

STIPULATIONS

CORPS OF ENGINEERS
BENBROOK LAKE PROJECT, TEXAS

1. NSO/ND - No Surface Occupancy and No Drilling

This stipulation applies to all Corps of Engineers (COE) fee ownership within 3000 horizontal feet of prime facilities critical to the operation of Benbrook Lake, Texas. These facilities include the dam, spillway, outlet structure, levees and related structures. This stipulation allows the identified area to be included in a lease for the purpose of becoming a part of a drilling unit so that the United States will share in the royalty.

2. NSO/DD - No Surface Occupancy, Open for Directional Drilling

This stipulation applies to all designated parks, recreation areas, public use areas, wildlife management areas, archeological and historical sites, trails and roads, and the lake surface at the conservation pool elevation of 694.0 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) Directional drilling is permitted from outside the identified areas where occupancy is allowed.

3. NSO/ELEV - No Surface Occupancy Based on Elevation

This stipulation prohibits surface occupancy on all lands lying at or below the elevation of the spillway crest or tainter gate sill where alternative surface ownership is available within the same drilling unit. At Benbrook Lake, the spillway crest is at elevation 724.0 feet NGVD. If no alternative surface ownership is available, in no case will surface occupancy be permitted below the 25-year frequency pool (as calculated by COE hydraulics engineering staff) or within 1000 horizontal feet from the lake surface at the conservation pool elevation of 694.0 feet NGVD. The purpose of this stipulation is to protect the integrity of Benbrook Lake land and water resources.

Note: The surface acreage affected by the above stipulations is provided as follows:

Lake surface at conservation pool.....	3,769
Designated Parks/Recreation Areas.....	3,033
Wildlife Management Areas.....	193
Lake Operations.....	176
Areas Below 25-year frequency pool.....	To Be Determined
Archeological/Historical Sites.....	To Be Determined

NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY
Special Cultural Values and/or Traditional Cultural Properties

No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:

For the purpose of: Protection of known cultural resource values and/or traditional cultural properties in areas not already within ACECs.

If circumstances or relative resource values change or if it can be demonstrated that oil and gas operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts, this stipulation may be waived, excepted, or modified by the BLM Authorized Officer, if such action is consistent with the Farmington Resource Management Plan, or if not consistent, through a land use plan amendment and associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis document. If the BLM Authorized Officer determines that the waiver, exception, or modification involves an issue of major public concern, the waiver, exception, or modification shall be subject to a 30-day public review period.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

Bureau of Land Management
Farmington District Office

F-39-NSO
November 2006

LEASE NOTICE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

A biological survey may be required prior to any surface disturbing activity on BLM managed lands. Proposed activities may be subject to seasonal closures within sensitive species habitat.

**Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office**

**F-41-LN
February 2009**

NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY
MOUNTAIN PLOVER HABITAT

No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:

All documented potential mountain plover habitat areas.

For the purpose of: Protection of mountain plover, a federally-listed species (Proposed-Threatened) by the USFWS by the authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Mountain plover potential habitat should stay undisturbed to provide nesting opportunities. Oil and gas activity (and other ground disturbing activities) fragments mountain plover habitat and such activity along with vehicular traffic degrades habitat and impacts nesting mountain plovers. Other known impacts associated with O&G activity include the introduction of noxious weed and noise. A no surface occupancy will insure the protection of nesting plovers and their habitat. Allowing O&G project activities within known mountain plover habitat would be subject to Section 7 Consultation under ESA. The January 2011 lease sale includes documented nesting habitat for the mountain plover.

Fish and Wildlife Service biologists estimate that between 1966 and 1999 the mountain plover suffered a 63 percent decline. A report released in March, 2010 shows that grassland birds, including the mountain plover, are experiencing the most rapid declines among the nation's birds. The 2002 Biological Assessment (BA) for the Farmington Field Office RMP determined that O&G development would have a "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination on mountain plovers. However, that determination was on the basis of "little oil and gas development activities would take place in potential mountain plover habitat". This is no longer the situation and the BA for our RMP is no longer valid as it pertains to the mountain plover and their habitat.

