



# **Resource Management Planning, Lease Sales, Stipulations & Application for Permit to Drill**

## **Bureau of Land Management**

**BLM Tres Rios Field Office, US Department of Interior**

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## Development of Federal Oil and Gas Resources

Developing federal oil and gas resources occur on federal lands in generally five steps, of which we will be focusing on three

### -Land Use planning or Resource Management Planning

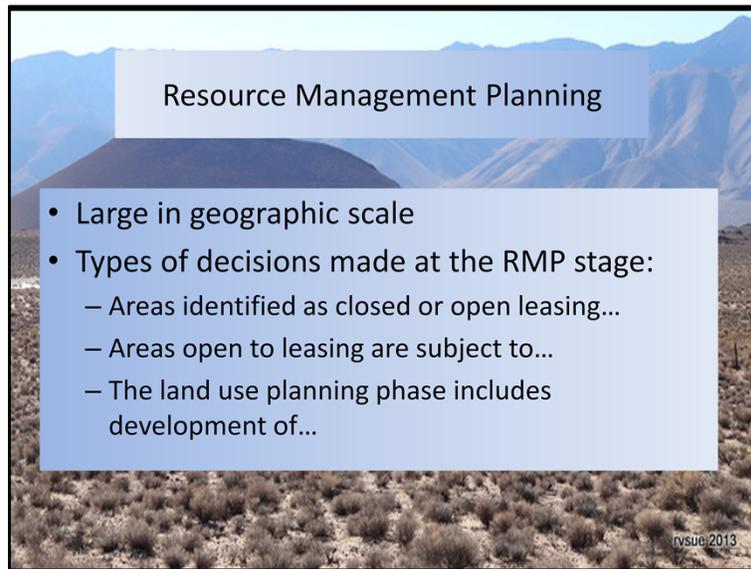
- Analyzing current plan for adequacy and updating needs
- Stipulation development and consistency reviews
  - No Surface Occupancy (NSO)
  - Controlled Surface Use (CSU)
  - Timing Limitations (TL)

### -Lease Sale Process

- Why does BLM conduct lease sales?
- Leasing Reform

### -Well Permitting and Development

- Application for Permit to Drill (APDs)
- Conditions of Approval
- Site Specific NEPA analysis



Large in Geographic Scale-  
-Split three ways

**Planning area-** The geographic area within which the BLM will make decisions during a planning effort. A planning area boundary includes all lands regardless of jurisdiction; however, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM's jurisdiction (including subsurface minerals). Unless the BLM State Director determines otherwise, the planning area for a Resource Management Plan is the geographic area associated with a particular field office.

**Decision Area.** The lands within a planning area for which the BLM has authority to make land use and management decisions. In general, the BLM has jurisdiction over all BLM-administered lands (surface and sub-surface) and over the sub-surface minerals only in areas of split estate.

**Analysis Area.** Any lands, regardless of jurisdiction, for which the BLM synthesizes, analyzes, and interprets data and information that relates to planning for BLM-administered lands. Analyses (such as cumulative impacts) that extend beyond the planning area boundary allow management decisions to be made within the context of overall resource conditions and trends within the surrounding area, considering local, state, other Federal, and Tribal plans.

1. Areas are identified as closed or open to leasing.
2. Areas open to leasing are subject to:

-Standard Lease terms and applicable laws (Code of Federal Regulations,

Onshore Orders)

-Resource specific stipulations

-No Surface Occupancy (NSO)

-Controlled Surface Use (CSU)

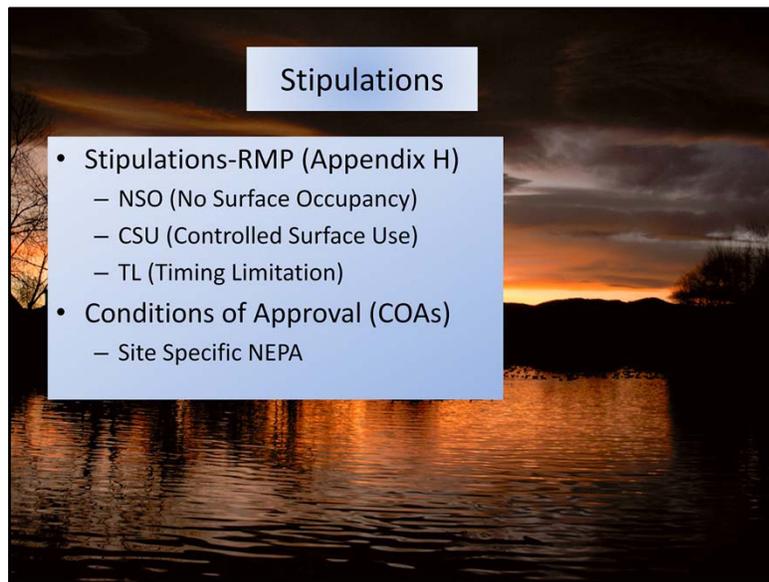
-Timing Limitations (TL)

-3. The land use planning phase includes the development of:

