

*South Florida Sun-Sentinel* Editorial Board. "Keep Oil Drills Out of Rockies." Editorial.

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<<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/opinion/editorial/sfl->

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Officials in the Interior Department of the Bush administration, many of whom have contacts in the energy industry from their days in the private sector, have held secretive meetings that have resulted in the Interior Department's decision to lift restrictions on the drilling for oil and gas reserves in the Rocky Mountains. Lifting the restrictions for the drilling of these natural resources has been done without popular consent and without concern for the environment.

The *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* Editorial Board believes that there should not be any secretive meetings in a democratic country, especially where the decisions made are ones that benefit special interests over the public interest. They argue that drilling for oil and gas will do little to nothing to alleviate shortages of oil in America. They also contend that irreparable damage has already been done and is continuing to be done to beautiful national parks and to the environment for very little in exchange.

Deliberately destroying the environment and public parks, especially for the benefit of a special interest group, is a treacherous thing to do to the American people. Drilling will not make America safer because America will still be dependent on Middle East oil. This is just a plan to help make the energy industry even richer at the public's expense. Taking care of the public interest and maintaining a healthy environment should be top priorities in any Presidential administration. It just goes to show that there is plenty of corruption in the Bush administration.