



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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[www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc.html)

In Reply Refer To:  
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October 22, 2012

Thank you for your interest and involvement in the recent comment period for the **February 2013 Oil and Gas Lease Sale** environmental analysis managed by the Bureau of Land Management's Tres Rios Field Office.

The comment period closed on October 2, 2012 and each of your comments will be considered as we finalize the lease sale Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA discloses effects associated with making the proposed lease parcels available at the February lease sale and what stipulations will be applied to protect resources.

There were two items that I wanted to share.

1. There is a fair amount of confusion related to timing of this analysis/decision in relation to the upcoming issuance of the Resource Management Plan (RMP). Lands which are open for leasing under an existing RMP may be leased during a revision process when BLM management determines that leasing will not constrain the choice of reasonable alternatives under consideration in the planning process (aka they conform with the alternatives within the draft rmp). Tres Rios BLM has seriously reviewed the proposed action in this Lease Sale EA, considered the draft RMP and the Supplement and Reasonably Foreseeable Development scenario associated with the planning process currently underway.
2. The process to analyze lease parcels in an environmental assessment has allowed additional opportunities for the public to participate. Tres Rios field office recognizes that this concept is relatively new (as a result of the Leasing Reform 2010) and wants to share some of the most common questions we received during our comment period from the preliminary EA (which ran from August 17 and extended until October 2, 2012). I've enclosed a 'Frequently asked Questions' paper for your information.

The final EA is expected to be posted to the Tres Rios BLM website on November 16, 2012:  
[http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Information/nepa/TRFO\\_NEPA/tres\\_rios\\_february.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Information/nepa/TRFO_NEPA/tres_rios_february.html).

The protest period also begins on that date and closes on December 17, 2012. A final decision is expected to be signed by February 13, 2013 by the State Director.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Connie Clementson*

Connie Clementson  
Tres Rios Field Manager