-Resources Management Plans

-Under Leasing Reform: Master Development Plans

-Used for a more focused review of planning for future oil and gas  
development



### Stipulations-

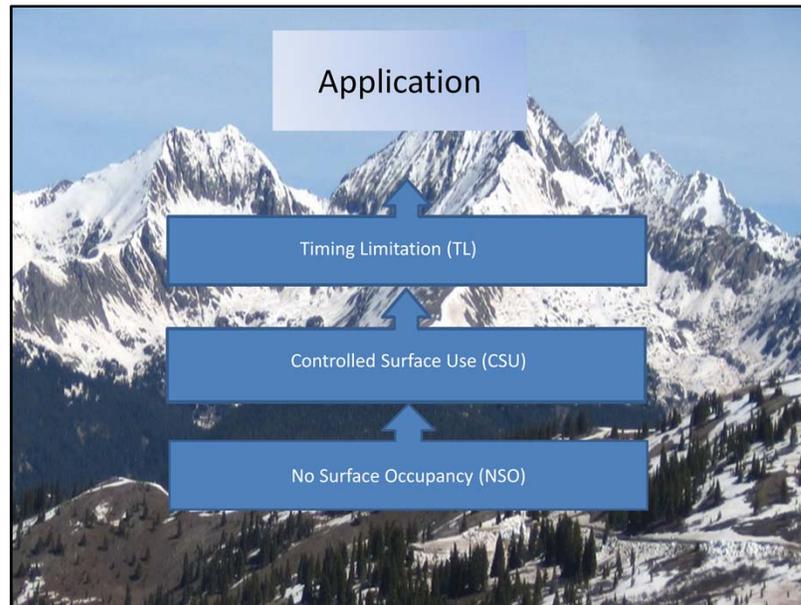
In the Tres Rios Resource Management Plan - Oil and Gas Stipulations are identified in Appendix H.

Land use plans and Resource Management Plans must identify uses, or allocations, that are allowable, restricted, or prohibited on the public lands and mineral estate. These allocations identify surface lands and/or sub-surface mineral interests where uses are allowed, including any restrictions that may be needed to meet goals and objectives. Land use plans also identify lands where specific uses are excluded to protect resource values. Certain lands may be open or closed to specific uses based on legislative, regulatory, or policy requirements or criteria to protect sensitive resource values.

**NSO- No Surface Occupancy-** Use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral exploration or development is prohibited to protect identified resource values.

**CSU-Controlled Surface Use-**Use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral exploration or development is allowed but identified resource values require special operational constraints that may modify lease rights.

**TL-Timing Limitation-**Use or occupancy of the land surface for oil and gas exploration or development is prohibited during a specified period of the year. The land use plan must set the stage for identifying site-specific resource use levels. Site-specific use levels are normally identified during subsequent implementation planning or the permit authorization process. At the land use plan level, it is important to identify reasonable development scenarios for allowable uses such as mineral leasing, locatable mineral development, recreation, timber harvest, utility corridors, and livestock grazing to enable the orderly implementation of future actions. These scenarios provide a context for the land use plan's decisions and an analytical base for the NEPA analysis. The BLM may also establish criteria in the land use plan to guide the identification of site-specific use levels for activities during plan implementation.



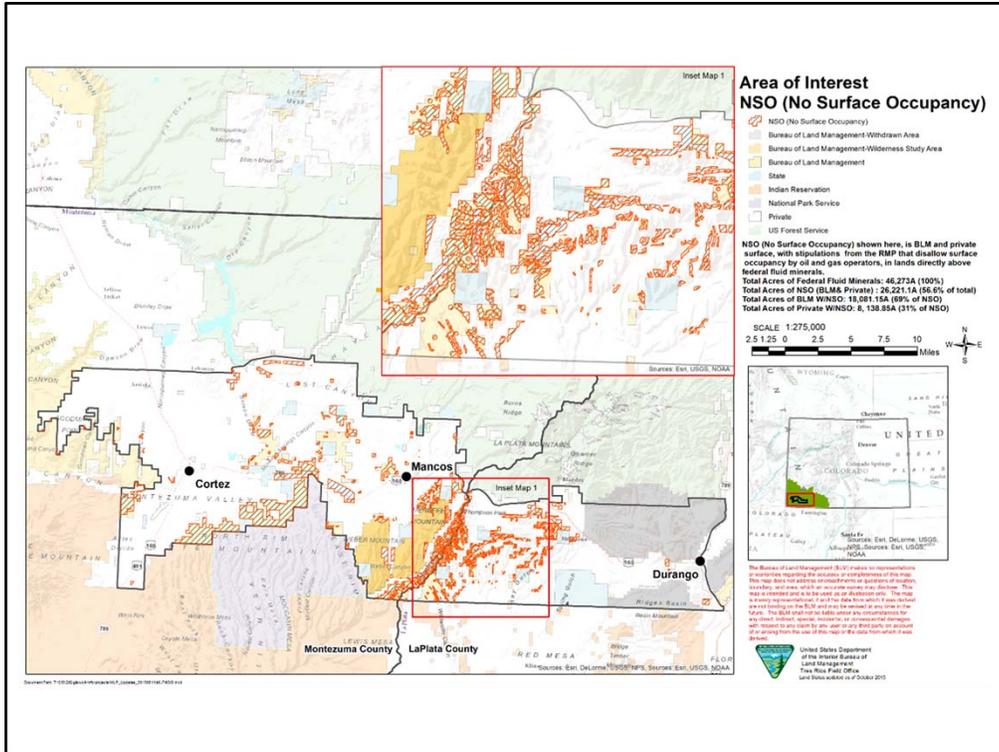
Stipulations for leasing generally apply in a “layer cake” fashion.

