



**For immediate release:** March 27, 2024

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### **WLN SUPPORTS BLM METHANE WASTE RULE, URGES SWIFT IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

Today, the Biden administration released its final Bureau of Land Management rule to reduce the waste of climate-damaging methane emissions from oil and gas operations on public lands, including provisions to control waste from routine venting and flaring.

“Methane emissions from oil and gas operations on federal and tribal lands are detrimental to western communities from an economic, environmental and public health standpoint. The BLM’s new rule is a step toward controlling these emissions and ensuring oil and gas companies are not wasting public resources through venting and flaring,” **said Western Leaders Network Executive Director Gwen Lachelt.** “I applaud our network of current and former elected officials across the Interior West who have advocated for this rule to address the long-standing issue of methane waste on public lands. It’s important that the Biden administration now implement and enforce the rule – in cooperation with the [Environmental Protection Agency’s new methane standards](#) – to keep our communities healthy, our air quality safe, and capture more revenue that can be returned to our communities and help fund schools, public services and infrastructure.”

According to the Biden administration, oil and gas operators vented or flared approximately 150 billion cubic feet of methane in 2019 – [or about \\$400 million of natural gas on federal and tribal lands – which is enough to meet the needs of 2.1 million households.](#)

Methane, a byproduct of oil and gas development, is a powerful greenhouse gas and significant contributor to the climate crisis. The climate-heating gas became a widely known issue in Colorado and New Mexico in 2014 when NASA satellite images identified a [methane hotspot over the Four Corners](#) area.

Western Leaders Network is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that harnesses the power of elected officials across the Interior West to advance energy transition, advocate for clean air and water initiatives, and strengthen election security. Since its inception, WLN has worked to defend and advocate for strong state and federal safeguards to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.