

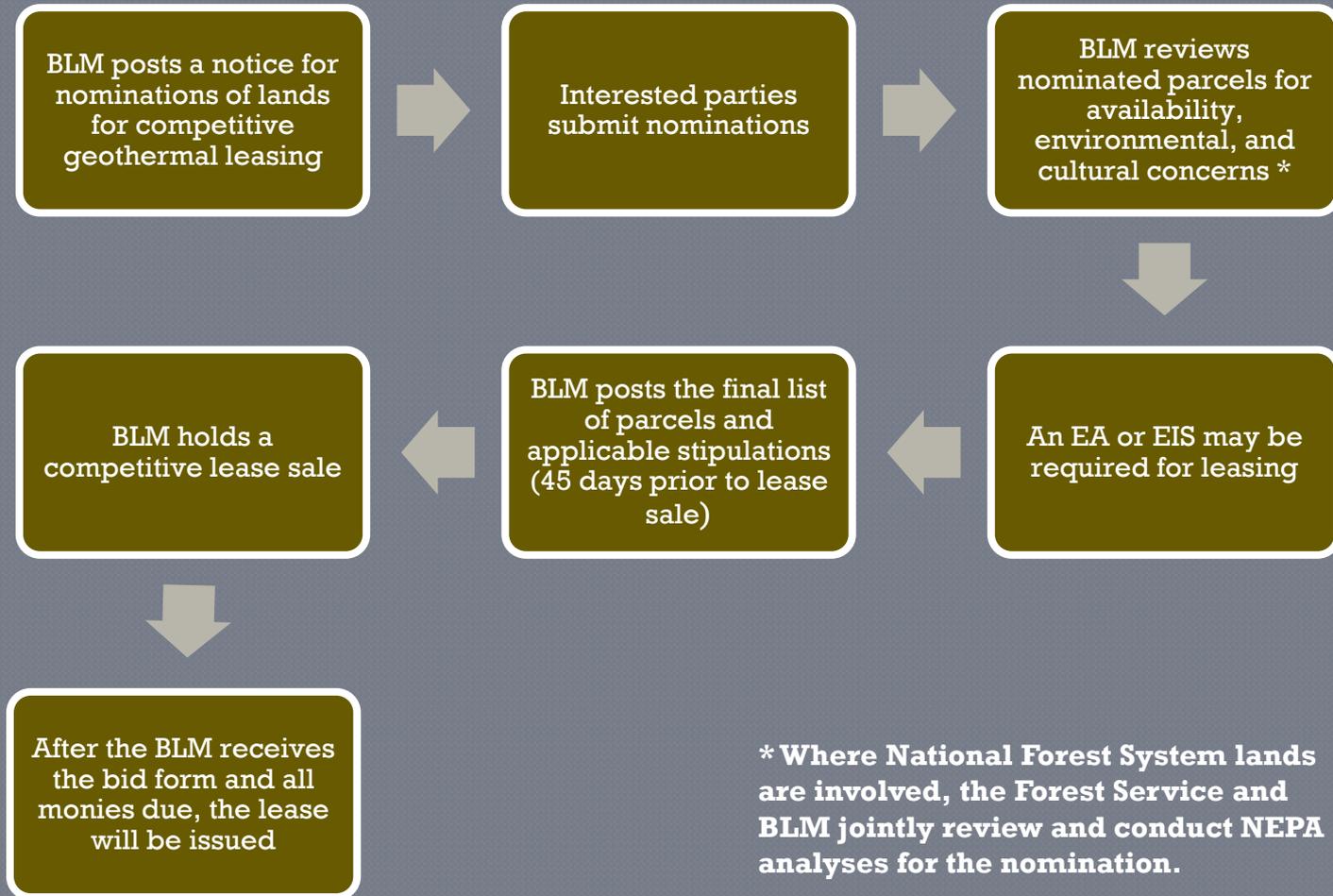
**Bureau of Land Management
and US Forest Service
Geothermal Leasing &
Development**

Five Major Phases of Geothermal Development

- Leasing
- Exploration
- Permitting/Drilling
- Utilization
- Abandonment and Reclamation

Each stage requires additional site-specific environmental reviews and permits. Also at each stage, the BLM, in consultation with the Forest Service on National Forest System lands, can issue site-specific conditions of approval to protect resource values.

Leasing



*** Where National Forest System lands are involved, the Forest Service and BLM jointly review and conduct NEPA analyses for the nomination.**

Leasing Quick Facts

- **Geothermal Steam Act of 1970** governs leasing federal lands for geothermal resource development.
- **The Energy Policy Act of 2005**
 - Section 222 modified the Steam Act to allow only competitive lease sales for federal geothermal resources.
- **The BLM will hold a lease sale at least once every two years.** (43 CFR 3203.13)
- **A geothermal lease grants** the lessee access to geothermal resources in the lease area for a period of ten (10) years.

