

# Little Snake Field Office Resource Management Plan Revision

## Oil and Gas Development

An estimated 9.9 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas reserves is estimated to exist within 1.9 million acres of subsurface mineral estate administered by the Field Office.

Most of the lands managed by the Little Snake Field Office have high (63 percent) or medium (10 percent) potential for oil and gas.

The Preferred Alternative balances oil and gas development with protecting resources.

### Oil and gas leasing restrictions (acres)

	Alt A Current Mgt	Alt B	Alt C (Preferred)	Alt D
Closed to leasing	78,190	78,190	<b>160,870</b>	275,630
No surface occupancy	192,190	32,770	<b>216,040</b>	459,940
Controlled Surface Use	116,210	153,890	<b>184,840</b>	94,210
Wildlife Timing Limitations	1,162,040	149,360	<b>1,216,190</b>	1,214,610
Open, under standard stips	549,800	1,509,090	<b>417,790</b>	364,880

### Vermillion Basin

Under the Preferred Alternative, natural and scenic values within the 77,000-acre Vermillion Basin will be protected by greatly limiting surface disturbance through a highly coordinated and organized approach to oil and gas development:

- All development would take place within federal units
- No more than 1 percent of the total acres leased within a federal unit may be disturbed at any one time, including well pads, new roads and associated disturbance.
- Disturbed areas can be recovered on a rolling-reclamation basis. Once a disturbed area is successfully reclaimed to established standards, it will no longer be counted toward the 1 percent limit.
- The size and number of federal leases will depend on the lands leased. Each unit would contain at least 4 leases for a minimum of 10,240 acres.

