

A black and white photograph of an oil pumpjack in a field. The pumpjack is the central focus, with its long walking beam and counterweight visible. The background shows a flat landscape under a clear sky. The title "Oil & Gas Leasing" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, serif font.

Oil & Gas Leasing

Oil and Gas Leasing

Seventy thousand acres will be considered “sensitive” to oil and gas leasing (refer to Appendix 2.7). Lease applications within these areas will be routed to the resource area for application of appropriate special stipulations. Assessment may determine, especially within the PMWHR, that some areas are unsuitable for oil and gas exploration and subsequent development. Where “no surface occupancy” is recommended for an area over 1/2 mile from an area which may be occupied, the resource area will instead recommend no leasing (since a possible reservoir under that land could not be drained without directional drilling). Occupancy in other areas may be severely restricted. The remaining 579,433 acres in the resource area will be leased with standard stipulations.

Resource Objectives and Planned Actions

Impact assessment indicated that resource conflicts will not, in most cases, be completely resolved if oil and gas leases are issued within the PMWHR, and exploration drilling follows.

The objectives will be to protect sensitive resource values, to provide a quality experience for visitors consistent with a wild horse range, not to interfere with wild horse management practices, and to be consistent with other agency plans for adjacent areas.

Rationale

This action will allow BLM to comply with the multiple use mandates established by FLPMA by allowing leases with standard stipulations on 579,443 acres and special stipulations on 70,000 acres considered sensitive to oil and gas leasing. This type of management will allow the oil and gas industry a reasonable opportunity to lease and explore, while protecting the various other resources present and provide a greater degree of protection for especially sensitive areas.

Monitoring

BLM will monitor restrictions placed on any oil and gas activities within the resource area, especially in the PMWHR.

Implementation Priorities

Due to the lack of knowledge where development may occur, no implementation priorities will be developed.

Support

Cadastral survey support will be needed to locate land boundaries. Cultural reports will be required on all oil and gas leases. District or state office support will be required where standard stipulations are to be applied.