There will be no surface occupancy stipulation on all new oil and gas leases

If circumstances or relative resource values change or if it can be demonstrated that oil and gas operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts, this stipulation may be waived, excepted, or modified by the BLM Authorized Officer, if such action is consistent with the provisions of the Farmington Resource Management Plan, or if not consistent, through a land use plan amendment and associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis document. If the BLM Authorized Officer determines that the waiver, exception, or modification shall be subject to a 30-day public review period.

Exceptions within threatened or endangered species habitat would only be allowed if the U. S. Fish and Wildlife concurs that there would be no adverse effect on listed species or their habitat. Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

No Surface Occupancy
Community/Residences

No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:

No surface occupancy is allowed within 660 feet of any occupied residences of a community.

If circumstances or relative resource values change or if it can be demonstrated that oil and gas operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts, this stipulation maybe waived, excepted, or modified by the BLM Authorized Officer, if such action is consistent with the provisions of the Farmington Resource Management Plan, or if not consistent, through a land use plan amendment and associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis document. If the BLM Authorized Officer determines that the waiver, exception, or modification involves an issue of major public concern, the waiver, exception, or modification shall be subject to a 30-day public review period.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

STIPULATION FOR LANDS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
UNDER JURISDICTION OF
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In conducting operations associated with this lease, the lessee/operator must comply with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture set forth at Title 36, Chapter II, of the code of Federal Regulations governing the use, occupancy, and management of the National Forest System (NFS) when not inconsistent with existing lease rights granted by the Secretary of the Interior in the permit. The Secretary of Agriculture's rules and regulations must be complied with for (1) all use and occupancy of the NFS prior to approval of an exploration plan by the Secretary of the Interior, (2) uses of all existing improvements, such as Forest development roads, within and outside the area permitted by the Secretary of the Interior, and (3) use and occupancy of the NFS not authorized by an exploration plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

All matters related to this stipulation are to be addressed

To: Forest Service
Cibola National Forest
At: Federal Bldg
2113 Osuna Rd., NE Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001

Telephone No: (505) 346-3804

Who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

CULTURAL RESOURCES (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), P.L. 89-665 as amended by P.L. 94-422, P.L. 94-458, and P.L. 96-515):

The Forest Service authorized officer is responsible for ensuring that the leased lands are examined prior to the undertaking of any ground-disturbing activities to determine whether or not cultural resources are present, and to specify mitigation measures for effects on cultural resources that are found to be present.

The lessee or operator shall contact the Forest Service to determine if a site-specific cultural resource inventory is required prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities on Forest Service lands covered by this lease.

The lessee or operator may engage the services of a cultural resource specialist acceptable to the Forest Service to conduct any necessary cultural resource inventory of the area of proposed surface disturbance. In consultation with the Forest Service authorized officer, the lessee or operator may elect to conduct an inventory of a larger area to allow for a alternative or additional areas of disturbance that may be needed to accommodate other resource needs or operations.

The lessee or operator shall implement mitigation measures required by the Forest Service to preserve or avoid destruction of cultural resource values. Mitigation may include relocation of proposed facilities, testing, salvage, and recordation or other protective measures.

During the course of actual surface operations on Forest Service lands associated with this lease, the lessee or operator shall immediately bring to the attention of the Forest Service the discovery of any cultural or paleontological resources. The lessee or operator shall leave such discoveries intact until directed to proceed by Forest Service.

THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES (The Endangered Species Act. (ESA), P.L. 93-205 (1973), P.L. 94-359 (1974), P.L. 95-212 (1977), P.L. 95-632 (1978), P.L. 96-159 (1979), P.L. 97-304 (1982), P.L. 100-653 (1988).

