

# Obama just Cancelled Oil and Gas Drilling on sacred Blackfeet Land

By [Tom Cahil](#)

Global Research, November 18, 2016

[US Uncup](#) 17 November 2016

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Environment](#), [Oil and Energy](#)

In a stunning move, President Obama has announced he won't allow any oil and gas leases on land deemed sacred by the Blackfeet Tribe.

After the announcement, Devon Energy, which was hoping to drill on 130,000 acres in Montana — some of which housed Glacier National Park and Blackfeet land — will have all of its oil and gas leases cancelled on the disputed land. The Bureau of Land Management had previously granted 15 leases to Devon Energy in the northwestern part of the Big Sky State.

"We are proud to have worked alongside the Blackfeet Nation, U.S. Forest Service and Devon Energy to achieve this important milestone, rolling back decades-old leases and reinforcing the importance of developing resources in the right ways and the right places," said Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell [in a public statement](#).

National Parks Conservation Association official Michael Jamison [told the Washington Post](#) that the cancellation of the leases is an important milestone for the preservation of various protected species like wolf, bear, and elk.

"There aren't many places like this left in the lower 48," Jamison said.

The move is particularly significant in the context of the ongoing protests at the construction site of the Dakota Access Pipeline, where hundreds of indigenous tribes have gathered with the Standing Rock Sioux to prevent the pipeline from being built. Protesters say the pipeline, which would run underneath the Missouri River, would [endanger a crucial drinking water supply](#) for millions of people in several states.

For its part, [Devon will receive a little over \\$200,000](#) for the cancellation of the leases, which were issued in the 1980s with no drilling occurring since the leases were granted.

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