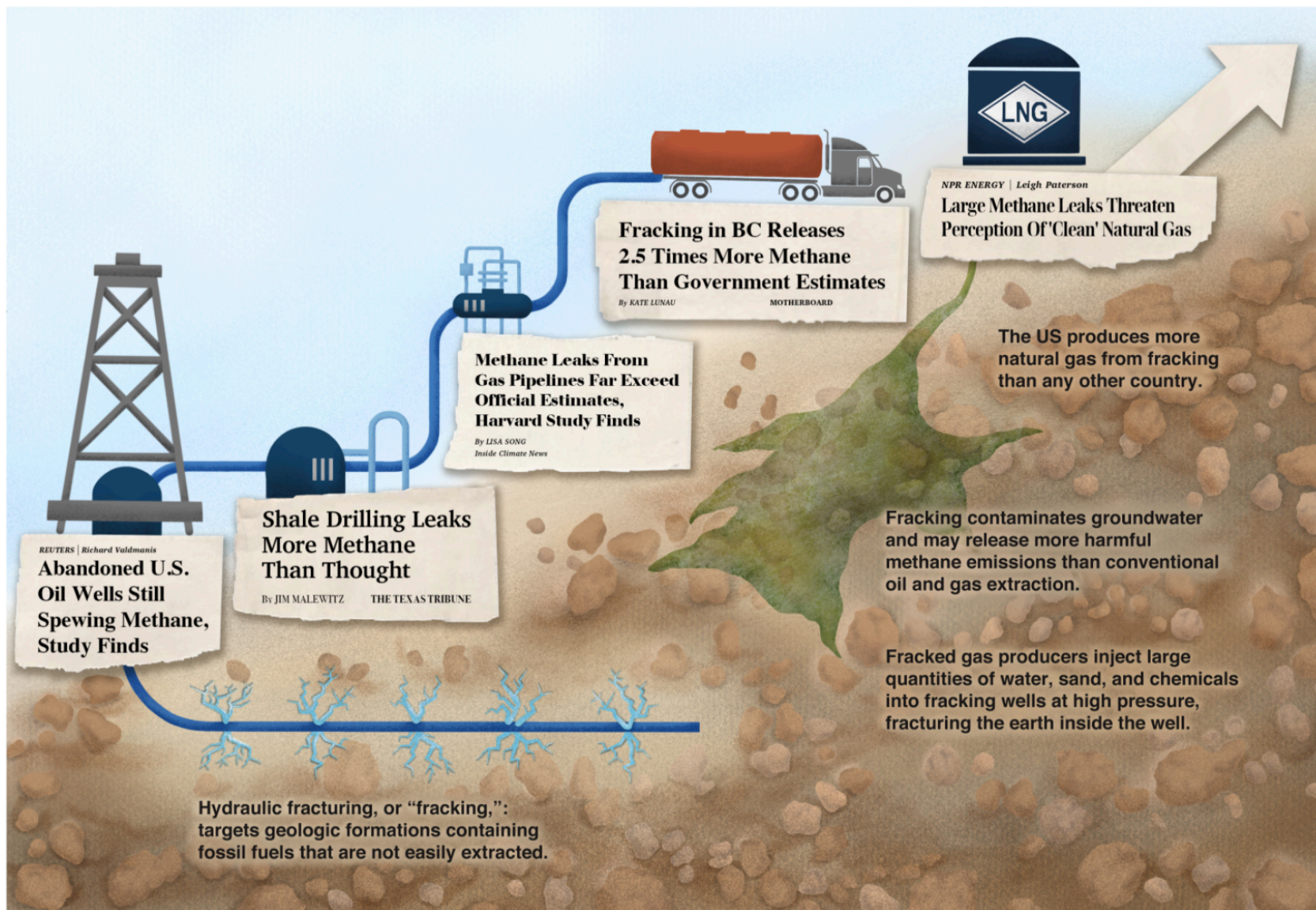