The Forest Service authorized officer is responsible for compliance with the Endangered Species Act. This includes meeting ESA Section 7 consultation requirements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to any surface disturbing activities associated with this lease with potential effects to species and/or habitats protected by the ESA. The results of consultation may indicate a need for modification of or restrictions on proposed surface disturbing activities.

The lessee or operator may choose to conduct the examination at their cost. Results of the examination will be used in any necessary ESA consultation procedures. This examination and any associated reports, including Biological Assessments, must be done by or under the supervision of a qualified resource specialist approved by the Forest Service. Any reports must also be formally approved by the USDA Forest Service biologist or responsible official.

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION
(Prevention of soil erosion and to prevent riparian areas

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:

Facilities will be located at least 300 feet away from all riparian corridors (i.e. 300 feet away from the edge of vegetation zones associated with riparian areas whether they are perennial, intermittent or ephemeral).

Activities associated with drilling and production will be limited or special actions may be required in areas with high potential for wind or water erosion.

New road access will be limited to areas of less than 30% slopes.
New road access in or near drainage (watercourses) will be limited to essential crossings with the least environmental impact. All Soil and Water Conservation Practices described in FSH 2509.22 will be followed for each site-specific case of road construction.

On the lands described below:

For the purpose of:

Prevention of soil erosion and to protect riparian areas.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:

The lessee is given notice that a closed circulation system will be used for all oil and gas drilling. No open pits will be allowed.

On the lands described below:

For the purpose of:

Avoiding potential ground and surface water contamination and surface disturbance associated with open pits.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY STIPULATION

No Surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:

Developed and dispersed recreation sites in CNFMP Management Area 4 as follows:

Spring Creek Lake

One the lands described below:

For the purpose of:

Meeting Forest Land Management Plan standards for these areas by preserving the character of the area and therefore maintaining opportunities for developed and dispersed recreation experiences.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

STIPULATION FOR LANDS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
UNDER JURISDICTION OF
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The permittee/lessee must comply with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture set forth at Title 36, Chapter II, of the code of Federal Regulations governing the use and management of the National Forest System (NFS) when not inconsistent with the rights granted by the Secretary of the Interior in the permit. The Secretary of Agriculture's rules and regulations must be complied with for (1) all use and occupancy of the NFS prior to approval of an exploration plan by the Secretary of the Interior, (2) uses of all existing improvements, such as Forest development roads, within and outside the area permitted by the Secretary of the Interior, and (3) use and occupancy of the NFS not authorized by an exploration plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

All matters related to this stipulation are to be addressed

To : Forest Service
National Forests in Texas
At : 415 South First Street, Suite 110
Lufkin, TX 75901
Telephone No : (936) 639-8501

Who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION
NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS
(Protect streamside management zones)

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints.

Portions of this lease contain streamside management zones (floodplains, wetlands). As a minimum, these areas are established within the 100 year flood plain of all intermittent streams and perennial streams, and 100 feet from the normal pool level contour of lakes. Site- specific proposals for surface-disturbing activities (such as pipelines and seismic surveys) within these areas will be analyzed and will normally result in establishment of protective requirements or limitations for the affected site. Surface occupancy for oil and gas wells will not be allowed within the streamside management zone. (MA-4-63) (MA-5-31)

On the lands described below:

For the purpose of:

To meet visual quality objectives and protect streamside management zones in accordance with the National Forest and Grasslands in Texas Final Land and Resource Management Plan, dated March 28, 1996.

Any change to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the Land Use Plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes. (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manual 1624 and 3101 or FS Manual 1950 and 2820.)

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION
NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS
(Protect Rivers and Associated Bottom Land Areas)

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints.

Areas within the bottom land associated with the Neches River may be subject to special requirements or limitations, such to be determined on a case by case basis. Drilling and production facilities will be located at least 100 feet from the river. (MA-8b-62)(MA-8b-63)

On the lands described below:

Tract K-5

For the purpose of:

To meet visual quality objectives and protect rivers and associated bottom land areas in accordance with the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas Final Land and Resource Management Plan, dated March 28, 1996.

