United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
Southeastern States District Office
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, Mississippi 39206
http://www.es.blm.gov

Final Determination of National Environmental Policy Act Adequacy (DNA)
DNA-020-2016-09

Project Name: Mississippi Lease DNA EOI #849, 1997, and 1779

Date: June 2016

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SOUTHEASTERN STATES DISTRICT OFFICE
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, Mississippi 39206

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA) FORM

ES-020-2016-9 **Case/Project No.: EOI #849, 1997, and 1779**

PROJECT NAME: Mississippi Lease DNA (EOI #849, 1997 and 1779)

Prepared by: Kimberly Melendez-Rivera Date: 4/5/16
Kimberly Melendez-Rivera
Planning and Environmental Specialist

Reviewed by: Alison McCartney Date: 4/5/16
Alison McCartney
Planning and Environmental Coordinator/Wildlife Biologist

Reviewed by: Date: 4/5/16
John Sullivan
Acting Assistant District Manager, Natural Resources
Archeologist

Reviewed by: Elizabeth Ivy Date: 4/5/16
Elizabeth Ivy
Assistant District Manager, Minerals

Reviewed by: Bruce Dawson Date: 4/7/2016
Bruce Dawson
District Officer Manager

BLM Office: Eastern States

NEPA Number: DNA-020-2016-09

Proposed Action Title/Type: Oil and Gas Lease Sale, September 2016

Location/Legal Description:

EOI #849: Township 6N, Range 2E, Section 35, East 8 acres of NESW, Section 44, N1/2NW, Washington Meridian, Franklin County, Mississippi (88 acres)

EOI #1997: Township 6N, Range 2E, Section 35, S2SE, NWSE, S1/2SW, Washington Meridian, Franklin County, Mississippi (200 acres)

EOI #1779: Township 4N, Range 2E, Section 17, Part of SENW and Part of NESW, Washington Meridian, Wilkinson County, Mississippi (40 acres)

A. Describe the Proposed Action

The proposed action is for the Bureau of Land Management Eastern States Office (BLM ES) to lease 328 acres of federal mineral estate to support potential future oil and gas development in Franklin County and Wilkinson County, Mississippi. Interested parties such as private individuals or companies may file Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to nominate parcels for competitive bid and leasing by the BLM. BLM-ES would offer the proposed parcels at the September 2016 oil and gas lease sale.

The proposed parcels are located on lands managed by the Homochitto National Forest. Maps are included to indicate proposed lease area (Appendix A). Where the surface is administered by the Forest Service (FS) and the mineral estate is also federally owned, the FS and BLM share the responsibility for implementing mineral leasing policies and regulations (United States [U.S.] Department of Interior [USDI] and U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 1996). The FS consented to leasing the proposed parcels with the requirement of including appropriate stipulations to protect resources (30 United States Code 226(h)). The following FS lease stipulations would be included in the proposed action covered in this DNA (Appendix A):

- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Slopes Greater Than 15%
- Wetlands
- Restrictions During the Wet Season
- Standard FS Stipulation

A federal oil and gas lease is a legal contract that grants exclusive rights to the lessee to develop federally-owned oil and gas resources but does not authorize surface-disturbing activities or obligate the lessee to drill a well on the parcels in the future. Should the parcels be leased and a detailed plan for oil and gas development on the parcel be identified, the BLM and FS would

conduct future site-specific environmental analysis prior to any ground disturbing activities.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name:	Approved USDA Forest Service, Revised Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, National Forests in Mississippi (2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS)
Date Approved:	Record of Decision for the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS signed on July 3, 2014; documents released to the public in August 2014

The 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS, Record of Decision, and supporting documents can be found on the following website: https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mississippi/landmanagement/planning.

The BLM served as a cooperating agency for the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS and formally adopted the documents on March 23, 2016 in accordance with the requirements in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1506.3(a). The BLM issued its own ROD, which is available on the BLM Southeastern States District Office NEPA site at:
http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/fo/Jackson_Home_Page/NEPA.html.

