

IM 2010-117: REFORMING THE ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PROGRAM

**TI HAYS
WESTERN ENERGY PROJECT
MARCH 2, 2012**

INTRODUCTION



Beaver Rim (WY) Master Leasing Plan Area

OBJECTIVES

- Why the reforms are good for the environment, the public and the industry.
- How the public can use the reforms to protect the environment.
- How the BLM can enhance the reforms.

WHY THE REFORMS ARE GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Moab (UT) Master Leasing Plan Area

WHY THE REFORMS ARE GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Establishes an “environmentally responsible leasing” program designed to “protect multiple-use values. . . .”

- Leasing not always consistent with resource protection.
- No presumed preference for oil and gas.
- BLM must “take the initiative to strategically plan” for oil and gas.

WHY THE REFORMS ARE GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

More accessible and rigorous leasing process.

- Rotational sale schedules.
- Site visits to gather and validate resource data.
- Evaluate specific “considerations” prior to leasing, including whether “undeveloped areas” should be leased.
- “Site-specific” NEPA compliance.

WHY THE REFORMS ARE GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Require strategic planning for leasing and development (i.e., Master Leasing Plans).

- When development may harm important resources.
- Identify and evaluate conflicts.
- Reconsider existing planning decisions.
- Consider “new constraints” on leasing and development.

WHY THE REFORMS ARE GOOD FOR THE PUBLIC



North Park (CO) Master Leasing Plan Area

WHY THE REFORMS ARE GOOD FOR THE PUBLIC

- Higher quality and easier to access information.
- More opportunities to participate in and influence the leasing process.
- More tools to achieve protection for important resources.

WHY THE REFORMS ARE GOOD FOR THE INDUSTRY

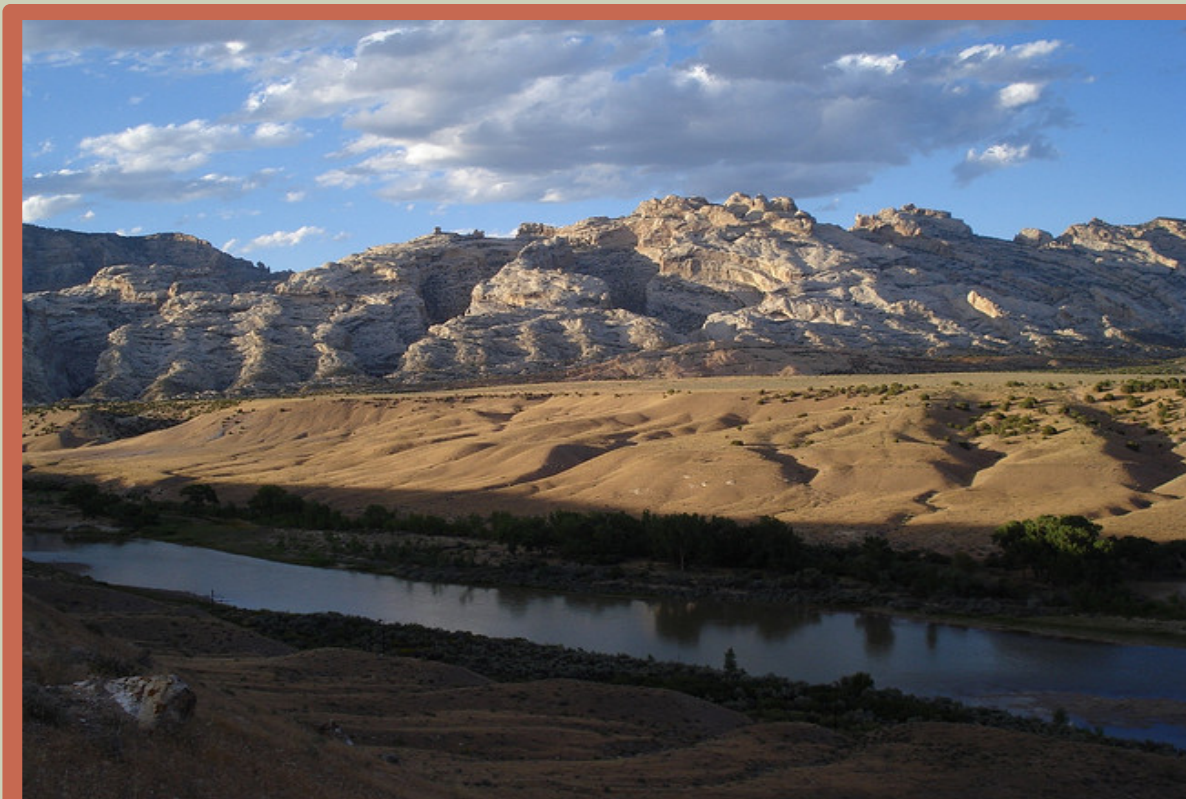


Greater Little Mountain (WY) Master Leasing Plan Area

WHY THE REFORMS ARE GOOD FOR THE INDUSTRY

- Higher quality and easier to access information.
- Fewer leases protested.
- Certainty and predictability in areas governed by MLPs.
- Opportunities for engaging with stakeholders.

