

Attachment 1: Suggested text of nationally used letter to split estate surface owners:

COURTESY NOTICE

Dear Surface Owner:

It is our understanding that you are the surface owner of all or a portion of the land included in parcel no. (PARCEL NO.) in our competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled for (DATE). This parcel is being offered in response to an Expression of Interest received by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The lease sale notice describes any special stipulations that would be attached to the lease if the parcel is sold at auction. You can find a copy of the lease sale notice online at (LINK TO WEBSITE).

The BLM will post the sale results on its website (LINK TO WEBSITE), including the name of the successful bidders. The website also has information on oil and gas leasing, regulations, and Best Management Practices that you may find helpful.

If a lease is issued, the lessee will have the right to explore for and develop the federally owned oil and gas. This could result in surface disturbing activities on your land. These activities are highly regulated by the BLM, regardless of surface ownership. Please understand that not all leases are explored or developed, in which case there would likely be no surface disturbance to your land. However, where the lessee intends to exercise his or her lease rights, the BLM requires oil and gas operators to make a good faith effort to contact you prior to entering your lands to conduct surveying and staking activities and reach an agreement with you regarding surface use.

The BLM will conduct an onsite meeting with the operator when considering any application for drilling and will invite you, as the surface owner, to participate. Further, the BLM has developed a brochure, *Split Estate: Rights, Responsibilities, and Opportunities*, that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the BLM, the lessee or operator, and the surface owner regarding proposed oil and gas operations in split estate situations. You can find a copy of the brochure and other information about oil and gas leasing and development and split estate lands on our web page at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/oil_and_gas/best_management_practices/split_estate.html.

If you have any questions, please contact (NAME), (TITLE) at (PHONE NUMBER) or (EMAIL ADDRESS).

Sincerely,