Any change to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes. (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manual 1624 and 3101 or FS Manual 1950 and 2820.)

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION
NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS
(Protect Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Clusters)

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints.

Portions of the land in this lease are, or may be, occupied by clusters of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Exploration and development proposals may be modified and/or limited, including no surface occupancy, within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of an active red-cockaded woodpecker cluster. In addition, if foraging habitat is limited, no surface occupancy may occur within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of an active red-cockaded woodpecker cluster. Upon receipt of a site-specific proposal, the Forest Service will provide current inventory records of cluster locations and may require that localized surveys be performed to assure no uninventoried clusters are present.
(MA-2-80-4.6)

On the lands described below:

For the purpose of:

To protect red-cockaded woodpecker clusters foraging and habitat areas in accordance with the National Forest and Grasslands in Texas Final Land and Resource Management Plan, dated March 28, 1996.

Any change to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the Land Use Plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes. (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manual 1624 and 3101 or FS Manual 1950 and 2820.)

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION 11-2
NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints.

Portions of the land in this lease are, or may be, occupied by clusters of the endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCWs). Exploration and development proposals may be modified and/or limited, in accordance with the *Recovery Plan for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker*, second revision approved January 27, 2003. Protective measures include, but are not limited to, the following requirements of the recovery plan:

Protection of Cavity Tree Clusters During Nesting Season

The protected area includes all cavity trees used by the RCWs and a 200 ft. buffer zone. This area usually doesn't exceed 10 acres. During the nesting season, which generally runs from March 1 through July 31, human disturbance within and adjacent to the clusters will be reduced as much as possible, for example, use of motorized vehicles will be restricted to existing roads, other potentially disturbing activities will be limited to daylight hours, avoiding activities within at least one or two hours of dawn and dusk. New road construction through these areas wouldn't be allowed during nesting season.

Foraging Habitat:

120 acres of good quality foraging habitat should be provided within 0.5 miles of the center of each cluster, as described in Section 8I of the recovery plan, preferably 50% or more within 0.25 miles of the cluster center. In areas that have multiple clusters the foraging habitat will overlap so that the 120 acres of habitat may support more than one cluster.

Upon receipt of a site-specific proposal, the Forest Service will provide current inventory records of cluster locations and may require that localized surveys be performed to assure no uninventoried clusters are present.

On the lands described below:

All Lands in Lease.

For the purpose of: To protect red-cockaded woodpecker clusters foraging and habitat areas in accordance with the National Forest and Grasslands in Texas Final Land and Resource Management Plan, dated March 28, 1996.

Any change to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the Land Use Plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

DRAINAGE STIPULATION FOR FEDERAL LANDS

All or part of the lands contained in this lease are subject to drainage by well(s) located adjacent to this lease. The lessee shall be required within 6 months of lease issuance to submit to the AO plans for protecting the lease from drainage. Compensatory royalty will be assessed effective the expiration of this 6-month period if no plan is submitted. The plan must include either an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) a protective well, or an application to communitize the lease so that it is allocated production from a protective well off the lease. Either of these options may include obtaining a variance to State-spacing for the area. In lieu of this plan, the lessee shall be required to demonstrate that a protective well would have little or no chance of encountering oil and gas in quantities sufficient to pay in excess the costs of protecting the lease from drainage or an acceptable justification why a protective well would be uneconomical, the lessee shall be obligated to pay compensatory royalty to the Minerals Management Service at a rate to be determined by the AO.

SPECIAL CULTURAL RESOURCE
LEASE NOTICE

All development activities proposed under the authority of this lease are subject to compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and Executive Order 13007. The lease area may contain historic properties, traditional cultural properties (TCP's), and/or sacred sites currently unknown to the BLM that were not identified in the Resource Management Plan or during the lease parcel review process. Depending on the nature of the lease developments being proposed and the cultural resources potentially affected, compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 13007 could require intensive cultural resource inventories, Native American consultation, and mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects—the costs for which will be borne by the lessee. The BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activities that are likely to adversely affect TCP's or sacred sites for which no mitigation measures are possible. This could result in extended time frames for processing authorizations for development activities, as well as changes in the ways in which developments are implemented.