The proposed action, including the appropriate stipulations (attached), is in conformance with the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS and ROD. The 2014 MS Forest Plan provides management direction for approximately 1.2 million acres of national forest land in Mississippi. The FS would allow all of this acreage to be administratively available for oil and gas leasing (with the exception of congressionally designated wilderness areas) subject to:

1) Management direction outlined in the 2014 MS FS Plan/EIS and ROD
2) Oil and gas lease stipulations
3) The wide range of laws and regulations that provide environmental protections for oil and gas exploration and development projects and
4) Site-specific environmental analysis when detailed exploration proposals are submitted by lease holders.

Additionally, all administratively available lands will be available for lease by the BLM, subject to the standard FS stipulations and the environmental requirements of the standard federal lease terms detailed in Appendix B of the National Forests in Mississippi Lands Available for Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment, August 2010 (the decisions in this EA have been incorporated into the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS). The 2010 EA may be found on this website: http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mississippi/landmanagement/projects/?cid=stelprdb5210346. The stipulations proposed for the parcels addressed in this DNA are consistent with the stipulations included in the 2010 EA.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

(1).	LUP Name:	USDA Forest Service, Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, National Forests in Mississippi *(FS lead, BLM cooperator)*
	Date Approved:	August, 2014
(2)	ROD Name:	Record of Decision for the Approved USDA Forest Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, National Forests in Mississippi *(prepared by FS)*
	Date Approved:	August, 2014
	ROD Name:	Bureau of Land Management Record of Decision for Adoption of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, National Forests in Mississippi *(prepared by BLM)*
	Date Approved:	March 23, 2016
(3).	EA Name:	National Forests in Mississippi, Lands Available for Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment. (The decisions in this EA have been incorporated into the Revised Land Resource Management Plan for National Forests in Mississippi) *(FS lead, BLM cooperator)*
	Date Approved:	August 6, 2010
(4).	MOU Name:	Memorandum of Understanding between United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management and United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Concerning Oil and Gas Leasing and Operations. Forest Service Agreement No. 06-SU-11132428-052
	Date Approved:	April 14, 2006

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

The proposed action is part of an action previously analyzed in the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS and selected in the corresponding FS ROD that would allow approximately 1.2 million acres of FS lands in Mississippi to be administratively available for oil and gas leasing (with the exception of congressional designated wilderness areas). The BLM adopted the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS and issued its own ROD in March 2016. The proposed action is also covered by an EA that specifically discusses the anticipated impacts of oil and gas development in Mississippi national forest lands. The analysis is included within the 2010 National Forests in Mississippi, Lands Available for Oil and Gas Leasing EA which has been incorporated into the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS and ROD. Lease stipulations and notices provided by the FS will be implemented to reduce adverse effects caused by surface-disturbing activities associated with potential future oil and gas operations within the national forests in Mississippi.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

The range of alternatives analyzed in the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS and the alternative selected in the corresponding ROD (i.e., Alternative C) are appropriate with respect to the current proposed action. Five alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, were analyzed. The 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS analyzed a wide range of environmental concerns and resource values surrounding leasing and the potential future development of federal minerals.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

The existing analysis contained in the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS and ROD is current and there is no new pertinent information or circumstances that have arisen that would render the previous analyses inadequate.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

The existing analyses are adequate with regard to the proposed action. As described above and explained in further detail within the BLM ROD for adoption of the MS Forest Plan/EIS, the MS Forest Plan/EIS incorporates information on potential oil and gas development and the anticipated effects of these activities, from the 2010 National Forests in Mississippi, Lands Available for Oil and Gas Leasing EA. The information contained within these documents is sufficiently detailed to make an informed decision about leasing parcels within the Mississippi national forests. If the parcels are leased and the BLM receives an application for permit to drill (APD), the BLM and FS would conduct site-specific NEPA analysis, as appropriate, prior to

authorizing any ground disturbing activities.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action have not changed substantially from those analyzed in the NEPA documents cited above. The proposed parcels are part of the action that was analyzed in the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS and 2010 National Forests in Mississippi, Lands Available for Oil and Gas Leasing EA (The decisions in this EA have been incorporated into the 2014 MS Forest Plan/EIS and ROD). While there would be no direct effects from leasing, the 2010 EA analyzed the impacts of a reasonably foreseeable development scenario (RFDS) to account for potential future impacts of oil and gas development in the national forests in Mississippi. Please also see response to Question #4 above.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

No new cumulative impacts would result beyond those previously addressed in the NEPA documents cited above.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

The public involvement and review process for the NEPA documents cited above is adequate for the proposed action. In addition to the public involvement processes already conducted, this DNA was posted for a 30 day comment period. The BLM did not receive any comments on the DNA. Additionally, a 30-day protest period will take place beginning on the day the lease sale notice is posted, per BLM oil and gas leasing policy.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this worksheet.

