

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Southeastern States Field Office
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, Mississippi 39206

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA) FORM

DNA/NEPA Doc No.: ES-020-2013-29

PROJECT NAME: Mississippi USDA Forest Service Oil and Gas Expression of Interest (EOI) #1718

TECHNICAL REVIEW:

X	Program	Reviewer	Signature	Date
X	Air Quality	Brian Kennedy		
	ACEC			
X	Botanical including T & E Spp.	Brian Kennedy		
	Communications (Dispatch)			
X	Cultural/Paleontology	John Sullivan		
X	Energy Policy	Brian Kennedy		
X	Environmental Justice	Brian Kennedy		
X	Farmlands (Prime & Unique)	Brian Kennedy		
	Fire Management			
	Floodplain			
X	Hazardous Material	Brian Kennedy		
X	Invasive & Non-Native Species	Brian Kennedy		
	Lands/Realty			
	Land Law Examiner			
	Law Enforcement			
X	Minerals	Brian Kennedy		
X	Native American Religious Concerns	John Sullivan		
	Operations			
	Range Management			
X	Recreation	Brian Kennedy		
X	Soils	Brian Kennedy		
	Surface Protection			
X	Visual Resources	Brian Kennedy		
	Water Rights			
X	Water Quality (Surface & Ground)	Brian Kennedy		
X	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Brian Kennedy		
X	Wild & Scenic Rivers	Brian Kennedy		
X	Wilderness	Brian Kennedy		
	Wild Horses/Burros			
X	Wildlife including T & E Spp.	Brian Kennedy		

Worksheet
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Note: This Worksheet is consistent with the policies stated in the Instruction Memorandum entitled, Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Adequacy, Transmitting this Worksheet, and the Guidelines for using the DNA Worksheet, located in Appendix 8 - 161 H-1790-1 - National Environmental Policy Act Handbook (<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA.html>).

A. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to lease federal mineral estate under one of the six National Forests of the USDA Forest Service in the state of Mississippi. The lease parcel known as EOI# 1718 will be located in Mississippi's Homochitto National Forest. The Homochitto National Forest is located in the southwest part of the state of Mississippi.

EOI#1718's legal description is attached to the DNA. Approximately 200 acres of USDA Forest Service's property will be available for lease from EOI# 1718 in the Homochitto National Forest.

The proposed lease parcels would be subject to USDA Forest Service conditions, notices, stipulations, and/or terms. Additional to the USDA Forest Service, BLM-ES lease terms and surface use conditions would apply. BLM-ES will offer EOI#1718 at the next available oil and gas lease sale.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: USDA Forest Service, National Forests in Mississippi, Land and Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: September 16, 1985

Oil and gas leasing analysis and environmental assessment for National Forests in Mississippi was prepared by the USDA Forest Service with BLM as a cooperative agency and signed on August 6, 2010.

All National Forests lands of Mississippi, although geographically separated from each other across the state, cover approximately 1.2 million acres and are managed under one Forest Plan adopted in September 1985.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action. (List by name and date all applicable documents that cover the proposed action such as Environmental Assessments (EA), Best Management Practices (BMP), and etc.)

- (1). EA Name: National Forests in Mississippi, Lands Available for Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment
Date Approved: August 6, 2010
- (2). 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
- (3). BLM BMPs: Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development, Gold Book
Date Approved: 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 under the USDA Forest Service's National Forest in Mississippi, Lands Available for Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment, August 2010 with the BLM as a cooperative agency. The scope of the USDA Forest Service's EA was oil and gas leasing in all six National Forests within the state of Mississippi including their Ranger Districts. The parcels listed in this DNA are within the boundaries of the Homochitto National Forest in the state of Mississippi and those parcels are covered by the USDA Forest Service's EA.

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 proposed action is appropriate and still relevant in respect to the current proposed action. A wide range of environmental concerns and resource values surrounding leasing and the potential development of federal mineral estate was extensively addressed in the USDA Forest Service's EA: National Forest in Mississippi, Lands Available for Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment, August 2010.

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

The existing analysis contained in the USDA Forest Service's EA: National Forest in Mississippi, Lands Available for Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment, August 2010 is current and there is no new information or circumstances that has 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?

