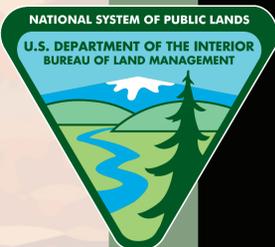


SAN RAFAEL DESERT MASTER LEASING PLAN

PURPOSE

The purpose of the San Rafael Desert MLP is to provide additional planning and analysis prior to new oil and gas leasing within the MLP area. The MLP analysis and resulting mineral leasing decisions will enable the Price and Richfield Field Offices to:

1. Resolve long-standing lease protests related to parcels of land for which the BLM received lease offers subject to protest but for which the BLM has not issued leases in the planning area
2. Determine whether the BLM should cancel, modify, or lift the suspensions on suspended leases in the planning area
3. Evaluate potential development scenarios
4. Identify and address potential resource conflicts and environmental impacts from oil and gas development
5. Create mitigation strategies for oil and gas development
6. Consider a range of new conditions, including prohibiting surface occupancy or closing certain areas to leasing



SAN RAFAEL DESERT MASTER LEASING PLAN

NEED

The BLM introduced MLPs as part of its 2010 Oil and Gas Leasing Reform effort (Memorandum No. 2010-117, Oil and Gas Leasing Reform – Land Use Planning and Lease Parcel Reviews). These reforms, including MLPs, have been incorporated and supplemented in various BLM handbooks, including H-1624-1, Planning for Fluid Mineral Resources.

The BLM has determined that the planning area sufficiently meets the criteria for developing an MLP and that additional planning and analysis are warranted before new mineral leasing and development are allowed. Furthermore, this MLP is needed to resolve long-standing lease protests from the February and May 2006 lease sale, and to complete additional analyses under NEPA for leases that were placed in suspension in 2005 and 2006 because of litigation.