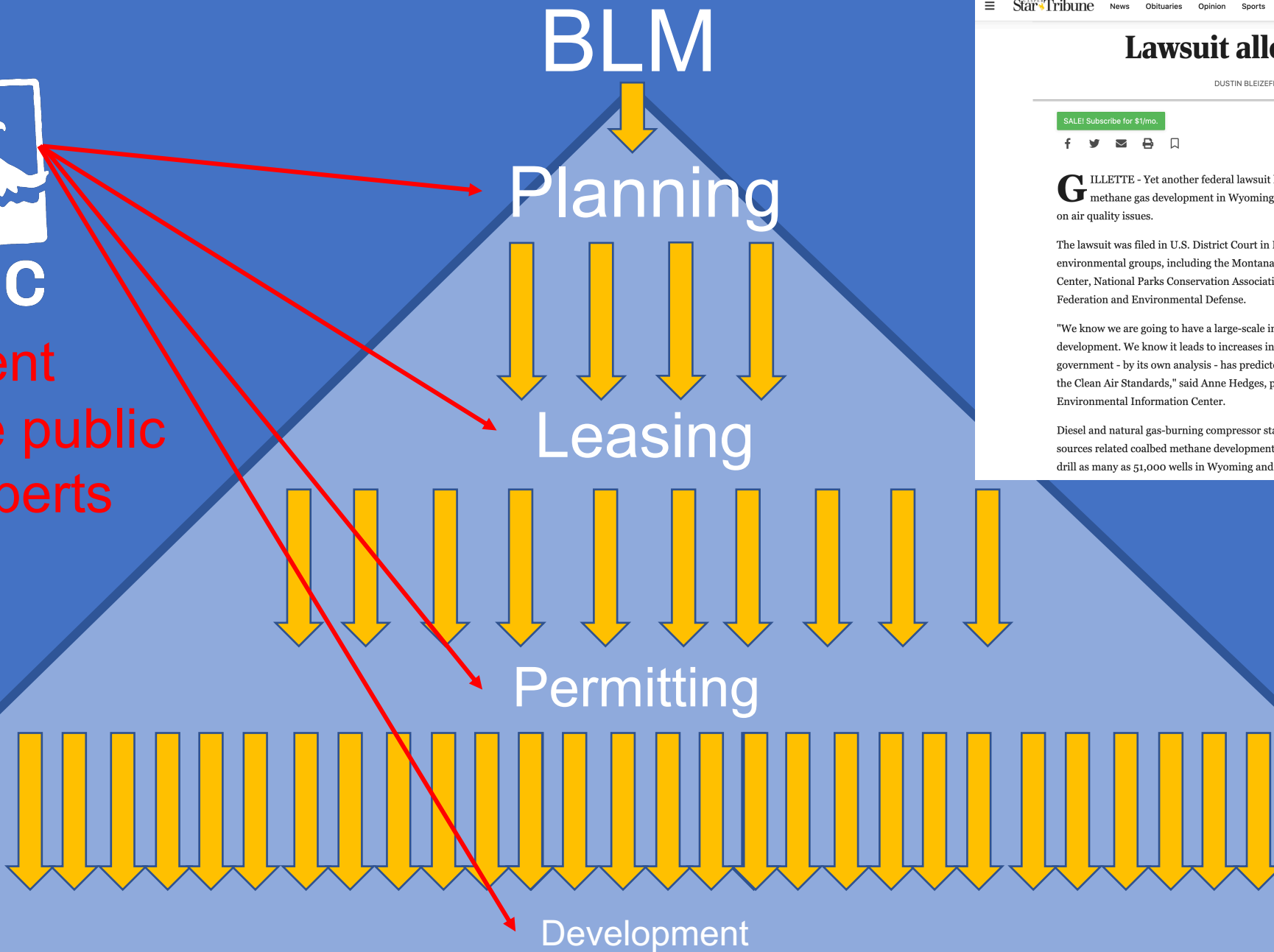


