



## **FACT SHEET: Shale Ridges and Canyons Master Leasing Plan**

### **What is a Master Leasing Plan?**

In 2010, the Bureau of Land Management introduced leasing reform to manage for oil and gas development on public lands. Leasing reform allows the BLM to conduct a more in depth review for areas that are or may be opened to leasing at the planning level through Master Leasing Plans (MLP).

The purpose of an MLP is to plan for oil and gas development in a defined area containing a high-level of potential resource concerns. The MLP aims to resolve possible conflicts with future leasing and development, and ensuring protection of the area’s resources and resource uses.

The two main components of MLPs are:

- Develop goals for maintaining or improving the condition of natural resource values in the area.
- Identify resource protection measures and best management practices that may be adopted as lease stipulations in a resource management plan (RMP).

### **Key elements of the Shale Ridges and Canyons Master Leasing Plan:**

Applies to acreage not already leased.

Provide for protection of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern resource values by reducing impacts from oil and gas development in these areas.

Manage visual resources within the MLP analysis area according to VRM classifications. Protect the visual integrity of the landscape by managing all projects proposals to meet or exceed objectives of the prescribed VRM classes.

**Stipulations:** Focus on meeting recreation goals and objectives in SRMAs to reduce conflict between users and oil and gas development with stipulation of No Surface Occupancy.

### **Does the MLP authorize any specific development?**

The Shale Ridges and Canyons Master Leasing Plan does not authorize any specific oil and gas development. The MLP outlines a proactive approach to future oil and gas leasing in the northern portion of the field office.

<b>Shale Ridges and Canyons Master Leasing Plan</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Fluid Federal Mineral Estate	700,900
Open to fluid mineral leasing	646,300
Open and currently leased	452,500
<b><i>Open and currently unleased</i></b>	<b>183,700</b>
Fluid Federal Mineral Estate currently unleased and closed to leasing	37,600
Total closed to fluid mineral leasing	54,600
No Surface Occupancy Restrictions	328,700
Controlled Surface Use Restrictions	362,500
Timing Limitations	237,500
Total MLP Area	908,600
<b>Entire Field Office Planning Area</b>	
Open and currently leased *excluding federal minerals under USFS surface (As of April 1, 2015)	513,913