-No Surface Occupancy stipulations are the most restrictive and must be analyzed first when evaluating resource concerns.

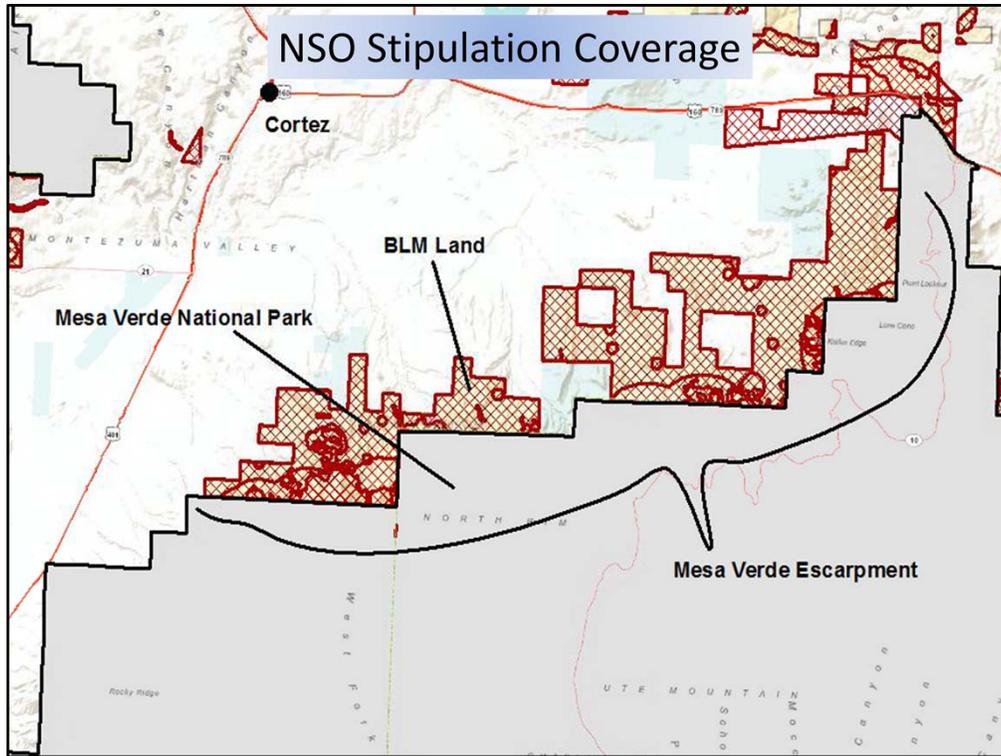
-Controlled Surface Use stipulations are more restrictive than Timing Limitations but generally allow more occupancy of surface resources than No Surface Occupancy stipulations, although specific oil and gas operator actions are still highly regulated.

-Timing Limitation are generally restricted to seasonal needs of either wildlife or surface soil conditions. Generally the most easily mitigated actions.





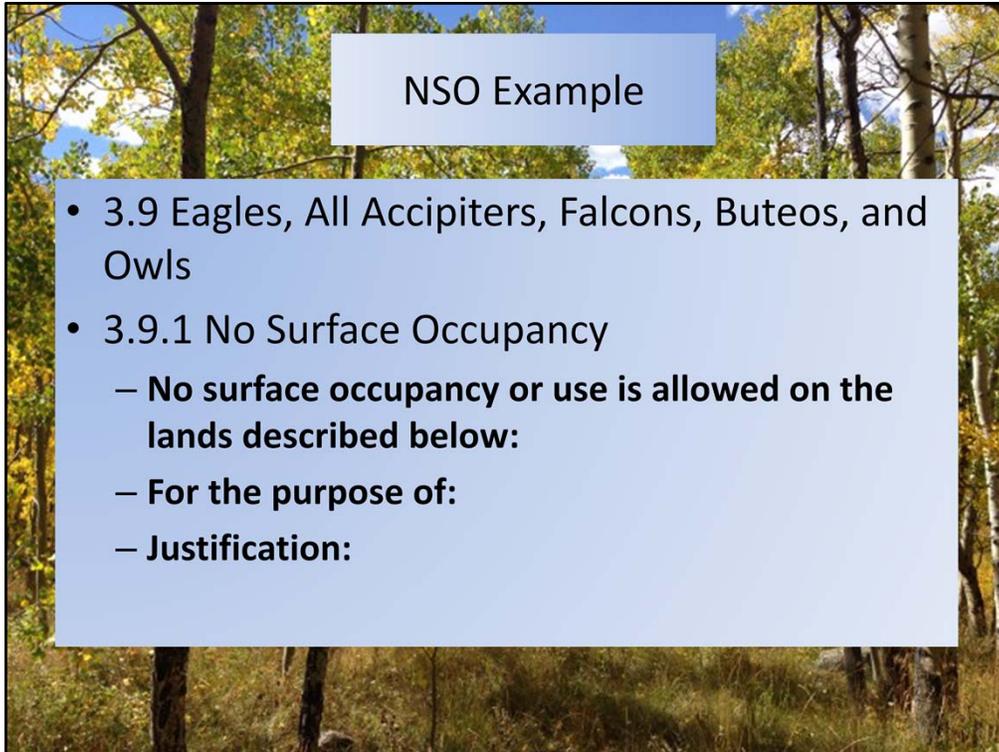
“Area of Interest” map showing No Surface Occupancy (NSO) and related acreages