Image by Emily Eng/Sightline Institute



**MEIC**

- Comment
- Engage public
- Hire experts
- Protest
- Litigate



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## Lawsuit alleges CBM pollutes air

DUSTIN BLEIZEFFER Star-Tribune energy reporter May 22, 2004

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f t e p b

**G**ILLETTE - Yet another federal lawsuit has been filed over coalbed methane gas development in Wyoming and Montana, this time focusing on air quality issues.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Billings, Mont., by several environmental groups, including the Montana Environmental Information Center, National Parks Conservation Association, the National Wildlife Federation and Environmental Defense.

"We know we are going to have a large-scale increase in coalbed methane development. We know it leads to increases in air pollution, we know the government - by its own analysis - has predicted there's going to be violations of the Clean Air Standards," said Anne Hedges, program director for the Montana Environmental Information Center.

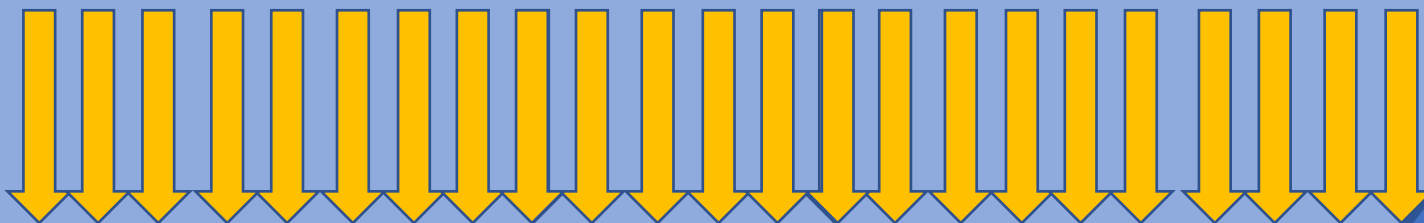
Diesel and natural gas-burning compressor stations are the main air pollution sources related coalbed methane development - an industry that is expected to drill as many as 51,000 wells in Wyoming and 18,000 wells in Montana.



**MEIC**

- Comment
- Engage public
- Hire experts
- Lobby legislature
- Litigate

Distribution System (Pipelines, etc.)