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE
FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STIPULATION

All or portions of the lands under this lease lie in and/or adjacent to a major watercourse and are subject to periodic flooding. Surface occupancy of these areas will not be allowed without specific approval, in writing, of the Bureau of Land Management.

For the following described land(s):

Any changes in this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE
WETLAND/RIPARIAN STIPULATION

All or portions of the lands under this lease contain wetland and/or riparian areas. Surface occupancy of these areas will not be allowed without the specific approval, in writing, of the Bureau of Land Management. Impacts or disturbance to wetlands and riparian habitats which occur on this lease must be avoided, or mitigated. The mitigation shall be developed during the application for permit to drill process.

For the following described land(s)

Any changes in this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

LEASE NOTICE
POTENTIAL CAVE OR KARST OCCURRENCE AREA

All or a portion of the lease is located in a potential cave or karst occurrence area. Within this area, caves or karst features such as sinkholes, passages, and large rooms may be encountered from the surface to a depth of as much as 2,000 feet, within surface areas ranging from a few acres to hundreds of acres. Due to the sensitive nature of the cave or karst systems of this area, special protective measures may be developed during environmental analyses and be required as part of approvals for drilling or other operations on this lease. These measures could include: changes in drilling operations; special casing and cementing programs; modifications in surface activities; or other reasonable measures to mitigate impacts to cave or karst values. These measures may be imposed in accordance with 43 CFR 3101.1-2; 43 CFR 3162.5-1; Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 1; and Section 6 of the lease terms.

LEASE NOTICE
PROTECTION OF THE SAND DUNE LIZARD

This lease may encompass suitable and occupied habitat of the sand dune lizard (SDL) (Sceloporus arenicolous). The lizard can be found in active or semi-active sand dunes with shinnery oak vegetation. All or portions of the lease may contain suitable or occupied habitat of this special status species.

The Bureau of Land Management through its NEPA process, is responsible for assuring that the leased lands are examined prior to any surface disturbing activities on the lands covered by this lease to determine potential impacts to the lizard and it's habitat.

In accordance with Section 6 of the lease terms, the lessee may be required to conduct an examination of the lands to determine the occurrence of the lizard (peak activity is May – August). Protocol for these surveys can be found in the 2008 Pecos District Special Status Species Resource Management Plan Amendment. The survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist or herpetologist approved by the Bureau of Land Management. A report of the findings would be submitted to the authorized officer.

Exploration and lease development activities may be limited to areas outside of suitable or occupied habitat within the lease. If the surface management agency determines that lease development activities may adversely impact suitable or occupied habitat, restrictions to the lessee's proposal or denial of any beneficial use of the lease may result.

Conditions of Approval for Applications for Permit to Drill or Sundry Notices may be developed to protect habitat for the dunes sagebrush lizard. The lessee will take such measures as may be required by the authorized officer to protect the lizard and it's habitat.

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE
SLOPES OR FRAGILE SOILS

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:

Surface disturbance will not be allowed on slopes over 30 percent. Exceptions will be considered for authorized mineral material extraction sites and designated OHV areas, for the installation of projects designed to enhance or protect renewable natural resources, or if a plan of operating and development which provides for adequate mitigation of impacts was approved by the Authorized Officer. Occupancy or use of fragile soils will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

On the lands described below:

For the purpose of: Protecting Slopes or Fragile Soils

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE
STREAMS, RIVERS, AND FLOODPLAINS

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:

Surface disturbance will not be allowed within up to 200 meters of the outer edge of 100-year floodplains, to protect the integrity of those floodplains. On a case-by-case basis, an exception to this requirement may be considered based on one or more of the criteria listed below. The first three criteria would not be applied in areas of identified critical or occupied habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species.

--Additional development in areas with existing developments that have shown no adverse impacts to the riparian areas as determined by the Authorized Officer, following a case-by-case review at the time of permitting.