USDA Forest Service's EA: National Forest in Mississippi, Lands Available for Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment was signed on August 2010. The methodology and analytical approach used is up-to-date and appropriate to use for leasing the proposed USDA Forest Service parcels of the Homochitto National Forest.

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 from those analyzed in the NEPA documents cited above. The previous NEPA analysis addresses the same site-specific impacts for the proposed action under USDA Forest Service lands.

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.

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

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Brian Kennedy
Physical Scientist

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____
Gary Taylor
NEPA Coordinator

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____
Duane Winters
Resource Supervisor

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____
John Reiss
Acting Minerals Supervisor

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above along with attached BLM Surface Use Leasing Stipulations, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the USDA Forest Service’s applicable land use plan and 2010 environmental assessment. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes the Bureau of Land Management (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.

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____
Bruce Dawson
Southeastern States Field Office Manager

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Deputy State Director for Natural Resources

BLM Oil and Gas Leasing **Surface Use Stipulations**

(1). Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation

Stipulation: This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. These obligations may include a requirement that you provide a cultural resources survey conducted by a professional archaeologist approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). If currently unknown burial sites are discovered during development activities associated with this lease, these activities must cease immediately, applicable law on unknown burials will be followed and, if necessary, consultation with the appropriate tribe/group of federally recognized Native Americans will take place. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated.

Exception: None

Modification: None

Waiver: None

(2). Endangered Species

Stipulation: The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 U.S.C. ' 1531 et seq., including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in consultation with USDA Forest Service, USFWS, and coordination with state agencies.

Modification: The stipulation may be modified if it is determined that a portion of the lease area does not support threatened, endangered, or other special status species. Since the surface is under the management and jurisdiction of the USDA Forest Service, any modifications must meet USDA Forest Service policies/regulations and be approved by the USDA Forest Service.

Waiver: The stipulation may be waived if it is determined that the lease area does not support threatened, endangered, or other special status species. Since the surface is under the management and jurisdiction of the USDA Forest Service, any waivers must meet USDA Forest Service policies/regulations and be approved by the USDA Forest Service.

(3). Sensitive Plant Species

Stipulation: To protect threatened, endangered, candidate, proposed, and BLM Sensitive Plant Species. All suitable special status plant species habitat will be identified during environmental review of any proposed surface use activity. If field examination indicates that habitat of one or more of these species is present, BLM will require a survey by a qualified botanist for special status plants during time periods appropriate to each species. Operations will not be allowed in areas where sensitive plants would be affected.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in consultation with USDA Forest Service, USFWS, and coordination with state agencies.

Modification: The stipulation may be modified if it is determined that a portion of the lease area does not support sensitive plant species upon the approval of the USDA Forest Service. The USDA Forest Service must approve any modifications before they can be entertained by BLM for review.

Waiver: The stipulation may be waived if it is determined that the lease area does not support sensitive plant species upon the approval of the USDA Forest Service. The USDA Forest Service must approve any waivers before they can be entertained by BLM for review.

(4). Invasive and Non-Native Species

Stipulation: Use of native or non-invasive plants in seeding mixtures under the direction/supervision of the USDA Forest Service will be encouraged to stabilize disturbed areas and during restoration activities. Construction sites will be surveyed for invasive species prior to ground disturbance. If invasive species are found, the proper control measures will be used to either eradicate the species from the area or minimize its spread to other areas under the direction of USDA Forest Service and BLM. If an invasive species is found on site after construction has begun, equipment will be washed before exiting the site to prevent the spread of this highly invasive species to other locations. Pre-construction monitoring for invasive plant species should be conducted to ensure early detection control.

