

# BLM Legacy Wells

Environmental Hazards  
&  
Eyesores









Wellhead along with  
wood and metal debris  
in a natural oil seep







Natural subsidence and snowmelt have started to obscure this site.



Primitive, rusting wellhead  
and wood debris



# Back-up slides

# Status of Legacy Wells

- 7 properly plugged and abandoned
- 5 improperly plugged and abandoned
- 32 not cased – collapsed hole & revegetated surface
- 17 claimed to be used for temperature monitoring
- 33 classified as “land swap” wells
- 42 flagrantly out-of-compliance wells

# Example problems

- 6 have open casing and no wellhead
- 7 have wood or metal debris on site
- 17 are filled with diesel
- 3 can no longer be found
- Of the 33 “land swap” wells, all but 3 are in need of P&A
- 3 have only a surface plug, but BLM is calling them P&A’d.

# Alaska Regulations in which BLM Lacks Compliance

20 AAC 25.070 (3)

20 AAC 25.105(a) and (b)

20 AAC 25.110(a), (b), (d), and (e)

20 AAC 25.112 (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g)

20 AAC 25.507 (a)