

## Shoshone National Forest Current Oil and Gas Leasing Direction

### As contained in the 1995 Record of Decision

The decision for oil and gas leasing for the Shoshone was made in December 1995. That decision amended the 1986 Shoshone Forest Plan.

The oil and gas leasing decision made 39 percent (950,565 acres) of the Forest available for leasing, including 19 percent (463,600 acres) available for leasing with surface occupancy. The decision gave preference to surface resources while providing opportunities for exploration and development under restricted requirements. Most of the 19 percent of the Forest that allows leasing with surface occupancy has restrictions that control surface use or restrict timing to protect resources. These restrictions are in addition to the standard lease restrictions for protecting surface resources. Table 1 describes the various lease stipulations. Table 2 lists the stipulations applied for various management concerns.

The 19 percent of the Forest that allows leasing with surface occupancy includes 11 percent that is evaluated as having a high to moderate potential for oil and gas resources.

*Table 1. Description of Lease Stipulations*

Lease Stipulation	Description
Lease Notice	A lease notice provides more detailed information concerning limitations that already exist in law, lease terms, regulations, or operational orders. Additional restrictions or prohibitions may be necessary under a lease order depending upon the site-specific situation.
No Surface Occupancy	Stipulations are applied to restrict exploration activities for periods of time greater than 60 days. Some specific stipulations may indicate restrictions of 45 days duration.
Controlled Surface Use	Stipulation is used to display operating conditions (mitigation measures) needed to meet identified management concerns. The stipulation is for those resource requirements that may require relocating well locations more than 200 meters.
Timing Limitation	Prohibit exploration and development activities during specific times and at specific locations for periods less than one year. Timing stipulations are not necessary if the time limitation involves prohibition of surface disturbing operations for periods of less than 60 days.



*Table 2. Stipulation and Lease Notice Summary*

Management Concern	Stipulation
Other selected T&E species habitat (grizzly bears outside of recovery zone) Semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation Watershed of concern Water quality monitoring Soil and water hazard area mapping Geothermal areas Cumulative effects areas of concern Endangered or threatened species critical habitat Shoshone Land and Resource Management Plan	Lease Notice
Grizzly Bear Management Situation 1 Crucial range (mountain goats, bighorn sheep selected areas) Wetlands, floodplains, and fisheries High soil and water hazard areas Developed sites public and private Selected trails and scenic byways Significant cultural sites	No Surface Occupancy
Other selected T&E species habitat (grizzly bears insect feed sites, bald eagle winter concentration areas) Research natural/special interest areas and national natural landmarks	No Surface Occupancy/Lease Notice
Other selected T&E species habitat (peregrine and eagle nest sites)	No Surface Occupancy/Timing/Controlled Surface Use/Lease Notice
Retention and partial retention visual quality	Controlled Surface Use
Crucial range (other elk areas, other bighorn sheep areas) Big game birthing areas Selected migration routes Moderate soil and water hazard areas	Timing/Controlled Surface Use
Balance of grizzly bear recovery zone Crucial range (elk selected areas)	Timing/Controlled Surface Use/Lease Notice

