



South Dakota Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision

FACT SHEET: Oil and Gas Development

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Why is BLM emphasizing oil and gas leasing and development in the South Dakota Draft RMP/EIS?

RMP/EIS documents are the initial planning document that considers leasing parcels for oil and gas development in consideration of the other resources. Oil and gas leasing and development was identified as a planning issue early in the process for the South Dakota RMP/EIS through both internal and external scoping and in coordination with cooperating agencies.

The majority of oil and gas production occurs in northwest South Dakota in Harding County. Northern Butte County and portions of Fall River County also contain areas that are considered to have moderate production potential. Oil and gas leasing is addressed in detail in the SD RMP because RMPs are the primary documents to determine constraints on oil and gas leasing at the Field Office level.

What types of restrictions are used to protect resources?

Restriction Definitions:

Closed: An area may be closed to oil and gas development to protect resource values.

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

Controlled Surface Use (CSU): Use or occupancy is allowed (unless restricted by another stipulation), but identified values or resources present require special operational constraints that may require modification of activities and uses. CSUs are not used as a substitute for the No Surface Occupancy (NSO) or Timing stipulations.

Timing Limitation (TL) (seasonal restriction): Prohibits surface use during specified time periods to protect identified resource values.

BLM also applies standard stipulations to limit impacts to resources. Standard stipulations are general stipulations that are attached to all leases.

How many acres of oil and gas minerals are restricted by the new RMP/EIS?

The following table shows the acres restricted in various categories by the different alternatives. It also gives the orientation of the alternative and the areas which are closed in the alternative.

Table 1: Cumulative Acres of Federal Mineral Estate Available or Unavailable for Oil and Gas Leasing by alternative.

| Cumulative Acres of Federal Mineral Estate Available or Unavailable for Oil and Gas Leasing | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Restrictions | Alternative A Current Management | Alternative B | Alternative C | Alternative D Preferred Alternative |
| Closed | Fort Meade and Fossil Cycad Surface: 6,894 acres Subsurface: 6,894 acres | Fort Meade Surface:6,574 acres Subsurface:6,574 acres | Greater Sage-Grouse PPAs, BHAD, Fort Meade, Fossil Cycad, and Bear Butte Surface: 100,160 acres Subsurface: 309,576 acres | Fort Meade, Fossil Cycad, and Bear Butte Surface: 6,894 acres Subsurface: 7,304 acres |
| No Surface Occupancy (NSO) | Surface: 15,489 acres Subsurface: 87,349 acres | Surface: 105,837 acres Subsurface: 404,306 acres | Surface: 43,897 acres Subsurface: 355,396 acres | Surface: 107,025 acres Subsurface: 406,005 acres |
| Controlled Surface Use (CSU) | Surface: 2,954 acres Subsurface: 19,613 acres | Surface: 10,561 acres Subsurface: 158,501 acres | Surface: 1,535 acres Subsurface: 1,535 acres | Surface: 10,031 acres Subsurface: 146,574 acres |
| Timing Limitations (TL) | Surface: 115,204 acres Subsurface: 450,032 acres | Surface: 61,186 acres Subsurface: 305,570 acres | Surface: 45,836 acres Subsurface: 244,689 acres | Surface: 66,821 acres Subsurface: 340,948 acres |
| Standard Lease Terms | Surface: 103,033 acres Subsurface: 798,690 acres | Surface: 59,416 acres Subsurface: 487,627 acres | Surface: 52,146 acres Subsurface: 451,382 acres | Surface: 52,803 acres Subsurface: 461,747 acres |