Name:	Kimberly Melendez-Rivera	Title:	Planning and Environmental Specialist
	Alison McCartney		Wildlife Biologist/Planning and Environmental Coordinator
	John Sullivan		Archaeologist/Acting Assistant District Manager, Natural Resource

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above along with attached lease stipulations, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute the BLM compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

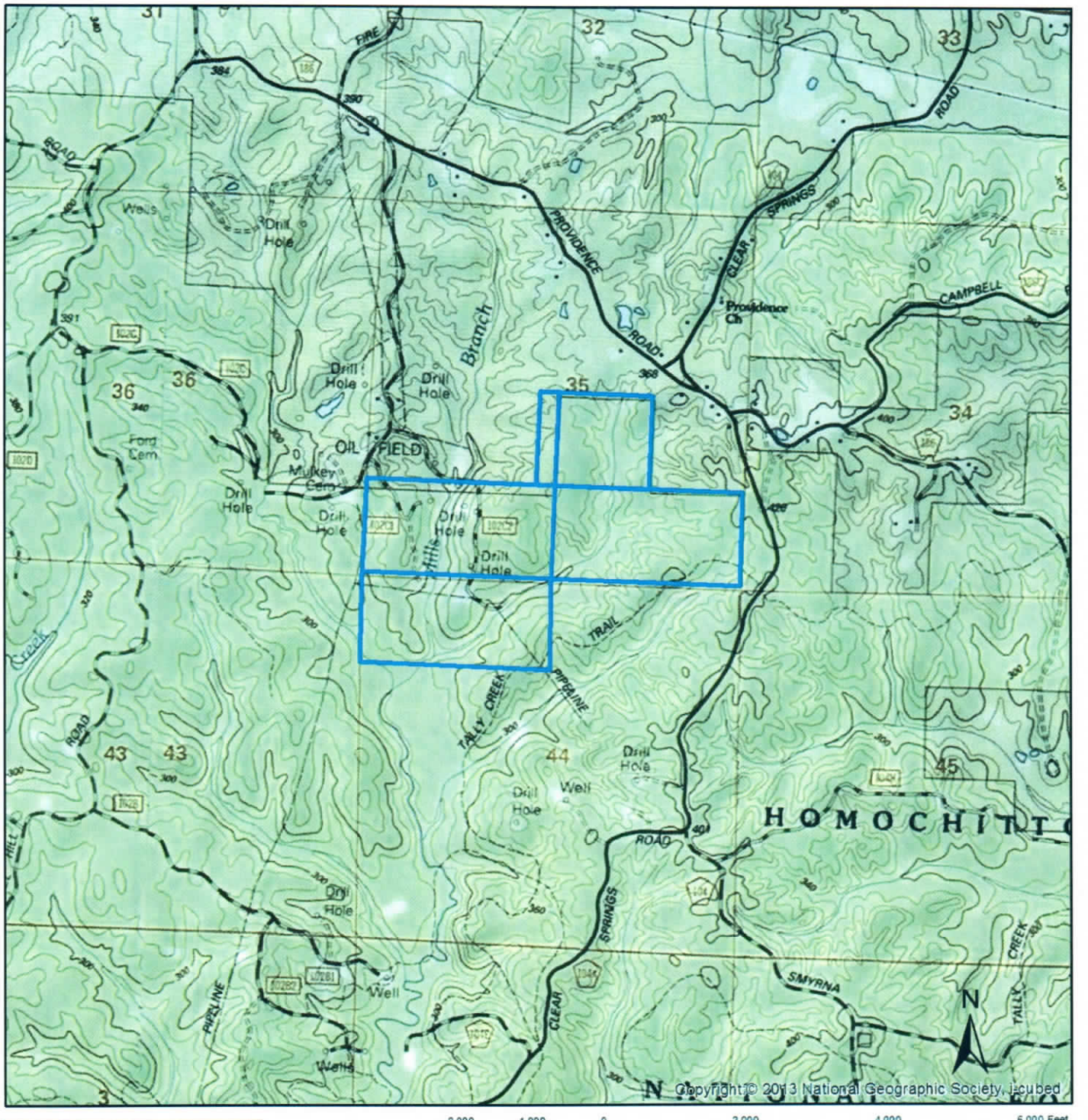
Approved by: Bruce Dawson Date: 6/6/2016