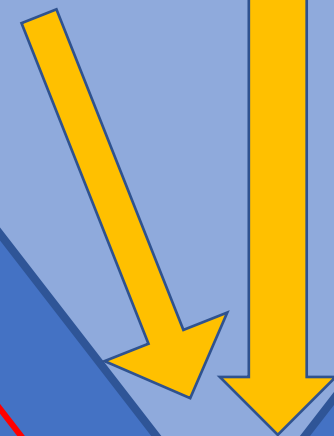


Processing Plant



Power Plants

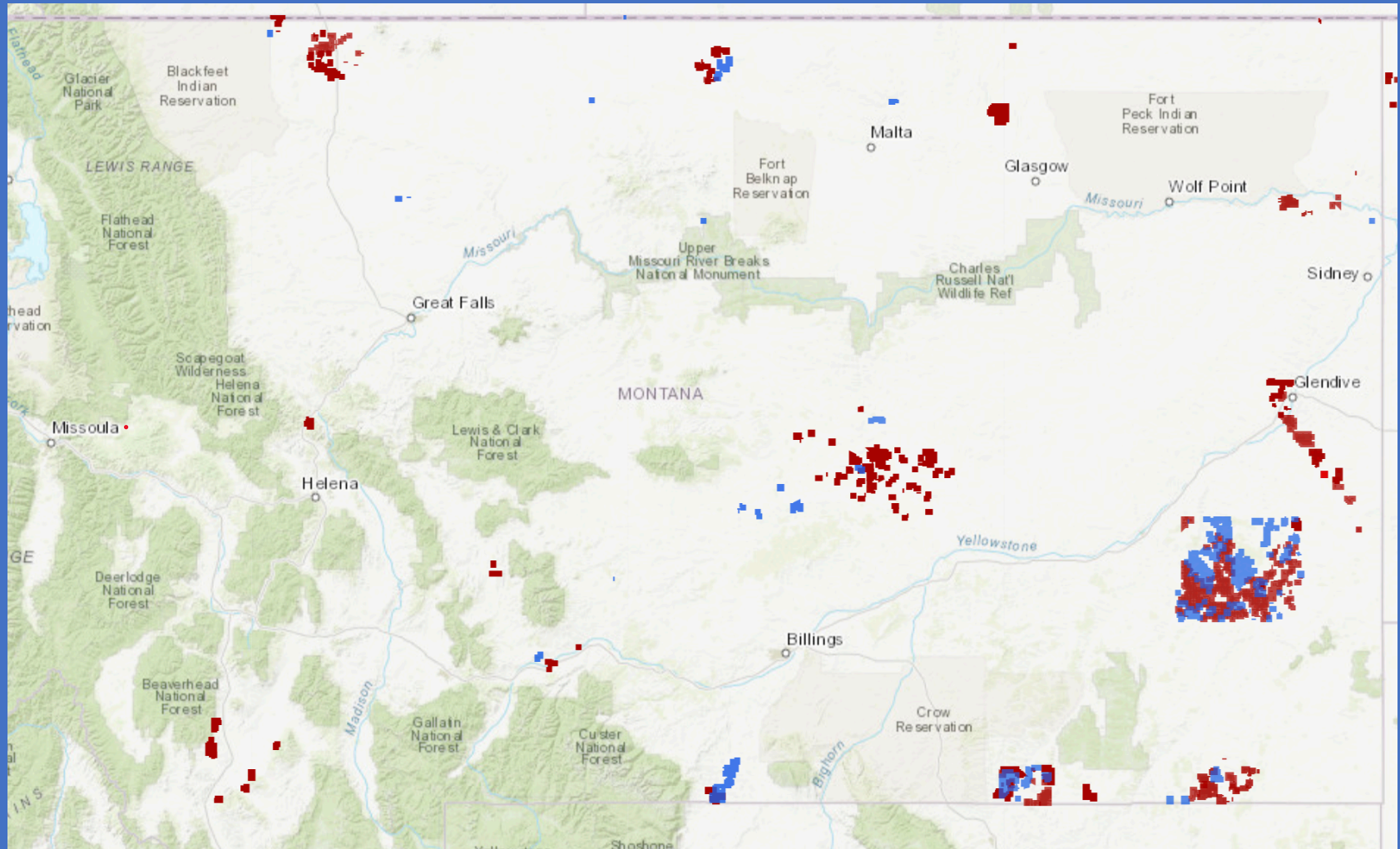
Industrial Plants



**BUILDINGS**

# Work That Still Needs to Be Done

Montana Oil & Gas Leases since Dec. 2017





# Bonding and Financial Protections for Taxpayers



United States Government Accountability Office  
Report to Congressional Requesters

September 2019

## OIL AND GAS

Bureau of Land  
Management Should  
Address Risks from  
Insufficient Bonds to  
Reclaim Wells

“Bonds are not sufficient to prevent orphaned wells in part because they do not reflect full reclamation costs for the wells they cover.”