Specific NSO example of Mesa Verde Escarpment in “Area of Interest”



Examples of No Surface Occupancy in the Tres Rios Resource Management Plan

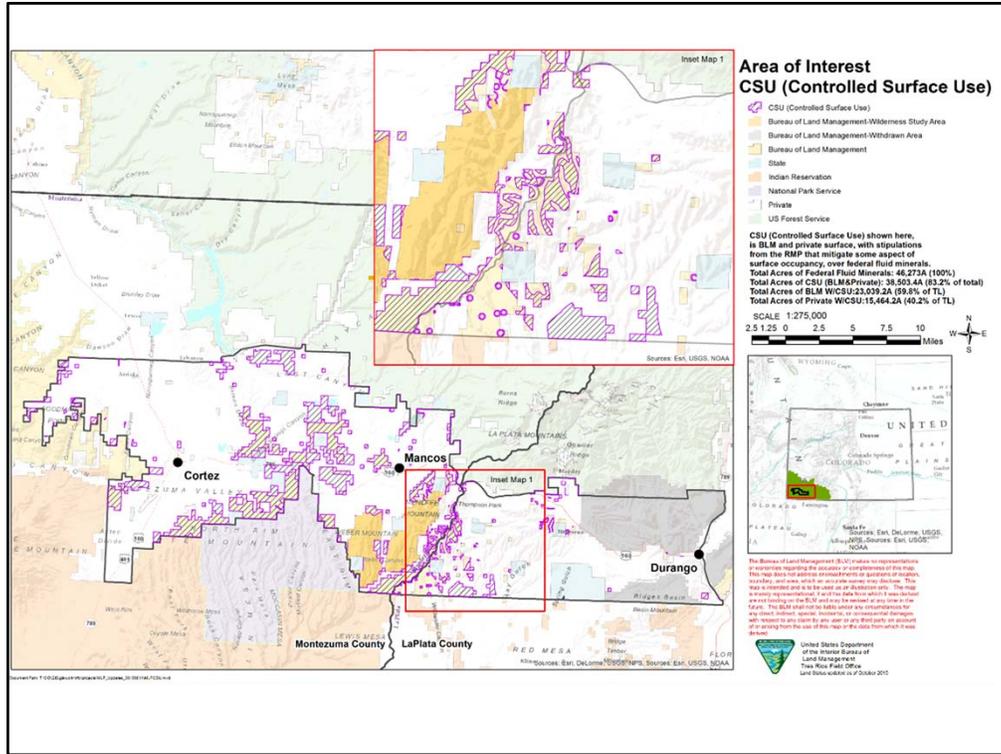


**No Surface Occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:** Within specified distance from nest and communal winter roost sites, NSO would be allowed. Distances are listed in table H.3. (For Peregrine Nests .5 mile setback for all projects from nest sites.)

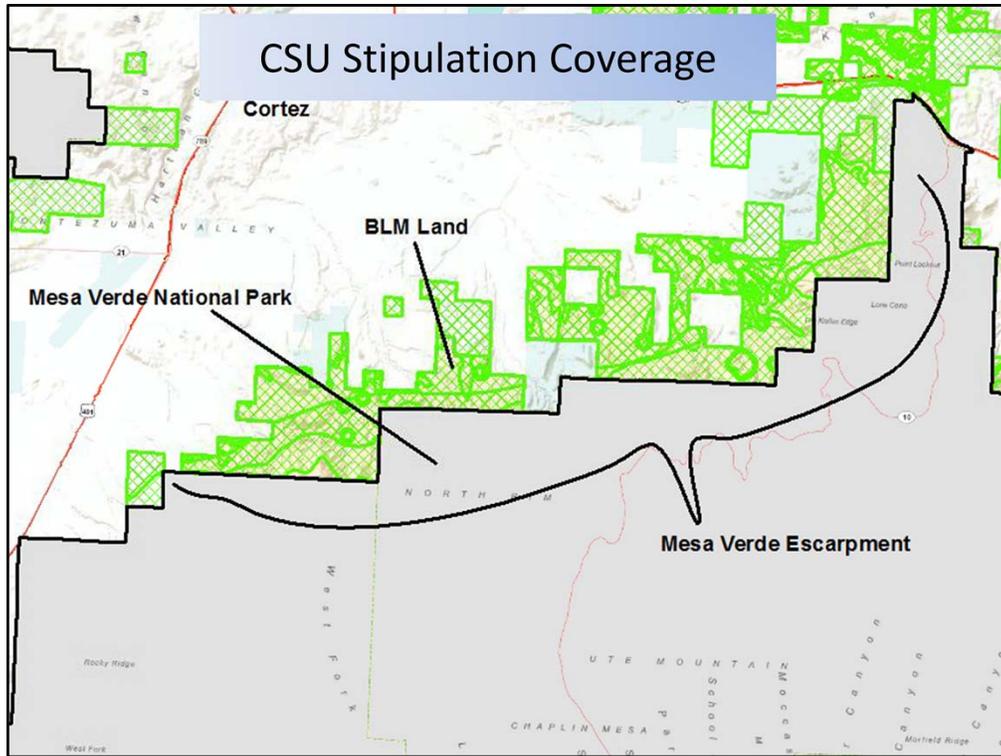
**For the purpose of:** providing adequate nesting and roost sites to support species populations.

