



HiLine Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)

FACT SHEET: Energy Development

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Section 102 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directs agencies to manage public lands in a manner that recognizes the nation's need for domestic sources of minerals and other commodities, while protecting scientific, scenic, historic, archeological, ecological, environmental, air and hydrologic values.

The Draft RMP identifies management goals and objectives, and considers a range of alternatives for resolving issues for resources managed within the HiLine planning area. The information summarized in Table 1 below addresses lease stipulations applied to oil and gas resources within each alternative of the Draft RMP/EIS. Alternative management for other minerals/energy, such as locatable and mineral materials, are addressed in detail in the Draft RMP/EIS.

Fluid Minerals within the Planning Area

The Mineral Leasing Act provides that all public lands are open to oil and gas leasing unless a specific order has been issued to close an area. Based on the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987, all leases must be exposed to competitive lease sales. Lands for which bids are not received at the lease sale will be available for noncompetitive leasing for a period not to exceed two years. Competitive sales are held at least quarterly and by oral auction. Competitive and noncompetitive leases are issued for a term of 10 years or for as long as oil and/or gas are produced. Rental payments for these leases are \$1.50 per acre for the first five years and \$2.00 per acre thereafter until production is established. Royalty is received at the rate of 12.5% of the total saleable production, half of which is typically returned to the State of Montana. Minimum royalty is the same amount as the rental.

Once a lease is issued, it grants the right to the lessee(s) to explore, extract, remove, and dispose of oil and gas deposits that may be found in the leased lands. Lease rights may be subject to lease stipulations and permit approval requirements. Stipulations and permit requirements describe how lease rights are modified. Lease constraints or requirements may also be applied to Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) on existing leases provided the constraints or requirements are within the authority reserved by the terms and conditions of the lease. The stipulations and conditions of approval must be in accordance with existing laws, regulations and lease terms.

The BLM planning process is the mechanism used to evaluate and determine where and how federal oil and gas resources will be made available for leasing. In areas where oil and gas development may conflict with other resources, the areas may be closed to leasing. Areas where oil and gas development could coexist with other land uses or resources will be open to leasing. Leases in these areas will be issued with standard lease terms or with added stipulations based upon decisions in the land use document. Added stipulations are a part of the lease only when environmental and planning records demonstrate the necessity for the stipulations.

Oil and gas lease stipulations may be modified or eliminated using the exception, modification, or waiver criteria outlined in the HiLine Draft RMP (Appendix E.4) or through more site-specific environmental analysis. Stipulations that are either too restrictive or too lenient to accomplish the desired resource protection would be changed if monitoring or new scientific data justify the change. Clarifying changes may be made to the wording of oil and gas lease stipulations as long as there is no substantial change to the mitigated protection, as justified by new scientific data or monitoring.

