



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
North Central Montana District  
Division of Oil and Gas  
1220 38<sup>th</sup> Street N  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
<http://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas>



RECEIVED

MAR 15 2019

Blaine County Comm

In Reply Refer To:

July 30, 2019 Comp Sale  
3160 (MT00200)

March 12, 2019

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received Expressions of Interest to sell Federal oil and gas leases on 35 parcels of Federal minerals in a future lease sale. The purpose and need for action is to 1) respond to EOIs to lease parcels of land for oil and gas development as mandated by Federal laws, and 2) prevent substantial loss of oil and gas resources from Federal lands due to drainage, and ensure that Federal lessors are not subjected to revenue losses through drainage. Offering parcels for competitive oil and gas leasing provides opportunities for private individuals or companies to explore and develop federal oil and gas resources after receipt of necessary approvals, and to sell the oil and gas in public markets.

The proposed action is to lease 35 parcels within the Billings, Havre, Miles City, and North Dakota Field Office areas. The BLM applied surface use stipulations to the parcels to avoid and minimize impacts to resources consistent with management decisions in the applicable Resource Management Plan (RMP). Those stipulations include, but are not limited to no surface occupancy in Greater Sage-Grouse primary habitat, streams, riparian areas, and floodplains, timing limitations to minimize impacts to special status species during critical time periods, and survey and consultation requirements for cultural resources and threatened/endangered species. The BLM prepared an Environmental Assessment to disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the July 2019 lease sale on four resource issues: Air Resources, Socio-economic Conditions, Greater Sage-Grouse, and Water Resources. The EA also discloses how stipulations avoid/minimize impacts to other resources such as, but not limited to, cultural and paleontological resources, recreation, and special status species.

### **Public Involvement Opportunity**

The Environmental Assessment and corresponding appendices are posted on the BLM ePlanning website for a 30-day comment period starting on March 12, 2019. Written comments must be postmarked by April 12, 2019 to be considered. Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, specific to the proposed action, have a direct

relationship to the proposed action and include supporting reasons for the BLM to consider. Issues identified from public comment may be used to modify or add project design features, mitigation, or alternatives.

Comments may be submitted using the following methods:

**Electronic:** BLM e-Planning website – <https://eplanning.blm.gov>

-Use the “Text Search” tab with the below State/Office/Document Type/Fiscal Year -Click Search and select DOI-BLM-MT-0000-2019-0001-EA 2019 July Oil and Gas Lease Sale from the search result below.

-Click “Documents” on the left hand side of the screen to display documents available for review.

-Click “Comment on Document” on the right hand side of the screen to submit comments.

ePlanning Project Search

Type of project:  Land Use Plan  NEPA

Map Search **Text Search**

Open Comment Period  
 Only Active Projects

State(s)	Office(s)	Document Type(s)	Fiscal Year(s)	Programs
All	MT - Hiline DO	All	All	All
Center	MT - Lewistown FO	CX	2019	
National	MT - Malta FO	DNA	2017	
Alaska	MT - Miles Cay FO	EA	2016	
Arizona	MT - Missoula FO	EIS	2015	
California	MT - North Central Montana DO	OTHER_NEPA	2014	
Colorado	MT - North Dakota FO		2013	
Eastern States	MT - Pompeys Pillar NMON		2012	
Idaho	MT - South Dakota FO		2011	
Montana/Dakotas	MT - State Office			

Advanced Search

**Mail:** Bureau of Land Management  
Montana/Dakotas State Office  
Division of Fluid Minerals  
Attention: Amy Waring  
5001 Southgate Dr  
Billings, MT 59101

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Prior to issuance of any leases, the Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be finalized and posted for public review on our BLM e-Planning website. Please refer to the BLM e-Planning website at [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-frontoffice/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-frontoffice/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do). Current and updated information about our EA, Lease Sale Notice, and corresponding information pertaining to this sale can be found at the link referenced above.

If you have any questions or would like more information about lease sale notices or the issuance of the EA, Decision Record and FONSI, please contact Amy Waring, Natural Resource Specialist at (406) 896-5095 or Tessa Wallace, Natural Resource Specialist, at (406) 791-7768.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale H. Manchester". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dale H. Manchester  
NCMD Division Chief  
Oil and Gas