**Justification:** These raptor species are known to have failed reproduction and abandon nests and communal winter roost sites when human activity occurs within the specified buffer distances from these sites. To increase the likelihood of successful reproduction and recruitment of these species, and to provide adequate roost sites for utilization of their habitat, NSO would be permitted within the specified buffer distances from nest and roost sites.

Exceptions, modifications, and waivers would be considered for BLM leases.



“Area of Interest” map showing Controlled Surface Use and related acreages



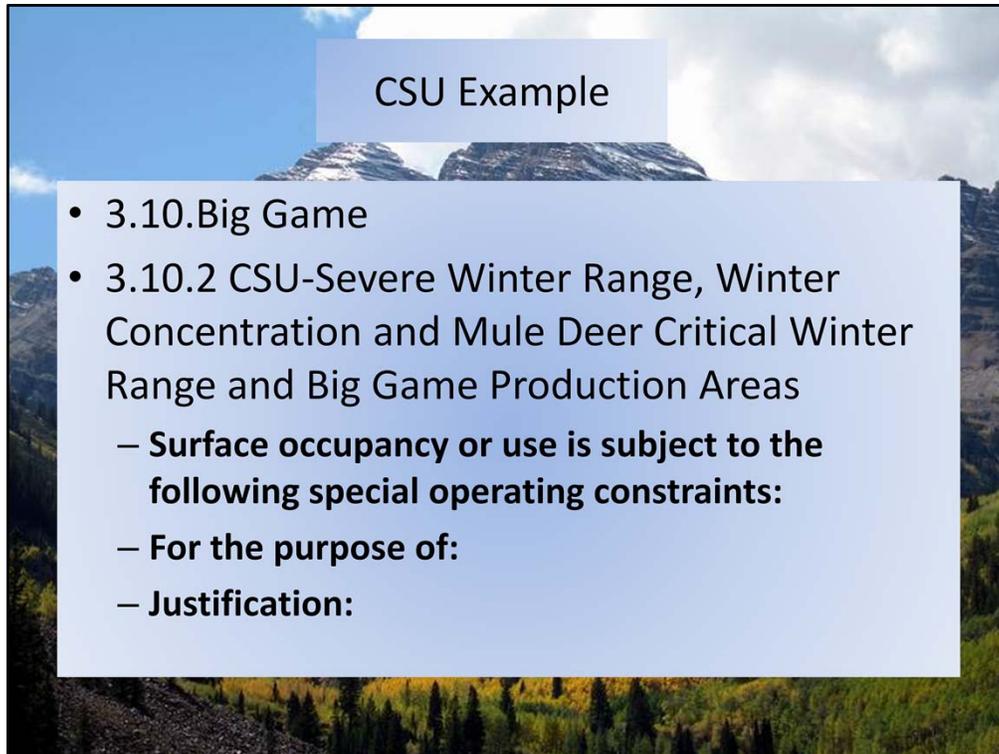
Specific CSU example of Mesa Verde Escarpment in “Area of Interest”



## CSU (Controlled Surface Use)

- Mule Deer Critical Winter Range CSU
- Mule Deer Severe Winter Range CSU
- Mule Deer Concentration Area CSU
- Shale Locations CSU
- Gunnison Prairie Dog CSU
- Perennial Streams, Water Bodies, etc. 325-500ft

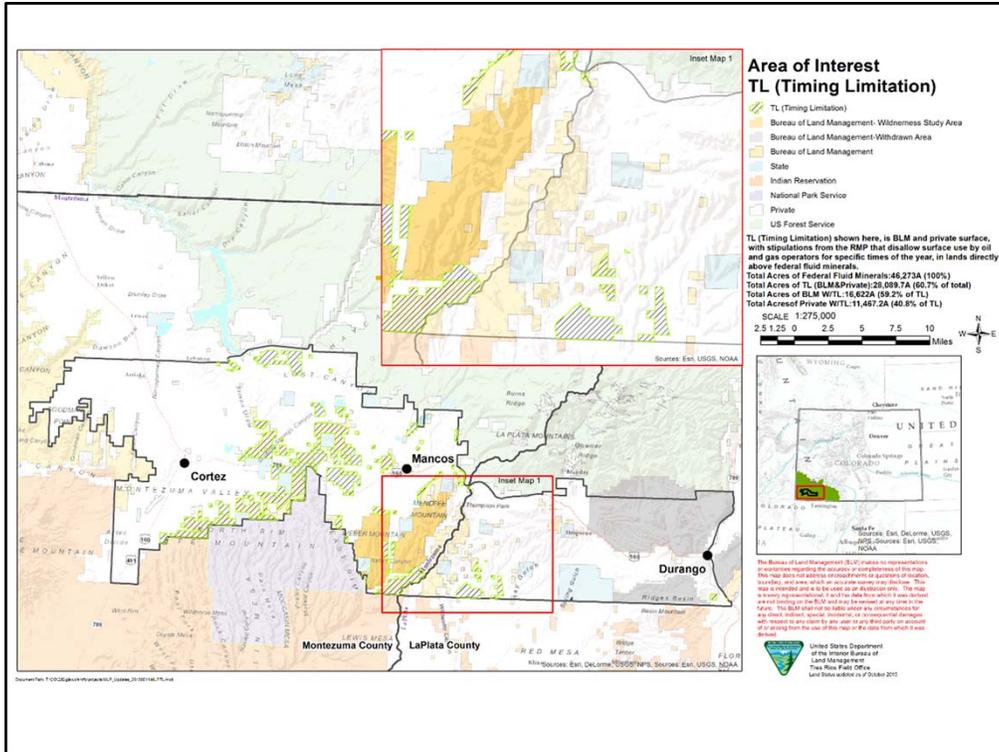
Examples of CSU in Tres Rios Resource Management Plan