HOW THE PUBLIC CAN USE THE REFORMS



Vernal (UT) Master Leasing Plan Area

HOW THE PUBLIC CAN USE THE REFORMS

Leasing Process

- Review leasing proposals.
- Request site visits.
- Comment on leasing proposals.
- Recommend and support deferrals and other protection measures.

HOW THE PUBLIC CAN USE THE REFORMS

Master Leasing Plans

- Nominate areas for MLPs.
- Participate in the development of MLPs.
- Ensure that important resources are protected during the development of MLPs.

HOW THE BLM CAN ENHANCE THE REFORMS



Shale Ridges and Canyons (CO) Master Leasing Plan Area

HOW THE BLM CAN ENHANCE THE REFORMS

Leasing Process

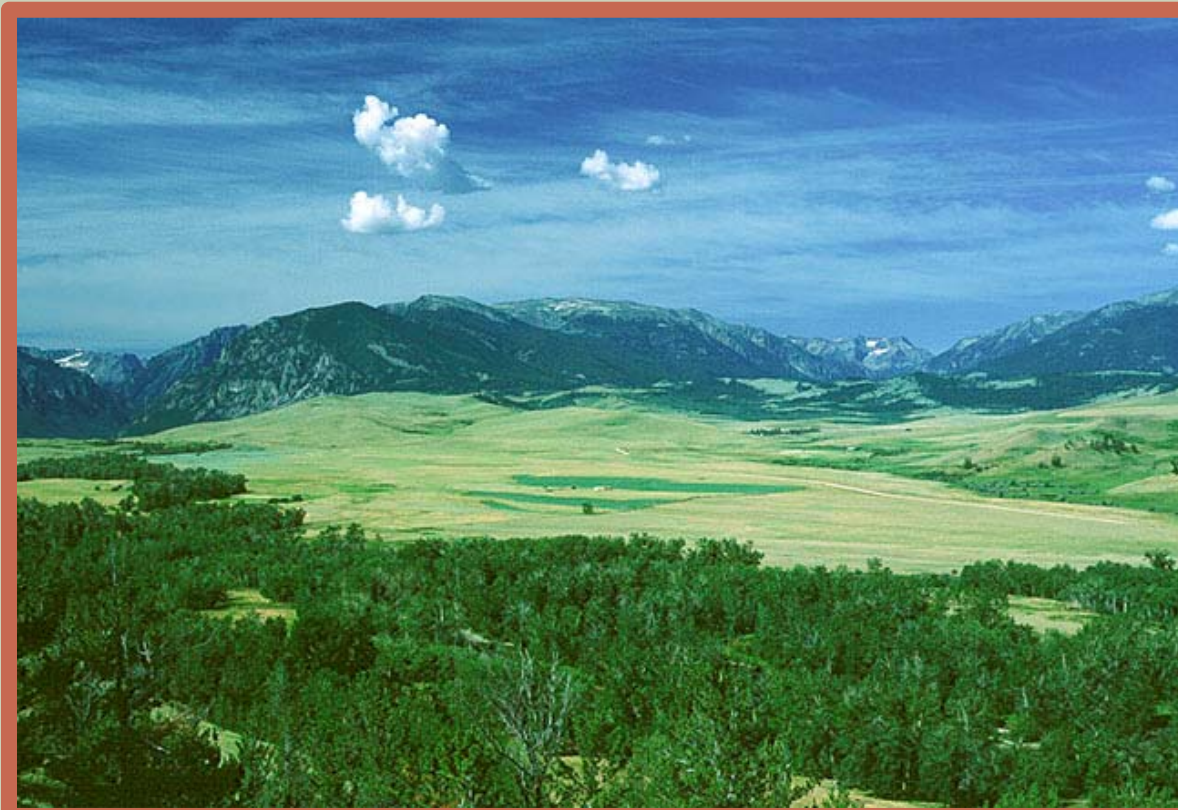
- Offer scoping periods.
- Release maps and GIS data prior to comment periods.
- Post leasing information to a central on-line location.
- Develop guidance on leasing in lands with wilderness characteristics.

HOW THE BLM CAN ENHANCE THE REFORMS

Master Leasing Plans

- Issue final guidance to the field.
- Apply the criteria broadly and exercise discretionary authority.
- Continue to identify new areas for MLPs.
- Consider a broad range of alternatives for MLPs.
- Engage stakeholders during the development of MLPs.

CONCLUSION



Absaroka-Beartooth Front (WY) Master Leasing Plan Area