# Questions & Answers

Using the “Chat” Function, please type in your question

**For More Information or to join MEIC**

**go to:**

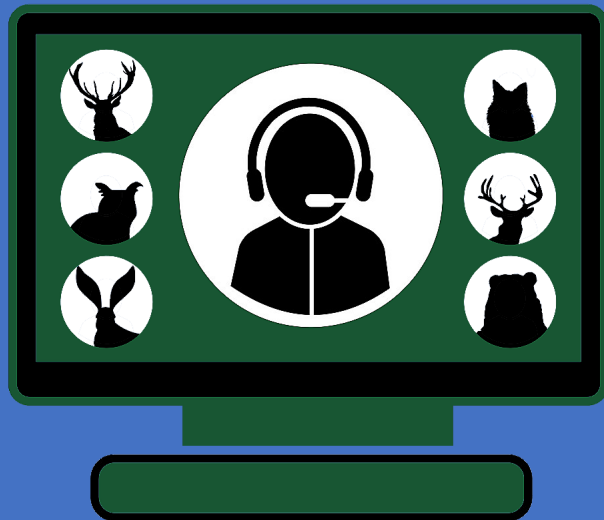
**meic.org**

**Join us**

**Thursday, May 21, 4 pm**

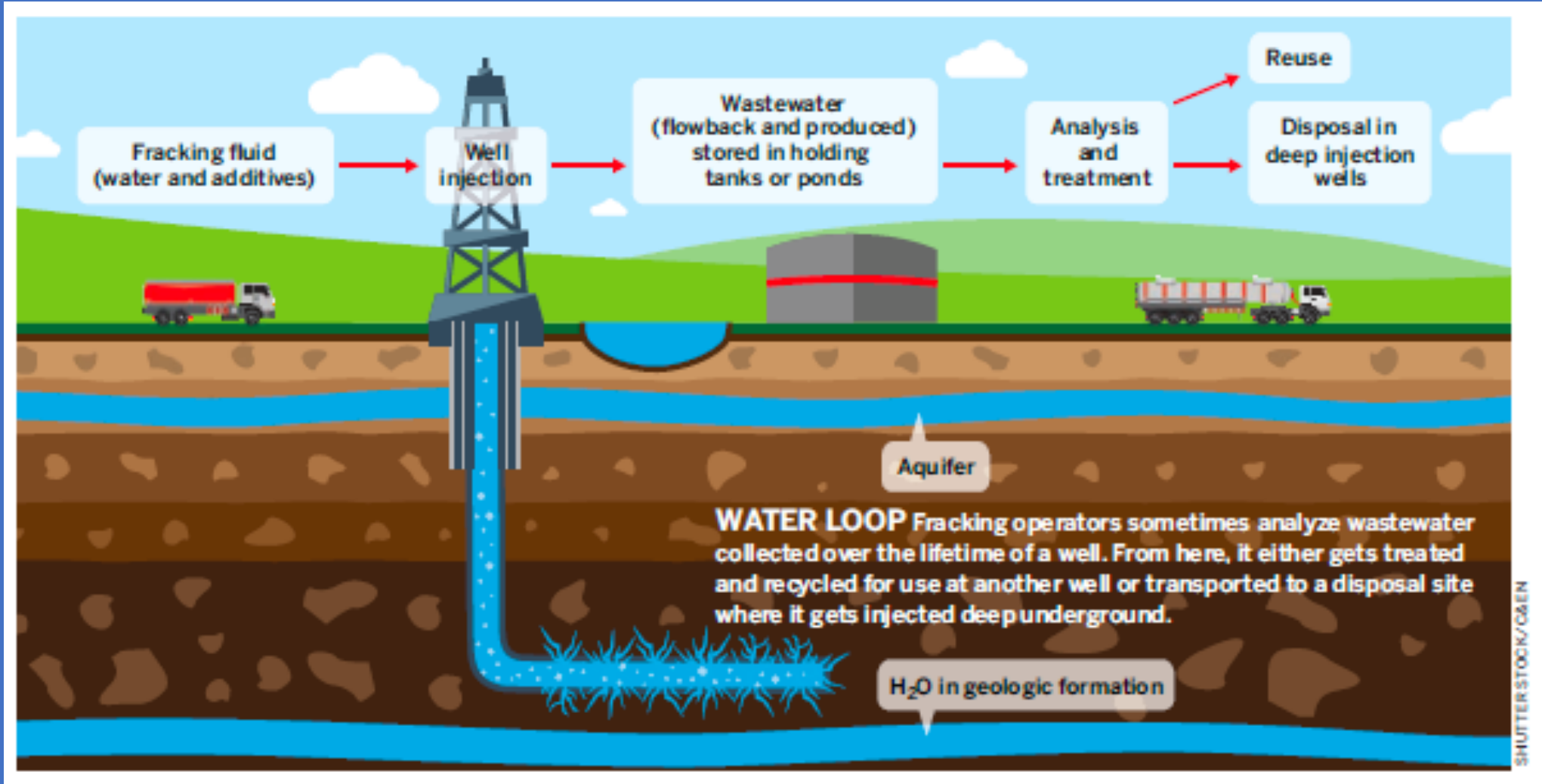
**for**

**“Protecting the Cabinet Mountains  
from Hardrock Mining”**