Leasing Quick Facts (cont'd)

- Lands to be offered for lease must be posted 45 prior to the lease sale.
- The lease is subject to:
 - laws, regulations, and orders
 - lease terms, including stipulations

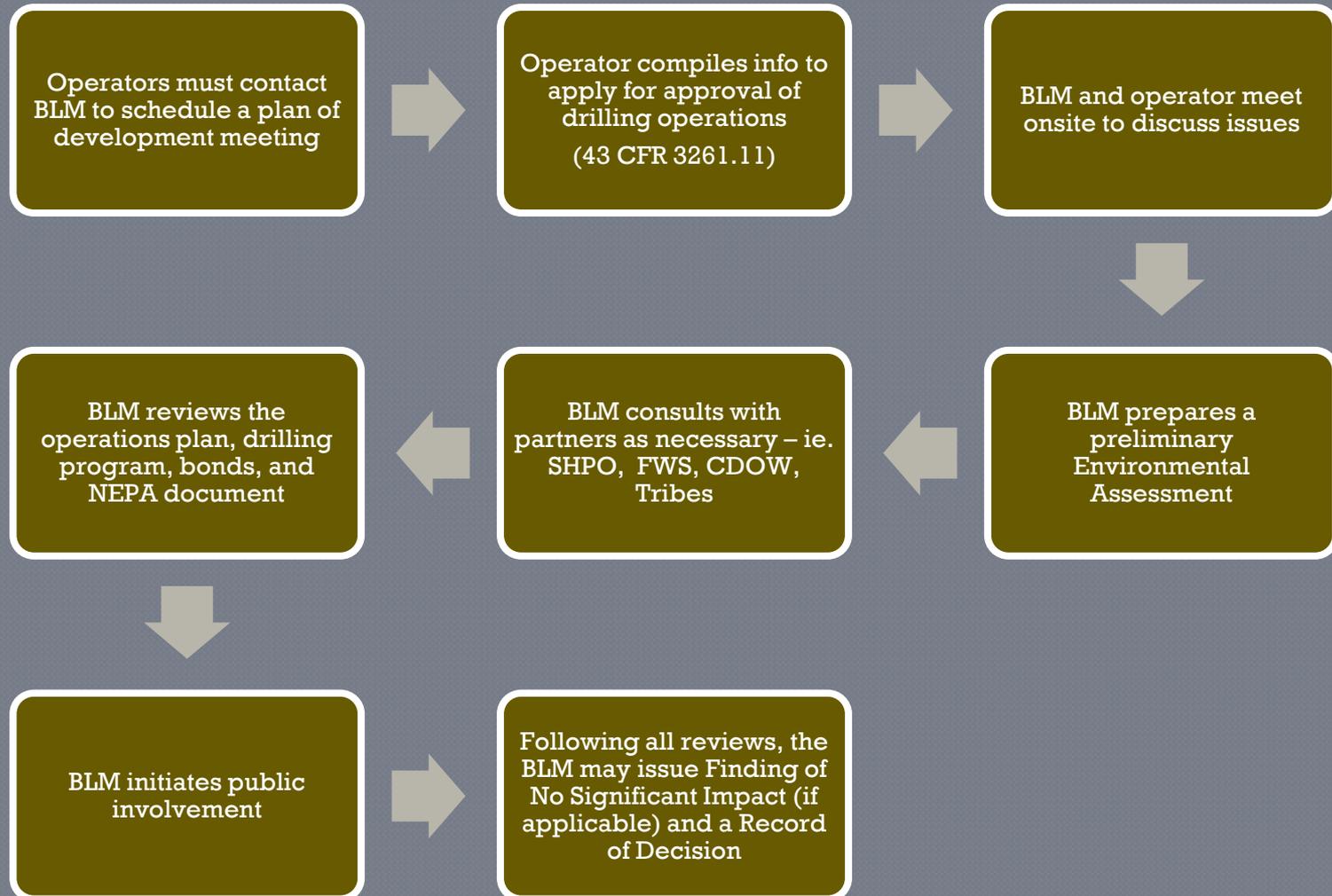
BLM and Forest Service Geothermal Leasing

- The FS decides whether or not to consent to leasing and if so, what stipulations should apply.
- The BLM is responsible for conducting lease sales and issuing leases.

Exploration Quick Facts

- BLM must approve a Notice of Intent before lessee conducts exploration operations
- Exploration operations may include :
 - Drilling temperature gradient wells
 - Seismic testing
 - Core drilling
- Exploration operations do not include drilling wells intended for production or injection

Permitting/Drilling



Permitting/Drilling Quick Facts

- If the well is not a temperature gradient hole, it requires a geothermal drilling permit (GDP)
- Most drilling operations will require a BLM Right-of-Way or a FS road use permit for access roads needed for lease
- Operator must submit a geothermal well completion report within 30 days after drilling a well

Utilization Quick Facts

- Regulations at 43 CFR 3270 outline the procedures for utilization of a geothermal resource, including electrical generation facilities
- Additional permitting is required at this stage for a site license and construction
- BLM also requires a commercial use permit before the resource is sold
- BLM monitors payments via production verification reports

Abandonment and Reclamation

- Operators are required to follow BLM procedures for well and facility abandonment.
- Reclamation must occur according to BLM or FS specifications.