Bruce Dawson
Southeastern States District Office Manager

APPENDIX A

MAPS

Proposed Federal Oil and Gas Leases EOI 849 and 1997



2,000 1,000 0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

Legend

Proposed Lease Area

Proposed lease area:
Franklin County, Mississippi, Washington Meridian
T. 6N., R. 2E.,
EOI: 849
Sec.35, East 8 acres of NESW
Sec. 44, N1/2NW
Approximately 88 acres.
EOI 1997
Sec. 35, S2SE,NWSE,S1/2SW
Approximately 200 acres.

U.S. Department of the Interior
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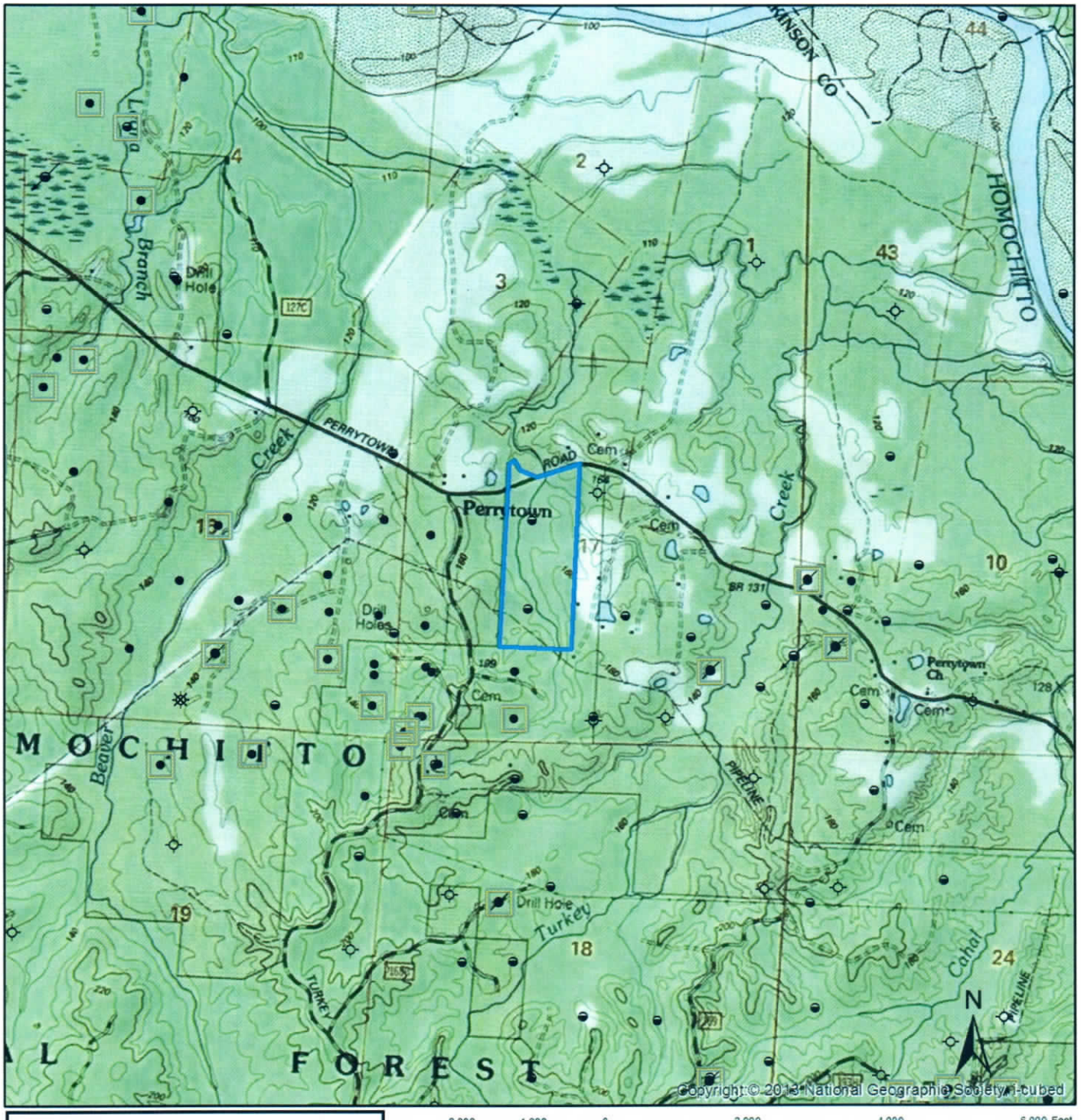
Eastern States,
Southeastern States District Office
Jackson, Mississippi
March 2016