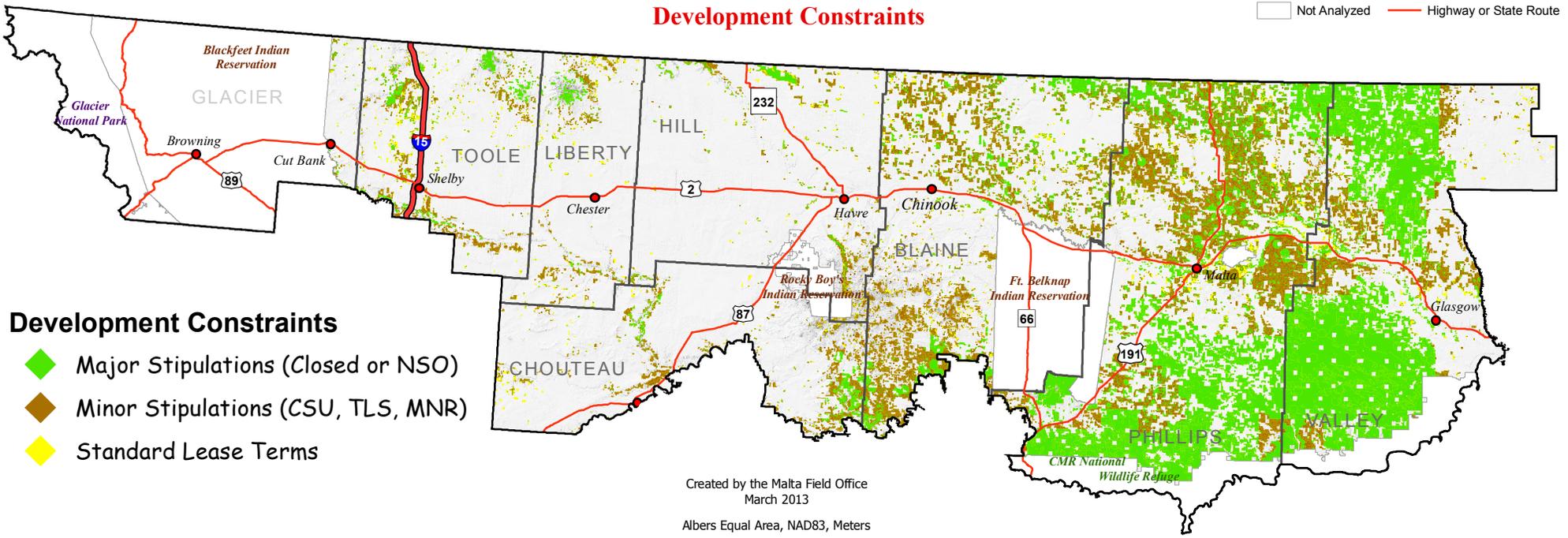
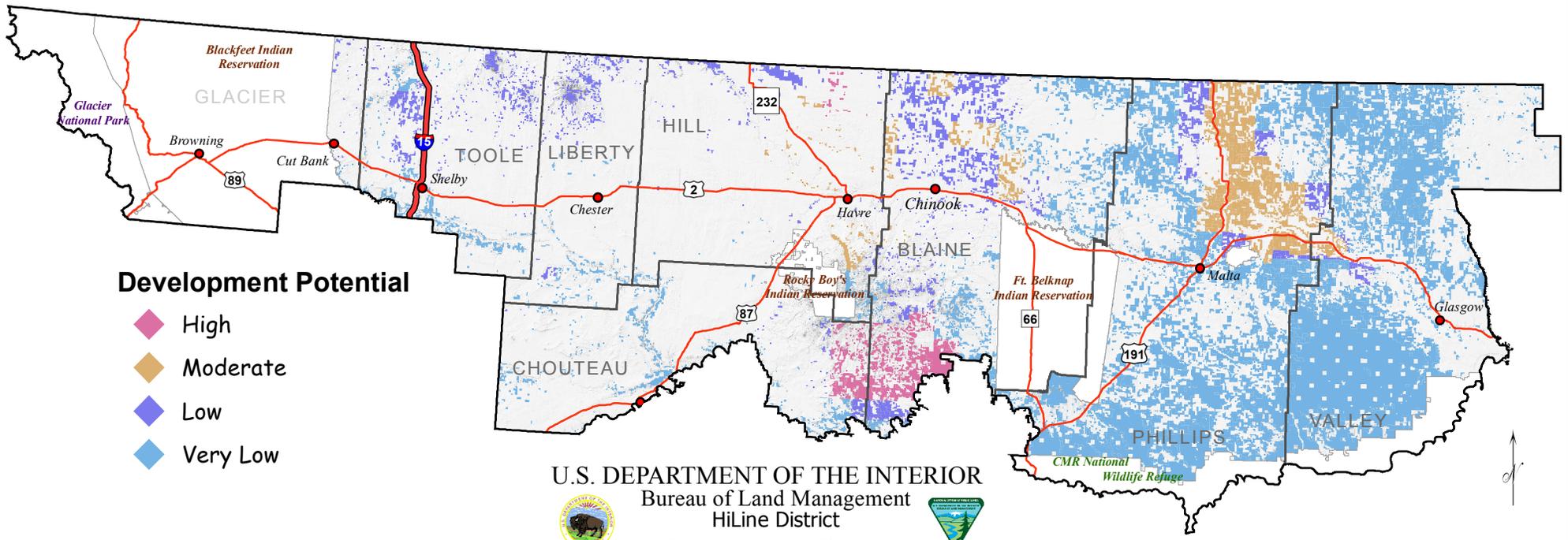
The table below summarizes the leasing constraints by alternative.

HiLine Draft RMP – Oil & Gas Stipulations (Acres)					
Summary of Alternatives					
Stipulation	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
Standard Lease Terms	457,849	55,962	299,713	597,668	167,274
Timing Limit or Controlled Surface Use	2,649,241	3,291	1,681,990	2,461,652	1,460,097
No Surface Occupancy	282,062	258,560	1,291,160	357,456	1,711,378
Closed to Leasing	102,298	3,173,637	218,586	74,674	152,702

Renewable Energy within the Planning Area

This plan addresses the resource potential, public concern, and opportunities for renewable energy development. Wind and solar projects on BLM-administered lands are processed in accordance with FLPMA right-of-way regulations. This plan addresses three categories of wind energy allocations: Exclusion Areas; Avoidance Areas and Open Areas. The information summarized below identifies the acres of BLM public lands considered through the range of alternatives within these categories.

HiLine Draft RMP – Wind Energy Allocations (Acres)					
Summary of Alternatives					
Category	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
Open Areas	2,248,336	6,637	106,182	231,961	33,119
Avoidance Areas	0	239,014	821,335	1,912,095	885,661
Exclusion Areas	189,138	2,191,823	1,509,958	293,418	1,518,695



Created by the Malta Field Office
March 2013

Albers Equal Area, NAD83, Meters

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