

National Forests in Alabama

Oil and Gas Leasing

3 Public Engagement Checkpoints



U. S. Forest Service

Public Engagement - The Forest Service conducts extensive public involvement for the Forest Plan Revision – a plan which determines which lands are available for leasing and occupancy stipulations at the landscape level. The Forest Plan, revised at least every 10-15 years, guides all natural resource management activities on public lands.

Where to look? The public should check legal ads in the local newspapers, the [National Forests in Alabama website](#) or contact Forest Service offices for public meetings. The National Forests in Alabama Forest Plan was revised in 2004.



Bureau of Land Management

Public Engagement - BLM notifies the public of the quarterly lease sale after receiving a letter from the Forest Service that confirms availability of public land for leasing. BLM notifies the public 90 days prior to the sale. The public can protest the action the first 30 days of notification.

Where to look? Visit the [BLM website](#). Eastern States hold its sales March, June, September and December. BLM issues leases to the highest bidders within 60 days from the lease sale unless the parcel has been protested.



U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management

Public Engagement – The lessee submits a Surface Use Plan of Operation (SUPO) to the Forest Service and the application to drill to the Bureau of Land Management. The Forest Service reviews the SUPO and seeks public comments during National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis prior to exploration. An engineering analysis is conducted by BLM.

Where to look? The public should check legal ads in the local newspapers and the [Forest Service NEPA projects website](#).

*The Forest Service and BLM work together to analyze plans and discuss issues before approvals.