--Suitable off-site mitigation if habitat loss has been identified.

--An approved plan of operations ensures the protection of water or soil resources, or both.

--Installation of habitat, rangeland or recreation projects designed to enhance or protect renewable natural resources.

For the purpose of: Protecting Streams, Rivers and Floodplains

On the lands described below:

All Lands in Lease.

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE
PLAYAS AND ALKALI LAKES

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:

Surface disturbance will not be allowed within up to 200 meters of playas or alkali lakes. Waiver of this requirement will be considered on a case-by-case basis for projects designed to enhance or protect renewable natural resources. An exception for oil and gas development will be considered if playa or lake loss was mitigated by the protection and development of another playa exhibiting the potential for improvement.

Mitigation could include:

installing fencing; developing a supplemental water supply; planting trees and shrubs for shelter belts; conducting playa basin excavation; constructing erosion control structures or cross dikes; or by improving the habitat in another area.

On the lands described below:

For the purpose of: Protecting playas and alkali lakes

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE
SPRINGS, SEEPS AND TANKS

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:

Surface disturbance will not be allowed within up to 200 meters of the source of a spring or seep, or within downstream riparian areas created by flows from the source or resulting from riparian area management. Surface disturbance will not be allowed within up to 200 meters of earthen tanks or the adjacent riparian areas created as a result of the presence of the tanks. Exceptions to this requirement will be considered for the installation of habitat or rangeland projects designed to enhance the spring or seep, or downstream flows.

For the purpose of: Protecting Springs, Seeps and Tanks

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE
CAVES AND KARST

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:

Surface disturbance will not be allowed within up to 200 meters of known cave entrances, passages or aspects of significant caves, or significant karst features. Waiver of this requirement will be considered for projects that enhance or protect renewable natural resource values, or when an approved plan of operations ensures the protection of cave and karst resources.

For the purpose of: Protecting Caves and Karst Features

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE
LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKENS

No surface use is allowed during the following time periods; unless otherwise specified, this stipulation does not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities.

Drilling for oil and gas, and 3-D geophysical exploration operations will not be allowed in lesser prairie-chicken habitat during the period of March 1 through June 15, each year. During that period, other activities that produce noise or involve human activity, such as the maintenance of oil and gas facilities, geophysical exploration other than 3-D operations, and pipeline, road, and well pad construction, will be allowed except between 3:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. The 3:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. restriction will not apply to normal, around-the-clock operations, such as venting, flaring, or pumping, which do not require a human presence during the period. Additionally, no new drilling will be allowed within up to 200 meters of leks known at the time of permitting. Normal vehicle use on existing roads will not be restricted. Exhaust noise from pump jack engines must be muffled or otherwise controlled so as not to exceed 75 db measured at 30 feet from the source of the noise. Exceptions to these requirements will be considered for areas of no or low lesser prairie-chicken booming activity, or unoccupied habitat, including leks, as determined at the time of permitting, or in emergency situations.

For the purpose of: Protecting Lesser Prairie-Chickens

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE
SAND DUNE LIZARD

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:

Surface disturbance will not be allowed in documented occupied habitat areas, or within up to 200 meters of suitable habitat associated with occupied habitat areas identified through field review. An exception to this restriction will be considered when an on-site evaluation of habitat extent, available species occurrence data, the proposed surface use, and proposed mitigations indicate the proposal will not adversely affect the local population.

For the purpose of: Protecting Sand Dune Lizards

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:

Painting of oil field equipment and structures to minimize visual impacts is to be conducted according to the requirements of Notice to Lessees (NTL) 87-1, New Mexico. Low profile facilities also may be required, when needed to reduce the contrast of a project with the dominant color, line, texture, and form of the surrounding landscape. Other surface facilities or equipment approved by the BLM, such as large-scale range improvements or pipelines, will be painted, when needed, to conform to the requirements of visual resource management to minimize visual impacts. Paint colors will be selected from the environmental color chart approved by the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Committee. The selected paint color will match as closely as possible the predominant soil or vegetation color of the area. Upon completion of the well and installation of the production facilities (if the well is a producer) the pad will be reclaimed back to a size necessary for production operations only. The edges will be recontoured and the extra caliche and pad material (excluding top soil) will be hauled off-site. The BLM may require additional reclamation depending upon vegetation recovery. The reclaimed area will be recontoured and reseeded according to vegetation and soil type.