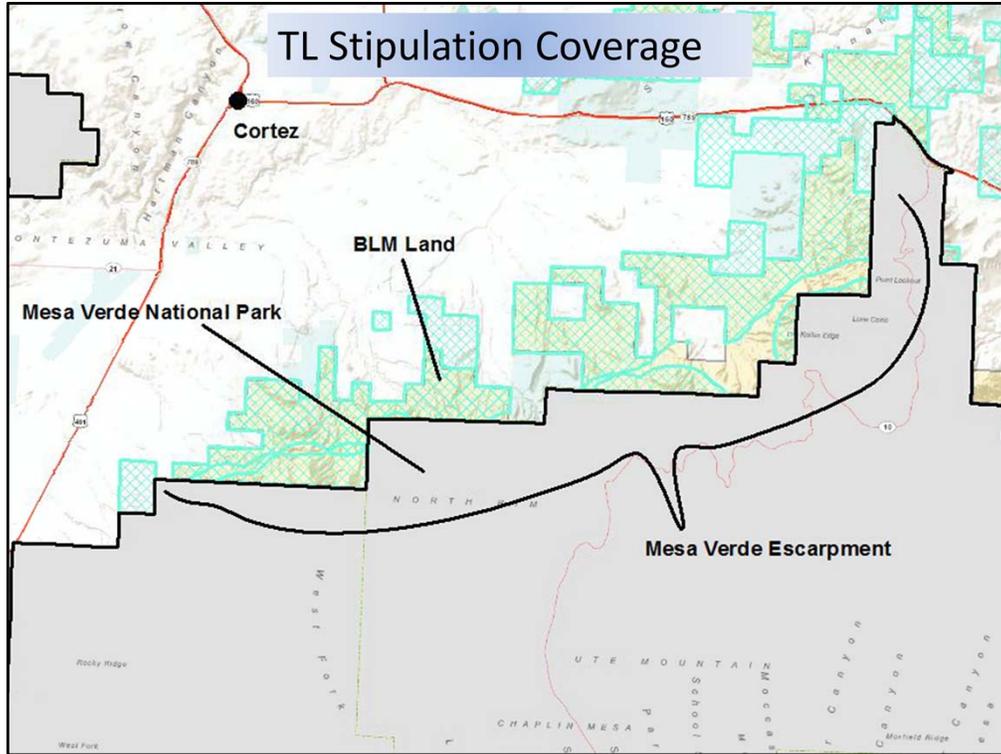
Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints:  
In order to provide for healthy ungulate populations capable of meeting state population objectives, anthropomorphic activity and improvements should be designed to maintain and continue to provide effective habitat components that support critical life functions. This includes components of size and quality on the landscape providing connectivity to seasonal habitats (wildlife travel corridors), production areas, severe winter range, and winter concentration areas, along with other habitat components necessary to support herd viability.

For the purpose of: protecting priority habitats such as winter concentration areas for big game in order to prevent abandonment of critical habitat and to maintain reproductive success, recruitment, and survival.

