

Green River,

Green River Formation

While oil shale is found in many places worldwide, by far the largest deposits in the world are found in the United States in the **Green River Formation**, which covers portions of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Estimates of the oil resource in place within the Green River Formation range from 1.2 to 1.8 trillion barrels. Not all resources in place are recoverable; however, even a moderate estimate of **800 billion barrels** of recoverable oil from oil shale in the Green River Formation is three times greater than the proven oil reserves of Saudi Arabia. Present U.S. demand for petroleum products is about 20 million barrels per day. If oil shale could be used to meet a quarter of that demand, the estimated 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil from the Green River Formation would last for more than 400 years¹.

More than 70% of the total oil shale acreage in the Green River Formation, including the richest and thickest oil shale deposits, is under **federally owned and managed lands**. Thus, the federal government directly controls access to the most commercially attractive portions of the oil shale resource base.