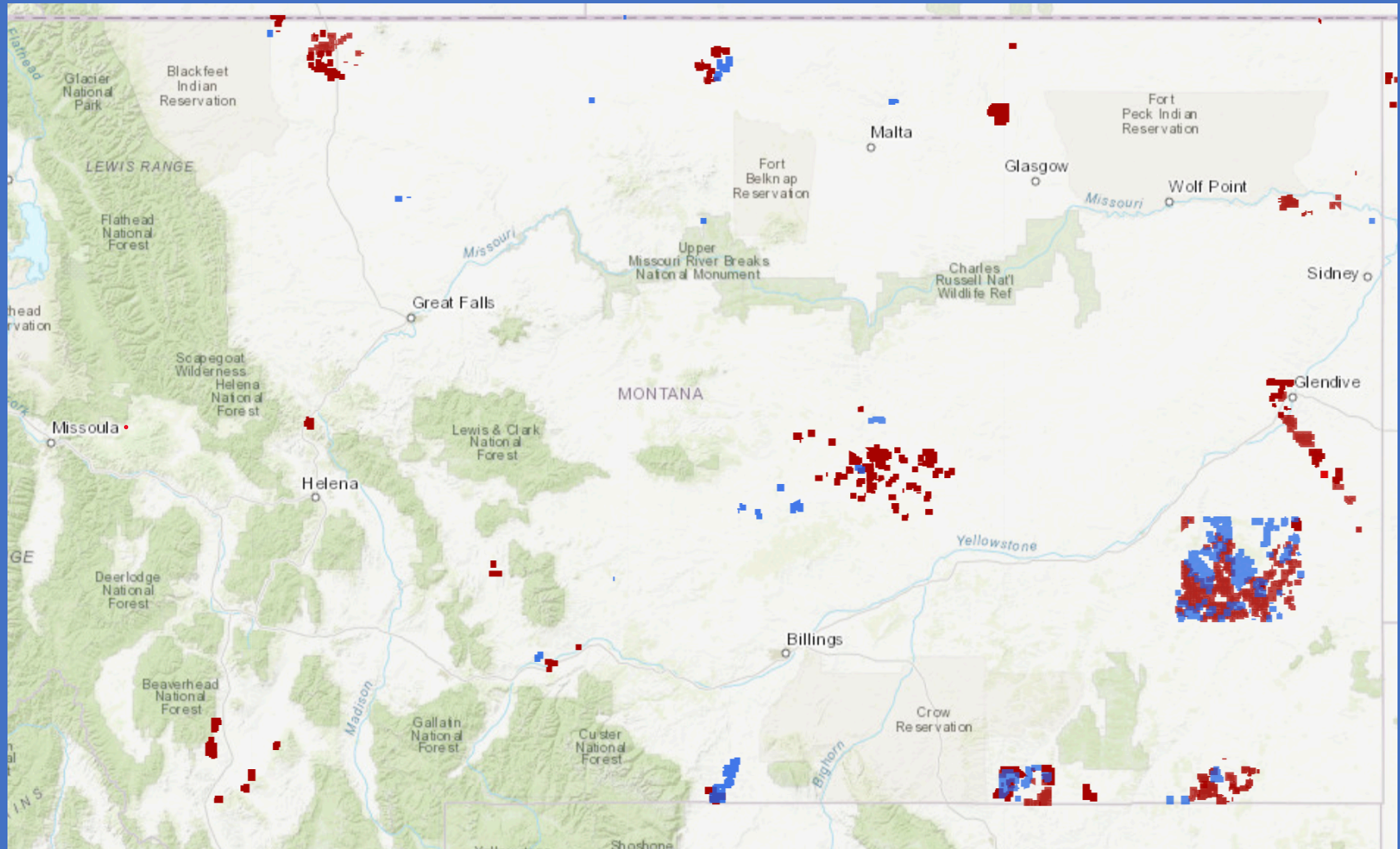
MEIC





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Montana Oil & Gas Leases since Dec. 2017





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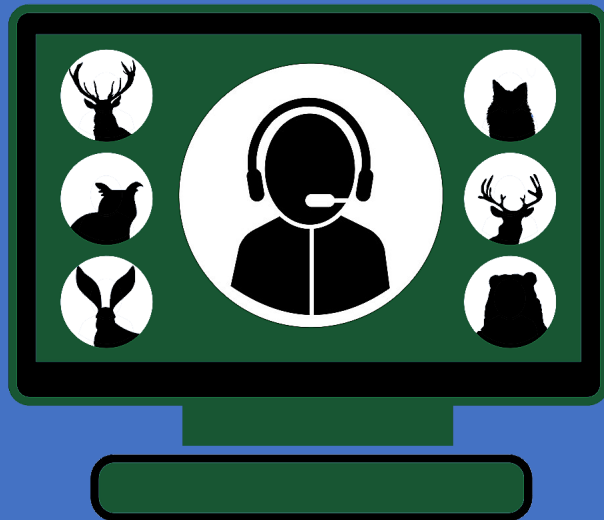
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MEIC

