



## Who are America's Independent Natural Gas and Oil Producers?

- Ninety percent of the natural gas wells in America are drilled by companies whose names most people will never know. These companies, known as independents, are mostly small businesses that produce 82% of the natural gas and 68% of the oil that our country uses every day.
- Independents direct their efforts towards finding and producing natural gas and oil here in the U.S. In fact, most independents reinvest 100% of their cash-flow into new development projects.

## Western Natural Gas – A Solution to our Nation's Energy Challenges

Our nation currently relies on the Intermountain West to supply 27% of our natural gas. The lands of the Intermountain West hold vast amounts of natural gas that can continue to supply America with the energy it needs for generations to come.

### *Increasing energy security*

The United States is awash in natural gas and 97% of natural gas consumed in our country is produced in North America. Natural gas is abundant and affordable, and with the right energy policies it will remain so for the foreseeable future.

### *Enabling Renewable Energy*

Great energy production from intermittent sources of power like wind and solar are possible because natural gas electric generation is available to fill-in during the large gaps of time when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.

### *Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions*

Since clean-burning natural gas emits half the CO<sub>2</sub> of coal, it is an essential part of any plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Recent studies predict that increased supplies of natural gas will be needed to implement any of the climate change policies under consideration today.

As long as the United States uses natural gas and oil, the Intermountain West will be an important source of domestic fuel, and independent natural gas and oil producers will play a vital role in helping to meet the nation's energy challenge.

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### Independent Oil and Natural Gas Producers:

Have an average of 12 employees

Have an average business age of 23 years

Drill 90% of U.S. wells

Have 49% of their operations on federal lands

Produce 82% of U.S. Natural Gas

Produce 68% of U.S. Oil

*Source: 2007 Oil and Natural Gas Issues Briefing book, IPAA*

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