

National Park Service BIL Overview



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May 21, 2024

At a glance



- The NPS has an estimated 2500+ wells within its bounds
- To date over 1,100 of these wells have been inspected and inventoried
- At least 45 orphaned wells have been documented
- More orphaned wells are expected to be found as inspections continue
- Close to 100 wells have been found to be leaking methane



Gauley River National Recreation Area, WV



- Mower Lumber #1 well
- Site was orphaned for over three decades
- Well was actively leaking methane before plugging
- Accessing the site required rebuilding old mountain road and clearing trees



Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas



- Arco Rafferty #1 & #2
- Arco Rafferty #1 was a wellsite, Arco Rafferty 2 was a common tank battery
- TRRC had to enforce abandonment of the #1 well due to absentee owner
- Both sites had high levels of heavy metals in the soil
- The #1 was successfully plugged by TRRC
- Both sites had 6" of topsoil removed for remediation
- Soil samples post-reclamation show both sites are now below heavy metal limits



Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas



- Pure Oil #1 / Initially drilled in the 1920s and deepened to 14,000' in the 1940s
- Extreme access issues – Helicopter or mule trains
- Site is a hazard to visitors and wildlife with unstable equipment and piles of junk/debris
- Well needs to be plugged correctly and site secured



Channel Islands National Park, California



- Gherini #1 well was drilled in 1965
- Partially plugged and given to local ranchers for a water well
- Well was completely abandoned after workover failure in 1970s
- Plan to barge workover rig and plugging equipment summer 2024
- Site is archaeologically sensitive. Lots of planning to avoid disturbances



Jean Lafitte National Historic Park, Louisiana



- 11 wellsites need to be reclaimed in the Barataria swamp
- Some of these wells are suspected to be unplugged
- Removal of wellheads, pier structures, and flowlines
- All work done off barges
- 2 wellsites have been reclaimed to date



Big South Fork NRA, TN & KY



- 6 orphaned wells to plug in this park
- Wells are actively leaking methane
- Working in cooperation with the Tennessee Valley Authority to plug and reclaim these sites



Glacier National Park, MT

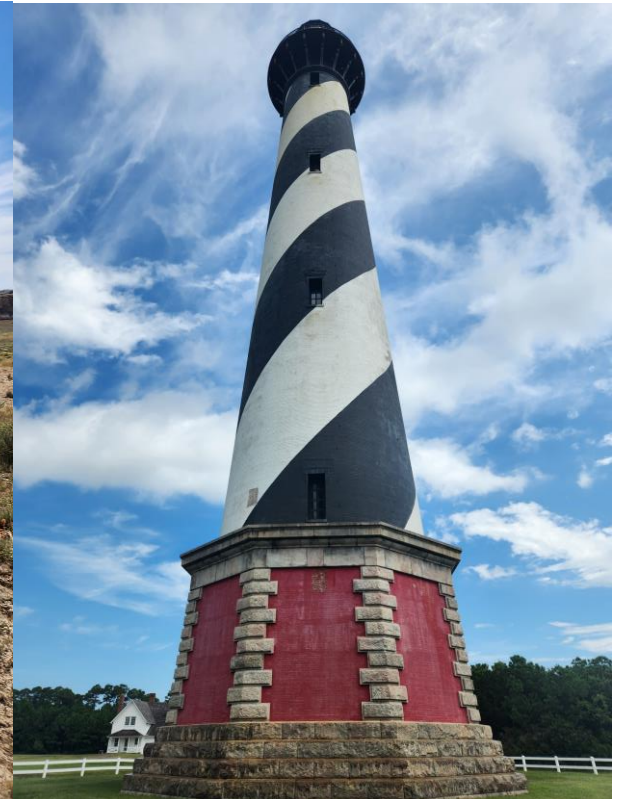
- Butte Oil #1 Well drilled in 1901
- First oil well drilled in Montana
- On the shore of Kintla Lake about 8 miles from nearest road
- All work will be done with helicopters and mule teams



Inventory and Inspection Program



- NPS was able to hire three petroleum engineers to inventory and inspect wellsites
- To date over 1,100 wellsites have been inventoried and inspected
- 45 confirmed orphaned wells found
- Another 40-60 orphaned wells are suspected to still be found
- ~10% of inspected wells have been found with methane leakage





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Thank You!