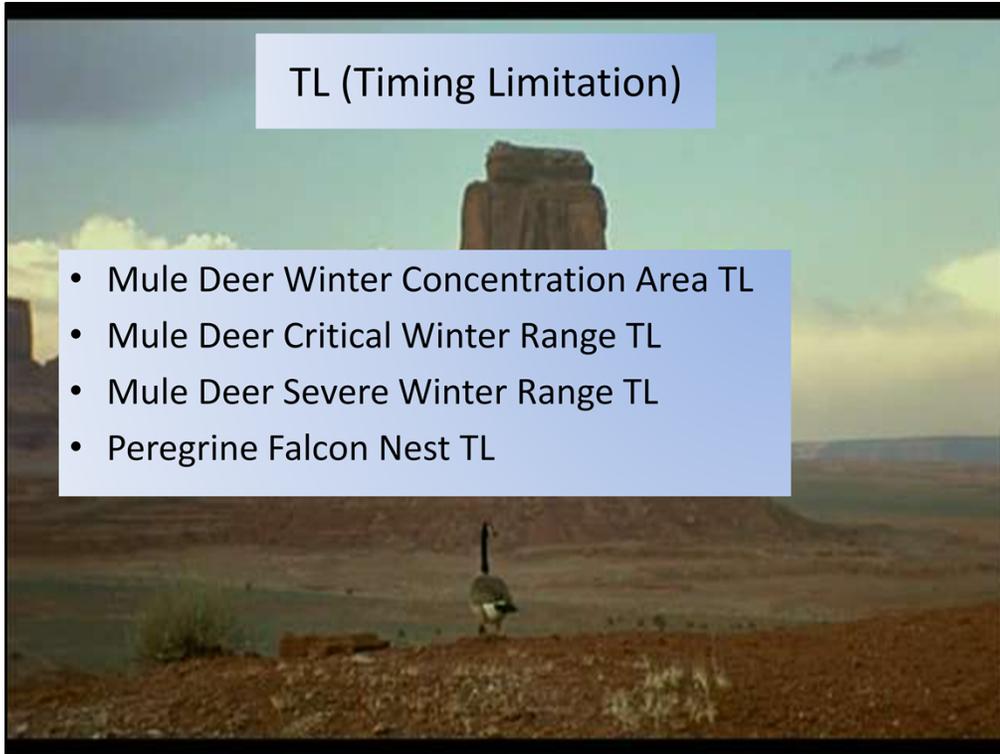
Justification: There is a growing body of evidence that Timing Limitation stipulations on oil and gas development activities are not adequate to protect critical winter habitat and migratory corridors for big game. Managing the concentration and development such as drilling, construction, and the density of surface facilities may be necessary to maintain big game populations in developing areas. Examples may include surface disturbance caps, collocation of facilities, and central gathering facilities, noise reduction, and efforts to minimize traffic and road densities. Routine production activities would be allowed; however, workover activities should be handled on a case-by-case basis.



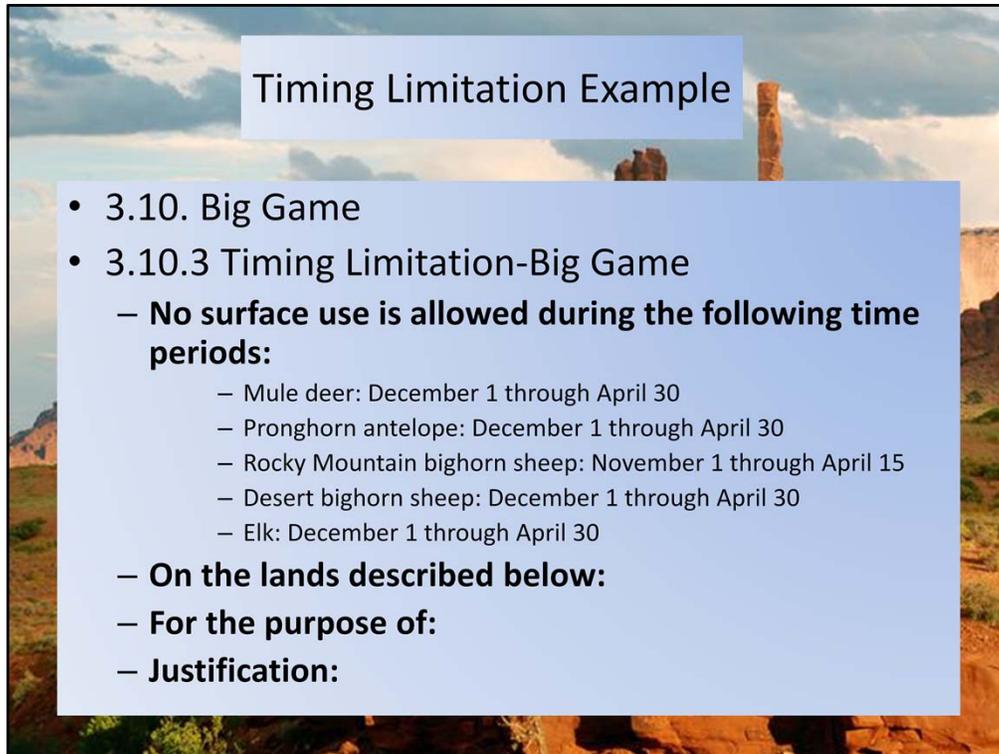
“Area of Interest” map showing Timing Limitations and related acreages



Specific timing limitation example of Mesa Verde Escarpment in "Area of Interest"



Examples of Timing Limitations in the Tres Rios Resource Management Plan



**No surface disturbance is allowed during the following time periods:** mapped big game severe winter range, concentration areas, and mule deer critical winter habitat

Mule deer: December 1 through April 30

Pronghorn antelope: December 1 through April 30

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep: November 1 through April 15