For the purpose of: Protecting Visual Resources Management

PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT (POD) STIPULATION

A plan of development (POD) for the entire lease must be submitted for review and approval, including NEPA analysis, by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) authorized officer, prior to approval of development (APD, Sundry Notices) actions. The POD must indicate planned access to well facilities (roads, pipelines, power lines), and the approximate location of well sites. Should it become necessary to amend the POD, the amendment must be approved prior to the approval of subsequent development action. Deviations from a current POD are not authorized until an amended POD has been approved by BLM.

For the Purpose of: Plans of Development will be required to help direct development to reduce surface impacts.

SAND DUNE LIZARD SURVEY REQUIREMENTS
AND PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

A survey for occupied and suitable sand dune lizard habitat for the entire lease is required. The surveys will occur according to BLM approved protocol by BLM approved surveyors. Survey results must be submitted and reviewed by BLM prior to approval of development actions (APD, Sundry Notices). Based on the results of the surveys, a Plan of Development (POD) may be required. The POD must indicate planned access to well facilities (roads, pipelines, power lines), and the approximate location of well sites. Should it become necessary to amend the POD, the amendment must be approved prior to approval of subsequent development actions. Deviations from a current POD are not authorized until an amended POD has been approved by BLM.

For the purpose of:

Managing habitat suitable for the sand dune lizard (SDL). The lease contains isolated blocks of habitat potentially suitable for SDL. Surveying the entire lease for occupied and suitable habitat will provide vital information for management of this special status species habitat.

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION
PALEONTOLOGY

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:

~ Restrict vehicles to existing roads and trails.

~ A pedestrian survey must be conducted for paleontological material, using a qualified paleontologist as identified in BLM Handbook 8270, prior to any surface disturbing activity. A report on the results of the paleontological survey must be submitted and approved by BLM as part of the permit application for the proposed lease activity. The survey and report will be used to determine the presence of paleontological material, and if necessary, the appropriate treatments such as avoidance and/or project re-design during all phases of the proposed lease activity.

The lessee shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessee shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the operator. Upon approval of the Authorized Officer, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

On the lands described below:

For the purpose of: Protecting paleontological resources.

If circumstances or relative resource value change or if it can be demonstrated that oil and gas operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts, this stipulation may be waived, excepted, or modified by the BLM Authorized Officer, if such action is consistent with the provisions of the Roswell and Carlsbad Resource Management Plan as amended, or if not consistent, through a land use plan amendment and associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis document. If the BLM Authorized Officer determines that the waiver, exception, or modification is substantial, the waiver, exception, or modification will be subject to a 30-day public review period.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

**CONTROLLED SURFACE USE
FARMLAND STIPULATION**

All or a portion of this lease contains private surface used for cultivation. Any surface-disturbing activities associated with oil and gas development will be excluded from the surface area used for cultivation. The BLM may consider on an individual application basis, an exception to this stipulation if the surface owner signs an agreement with the lessee or operator allowing the proposed surface-disturbing activity within the cultivated area. Each application submitted to the BLM must include a copy of any agreement signed by the surface owner.

On the lands described below:

For the purpose of: Protecting agricultural lands used for cultivation.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
SECTION 7 CONSULTATION STIPULATION

The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq., including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.

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Oil & Gas Information includes:

- Sale Notice
- Sale Schedule
- FAQs
- Leasing Instructions & Guidelines
- NTLs, Onshore Orders
- Sale Results
- Forms
- Contacts

Email links are provided at the site
for your comments and suggestions