



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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OVERVIEW OF BLM OIL AND GAS LEASING AND DRILLING PROCESS

Below is a one page overview of the information contained in The Wilderness Society’s fact sheet, *BLM’s Competitive Oil and Gas Leasing and Drilling Process*. Further information on this process can be found in the accompanying fact sheet.

#	Step	Issues Addressed	Effect on Lease Terms	Public Participation
1	Resource Management Plan	Identifies the areas which may be leased in the future	Identifies lease stipulations (NSO, Seasonal Closures, etc.) and whether these stipulations may be waived; Can mandate Unitization; Can Specify BMPs; Identifies RFD Scenarios	Public may provide written and/or verbal comments at each stage of the process (Scoping, Draft, Final)
2	Nomination of Lease Parcels	Oil and Gas Industry and/or BLM nominates specific parcels for inclusion in quarterly lease sales	None	None
3	Parcel Selection and Notice of Lease Sale	After conducting NEPA analysis, BLM selects specific parcels to be included in the sale and publishes notice at least 45 days before the sale date in the Federal Register and on BLM websites.	Generally lease terms are not affected during this stage; however, BLM can develop additional lease stipulations and include them at this stage	Public may formally protest specific parcels (must be received by the BLM no later than 15 calendar days prior to the sale). No special notice is required if parcels are for oil and gas “under” privately owned surface lands.
4	Leases Sold/Issued	Parcels are sold to the highest bidder at oral auction	Lease terms will include the standard lease terms and any stipulations identified in the notice of sale	None
5	Company Seeks to Develop Lease	Lease holder seeks approval from BLM to develop the lease; BLM moves forward with site specific NEPA analysis	BLM can determine COAs that must be met prior to drilling; including BMPs and/or posting bonds for specific wells	Level of public participation depends on whether the BLM applies a CX or DNA, conducts an EA or conducts an EIS. Public may be allowed to comment and/or appeal to IBLA.
6	Finalizing Surface Operations Plan	Lease holder finalizes plan with BLM to ensure compliance with lease stipulations and/or COAs	This process can lead to adjustments to the lease terms, generally relaxing requirements on lease holder	None