Desert bighorn sheep: December 1 through April 30

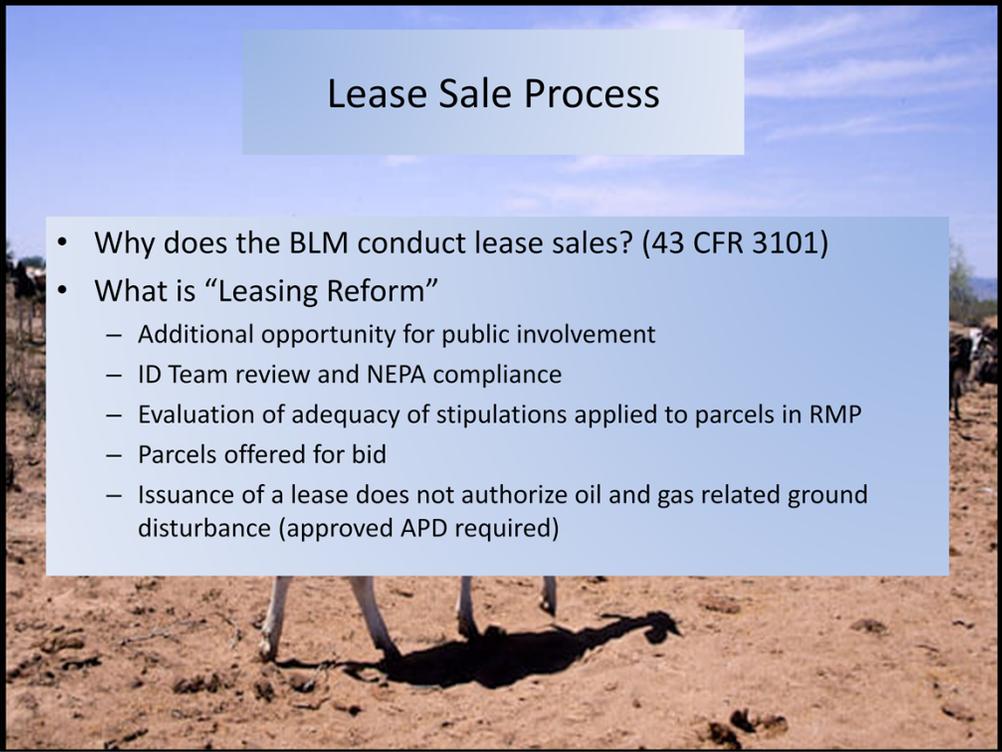
Elk: December 1 through April 30

**On the lands described below:** Big game severe winter range, winter concentration areas, and mule deer critical winter range as defined by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and managing agency wildlife biologists.

**For the purpose of:** protecting winter range to reduce behavioral disruption of big game during the winter season, which can result in mortality to the species.

**Justification:** In order to reduce behavioral disruption during parturition and early young-rearing period.

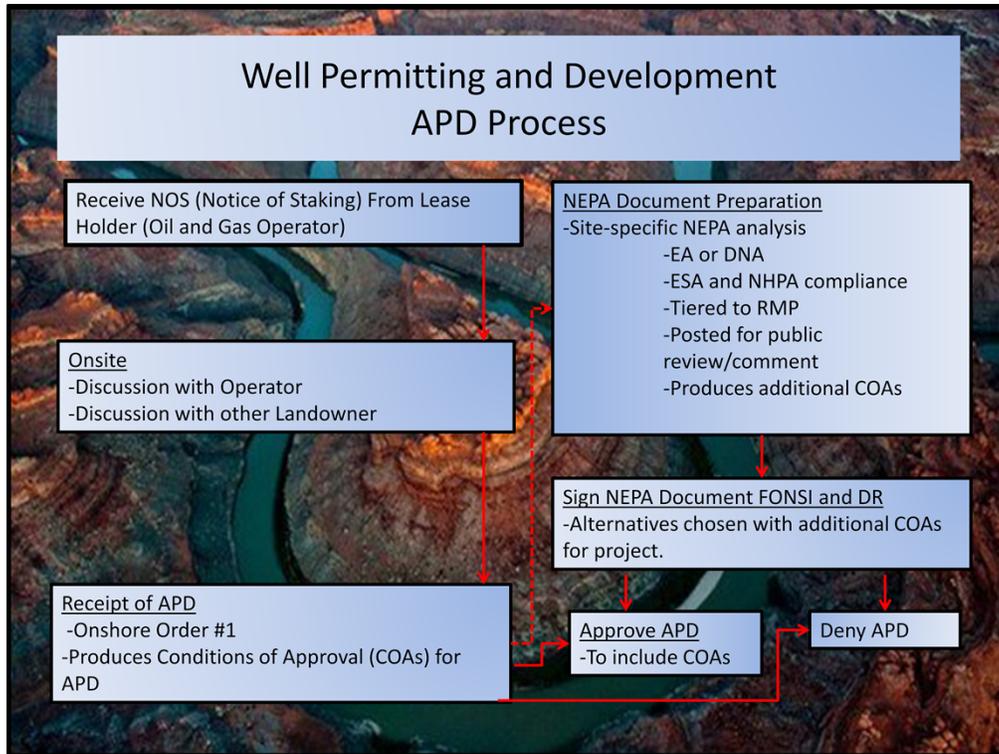
Exceptions, modifications, and waivers would be considered for BLM Leases.



## Lease Sale Process

- Why does the BLM conduct lease sales? (43 CFR 3101)
- What is “Leasing Reform”
  - Additional opportunity for public involvement
  - ID Team review and NEPA compliance
  - Evaluation of adequacy of stipulations applied to parcels in RMP
  - Parcels offered for bid
  - Issuance of a lease does not authorize oil and gas related ground disturbance (approved APD required)

Leasing information can be found at  
[http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/oilandgas/CO\\_leasing\\_information.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/oilandgas/CO_leasing_information.html).



This chart shows the Application to Drill (APD) process.