Exception: None

Modification: None

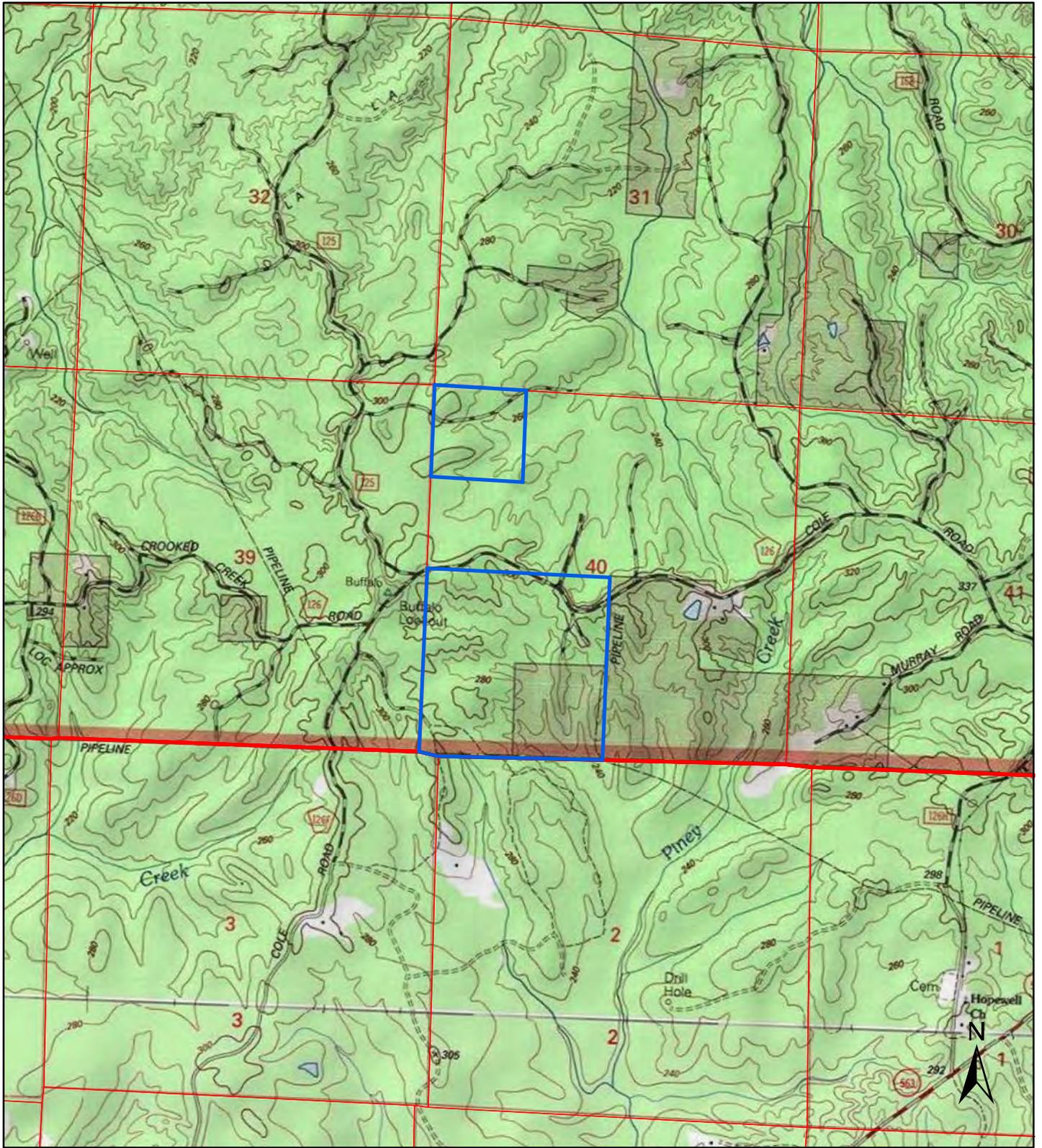
Waiver: None

MISSISSIPPI, HOMOCHITTO NATIONAL FOREST TRACTS

1. **EOI #1718**

Homochitto National Forest
Wilkinson County, Mississippi
T 4N, R 1E, Washington Meridian
Section 40, NWNW; SW;
Approximately 200 Acres

Proposed Federal Oil and Gas Lease EOI 1718



2,000 1,000 0 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 Feet 1:24,000

Proposed Lease Area

Proposed Lease Area:
Wilkinson County, Mississippi, Washington Meridian
T. 4N., R. 1W., Sec.40, NWNW, SW
Approximately 200 acres.

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Southeastern States Field Office
Jackson, Mississippi**

This map contains portions of the following USGS 1:24,000 Topographic Quadrangle: 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.