This map contains portions of the following USGS 1:24,000 Topographic Ouadrangles: Meadville, Knoxville

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of this data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Proposed Federal Oil and Gas Lease EOI 1779



Legend

- Proposed Lease Area

Oil and Gas Wells (Surface Location)

- Oil Well
- Dry w/Oil Shows
- Dry Hole
- Injection
- Plugged Oil Well
- Abandoned Location
- Inactive Wells
- Well Bore Path

2,000 1,000 0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

Proposed lease area:
Wilkinson County, Mississippi, Washington Meridian
T. 4N., R. 1W.,
Sec.17, Part of SENW and Part of NESW
Approximately 40 acres.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States,
Southeastern States District Office
Jackson, Mississippi
March 2016

This map contains portions of the following USGS 1:24,000 Topographic Ouadrangle: Garden City

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of this data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

APPENDIX B

FOREST SERVICE STIPULATIONS

MSES_____

NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

NOTICE TO LESSEE 03

All or part of the leased lands may contain animal or plant species classified under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Other species may have been identified as sensitive in accordance with Forest Service Manual 2670 and be listed on the current Regional Forester's List of Sensitive Plant and Animal Species. Further information concerning the classification of these species may be obtained from the authorized Forest Officer.

Exploration and development proposals may be limited or modifications required if activity is planned within the boundaries of a threatened, endangered or sensitive plant or animal species location as it then exists. All activities within these areas must be conducted in accordance with existing laws, regulations and the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan guidelines.

MSES_____

NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

NOTICE TO LESSEE 05

The proposed land to be leased has areas, less than a 40-acre legal subdivision, with slopes greater than 15% in which ground disturbing activities (such as roads and well pads) will not be authorized. Further information concerning the classification of these lands may be obtained from the authorized Forest office.

All activities within these areas must be conducted in a manner to minimize adverse impacts to the resource values and in accordance with the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan guidelines.

MSES_____

NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

NOTICE TO LESSEE 04

All or part of the leased lands may be classified as wetlands in accordance with Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands" or a floodplain in accordance with Executive Order No. 11988, "Floodplain Management." Further information concerning the classification of these lands may be obtained from the authorized Forest office.

All activities within these areas must be conducted in a manner to minimize adverse impacts to the resource values and in accordance with the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan guidelines.

MSES_____

NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

TIMING LIMITATION STIPULATION 01

No surface use is allowed during the following time period(s). This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.

Ground disturbing activities, including road, pipeline, and well pad construction, may be restricted during the wet season from 11/30 thru 3/31 depending on site specific conditions at the time the Application for Permit to Drill is filed, unless the Operator can furnish construction measures to mitigate damages to surface resources.

On the lands described below:

Entire lease

For the purpose of (reasons):

Prevent excessive soil erosion and rutting resulting from construction activities during the wet season. Land and Resource Management Plan, National Forests in Mississippi, as amended, 9/85.

Any changes 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.)

MSES_____

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

The licensee/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 license/prospecting permit/lease. 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 a permit/operation plan by the Secretary of the Interior, (2) uses of all existing improvements, such as Forest development roads, within and outside the area licensed, permitted or leased by the Secretary of the Interior, and (3) use and occupancy of the NFS not authorized by a permit/operating plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

All matters related to this stipulation are to be addressed to:

Forest Supervisor, NFs in Mississippi

100 W. Capitol Street, Suite 1141

Jackson, MS 39269

Telephone No.: 601-965-1600

who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

BLM District Office
Bureau of Land Management
Jackson District Office
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, Mississippi 39206

Management Agency
USDA Forest Service - Region 8
Room 792 South, Lands & Minerals
1720 Peachtree Road, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30367